



Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (The "X")

Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Community Meeting



July 18, 2023



Project Team



Sponsoring Agency



Project Proponent



Design and
MEPA Compliance

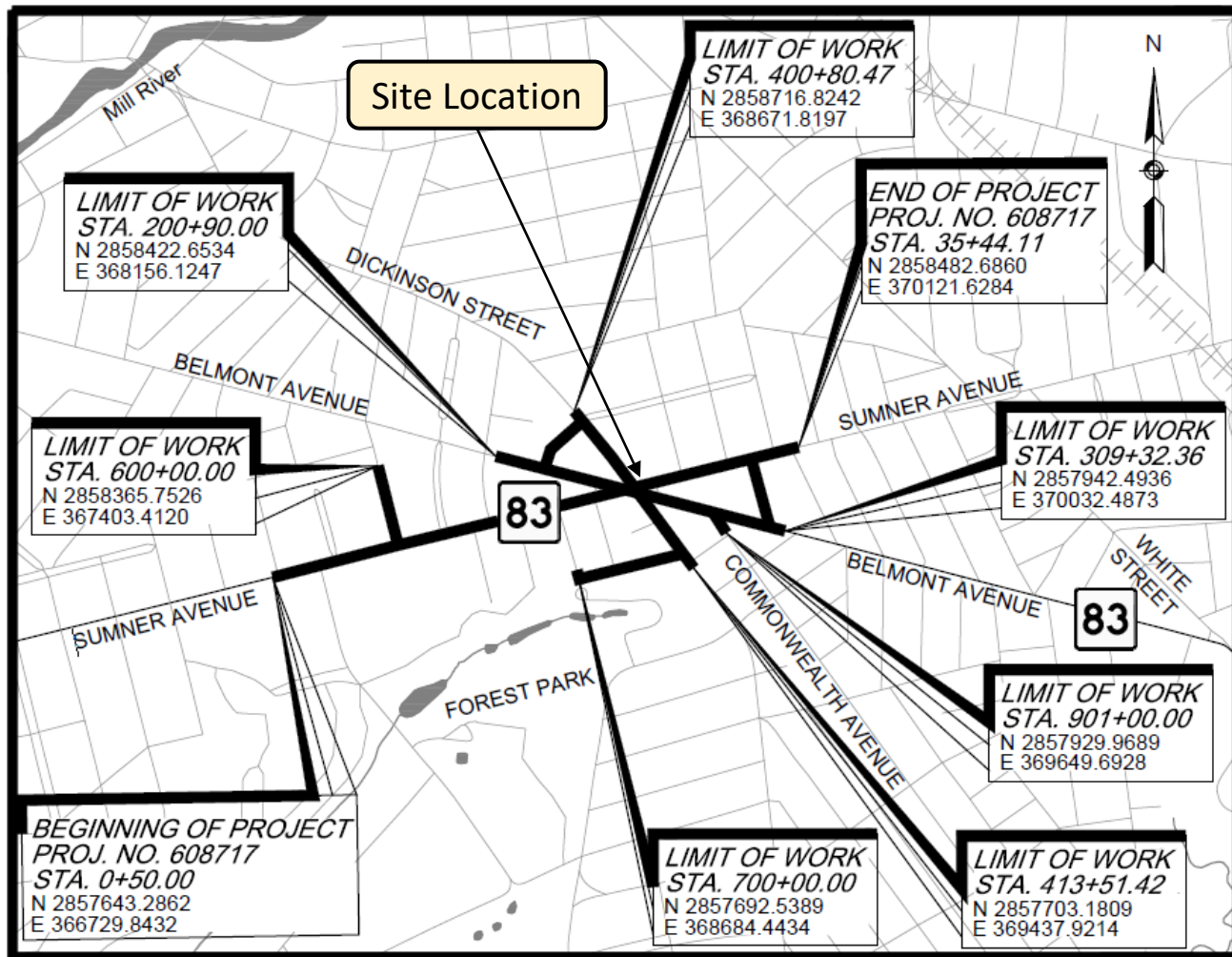


Meeting Agenda

- Project Overview
- Review of MEPA Process
- Summary of Design Changes since 25% Design
- Environmental Impact Mitigation Measures
- Public Comment on Environmental Impacts
- Next Steps



Site Overview





Purpose and Need

- Existing issues
 - Intersection Safety
 - Congestion and Delay
 - Cut-Through Traffic
 - Deficient Pedestrian Facilities
 - Inadequate Bicycle Accommodation
 - Obsolete Signal Equipment





Purpose and Need







- Intersection Safety
 - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission **Top-100 High Crash Intersections** in the Pioneer Valley Region 2016
 - ***#1 - Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street/Belmont Avenue***
 - *#12 - Sumner Ave at Ormond St/Pomona St/Sorrento St*
 - *#64 - Sumner Avenue at Oakland Street*
 - *#70 - Sumner Avenue at Forest Park Entrance*





Project Goals

Safe, Multimodal, Walkable, Livable, Sustainable

-  Intersection Safety | Increase Intersection Safety
-  Congestion and Delay | Improve Operations, Progression
-  Cut-Through Traffic | Reduce Cut-Throughs
-  Deficient Pedestrian Facilities | Upgrade/Add New Walks, Ramps, Plazas
-  Inadequate Bike Accommodation | Add Bike Lanes
-  Obsolete Signal Equipment | Replace Signals



MA Environmental Policy Act Review

- Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) funding
- Construction, widening or maintenance of a roadway or its right-of-way that will **cut five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height**
- Project within Environmental Justice Communities
 - Highlight how the project will not: (1) materially exacerbate any existing unfair or inequitable environmental burden impacting an EJ population and (2) result in a disproportionate adverse effect on an EJ population





MEPA Public Outreach

Outreach Activity	Distribution	Anticipated Timeline
Environmental Justice-Screening Form	English, Spanish & Vietnamese <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EJ Reference List – Email2. City of Springfield project website	May 10, 2023
Distribution of Project Information	Translated flyer and email notification: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. City of Springfield City Hall2. City of Springfield project website3. Forest Park Civic Association4. Places of Worship (Trinity United Methodist Church, Calvary's Love Church, St Barnabas & All Saints Church, HOLY NAME Parish)5. Public Libraries (Springfield City Library: Forest Park Branch)	June - July 2023
Project Website	Maintain project website	May – September 2023
Community Meeting	John J. Shea Bright Nights Building – In-person	July 18, 2023
Public Notice of Environmental Review	English, Spanish & Vietnamese <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Springfield Republican/ Environmental Monitor	July/August 2023





Previous Public Outreach

Outreach Activity	Details	Timeline
Public Meeting	City of Springfield held a public meeting as part of the X Improvements Planning Study	October 6, 2015
Public Meeting	City of Springfield held a second public meeting as part of the X Improvements Planning Study	February 10, 2016
Media Coverage	Media coverage of the project posted to MassLive and WWLP (local news station)	May 10, 2017 May 16, 2017
Stakeholder Meeting	City and F&O presented a Pre-25% Concept plan to the Forest Park Civic Association meeting	December 12, 2017
Direct Mailing	City of Springfield sent all property owners within project limits a letter soliciting comments on the 25% plans. Comments were received and responses issued by Springfield DPW.	Fall 2017/Winter 2018
Design Public Hearing	Held at Forest Park Middle School. City and F&O presented updated design based on previous public feedback, solicited additional public feedback to develop the 75% and 100% final design plans	September 17, 2019
Historic Commission Meeting	Historic Commission Section 106 Review; Open to the public	November 18, 2021
Historic Commission Meeting	Historic Commission Section 106 Review; Open to the public	December 2, 2021



Proposed Activities: Public Shade Trees

Roadway	Existing Trees within Project Limits	Removed Trees	Proposed Tree Plantings	Gain/Loss
Sumner Ave East	23	8	15	7
Sumner Ave West	66	17*	29	12
Belmont Ave East	24	13	21	8
Belmont Ave West	14	9	23	14
Dickinson St North	2	0	4	4
Dickinson St South	9	6	13	7
Oakland St	8	7	12	5
Ormond St	11	0	1	1
Commonwealth Ave	3	1	0	-1
Burlington St	5	0	0	0
Cliftwood St	4	0	0	0
Lenox St	0	0	0	0
Totals	169	61	118	57

*The preferred design is keeping 35 more trees compared to the 25% design

Net Increase of 34% in trees around the project site



Proposed Activities: Complete Streets Approach



- Reconfigure Sumner Ave, including addition of turn lanes
- Add vegetated and concrete median islands
- Modify T intersection at Belmont Ave and Burlington St to include bump out



- Add roundabout at Belmont Ave and Commonwealth Ave intersection
- Reconfigure portions of Belmont Ave to a one-way road
- Reconfigure Cliftwood St with single left-turn lane and a through-right lane



Proposed Activities: Complete Streets Approach



- Add 4 new crosswalks at Cliftwood St and Sumner Ave, and Belmont Ave and Burlington St and Ormond St and enhance existing crosswalks with higher visibility striping
- Add 2 pedestrian plazas at Sumner Ave and Belmont Ave
- Reconfigure existing sidewalk on the north side of Sumner Ave into an 8-ft wide shared-use path between Cliftwood and Churchill St, and on the south side of Sumner Ave between Churchill St and Parkwood St
- Signalize the Ormond Street intersection with signal-controlled pedestrian crossings
- Transit service enhancement with the addition of 13 new bus shelters



- Add 5-foot wide, on-street, painted bike lanes on Sumner Ave and Belmont Ave



5' WIDE BIKE LANE
TRAVEL DIRECTION WITH TRAFFIC
(THE CONTRA-FLOW BIKE LANE HAS
BEEN REMOVED)

ADDITIONAL 'T' INTERSECTION
LONGER PROPOSED

END 5' WIDE ON-
STREET BIKE LANE

BEGIN/END 8' WIDE CEM.
CONCRETE SHARED-USE PATH

ADDED CROSSWALK
AT CLIFWOOD

CHECK IF TREEBOX FILTER
IS NON PARTICIPATING

SINGLE LEFT-TURN LANE
(DOUBLE-LEFT TURN LANE
HAS BEEN REMOVED)

BEGIN 5' WIDE
ON-STREET BIKE LANE

5' WIDE EXIT RAMP
FOR BICYCLES

150 2857402 548
273025 540
150-201
166-211

ROADWAY	EXISTING TREES	REMOVED TREES	PROPOSED TREES	GAIN/LOSS
Sumner Avenue East	23	8	15	7
Sumner Avenue West	66	17*	29	12
Belmont Avenue East	24	13	21	8
Belmont Avenue West	14	9	23	14
Dickinson Street North	2	0	4	4
Dickinson Street South	9	6	13	7
Oakland Street	8	7	12	5
Ormond Street	11	0	1	1
Commonwealth Avenue	3	1	0	-1
Burlington Street	5	0	0	0
Climtwood Street	4	0	0	0
Lenox Street	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	169	61	118	57

*Reduced from 52 in the 25% design





Anticipated Community Benefits

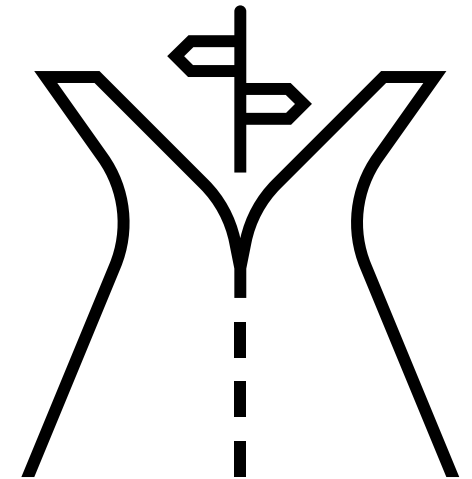
- **Increased public safety** and **reduced traffic congestion** through road reconfiguration
- **Enhanced open space** through the implementation of landscaping and pocket parks
- **Improved air quality** through reduced traffic congestion
- **Improved stormwater quality** through implementation of deep sump catch basins





Key Design Changes Since 25%

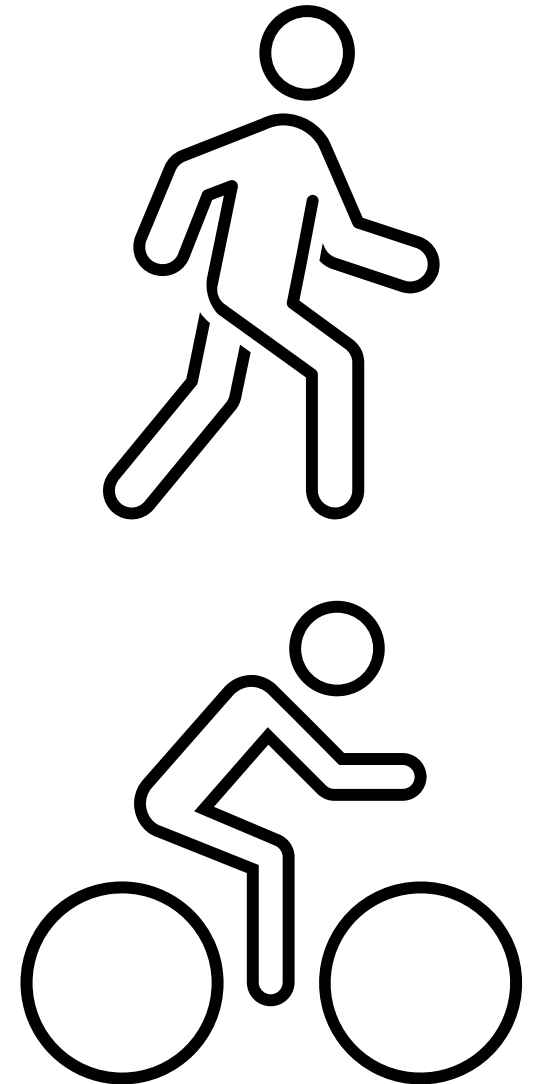
- Keep 35 more trees compared to the 25% design
- Decrease in roadway widening by 6 feet
- Roundabout removed from Belmont Ave and Burlington St and replaced with a modified T-intersection
- Change in lane designations on Cliftwood Ave at the Sumner Ave intersection from dual left-turns to a single left-only lane and a shared right-through lane





Key Design Changes Since 25%

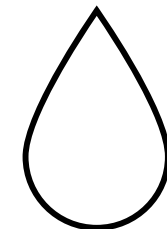
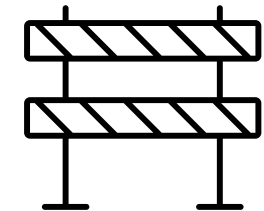
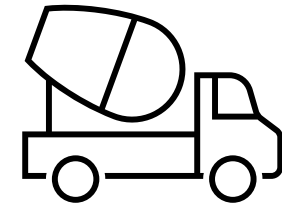
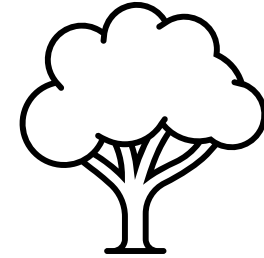
- **Removed the Forest Park shared-use path** with connections to Sumner Ave and Cliftwood St, as well as the Trafton Road path, at the request of the Springfield Parks Department
- **Contraflow bicycle lane** on Belmont Ave north **replaced** by with-traffic bicycle lane
- Addition of **mid-block pedestrian crossing** with rectangular **rapid flashing beacons** and **median refuge island** on Sumner Ave west of Forest Park entrance
- **Additional crosswalk** on west side of Cliftwood and Sumner Ave intersection





Environmental Mitigation Measures

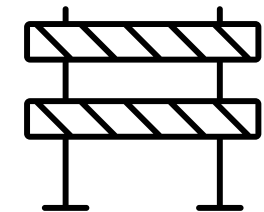
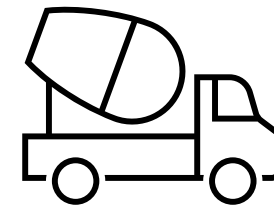
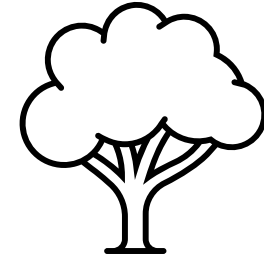
- A total of 118 trees are proposed to be planted, yielding a **net gain of 57 trees** within the project limits
- All excavation within ten feet of designated trees shall be performed by hand labor to **preserve the root system** of the tree
- Operation of equipment will be limited to between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM from Monday to Friday, and in accordance with the **City of Springfield Noise Ordinance**
- **Traffic Control Plan**, including signage notifying of upcoming construction and partial lane closures to be provided
- **Erosion and sediment controls** installed and inspections conducted in accordance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan





Environmental Mitigation Measures

- Project limits and scope have been designed **not to conflict with PVTA operations**
- **Idling of construction vehicles will be restricted** to comply with State anti-idling regulations
- **Dust control measures** (including wetting agents, truck bed covers, and periodic street cleaning) will be used
- If **historical and/or archaeological resources** are encountered, the selected contractor will be required to take steps to **notify Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)** office immediately and **limit adverse effects**





Public Comment on Environmental Impacts





Next Steps & Contact Information

Next Steps:

- MEPA Filing (July/August)
 - Published in MEPA Environmental Monitor on July 26, 2023: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/MEPA-eMonitor/home>
 - City of Springfield DPW project website: <https://www.springfield-ma.gov/dpw/dpw-projects/projects-in-design-phase/the-x>
- Construction Commencement: 2024

MEPA Environmental Review Contact:

- Alex Maxwell, PhD, CCP at amaxwell@fando.com