



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session - Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan

COUNCIL WORK SESSION WILL BE ONLINE

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86916299401?pwd=dm56clQ0NFUrMnorZ0dYdzJBWj9hQT09>

Webinar ID: 869 1629 9401

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Password (if needed): 547006

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

8:00 PM

Work Session Packet

Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion

- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

NOTE: Additional project background can be found on the project webpage at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/greenbelt-road-md-193-corridor-plan>

[Greenbelt Road Recommendations 2022-03-18.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Submitted by: Holly Simmons

Submitting Department: Planning

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan

Suggested Action:

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- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
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Attachments:

[Greenbelt Road Recommendations 2022-03-18.pdf](#)

Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan

Preliminary Recommendations

City of Greenbelt, Maryland
Council Work Session

March 23, 2022

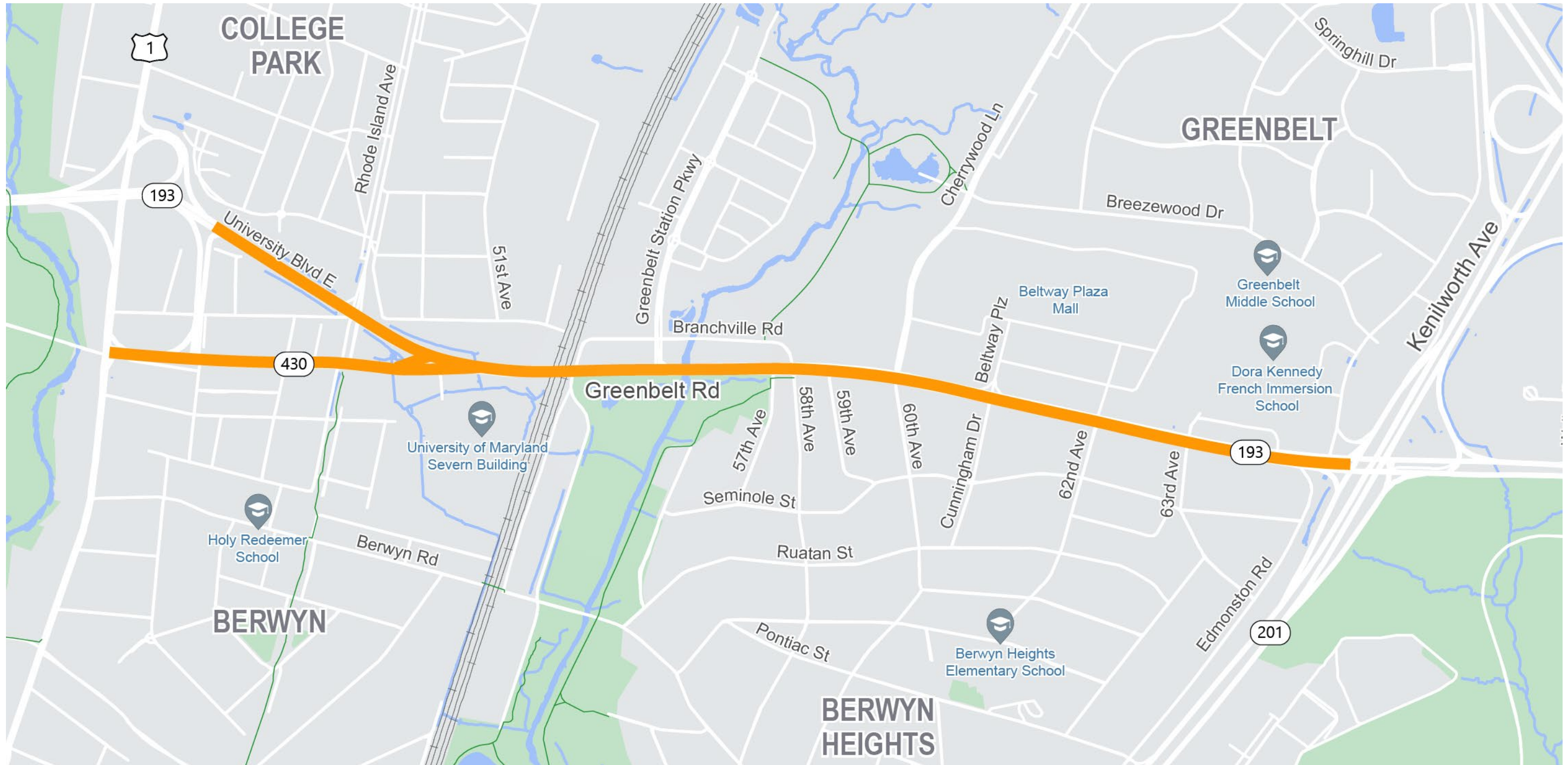


Agenda

- » Overview
 - » Study Area
 - » Corridor Studies
- » Corridor Vision
 - » Goals
 - » Previous plans and studies
 - » Community feedback
- » Preliminary Recommendations
 - » Right-size the corridor to demand
 - » Make the corridor comfortable for walking and biking
 - » Improve transit service
 - » Connect residential neighborhoods, parks, and trails



Study Area



Transportation Project Process

Needs Identification

- What issue(s) need to be addressed?

Planning

- What could address the issue(s)?
- What does the community want?
- What is feasible?

Engineering

- What works from a technical perspective?
- What are the trade-offs?
- How much does it cost?
- How does it get built?

Design

- What works from a design perspective?
- What are the physical and environmental constraints?
- How much does it **really** cost?

Programming

- Which agency is going to pay for this?
- Which agency is going to maintain this?
- Which agency is going to build this?

Construction

- Who is going to build this and how much will it cost?
- Did this get built correctly?

Maintenance & Evaluation

- What needs to be fixed?
- What issue(s) remain?
- What new issue(s) need to be addressed?

Public Input



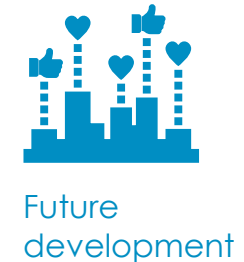
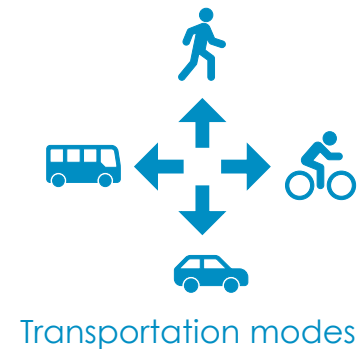
The Greenbelt
Road Corridor
Plan is here

Corridor Studies

Purpose of Corridor Plans

Enable early conversation and exploration of community needs, resulting in recommendations that support a cohesive vision for the corridor.

Plan Considerations



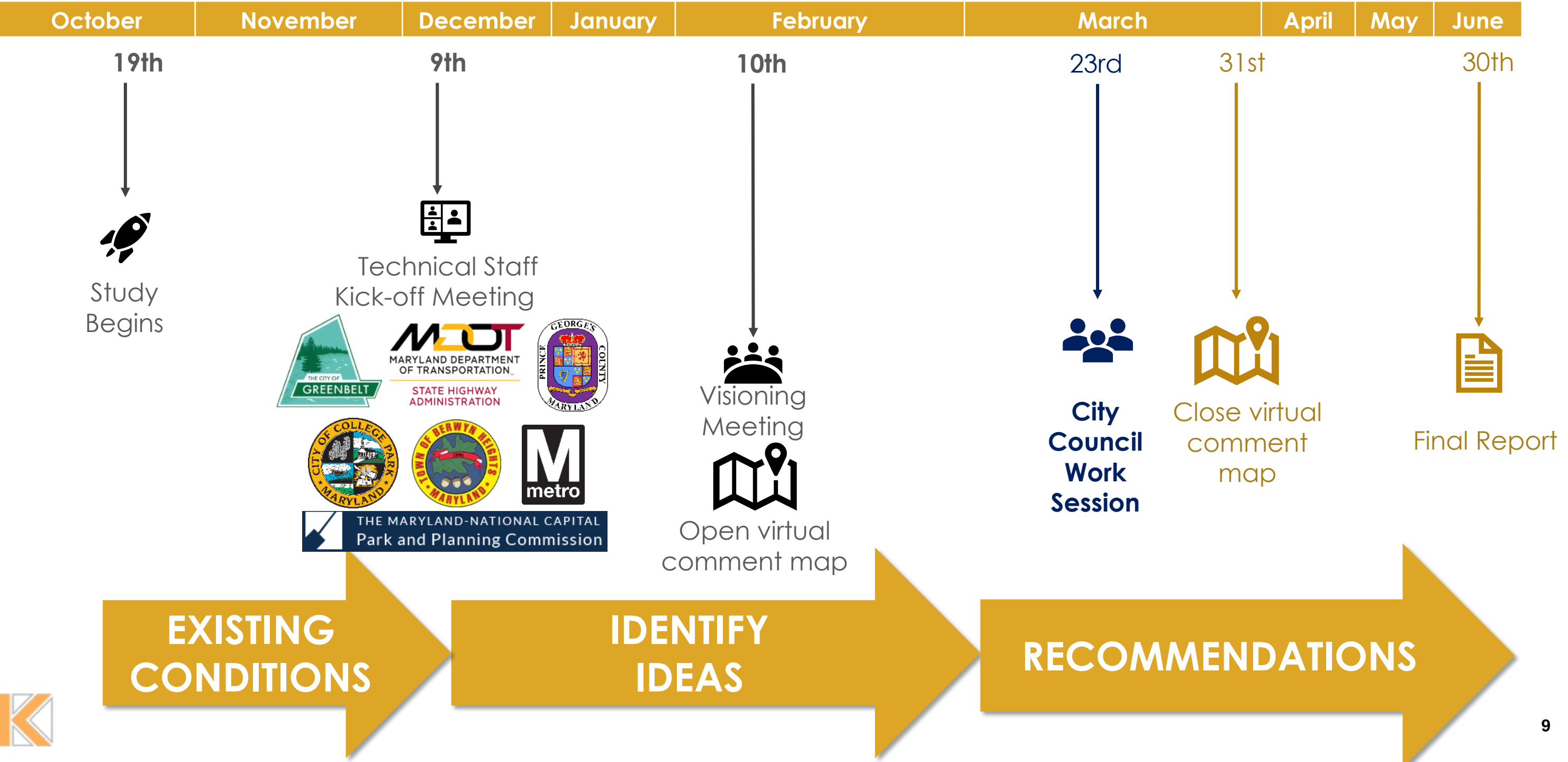
Community's Role

To share needs, lived experiences, priorities, and ideas. This input helps develop recommendations and inform agency decision-making.

Outcome

Documentation of expectations for project areas that can be carried forward, referenced, and considered by decision-makers and the public.

Corridor Study Schedule



Corridor Vision

- Goals
- Previous plans and studies
- Community feedback

GREENBELT


Greenbelt
Middle School
Dora Kennedy
French Immersion
School

193

son Rd

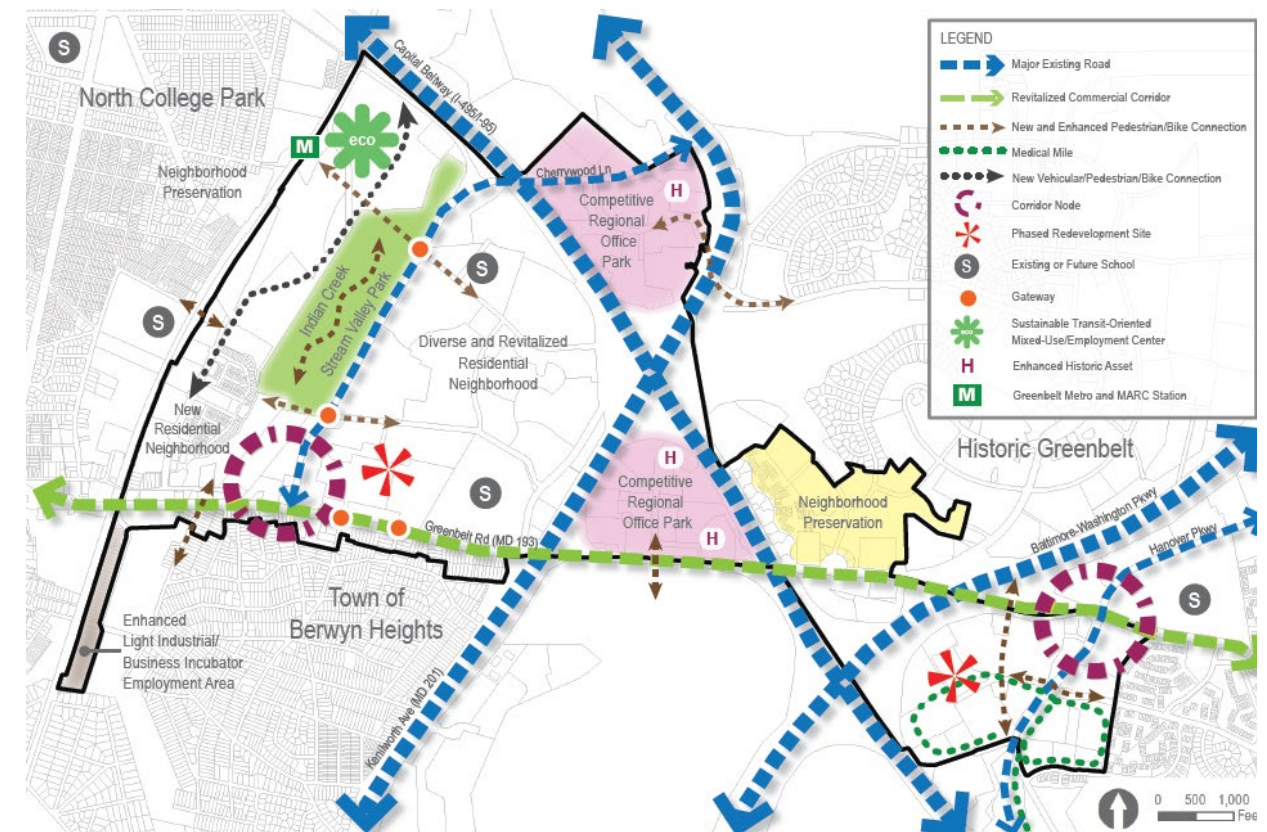
201

BERWYN
HEIGHTS

Previous and Ongoing Plans and Studies

» Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan

- » Create a **unifying experience along the MD 193 Corridor** to tie the sector plan area together and **foster a shared sense of character and place**.
- » Build **pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly**, low- to moderate-density commercial development that **distinguishes MD 193 as an important corridor in the county**.
- » **Reduce traffic conflicts by implementing access management** techniques such as reducing curb cuts on MD 193, encouraging transit use, introducing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and encouraging alternate routes for through-traffic.
- » **Support public sector reinvestment** in the reconstruction of the MD 193 Corridor to **improve safety and connectivity** and complement new land use regulations and new development.



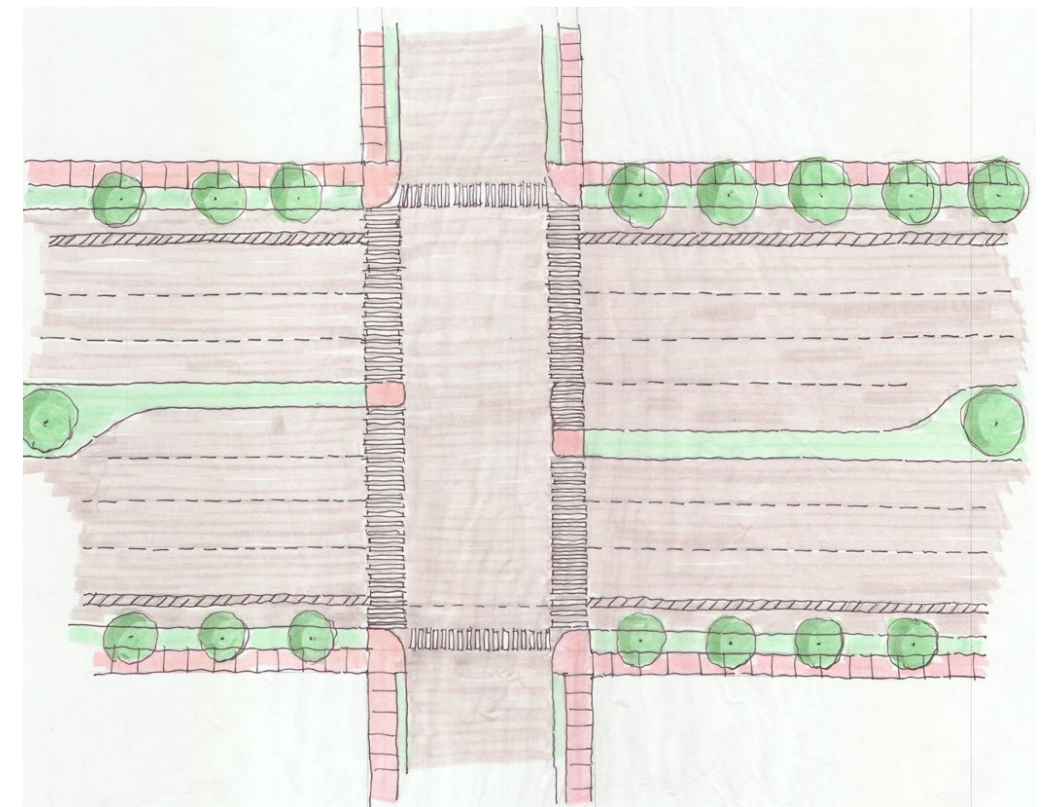
Previous and Ongoing Plans and Studies

- » 2013 Greenbelt Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Report
- » 2014 Greenbelt Pedestrian and Bicyclists Master Plan
- » 2017 Greenbelt Senior Mobility and Accessibility Needs and Barriers Study
- » 2018 Creating a Future for Greenbelt Road/MD-193 (ULI Study) (Below)

Improve walking, biking, transit to provide “comfortable” facilities

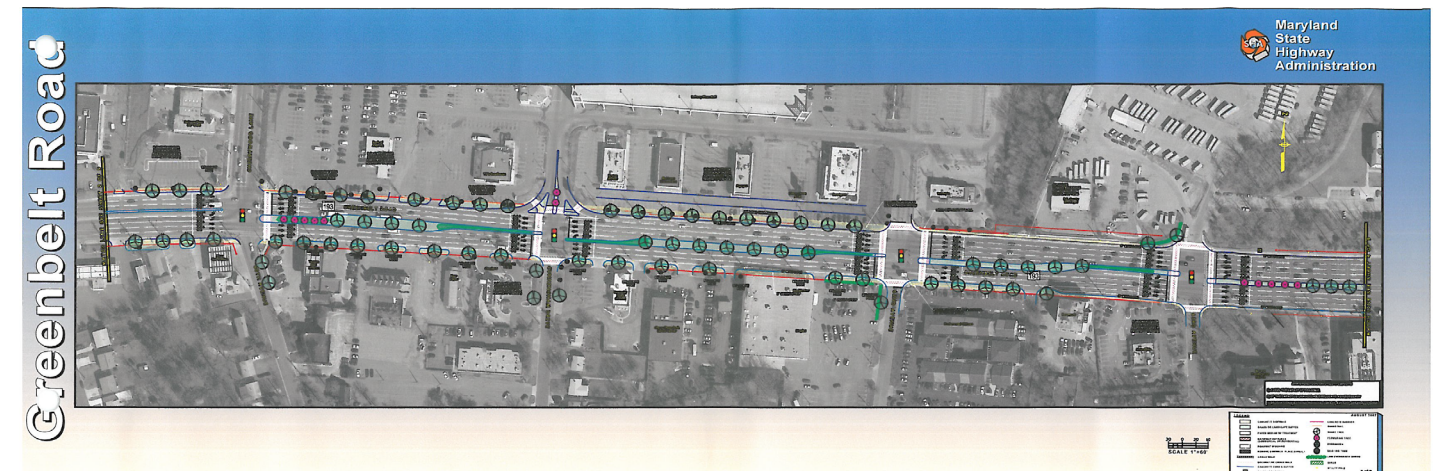
Improve connections and crossings

Meet ADA standards and thresholds



Previous and Ongoing Plans and Studies

- » **Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights**
- » **Greenbelt Pedestrian Bicycle Plan (Top Right)**
- » **US 1 (College Avenue to MD 193) Segment 1 Highway Reconstruction** (\$1.4M corridor planning study, \$50M phase 1 project total cost)
- » Variety of area-wide shared-use paths and trails and new bicycle facilities on Rhode Island Avenue and Cherrywood Lane
- » **2003 Maryland SHA Design (Below Right)**



What we heard

» What is **one word** you would use to describe Greenbelt Road?



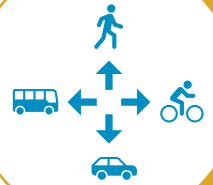
Any idea when Phase 2 study will commence?

What we heard

» **What goal areas or considerations are most important to you?** Please feel free to suggest new ones.



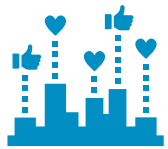
Goals



Facilitate the **comfortable, equitable, and safe movement** of all people along and across **Greenbelt Road (MD 193)**, whether they are **walking, biking, riding transit, or driving**.



Provide **key connections** to residential communities, businesses, neighborhoods, parks, and trails along and across the corridor.



Support **livability and economic development by improving access** to, through, and across the corridor.



Create a greener and more human-scale environment to serve the people living along the corridor.

Preliminary Recommendations

- Make the corridor comfortable for walking and biking
- Right-size the corridor to demand
- Improve transit service
- Connect residential neighborhoods, parks, and trails

Greenbelt
Middle SchoolDora Kennedy
French Immersion
School

193

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HEIGHTS

Right-Size the Corridor to Demand

» Reducing the number of lanes on Greenbelt Road (MD 193) would allow for:

- » Expanding walking areas
- » Providing separated bike lanes
- » Providing dedicated bus lanes
- » Reduces pedestrian crossing width
- » Landscaping and stormwater management

The corridor should serve people living there, not the commuters.

The only way to make this bike/ped/transit rider friendly is to reduce lanes and slow traffic.

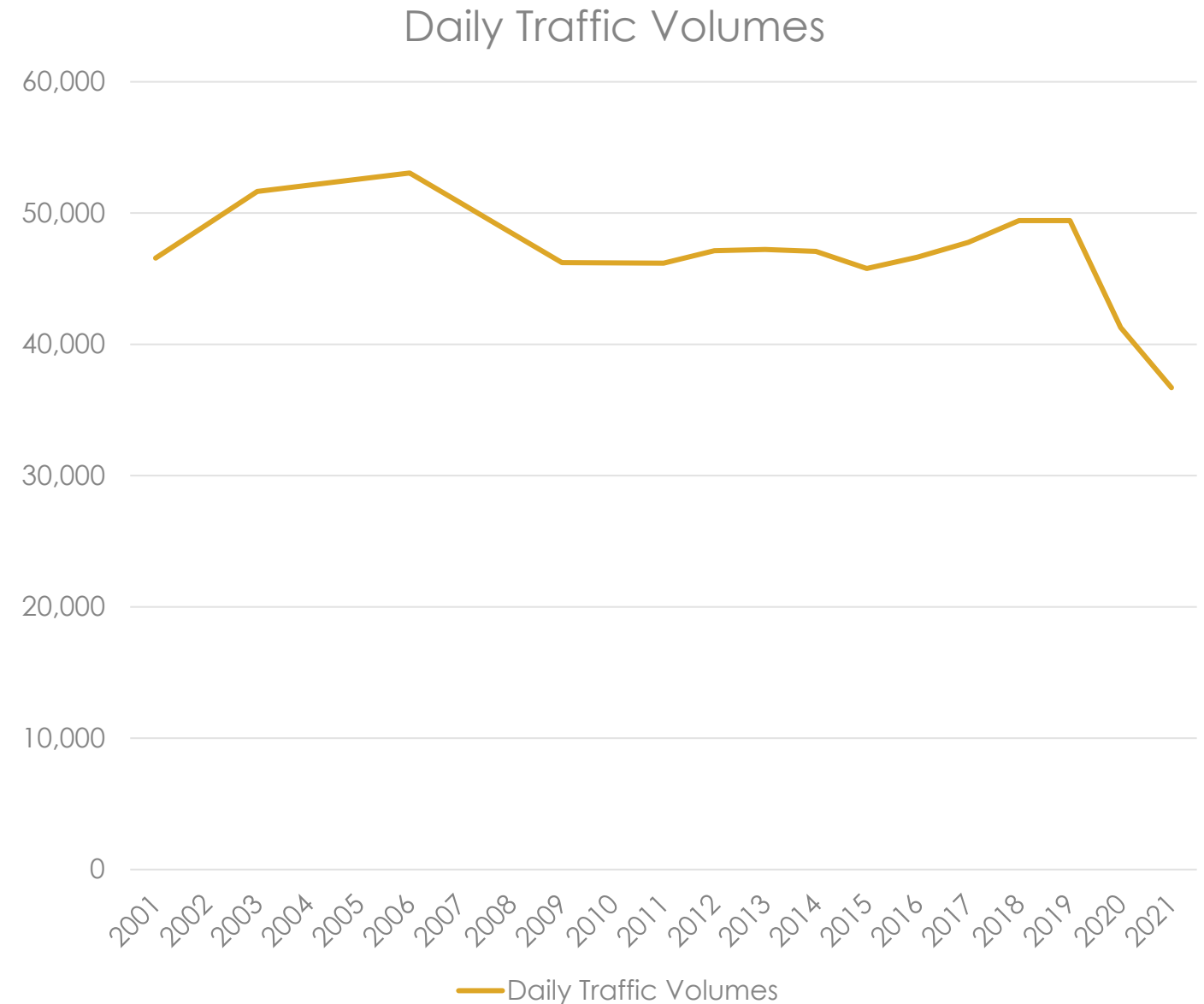
This is our Main Street!

I just want a safe way to walk or bike from my home in Berwyn to the mall. There is no way to do this currently that feels safe. Either I walk/ride on a poorly maintained sidewalk next to high-speed traffic on 193, or on Ballew Ave. with no sidewalk.

If you blocked vehicle traffic on the bridge, there wouldn't be a loss of accessibility to drivers. Both stumps hit beltway interchanges almost immediately. This car-route is redundant, except to local traffic

Matching the Demand

- » Daily traffic volumes have decreased over the past 20 years to approximately **36,700** in 2021
 - » Six Through Lane Divided Roadway “Capacity” is approximately **56,100**
 - » Four Through Lane Divided Roadway “Capacity” is approximately **37,300**
- » These planning-level numbers indicate a lane reduction could be feasible, and a more thorough analysis is warranted
- » Factors like employer work-place flexibility, transportation costs (gas prices), transit usage, and changes in land-use all factor into whether traffic volumes will “rebound”



Maryland SHA

Internet Traffic Monitoring System (I-TMS) (maryland.gov)



Testing a Lane Reduction

	Existing Roadway Configuration	Removal of One Through Lane in Each Direction
Critical Lane Volume (CLV)	1180	1535
Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C)	0.74	0.96
Level-of-Service (LOS)	C	E
Number of Conflicting Travel Lanes for a Pedestrian Crossing Greenbelt Road	7-8	5-6

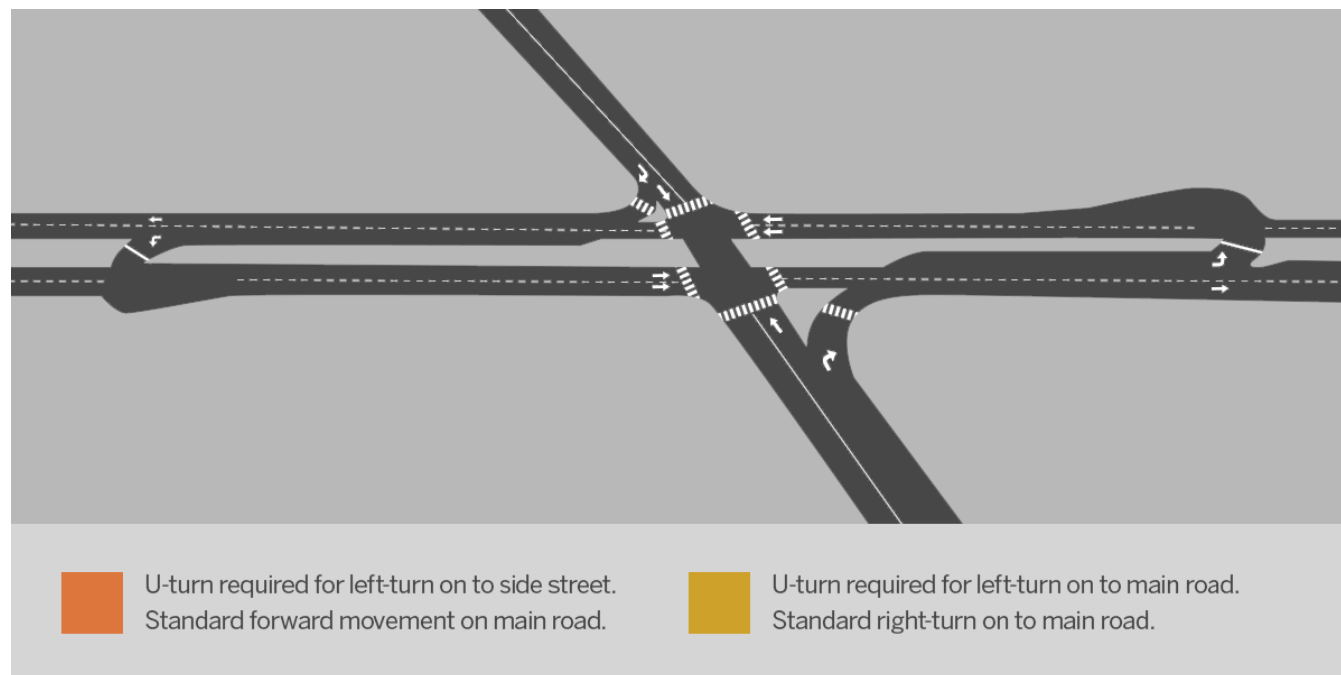
- » **Weekday evening peak-hour volumes** from the “**Total Traffic**” (annual growth in traffic volumes, background developments, and site development) volumes in the approved *Beltway Plaza Traffic Impact Analysis* at the **Cherrywood Lane/MD 193 intersection**
- » Peak-hour volumes indicate a lane reduction could be a feasible option, but more analysis would be needed to confirm. “Mitigations” may allow the vehicle mobility to be similar to the existing roadway configuration, even with a reduction in the number of through lanes.



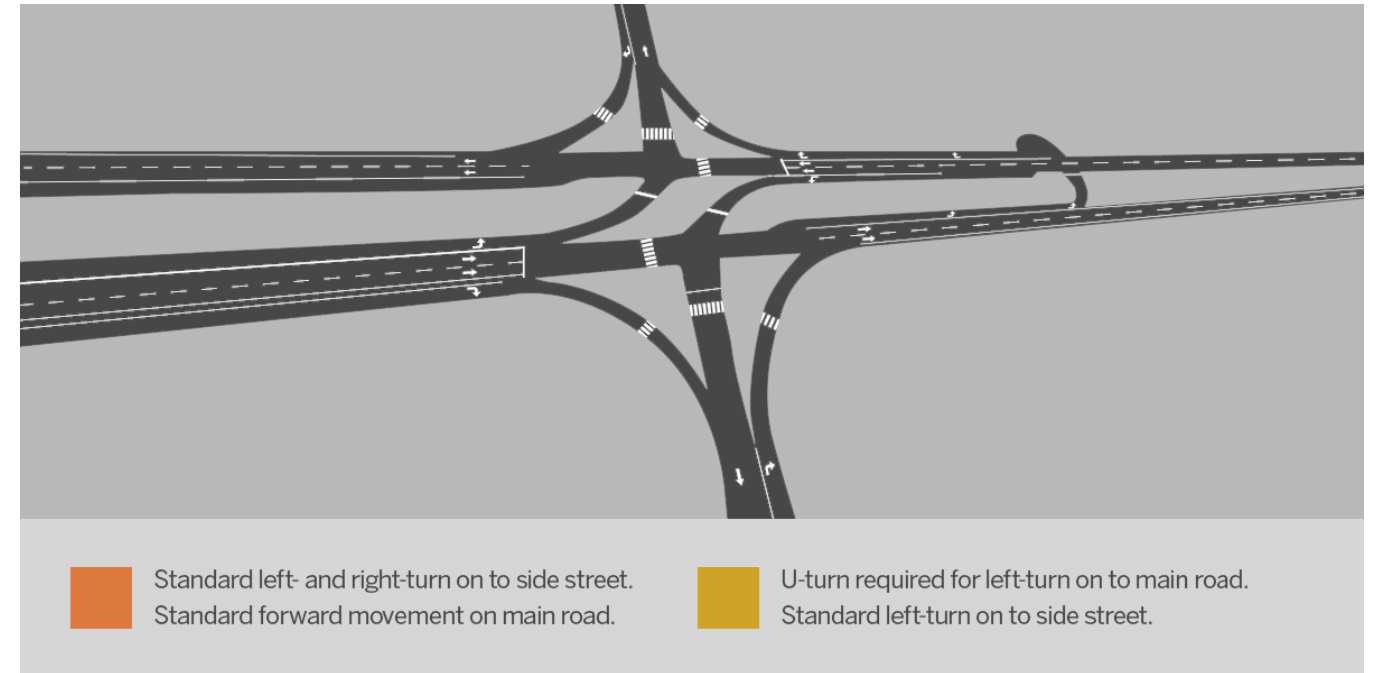
Innovative/ Unconventional/ Alternative Intersections

- » Designs modify vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle movements to provide new options to reduce delay, increase efficiency, and provide safer travel for road users
- » Each design reconfigures left-turn movements to reduce the number of through lanes to “right-size” the corridor to demand and provide additional opportunities

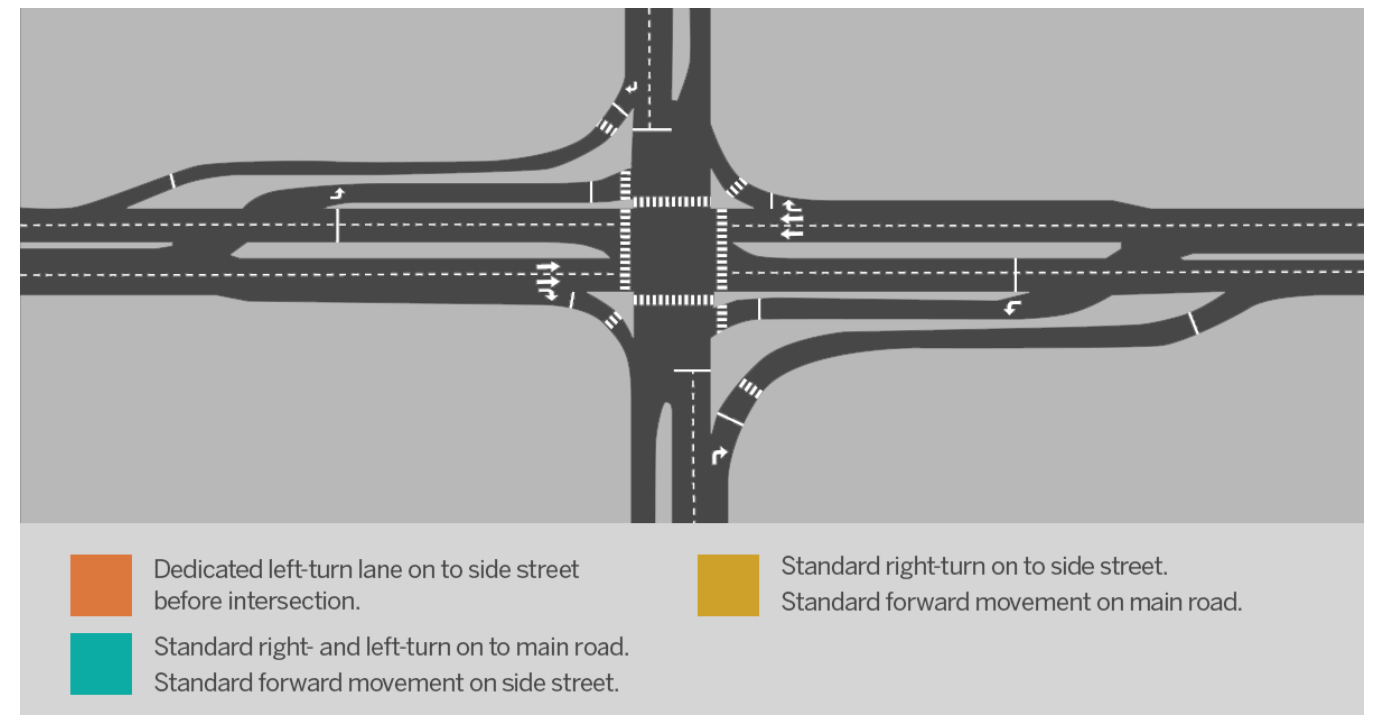
Median U-Turn



Restricted Crossing U-Turn



Displaced Left-Turn



Preliminary Review of Innovative/ Unconventional/ Alternative Intersections at Cherrywood Lane/Greenbelt Road

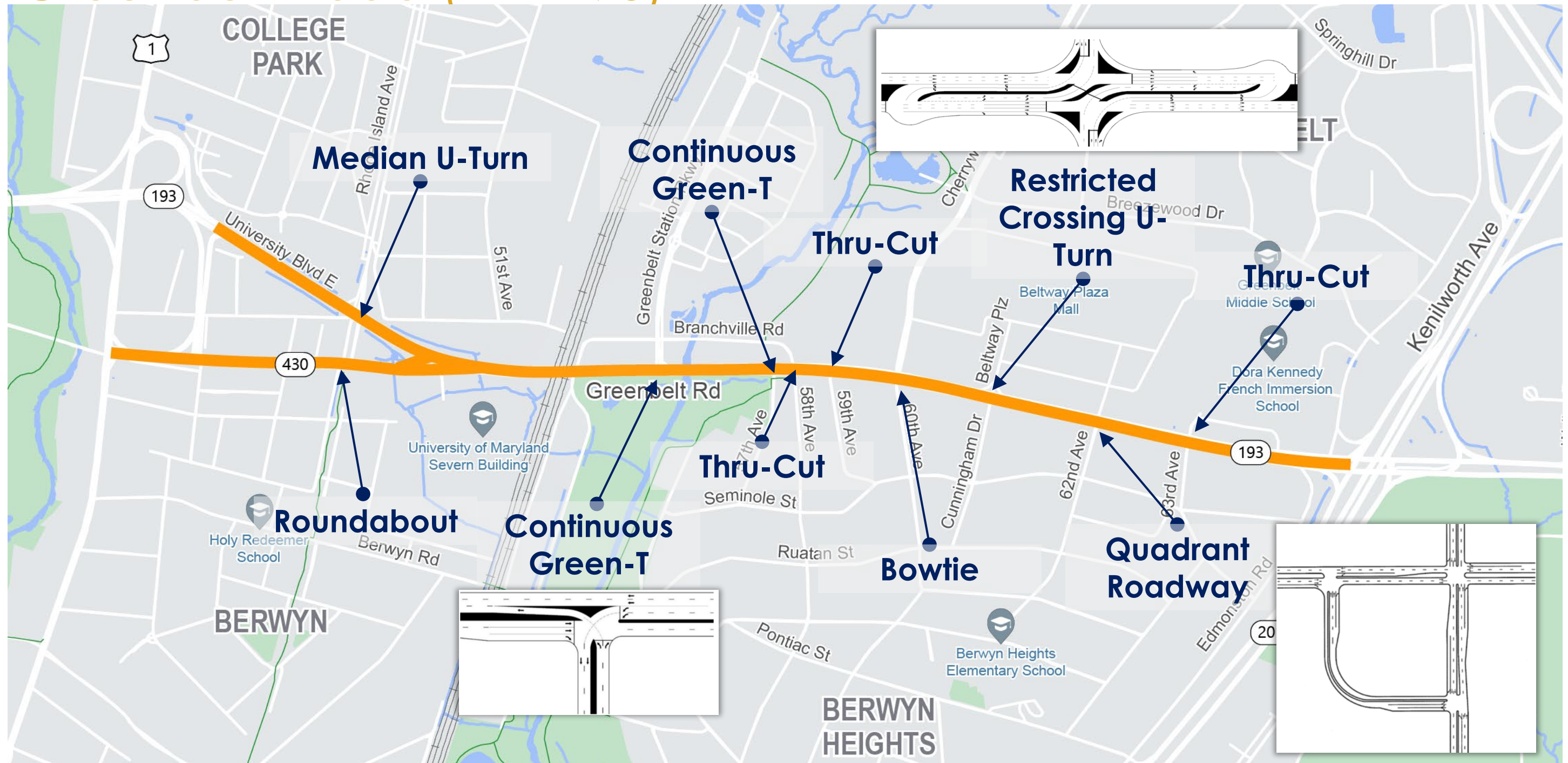
	Existing Roadway Configuration	Removal of One Through Lane in Each Direction	Bowtie	Full Displaced Left-Turn	Median U-Turn	Partial Displaced Left-Turn	Partial Median U-Turn	Quadrant Roadway	Restricted Crossing U-Turn	Thru-Cut
Critical Lane Volume (CLV)	1180	1535	1420	1270	1481	1300	1452	1430	1303	1371
Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C)	0.74	0.96	0.89	0.79	0.93	0.81	0.84	0.89	0.81	0.86
Level-of-Service (LOS)	C	E	D	C	E	C	D	D	D	D
Number of Conflicting Travel Lanes for a Pedestrian Crossing Greenbelt Road	7-8	5-6	5	5	4-5	6	4-5	4-6	5-6	5

Bowtie

Median U-Turn

Thru-Cut

Potential Starting Points for Alternative Intersections on Greenbelt Road (MD 193)



Walking Along Greenbelt Road

- » Current environment is hostile and uninviting for people walking
- » Fewer people are likely to walk in less comfortable environments, and for those who must, the experience is more uncomfortable than it might be with a different design.
- » “Pedestrian Level of Comfort” measures how comfortable it is to walk.
 - » The four main scores are:
 - » *Very comfortable (score = 1)*
 - » *Somewhat comfortable (score = 2)*
 - » *Uncomfortable (score = 3)*
 - » *Undesirable (score = 4)*



Pedestrian Level of Comfort

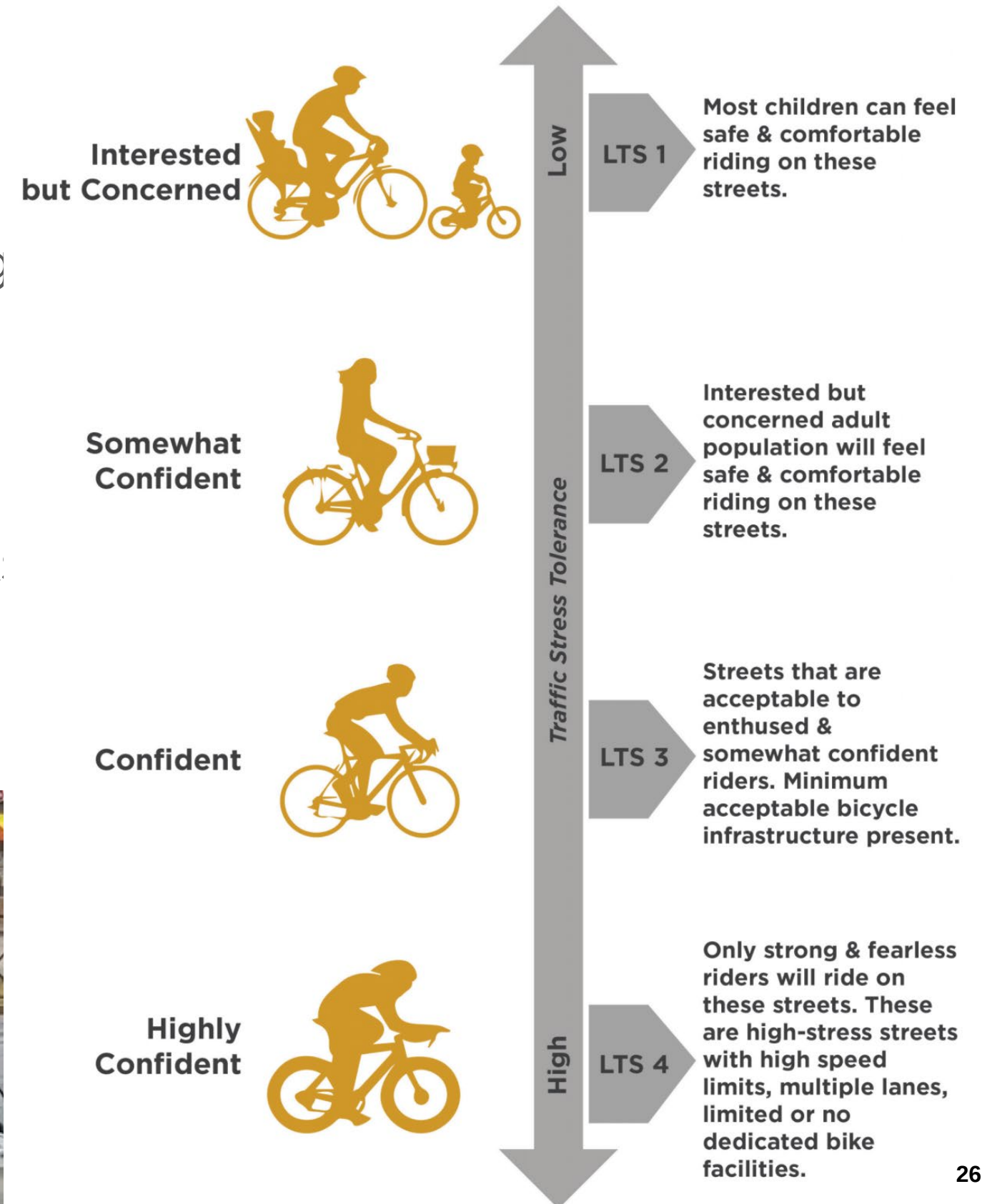
Sidewalks should be buffered from car traffic. Vegetation or tree lined buffers would really improve walking and the appearance of the street.

- » Greenbelt Road is “Undesirable”
- » To be “somewhat comfortable” or better, any of the following need to happen:
 - » Reduce speed to 35 mph with a separated bike lane, five-foot sidewalk, and two-foot buffer from the roadway (**14 feet** required from edge of curb)
 - » Keep the speed limit at 40 mph with a separated bike lane, five-foot sidewalk, and five-foot buffer from the roadway (**19 feet** required from edge of curb)
 - » Keep the speed limit at 40 mph with a five-foot sidewalk and eight-foot buffer from the roadway (**13 feet** required from edge of curb)

	PATHWAY WIDTH	POSTED SPEED LIMIT	PATHWAY BUFFER WIDTH / ON-STREET SEPARATION											
			0 ft to <2 ft			2 to <5 ft			5 to <8 ft			≥8 ft		
			No DPL or SBL	DPL or 1SBL	2SBL or DPL & SBL	No DPL or SBL	DPL or 1SBL	2SBL or DPL & SBL	No DPL or SBL	DPL or 1SBL	2SBL or DPL & SBL	No DPL or SBL	DPL or 1SBL	2SBL or DPL & SBL
URBAN	No walkway		Use “No Pathway” Table											
	< 5ft	< 25 mph	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
		25 mph	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
		30 mph	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
		35 mph	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
		≥ 40 mph	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1
	≥5 to 8 ft	< 25 mph	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
		25 mph	2/3*	2	1	2/3*	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
		30 mph	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
		35 mph	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
		≥ 40 mph	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1
	≥8 to 10 ft	< 25 mph	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		25 mph	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		30 mph	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
		35 mph	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
		≥ 40 mph	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1
	≥10 ft	< 25 mph	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		25 mph	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		30 mph	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
		35 mph	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	1/2^	1	1
		≥ 40 mph	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	1/2^	1	1

Biking Along Greenbelt Road

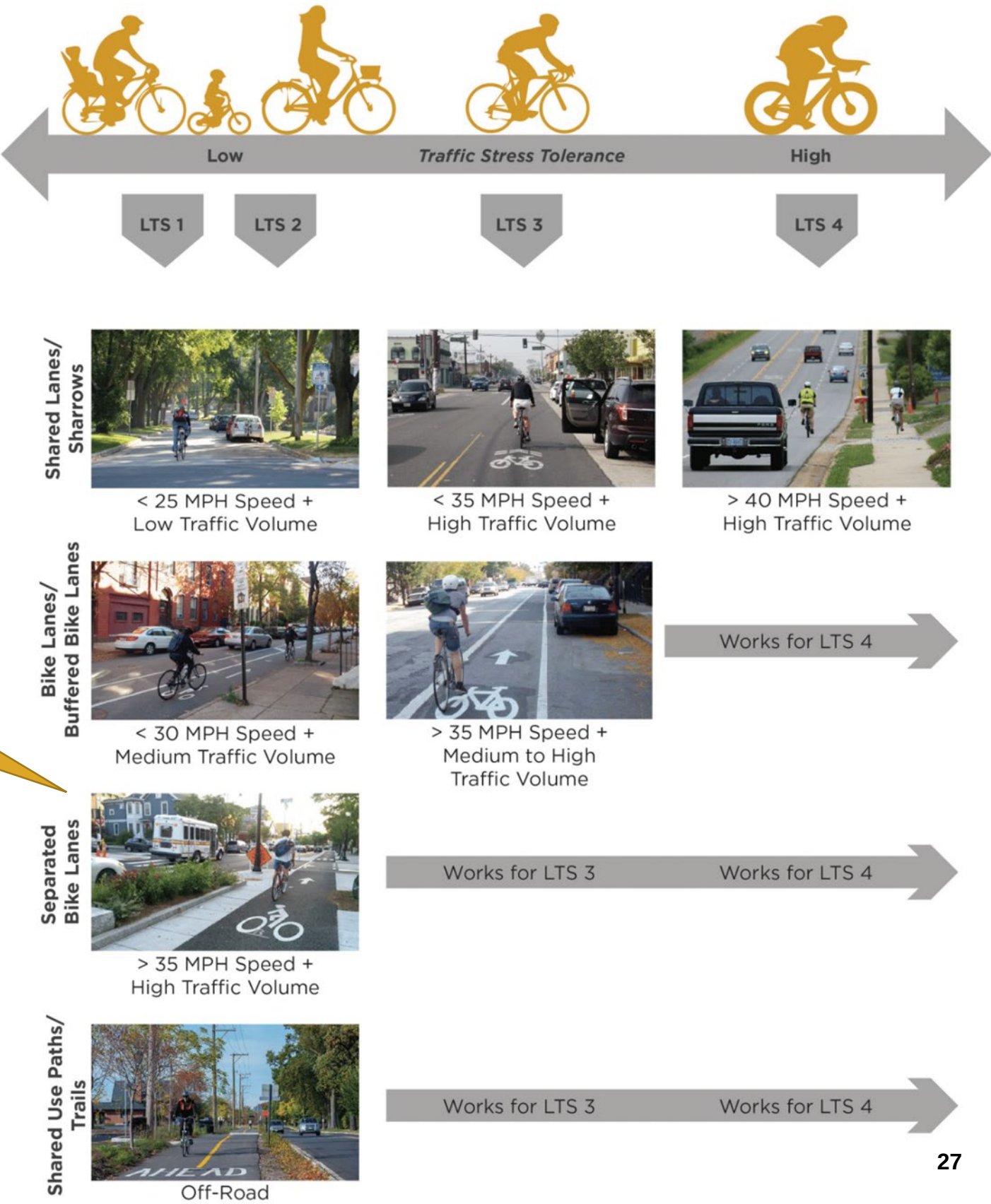
- » Sentiment from the February 10th Visioning Meeting indicates that even “highly confident” riders are not comfortable riding on Greenbelt Road, and take parallel or alternative routes instead
- » People biking were observed on sidewalk
- » Greenbelt Road is Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) 4



Biking Along Greenbelt Road

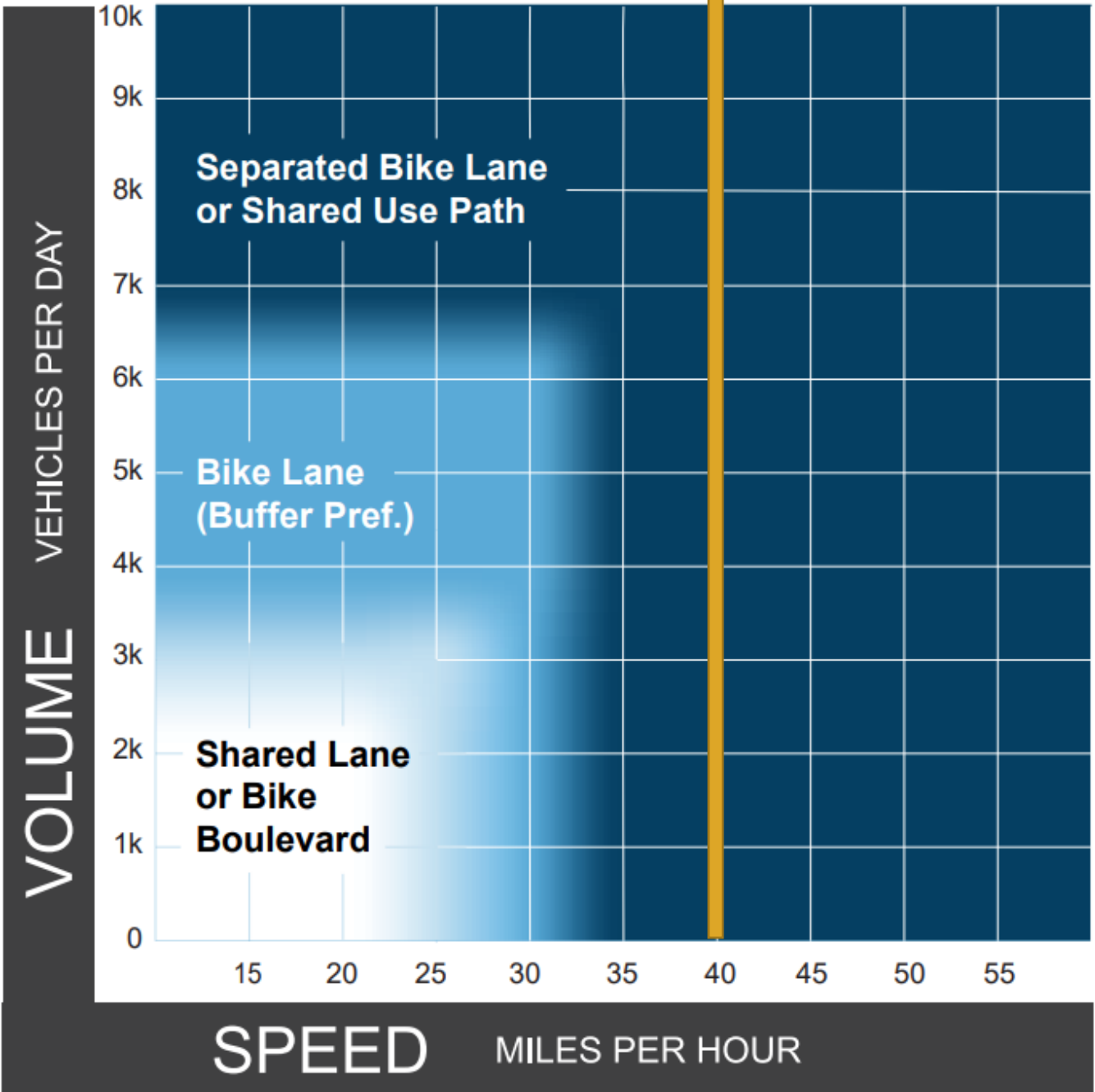
- » Even “highly confident” riders do not ride on Greenbelt Road
- » Greenbelt Road is LTS 4

[A] separated bike lane [is] the difference between me taking a bike versus car to get groceries



Bicycle Facility Selection

Roadway Context				All Ages & Abilities Bicycle Facility
Target Motor Vehicle Speed [†]	Target Motor Vehicle Volume (ADT)	Motor Vehicle Lanes	Key Operational Considerations	
Any		Any	Any of the following: high curbside activity, frequent buses, motor vehicle congestion, or turning conflicts [‡]	Protected Bicycle Lane
< 10 mph	Less relevant	No centerline, or single lane one-way	Pedestrians share the roadway	Shared Street
≤ 20 mph	≤ 1,000 – 2,000		< 50 motor vehicles per hour in the peak direction at peak hour	Bicycle Boulevard
≤ 25 mph	≤ 500 – 1,500	Single lane each direction, or single lane one-way	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Conventional or Buffered Bicycle Lane, or Protected Bicycle Lane
	≤ 1,500 – 3,000			Buffered or Protected Bicycle Lane
	≤ 3,000 – 6,000			Protected Bicycle Lane
	Greater than 6,000			
	Any	Multiple lanes per direction		
Greater than 26 mph [†]	≤ 6,000	Single lane each direction	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce Speed
		Multiple lanes per direction		Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce to Single Lane & Reduce Speed
	Greater than 6,000	Any	Any	Protected Bicycle Lane
High-speed limited access roadways, natural corridors, or geographic edge conditions with limited conflicts		Any	High pedestrian volume	Bike Path with Separate Walkway or Protected Bicycle Lane
			Low pedestrian volume	Shared-Use Path or Protected Bicycle Lane



Bicycle Facility Option Considerations

One-Way Separated Bike Lanes

- » Requires implementation on both sides of the roadway
- » Requires the most cross-section width
- » Opportunity to “pilot”
- » Intuitive for people walking, biking, and driving
- » Separates people walking and biking
- » Requires conflicts (transit stops, driveways, side streets) to be addressed on both sides of the roadway
- » Requires substantive barriers between people biking and traffic to be comfortable for most riders

Two-Way Cycle Track

- » Can be implemented on one side of the roadway
- » Minimizes cross-section width
- » Opportunity to “pilot” but not as simple as one-way separated bike lanes
- » Not intuitive for people walking, biking, driving
- » Creates asymmetrical roadway with disparate access for people on one side of the roadway
- » Separates people walking and biking
- » Requires signal timing restrictions (no turns on red)
- » Conflicts (transit stops, driveways, side streets) only need to be addressed on one side of the roadway

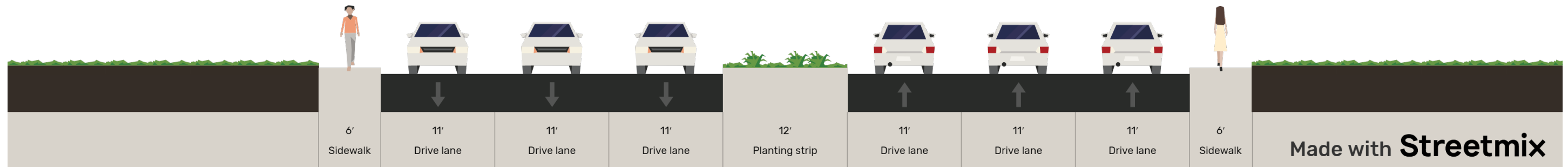
Shared-Use Paths

- » Can be implemented on one side of the roadway at a time (both sides is preferable long-term)
- » Requires less cross-section width than one-way separated bike lanes, but less than two-way cycle track
- » No pilot opportunity
- » People walking and biking have to share the same space
- » Requires conflicts (transit stops, driveways, side streets) to be addressed on both sides of the roadway



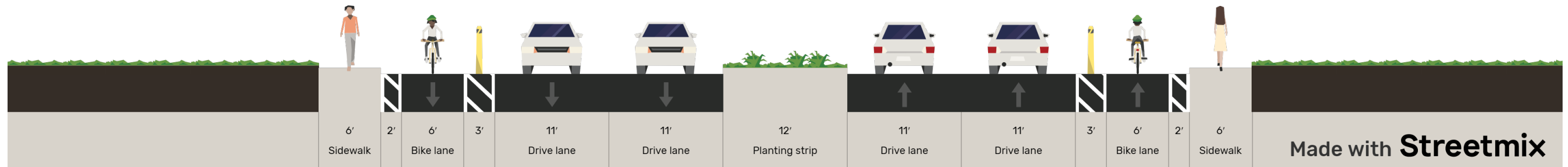
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Existing



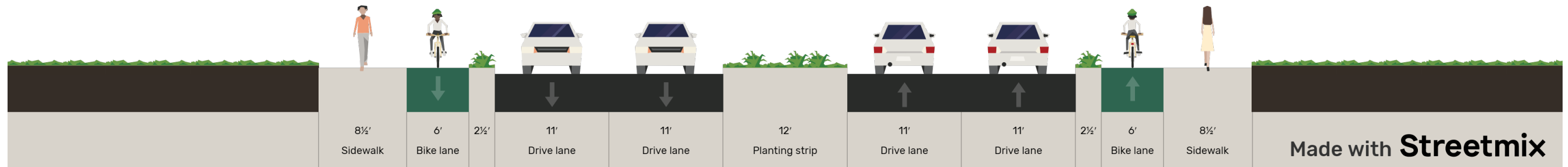
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Separated Bike Lanes (Pilot)



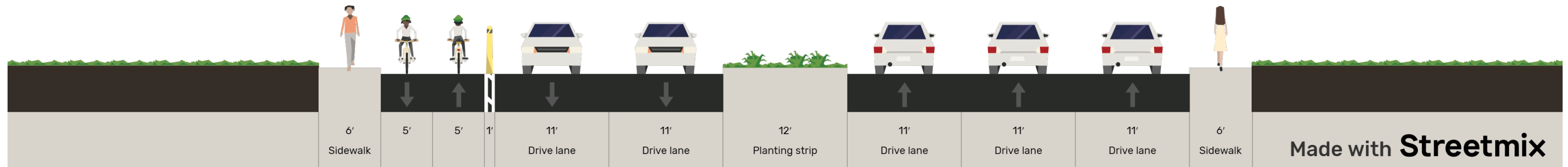
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Separated Bike Lanes (Long-Term)



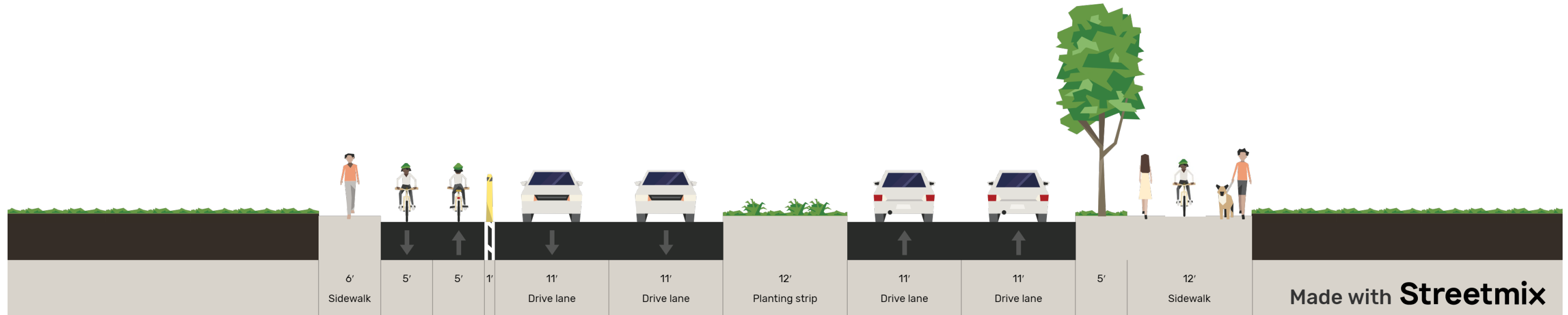
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Two-Way Cycle Track (Keep Five Travel Lanes)



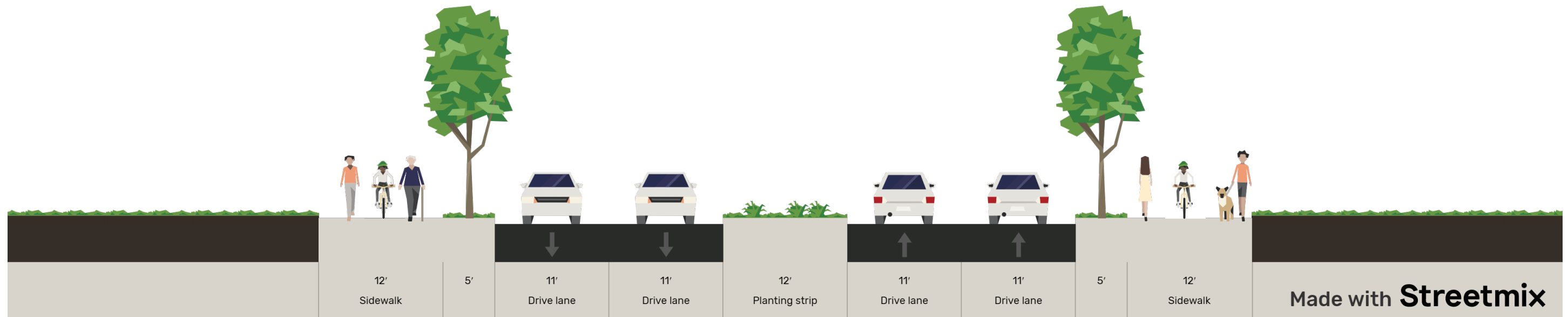
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Two-Way Cycle Track (Shared-Use Path on Opposite Side)



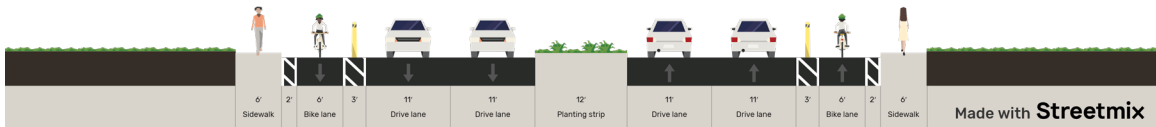
Identifying a Long-Term Vision

Shared-Use Path on Both Sides



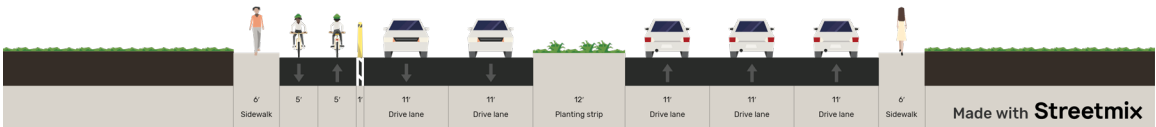
Long-Term Vision Summary

Separated Bike Lane Option

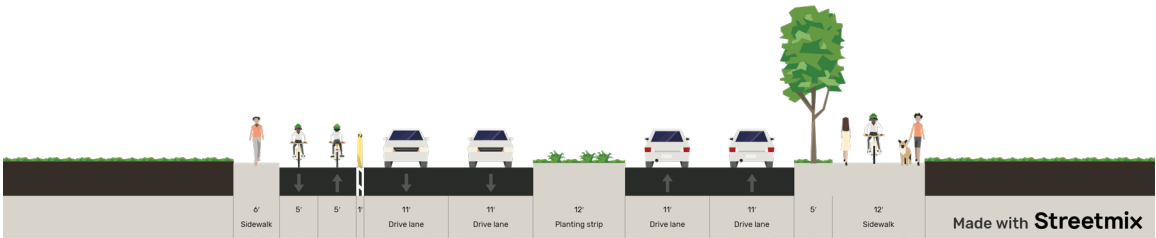


Short-Term

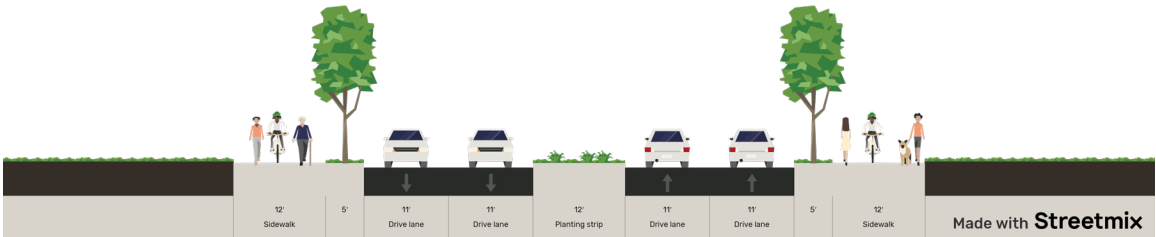
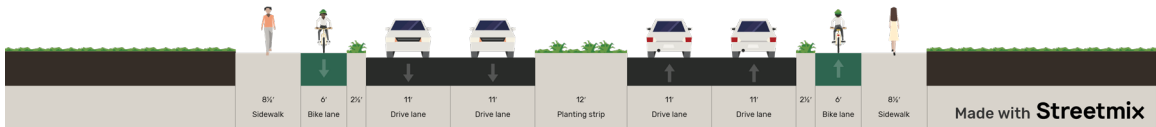
Cycle Track/ Shared-Use Path Option



Mid-Term

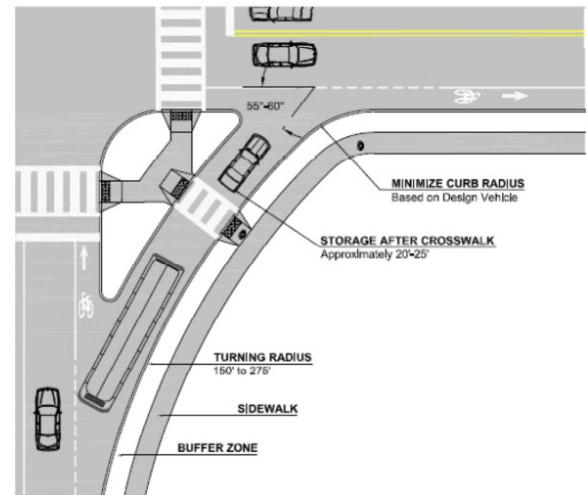
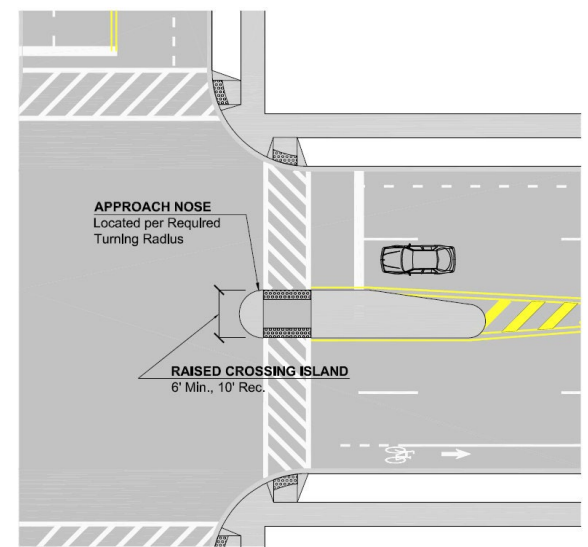


Long-Term



Crossing Greenbelt Road

- » Add marked high-visibility crossings
- » Consider signalized mid-block crossings
- » Provide median refuge islands
- » Remove or constrict right-turn slip lanes
- » Remove right-turn deceleration/acceleration lanes



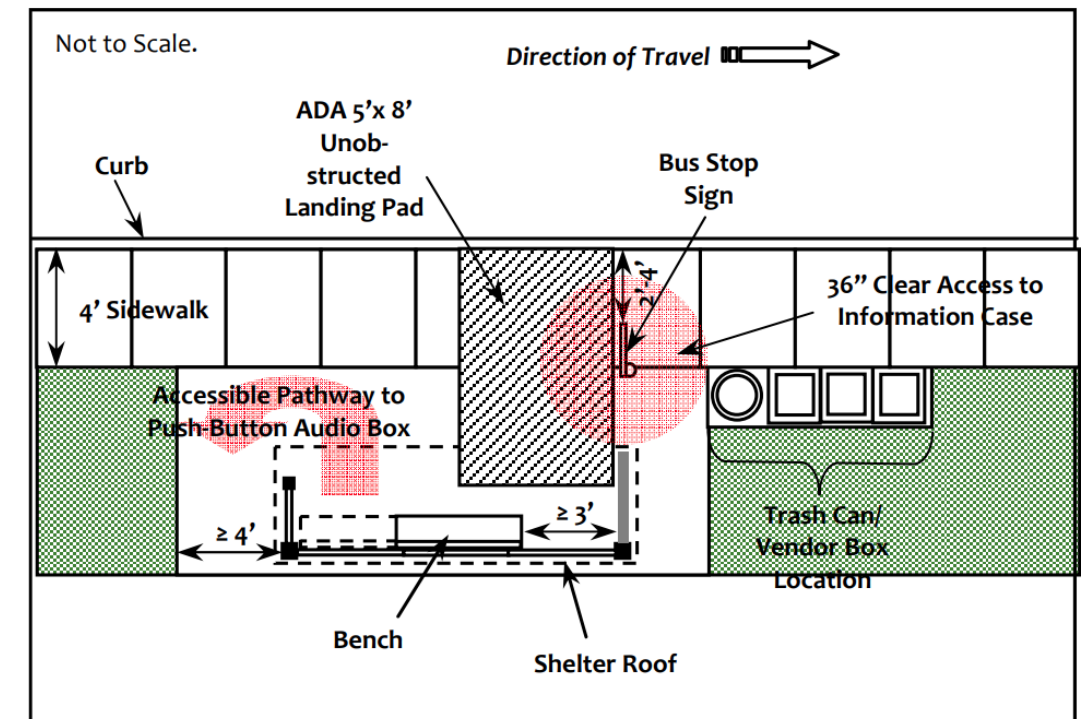
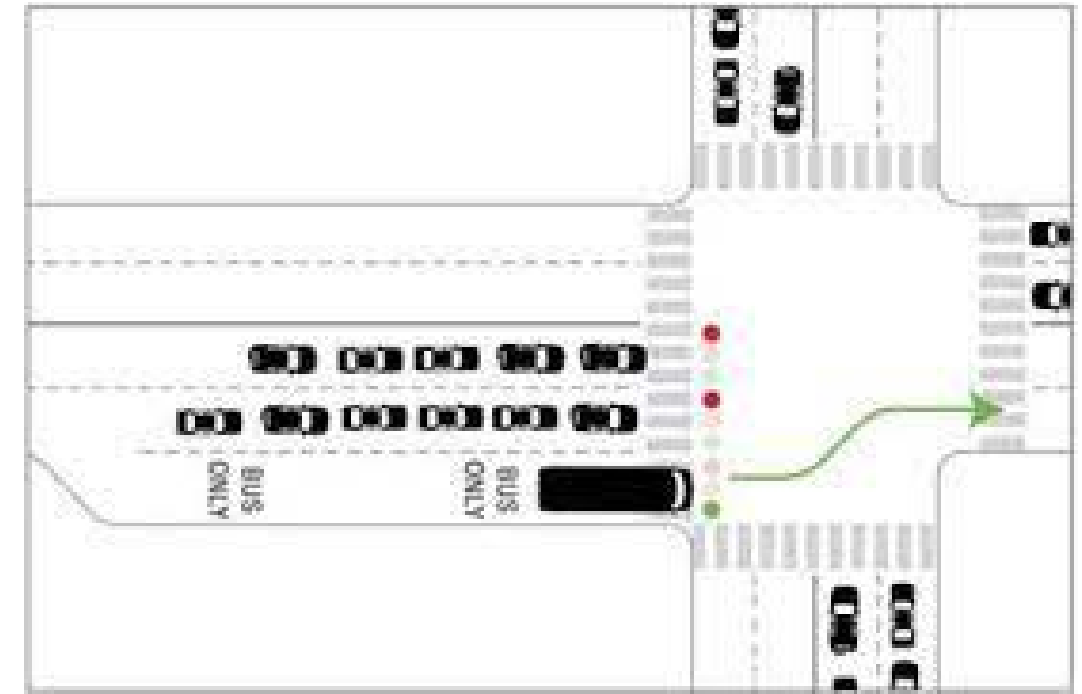
Short-term Walking and Biking Recommendations

- » Pilot a separated bike lane on Greenbelt Road – coordinate with SHA on traffic analysis and signal timing adjustments, and WMATA on transit considerations
- » Remove or redesign slip lanes
- » Improve walking conditions on the bridge
- » Remove or constrict right-turn acceleration/deceleration lanes
- » Provide a sidewalk connection on the north side of Greenbelt Road adjacent to Beltway Plaza

[The southbound right-turn from Rhode Island Avenue] slip lane should be closed. It is especially unsafe for people on bikes using Rhode Island Ave because it encourages high vehicle speed at a location where low speed and caution should be the priority

Improve Transit Service

- » Improve signal timing and coordination, including signal priority for transit vehicles
- » Add queue jump lanes in place of right-turn acceleration/ deceleration lanes
- » Upgrade all transit stops to meet ADA requirements with seating (15 or more boardings per day) or shelter (50 or more boardings per day), including sufficient landing zone, sidewalk width, and clear zone
- » Improve walking and biking access to all transit stops and consider options for minimizing circuitous bus routing (i.e. through Beltway Plaza) with improved multimodal connections
- » Provide amenities including bicycle racks, micromobility docks, trash and recycling receptacles at all stops

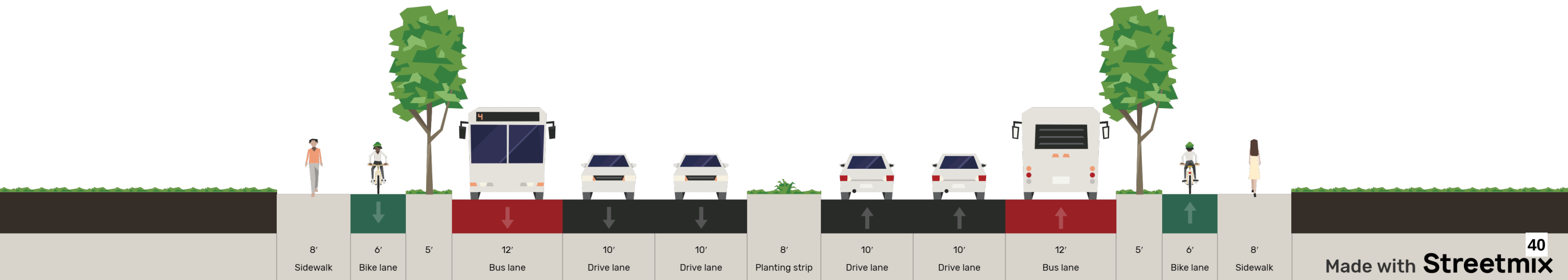


Sidewalk Adjacent to Curb

Transit Along Greenbelt Road

» Long-term

- » Consider dedicated outside bus lanes after redevelopment increases transit ridership
- » In constrained areas (the bridge), cars and transit could share a lane to ensure walking/biking facilities are continuous
- » Realizing the cross-section below requires approximately 20 additional feet (10 feet on each side) of space along the corridor

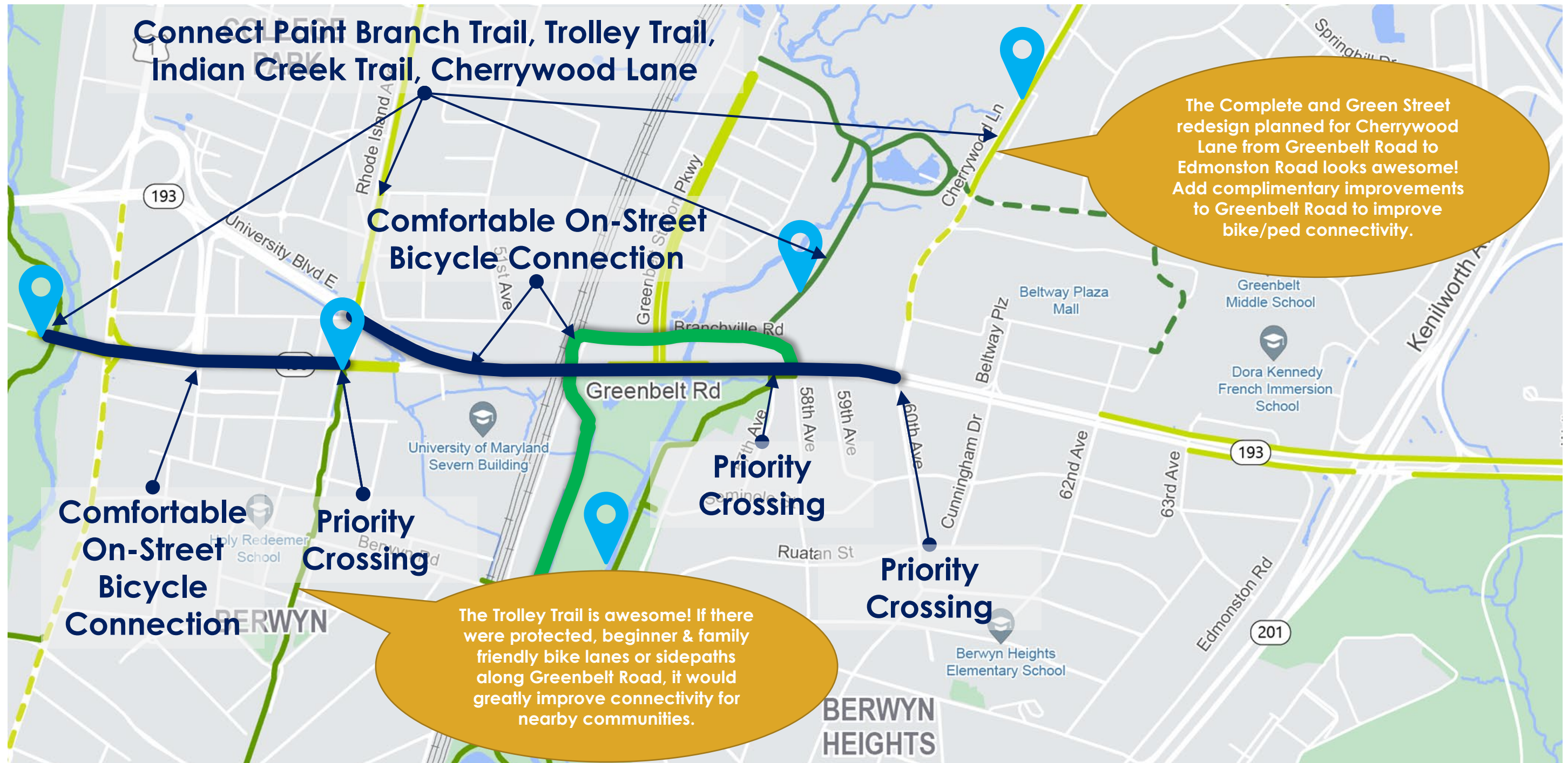


Connections to Neighborhoods, Parks, and Trails

- » Identify priority crossing locations along Greenbelt Road (Rhode Island Avenue, 57th Avenue, Cherrywood Lane)
- » Improve Branchville Road to provide low-stress bicycle connections, and work with Berwyn Heights to connect Branchville Road to the Indian Creek Trail
- » Provide wayfinding guidance to connect the Indian Creek Trail across (or under) Greenbelt Road



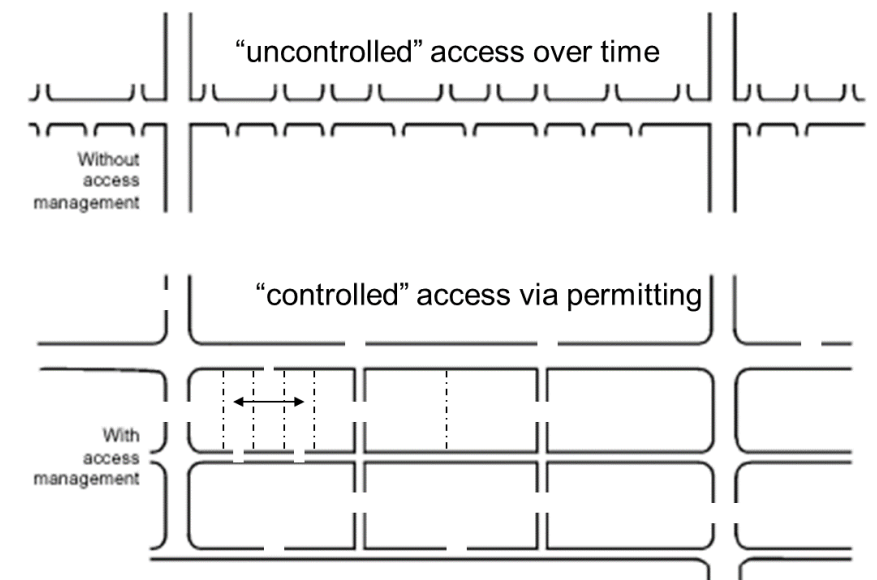
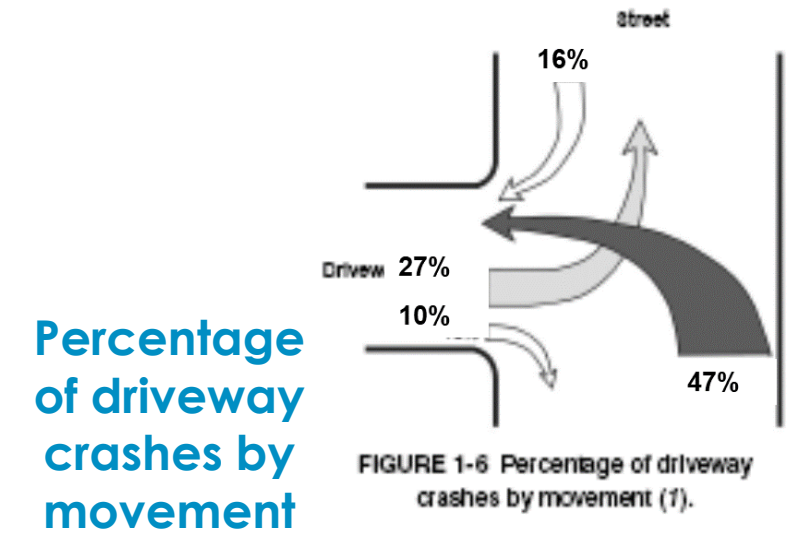
Connections to Neighborhoods, Parks, and Trails



Improve Access

- » Manage driveway and side street access to Greenbelt Road
 - » Reduce conflicts with people walking and biking
 - » Allow for the eventual construction of continuous walking and biking facilities
 - » Provide stormwater and environmental amenities
 - » Improve roadway capacity and facilitate right-sizing the road to demand

“Access management is the programmatic control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, interchanges, and street connections to a roadway.”



Improve Access

- » Close and consolidate driveways
- » Provide additional parallel connections and provide access via side streets
- » Minimize full-movement driveways and reduce turning movements at side streets

