



Somerville Community Path

Mission:

To extend the well-loved Minuteman Bikeway/Linear Park 2.5 miles from its current ending at Cedar Street in Somerville to the Charles River Path



The proposed route follows the edge of the Lowell line railroad tracks, at street level (the trains run down below, in a cut). The Community Path will link the Minuteman Bikeway/Linear Park (***the most-used rail trail in the USA***), via Lechmere, to the Charles River Paths!

Somerville Community Path

Regional Context



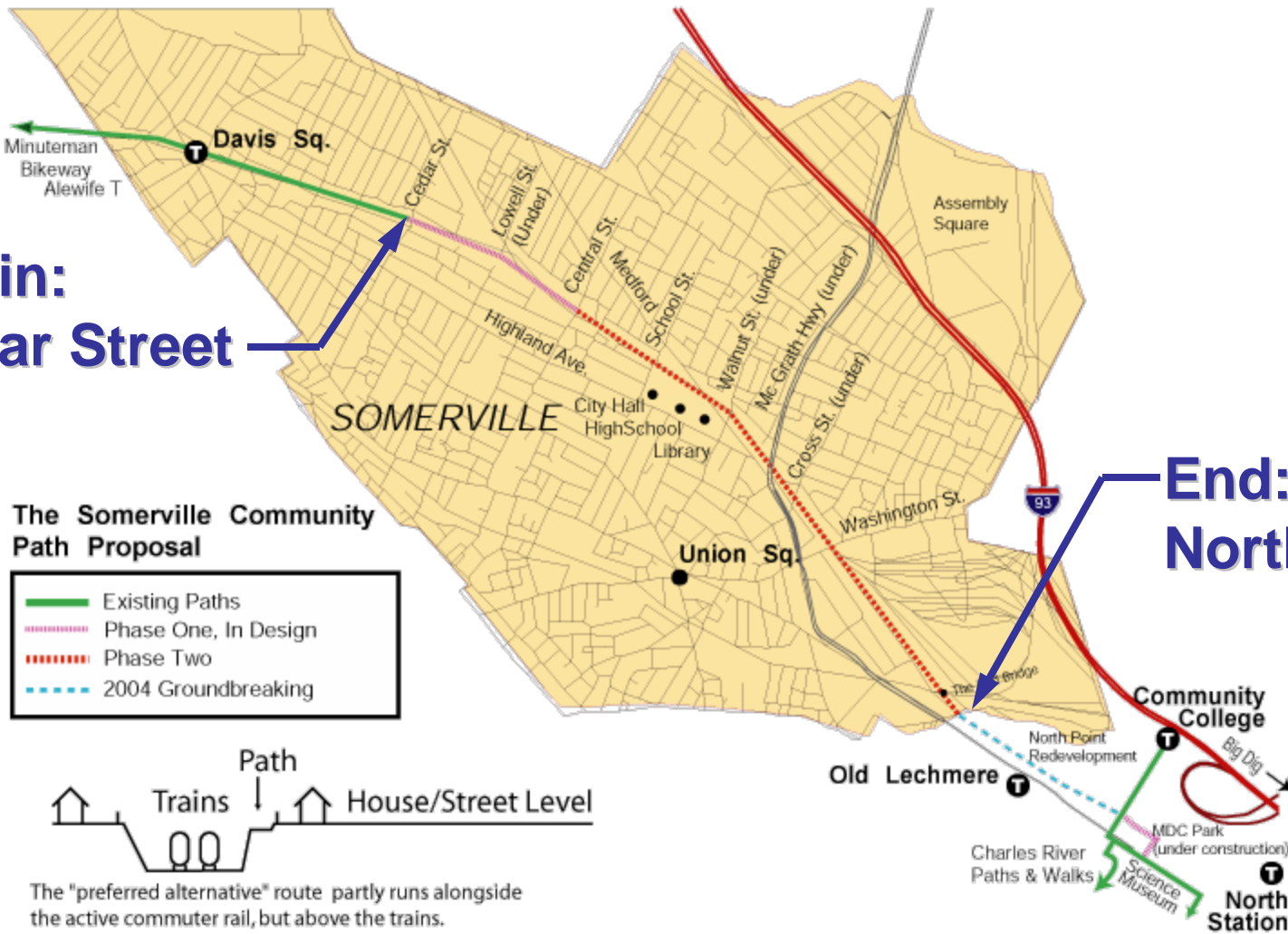
Connections to:

- Cambridge
- Boston
- Belmont
- Arlington,
- Lexington
- Bedford
- Watertown

Somerville Community Path

**Begin:
Cedar Street**

**End:
NorthPoint**





History

Initial Feasibility Study (2001)

- Public meetings -- January 2001
- Study finalized -- May 2001
- Conclusions:
 - Strong community interest in the development of a separate trail
 - Recommended development of path along west side of railroad
 - Develop new retaining walls that allow path

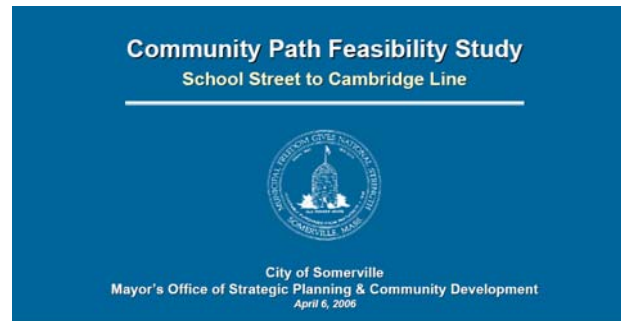




History:

Current Design Status

- Cedar Street to Central Street:
 - In design
- Central Street to School Street:
 - Concept identified
- School Street to Cambridge Line:
 - Feasibility Study -- 2006

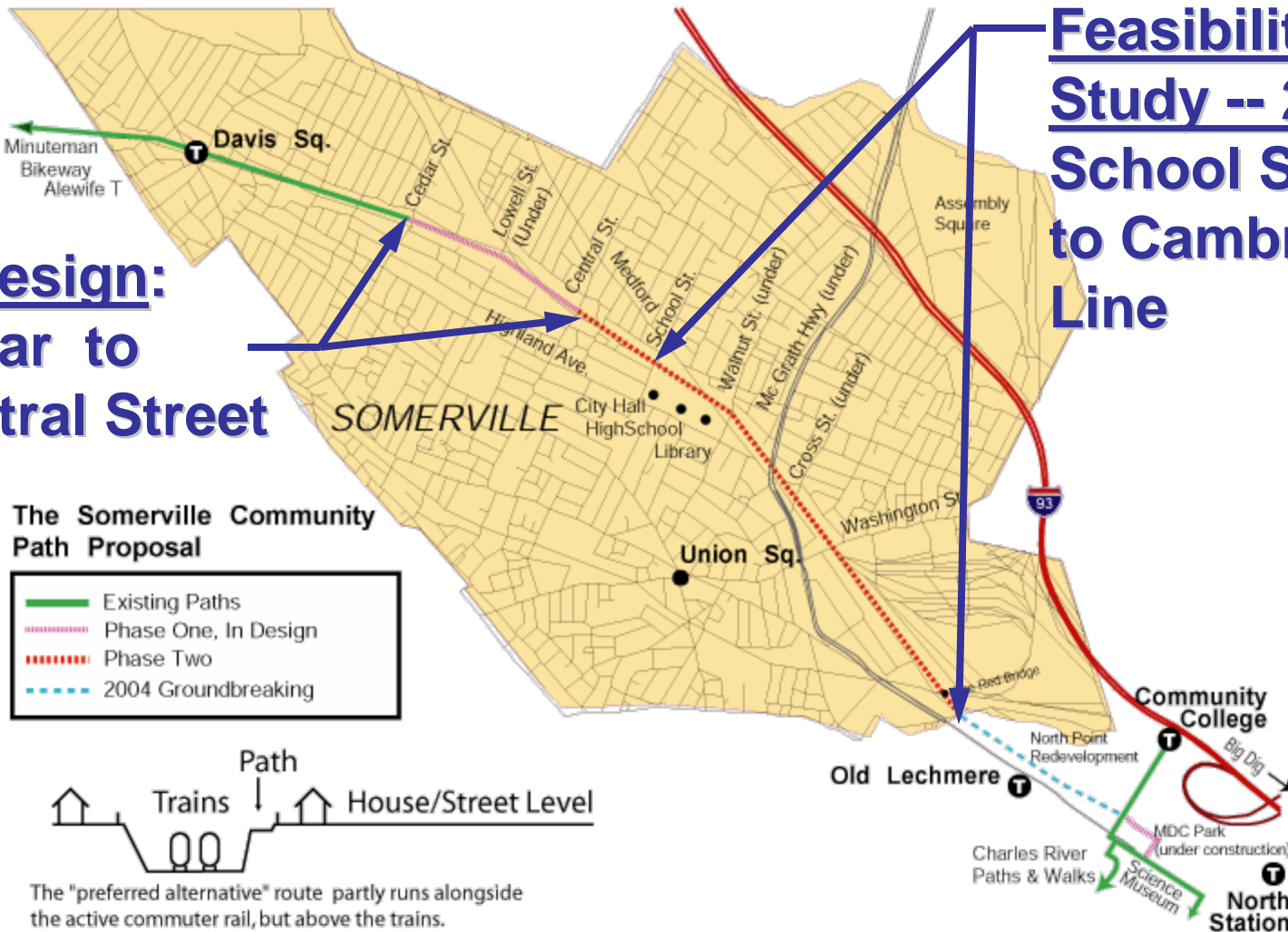




History: Status of Design

**In Design:
Cedar to
Central Street**

**Feasibility
Study -- 2006:
School Street to Cambridge
Line**





Coordination with Green Line Extension

- Proximity of proposed path to Lowell Line right-of-way (alignment for Green Line Extension)
- Opportunity to coordinate design of both projects
- Path could provide pedestrian and bicycle access to Green Line stations
- Public comments on Green Line EENF

Secretary's Certificate on EENF

- The Community Path, in particular, will benefit from a coordinated approach. Designing and building it in conjunction with the Green Line is critical to its overall viability and will certainly reduce its overall cost. The Community Path, in turn, can provide good access to the Green Line Extension and boost ridership levels for the Green Line Extension. Therefore, I am directing EOT to work proactively with the proponents of the Community Path and to include conceptual designs in the DEIR. The DEIR should identify where the Path can be accommodated within the ROW, identify potential pinch points and obstacles to including it within the ROW and, where the ROW cannot accommodate the Community Path, evaluate alternatives (i.e. cantilevering the trail or identifying on-street routes). The DEIR should evaluate whether bridges (new and rebuilt) are wide enough to accommodate the path. The DEIR should provide cost estimates of the project. Also, the DEIR should evaluate the viability of extending the Community Path to Route 16 to create a connection with the Mystic River Parkway.

Secretary's Certificate on EENF

- Work proactively with the proponents of the Community Path
- Include conceptual designs in the DEIR:
 - identify where the Path can be accommodated within the ROW,
 - identify potential pinch points and obstacles to including it within the ROW and,
 - where the ROW cannot accommodate the Community Path, evaluate alternatives (i.e. cantilevering the trail or identifying on-street routes).
- The DEIR should evaluate whether bridges (new and rebuilt) are wide enough to accommodate the path.
- The DEIR should provide cost estimates of the project.
- Also, the DEIR should evaluate the viability of extending the Community Path to Route 16 to create a connection with the Mystic River Parkway.

Somerville Community Path

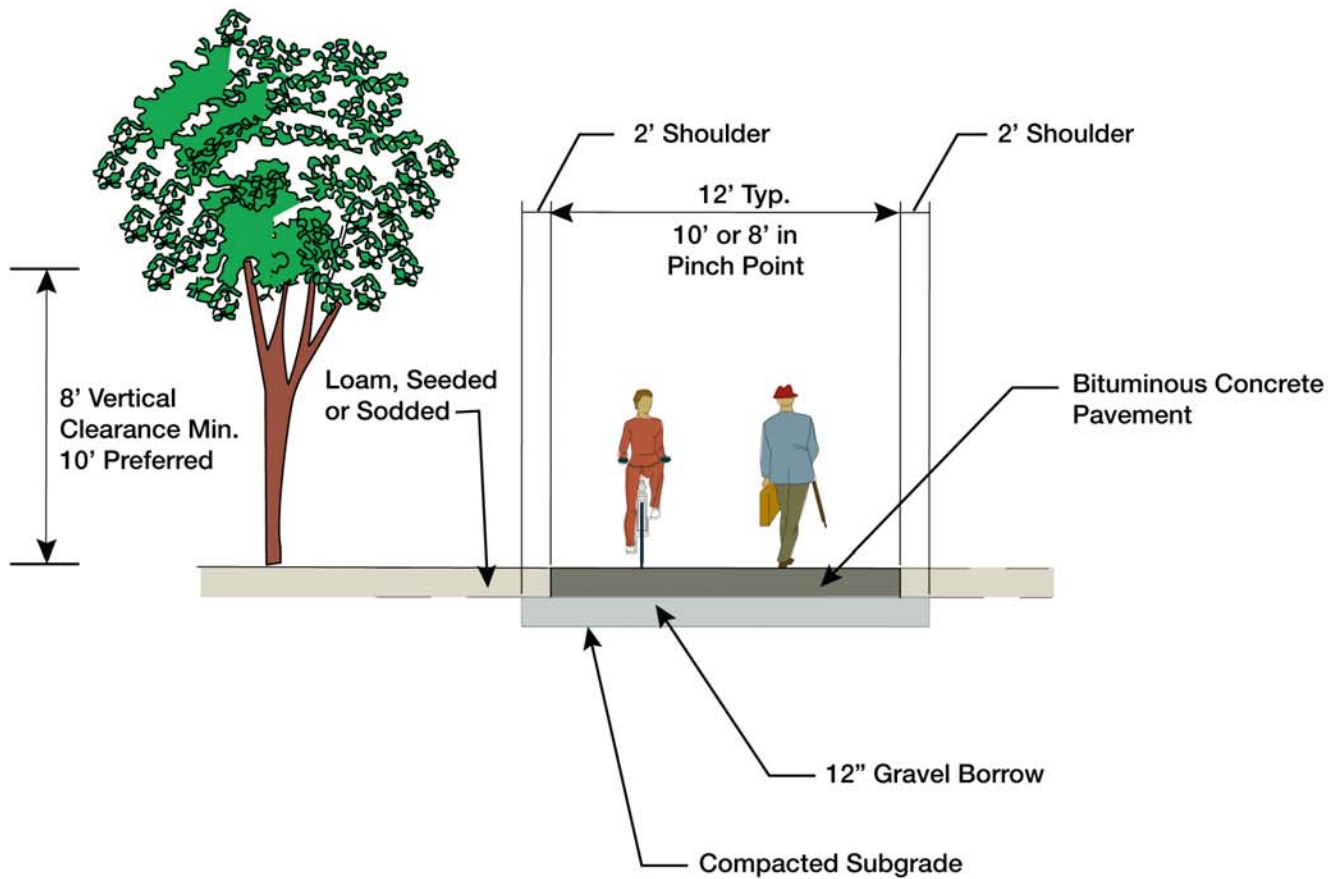
Purpose:

- Walking (including use of mobility aids)
- Bicycling
- Roller blading
- Connecting neighborhoods
- Connections to Green Line Stations

Somerville Community Path

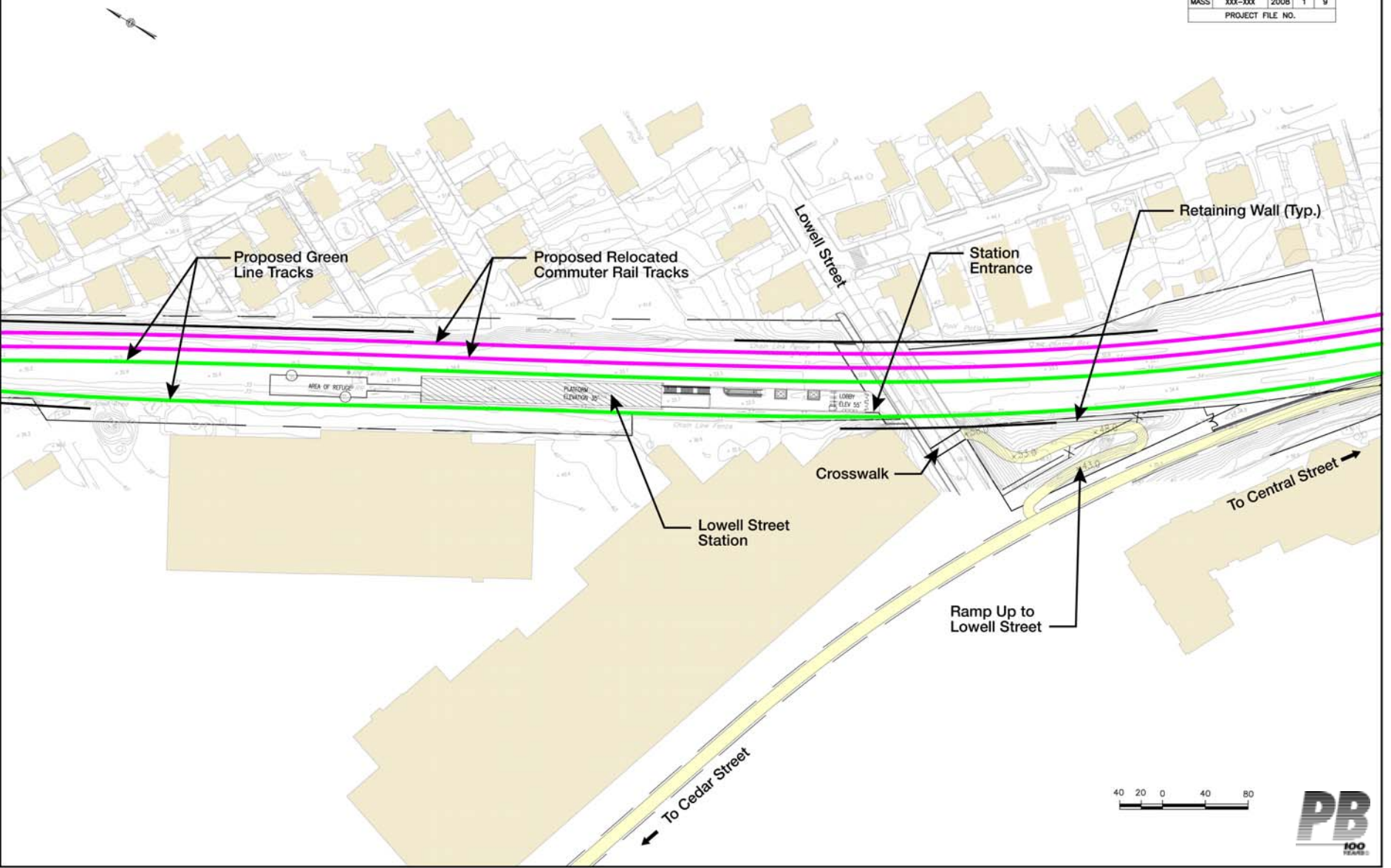
Outline of Design Criteria:

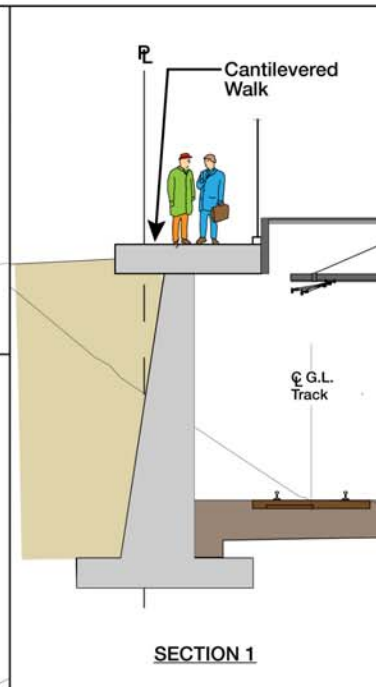
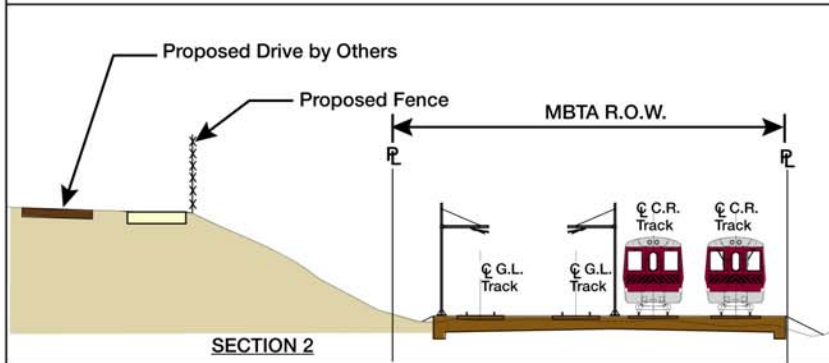
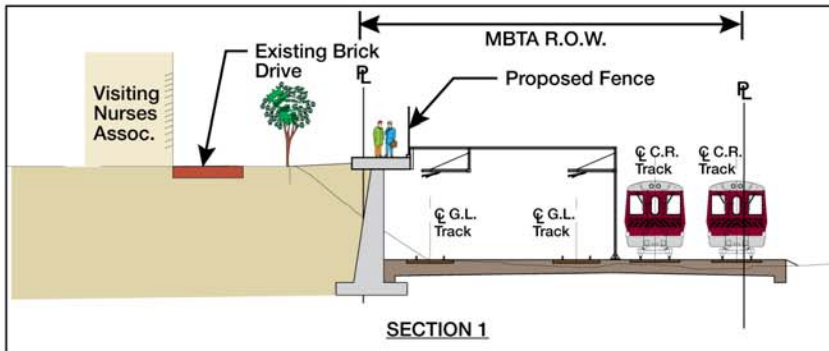
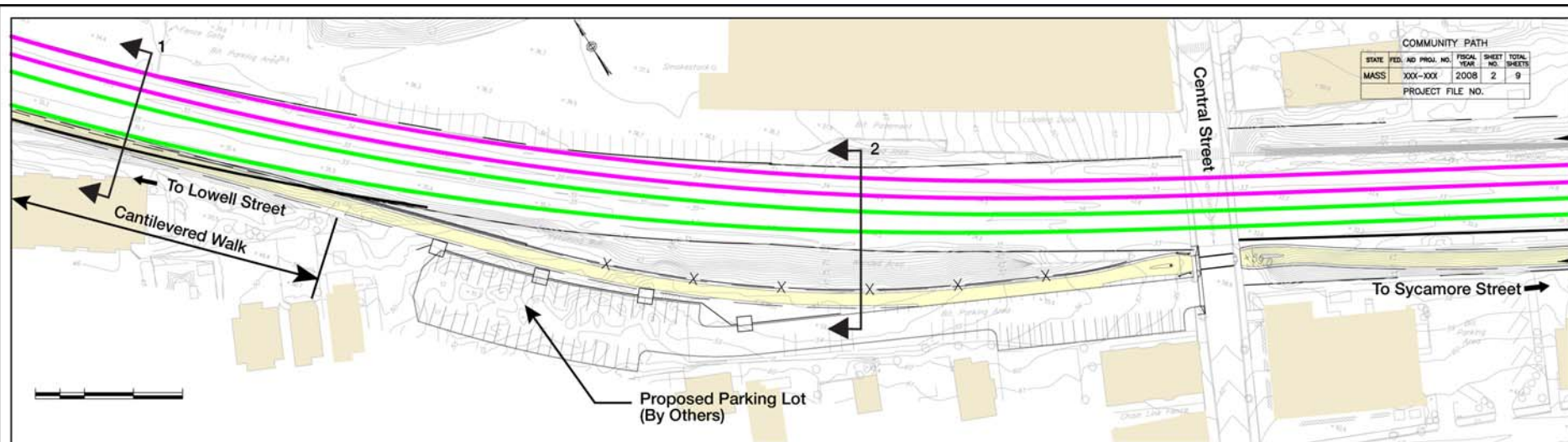
- 12' wide
- Bituminous paving
- Accessibility:
 - compliant with ADA and MAAB
 - Compliant with 36 CFR Part 1195 - Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) - Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas
- Lighting
- Landscaping

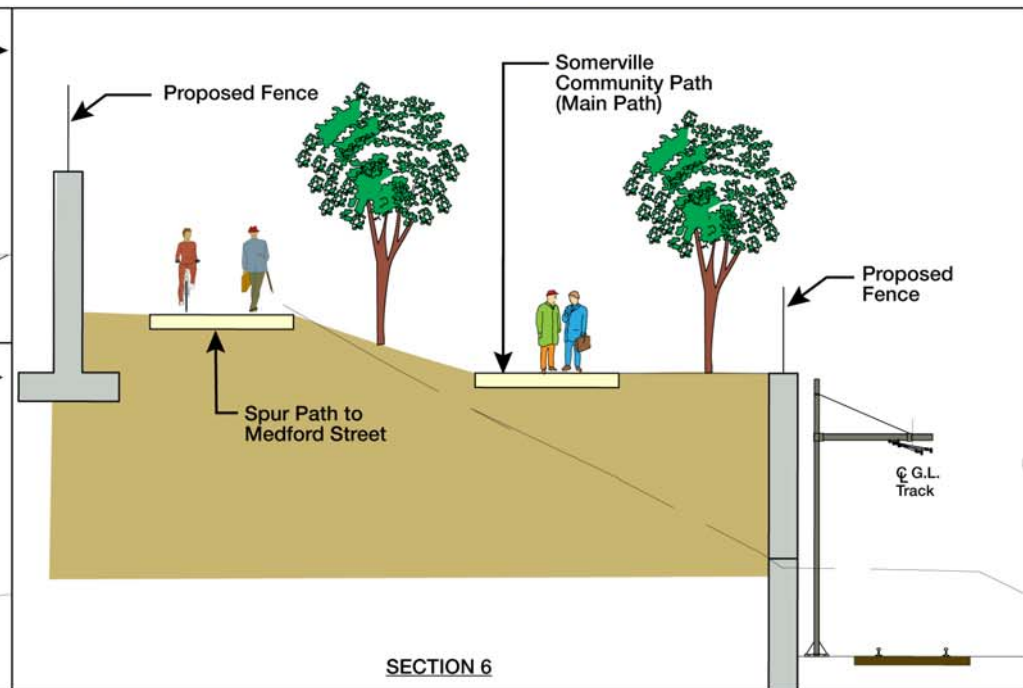
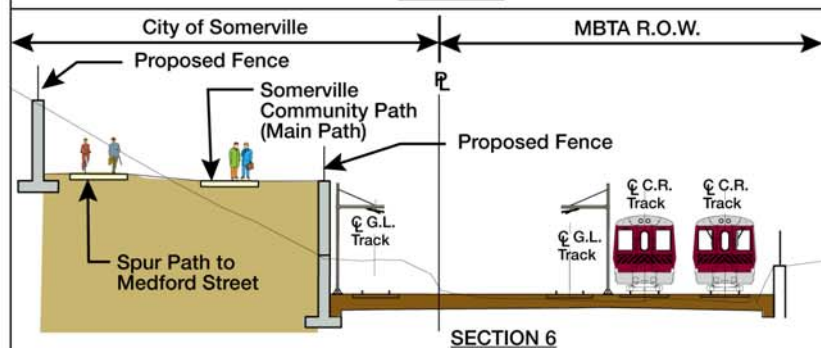
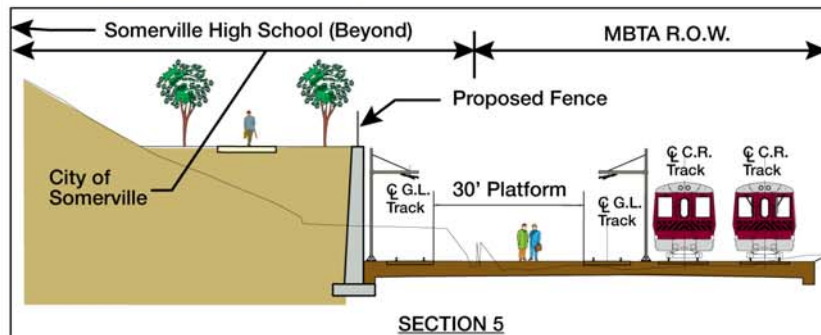
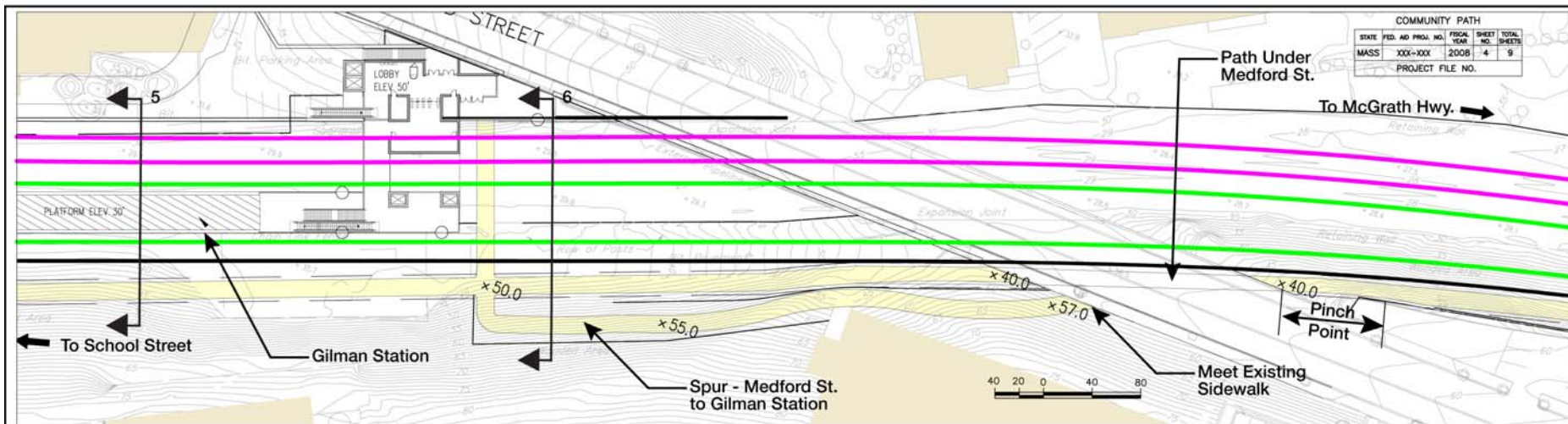


TYPICAL SECTION

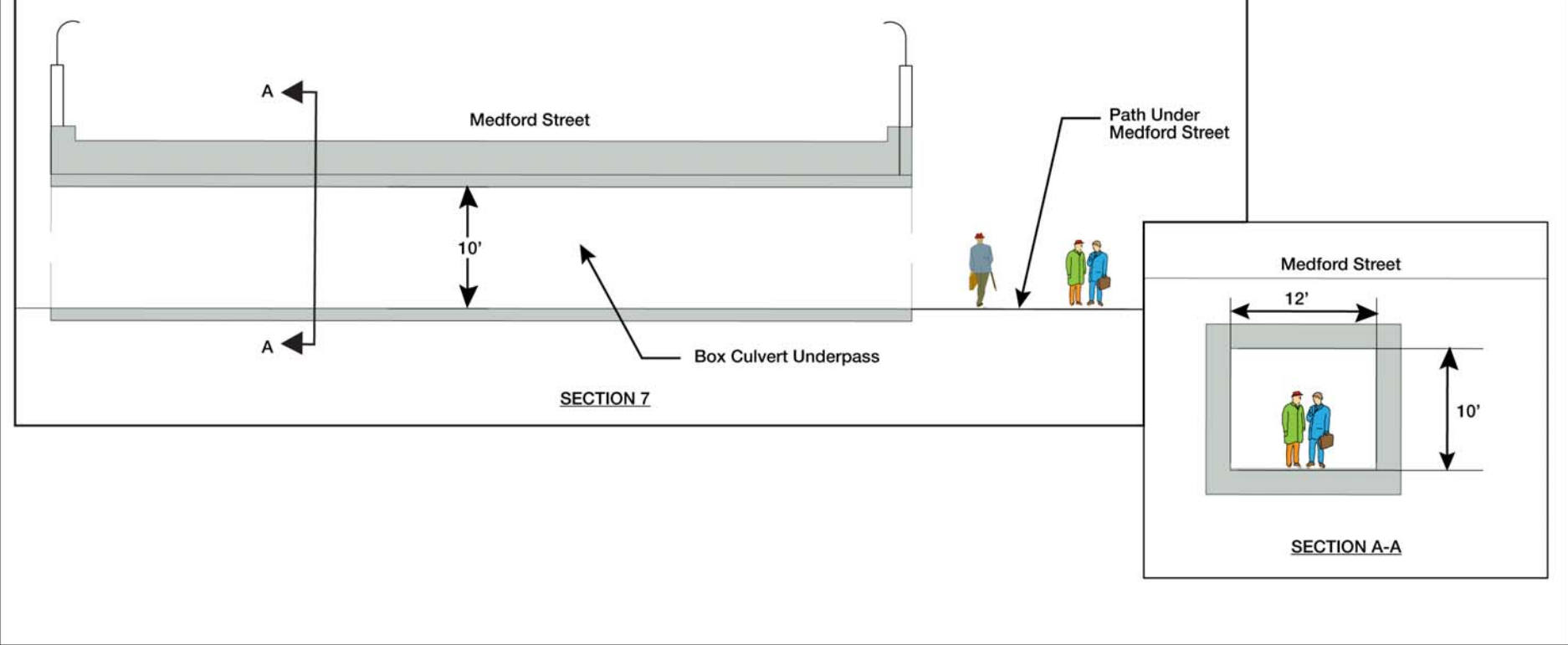
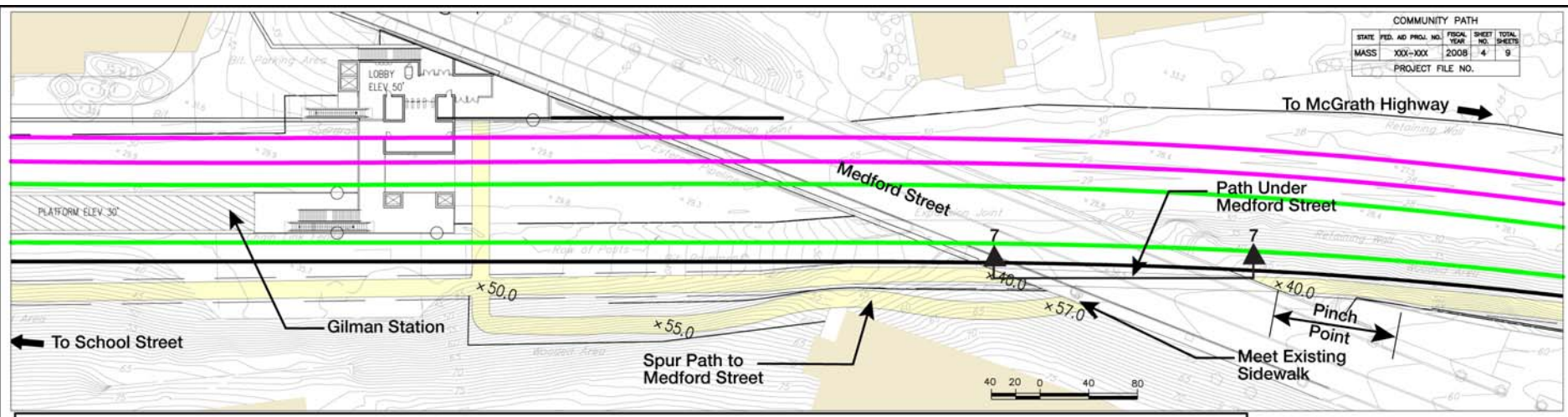
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PROJECT FILE NO.					

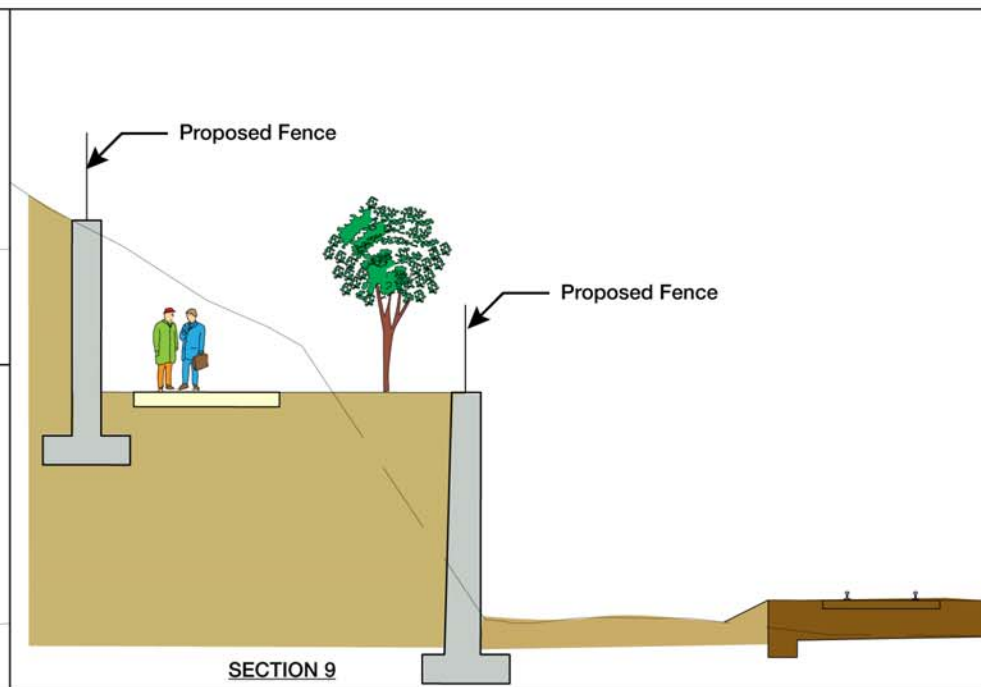
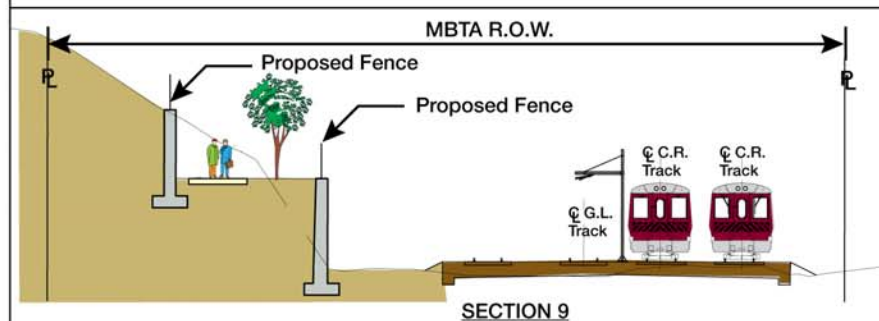
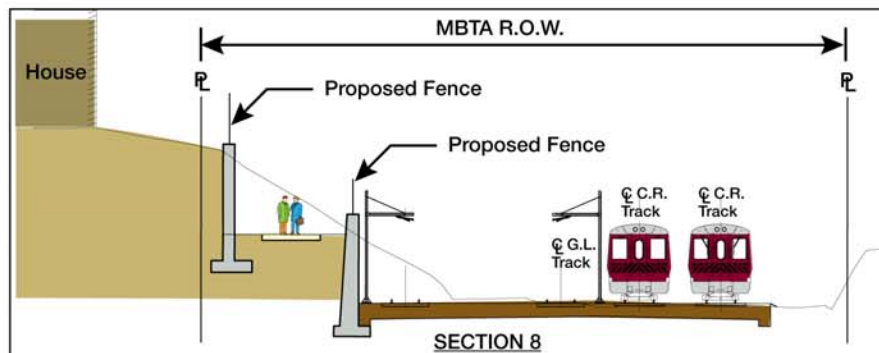
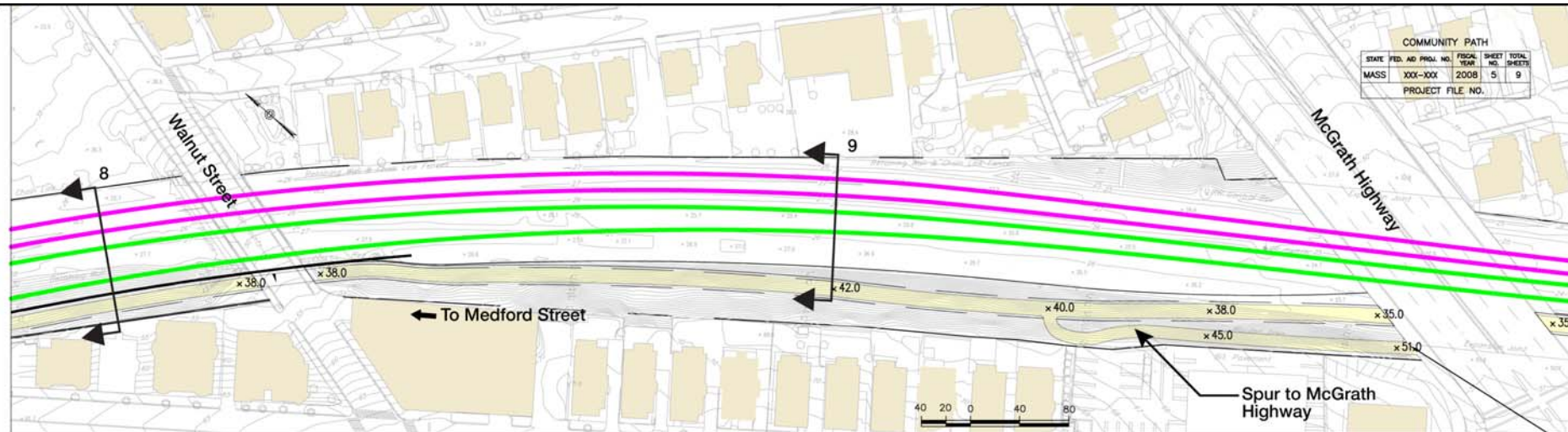




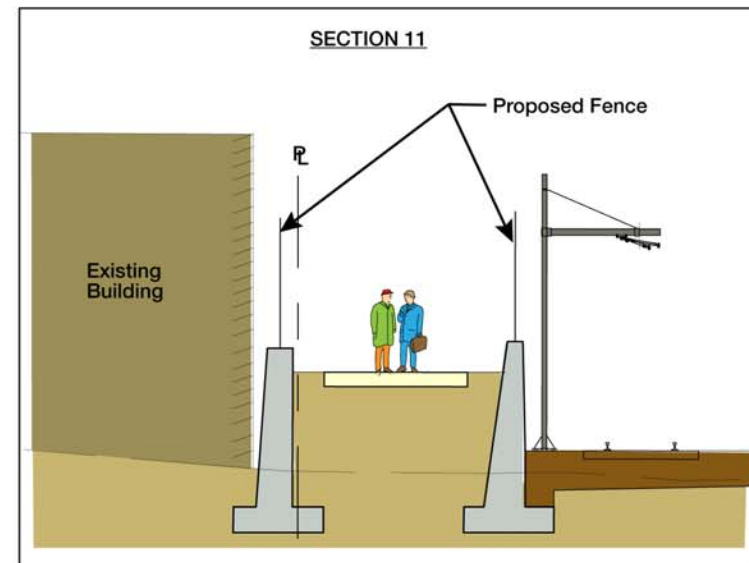
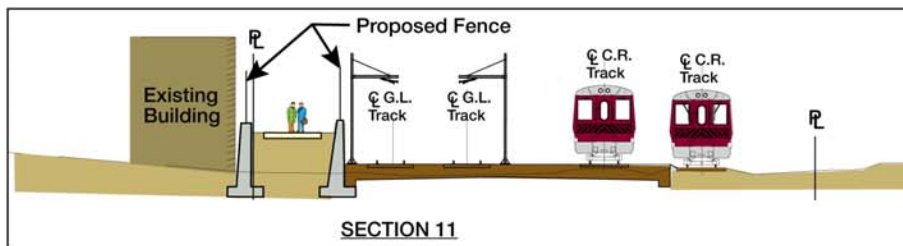
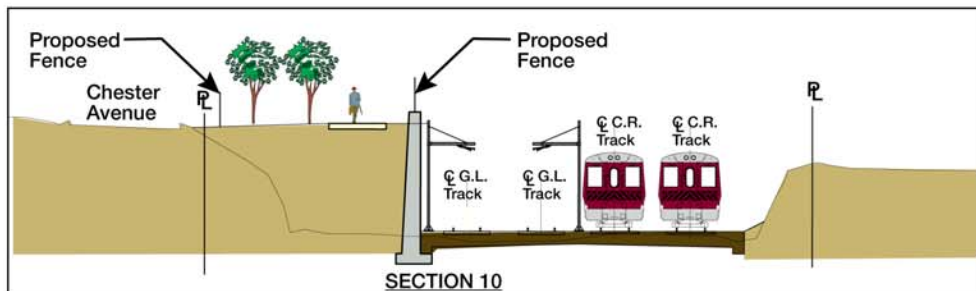


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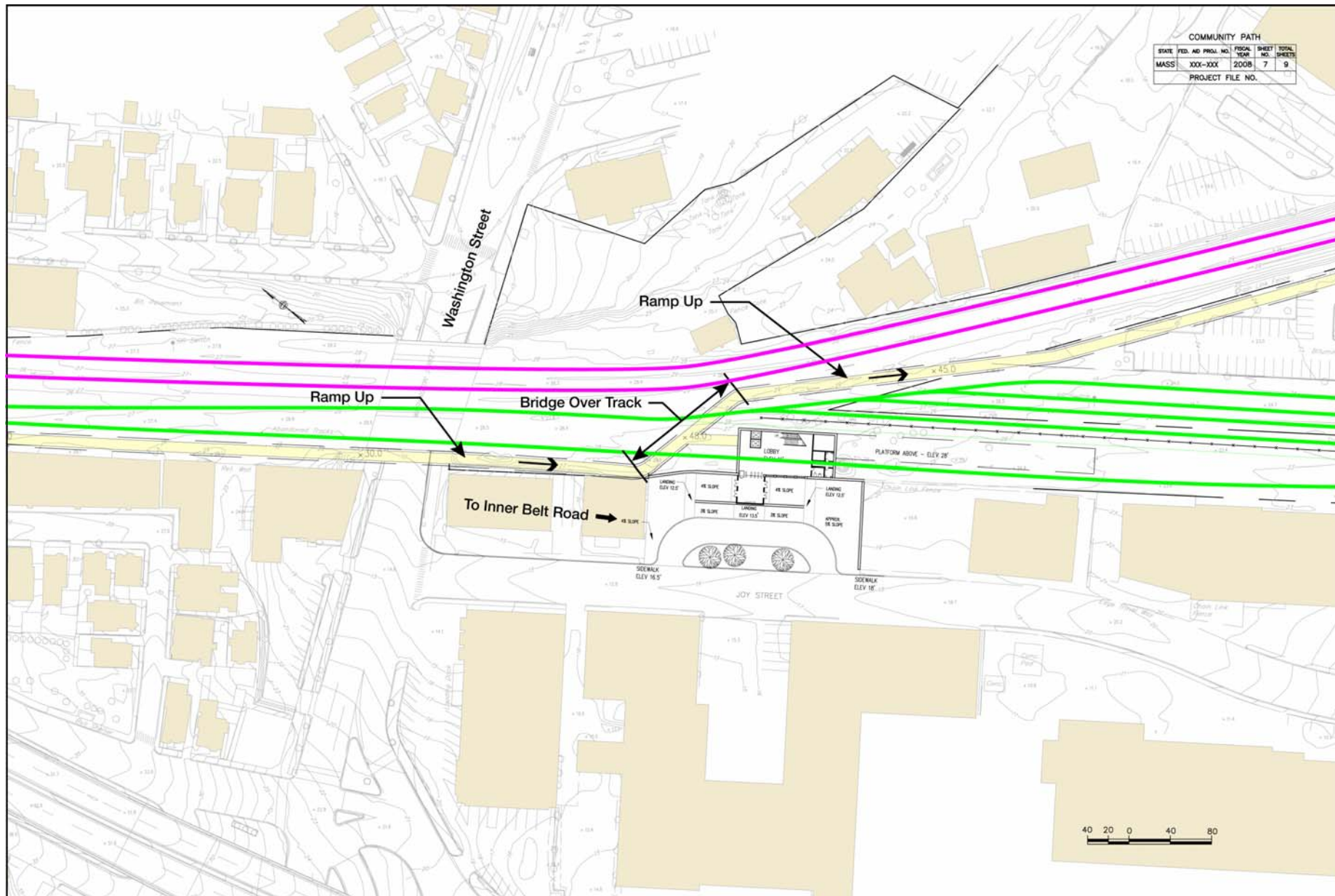




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COMMUNITY PATH				
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PROJECT FILE NO.				



COMMUNITY PATH				
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MASS	XXX-XXX	2008	8	9
PROJECT FILE NO.				

