TOWN OF
READING
MASSACHUSETTS

Walkers Brook Drive Redesign

Community Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Reading Public Library

Kimley»Horn

CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS
A Women-owned Business Enterprise

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Background
- Summary of Public Engagement to Date
- Design Alternatives
- Your Feedback

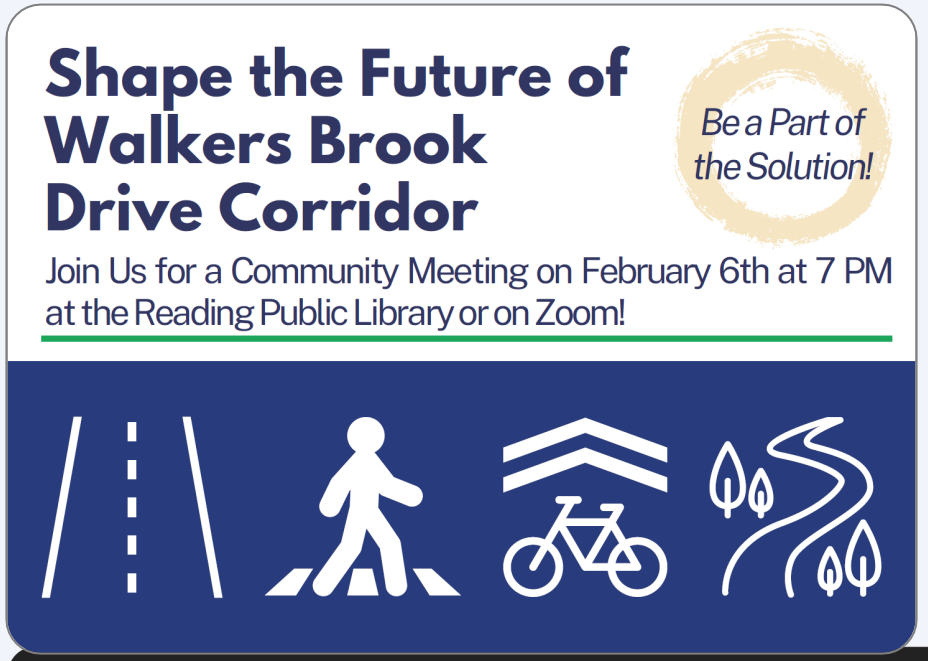
Introductions

Town Staff

Ben Cares - Economic Development Director / Project Manager
Andrew MacNichol - Community Development Director
Ryan Percival - Town Engineer
Alex Rozycki - Senior Civil Engineer

Consultant Team

Wing Wong, P.E., PTOE
Lisa Juan, P.E.
Nichol Figueiredo
Stacy Figueiredo



Project Background

Summary

- 2018 Traffic Impact and Access Study related to Eaton Lakeview Apartments
  - Recommended Improvements at Lakeview Avenue & Walkers Brook Drive
- 2019 Comprehensive Corridor Analysis & Conceptual Redesign Study (completed in 2021)
- 2022 Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Housing Choice Grant Program Award for $250k
  - Study Conceptual Level Designs in Greater Detail for Corridor Improvements and Key Intersections (General Way, John Street, Village Street, and Lakeview Avenue)

Project Area

Project Area

Four lane undivided roadway

Sidewalk facilities on both sides and changes to the south side only approaching I-95

Route 137 services this area with Bus Stop by New Crossing Road

Goals

- Provide the community and key stakeholders with **design alternatives** including a variety of pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular improvements while preserving the commercial use of the corridor by abutting businesses.
- Initiate a **community engagement program** to gather feedback and showcase design alternatives.
- Solidify an overall **community vision** for Walkers Brook Drive.

Summary of Public Engagement to Date

Walkers Brook Drive Survey Highlights

310 responses

Who Took The Survey?

Most people are over 30 years old.

18-24-0.65%
25-34-12.58%
35-44-31.94%
45-54-20.65%
55-64-19.03%
65+-12.90%

Most people live over a mile away.

Within ½ mile-18.06%
½ mile to 1 mile-31.61%
Over 1 mile-50.32%

Over half of the people use Walkers Brooks Drive weekly.

Daily-38.06%
Weekly-56.13%
Monthly-4.19%
Yearly-1.61%

Just The Facts

Top 3 reasons people use Walkers Brook Drive.

Groceries 86.45%
Retail Shops 78.39%
Restaurants 43.55%

Most commuters opt to drive alone.

98.06%

Which commute is the most unsafe?

Survey respondents believe the top 3 Improvements for WALKING are:

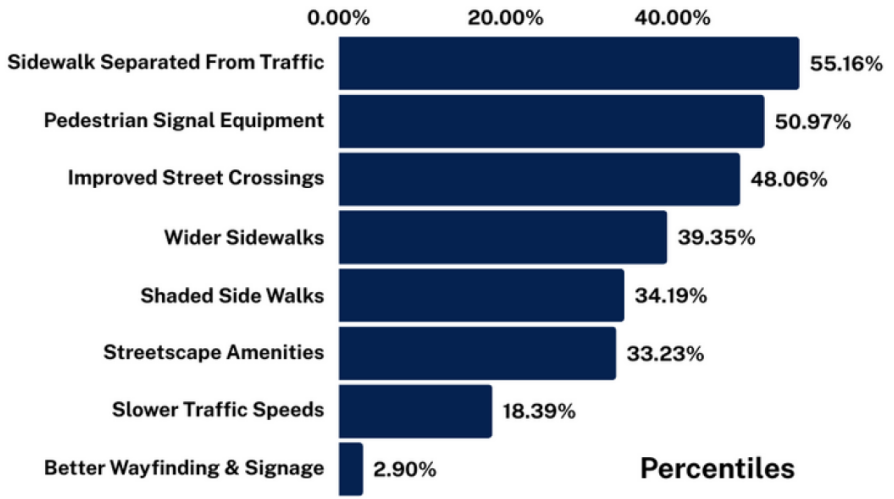
Sidewalks
Signals
Street crossings

Survey respondents believe the top 3 Improvements for BIKING are:

Safer intersections
Off-road trail
Bike lane

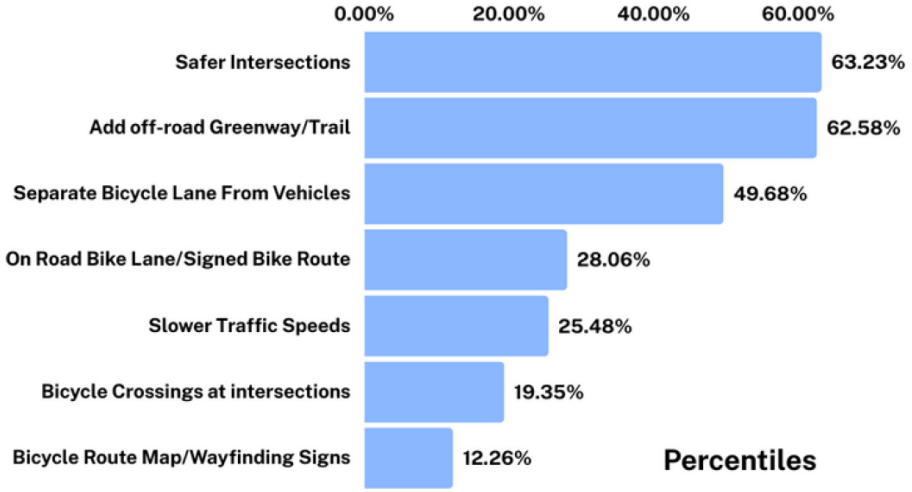
When asked about Improvements,
The **#1** priority was
SAFER INTERSECTIONS

How important do you think the following improvements would be to encourage more people to **WALK** along Walkers Brook Drive?



*Most important improvements for more people to walk along Walkers Brook Drive would be adding **sidewalks separated from traffic**, **pedestrian signal equipment**, and **street crossings**.*

How important do you think the following improvements would be to encourage more people to **BIKE** along Walkers Brook Drive?



*The top three improvements survey respondents would like to see to encourage more people to bike along Walkers Brook Drive are, **safer intersections**, adding **off-road greenway/trails**, and **separating bicycle lanes** from vehicles.*

Imagine the year 2033, how would you want the Walkers Brook Drive corridor to look like?

- Pedestrian Friendly
- Trees, Bushes, Benches, Lights
- Less Exposure to Car Traffic
- Well Paved Areas

*One of the most prominent findings from the survey is the overwhelming desire for **wider pedestrian-friendly sidewalks**. Walkers Brook Drive should not merely accommodate pedestrians; it should **welcome them with ample space for walking, jogging, and strolling**. These sidewalks will not only promote physical activity but also **foster a sense of community** as residents and visitors can leisurely explore the area on foot.*

PublicCoordinate Comments Summary

189 Comments Received

Through Public Coordinate 189 individuals provided feedback to transform the future of the Walker's Brook Drive Corridor!

- A safe, labeled, and wide path for pedestrians, especially runners|joggers, to the top of lake Q would be great.
- Even without a connection through to Wakefield better bike access would be important to access the shops and restaurants.
- Add street and wayfinding signage (eg which way to downtown).
- A modern roundabout would improve safety and flow, especially for left turns -- cars often come down the hill quite fast -- increasing the risk of collisions.
- I think revising parking minimums, providing dedicated bike lanes, a safer pedestrian pathways, and more public transit would allow us to remove some of the parking and create more space for businesses and housing.
- Shelter should be updated and more stops added
- This traffic light takes an long time to allow right turns.
- Traffic-calming measures (really needed on many residential streets in town).

Traffic Related Items

Top Priorities

- Installation of Roundabouts
- Unsafe Left-Turns
- Synchronization of Traffic Lights

Corridor Aesthetics

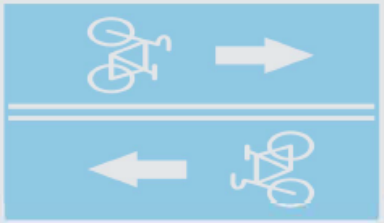
Top Priorities

- Rejuvenate Underused Spaces
- Installation of Wayfinding Signage
- Creation of Green Space

Bicycle Facilities

Top Priorities

- Add Infrastructure to Support Safe Cycling
- Necessity for Separate or Protected Lanes for Cyclists
- Impacts to Traffic Due to Narrowing the Roadway



Traffic Signals

Top Priorities

- Efficient, Reliable and Synchronized Traffic Signal System
- Reduced Wait Times for Right Turns
- Smoother Traffic Flow

Pedestrian Facilities

Top Priorities

- Safe, Labeled and Wide Sidewalks
- Upgrades to Existing Pedestrian Equipment
- Sidewalks on Both Sides of Walkers Brook Drive

Safety

Top Priorities

- Institution of Traffic Calming Measures
- Improved Sight Lines
- Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Infrastructure

Other Comments

Top Priorities

- Establish Public Parking on John Street
- Challenging to Access Shopping and Services without a Vehicle
- Reduction in Car-Centric Infrastructure

Public Transit

Top Priorities

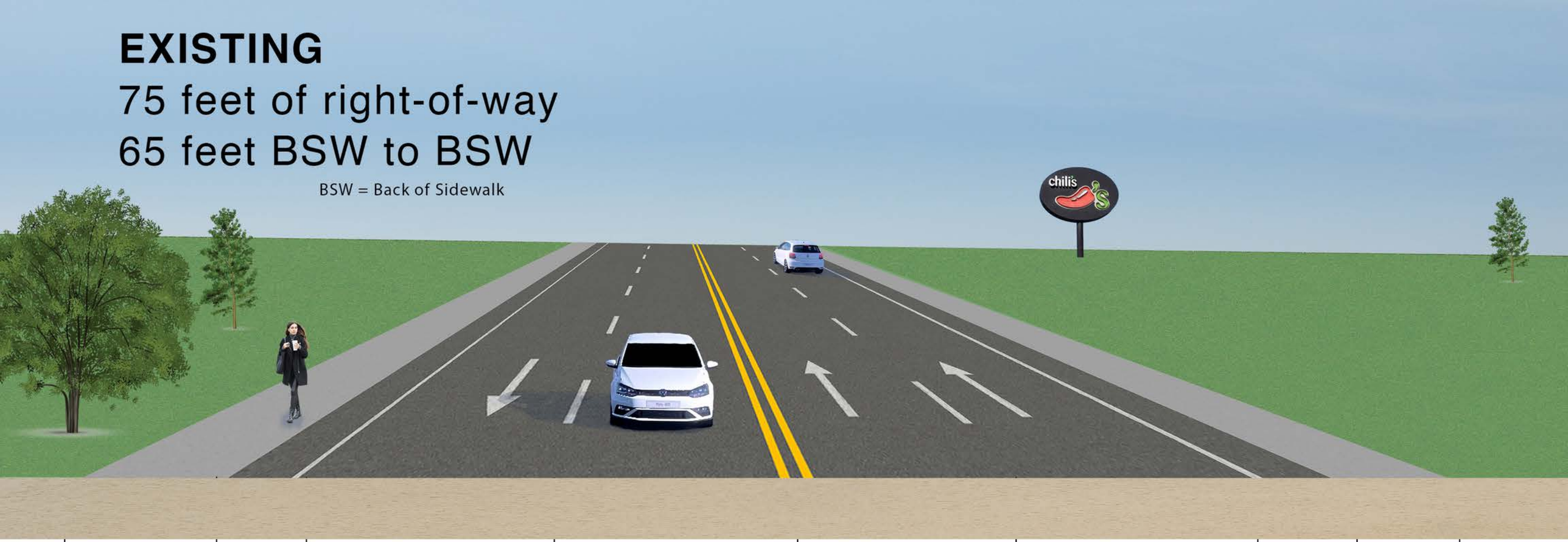
- Improved Transportation Options
- Regional Connectivity
- Updated Infrastructure
- Increased Accessibility

Alternatives

EXISTING

75 feet of right-of-way
65 feet BSW to BSW

BSW = Back of Sidewalk



6' Sidewalk	3' Shoulder	12' Drive Lane	12' Drive Lane	12' Drive Lane	12' Drive Lane	3' Shoulder	6' Sidewalk

PROPOSED (ALTERNATIVE 1)

75 feet of right-of-way

61 feet BSW to BSW

BSW = Back of Sidewalk

6' Sidewalk	5' Buffered Bike Lane	3'	11' Drive Lane	11' Turn Lane	11' Drive Lane	3'	5' Buffered Bike Lane	6' Sidewalk

TREES (BEHIND SIDEWALK)
LANDSCAPE BUFFER
HOME DEPOT
JOHN STREET
LAKEVIEW AVE
SALEM FIVE BANK
THE CROSSING AT WALKERS BROOK
CHILI'S
ROUTE 128 HONDA
I-95
VILLAGE STREET
WASHINGTON STREET
STOP & SHOP
GENERAL WAY
NEW CROSSING ROAD
BIKE RACKS
BUFFERED BIKE LANES
CROSSWALK TREATMENTS
SIDEWALK TREATMENTS
INTERSECTION TREATMENTS
LIGHTPOLES AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS
SEATING
LITTER RECEPTACLES
WALKERS BROOK DRIVE ALTERNATIVE 1
LEGEND
SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
RIGHT-OF-WAY
SIDEWALK
GREEN SPACE
BIKE FACILITIES
READING
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PROPOSED (ALTERNATIVE 2)

75 feet of right-of-way

64.5 feet BSW to BSW

BSW = Back of Sidewalk

10’ Shared-use path	5’ Furnishing Zone	4’ Shoulder	11’ Drive Lane	11’ Turn Lane	11’ Drive Lane	4’ Shoulder	8.5’ Sidewalk

TREES (BEHIND SIDEWALK)
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READING
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Bertucci's
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

PROPOSED (ALTERNATIVE 3)

Need a total of 79 feet of right-of-way

68 feet BSW to BSW

BSW = Back of Sidewalk

6’ Sidewalk	10’ Two-way cycle track	5’ Furnishing Zone	4’ Shoulder	11’ Drive Lane	11’ Turn Lane	11’ Drive Lane	4’ Shoulder	6’ Sidewalk

TREES (BEHIND SIDEWALK)
LANDSCAPE BUFFER
HOME DEPOT
JOHN STREET
LAKEVIEW AVE
SALEM FIVE BANK
THE CROSSING AT WALKERS BROOK
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STOP & SHOP
NEW CROSSING ROAD
BIKE RACKS
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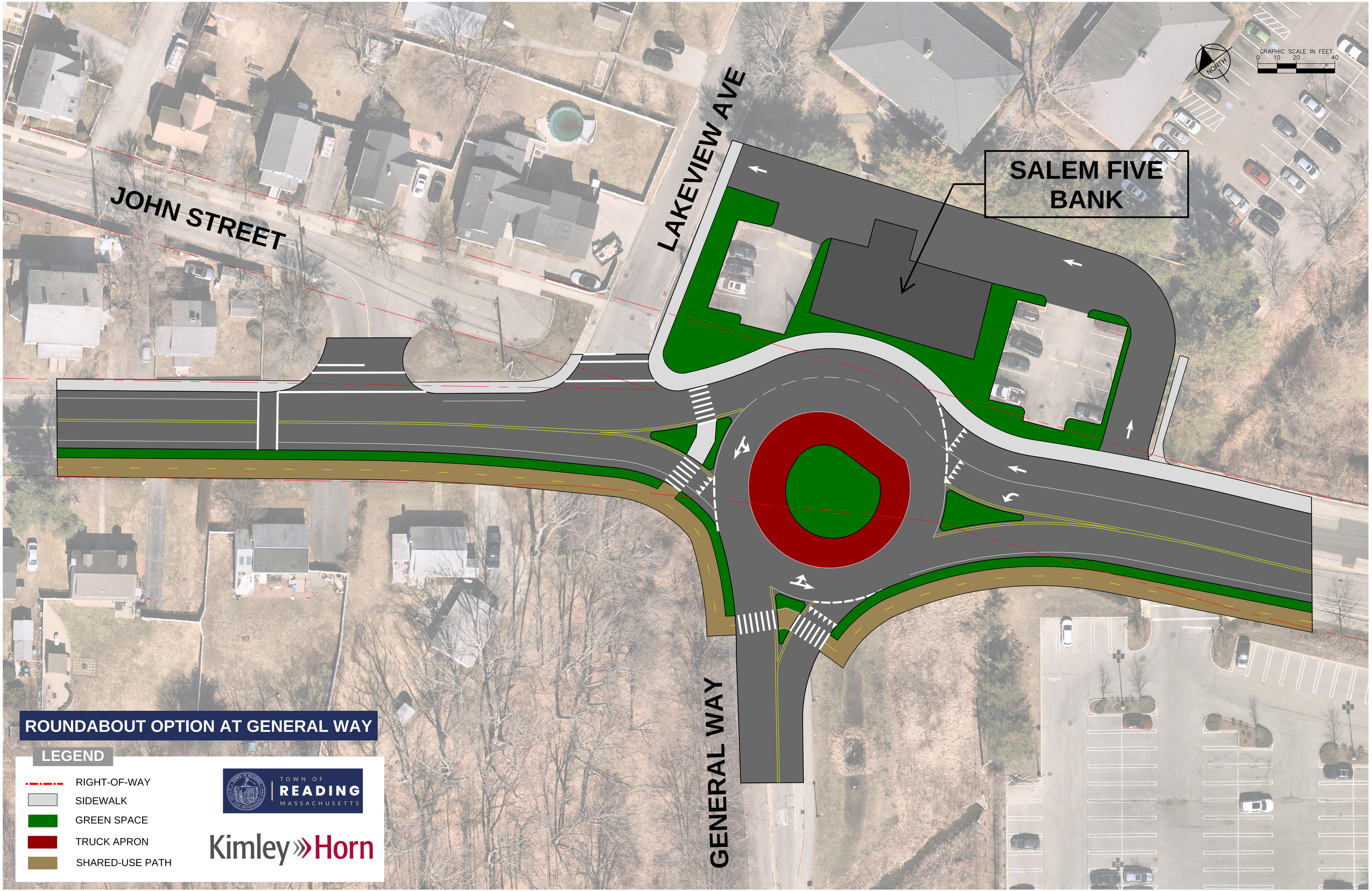
ITALIAN RESTAURANT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Feedback

Your feedback is critical to the process and extremely valuable.

You travel this corridor every day and you've seen the changes over the years.

JOIN US ON POLLEV

PollEv.com/nicka583

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Community survey on the conceptual design alternatives
- Alternative refinements where applicable
- Present the consensus preferred alternative
- Conceptual design plan set with the conceptual construction cost estimate

Thank You!

Contact Me

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Economic Development Director
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