



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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www.burlingtonvt.gov

Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Church St Marketplace Commission

FROM: Julia Ursaki, PE, Public Works Transportation Engineer
Laura Wheelock, PE, Division Director of Tech Services/Interim City Engineer

DATE: June 12, 2024

CC: Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works
Kara Alnasrawi, Director of Business and Workforce Development

RE: Reconnecting Bank & Cherry Concept Presentation

Request:

This item is informational only for the June 12, 2024 meeting. We are seeking the Church Street Commission's input on exact locations for amenities such as pedestrian plazas, seating, bike parking, and parking as well as adjusting the boundaries of the Marketplace boundary.

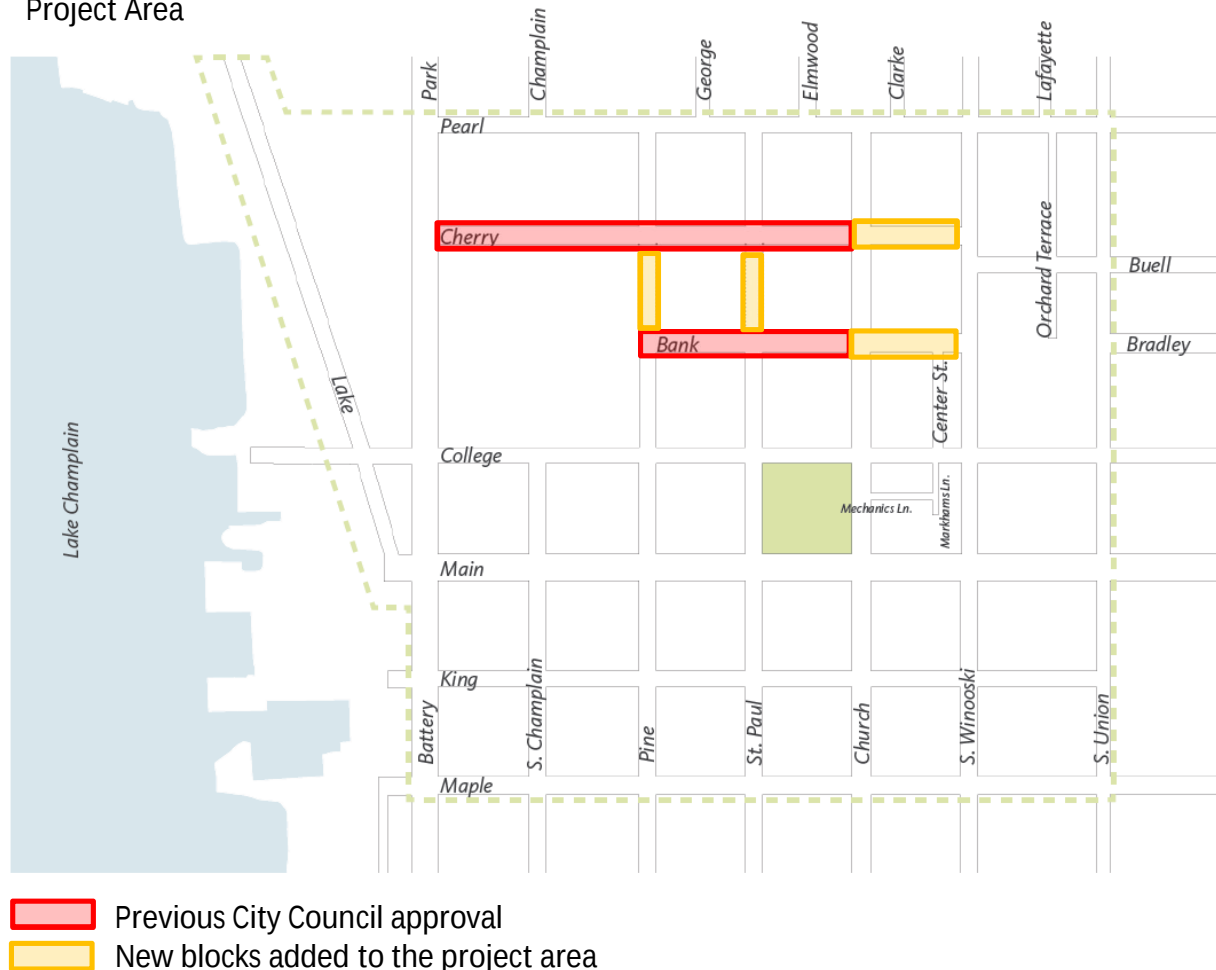
Summary

DPW is advancing the Great Streets Reconnecting Bank & Cherry project following the City Council's acceptance of our \$15M Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and \$22M Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants that are funding this project.

The building blocks of our design concepts are the Great Streets BTV Downtown Standards (adopted April 16, 2018) and planBTV Walk Bike (adopted March 17, 2017). The design concepts for Bank Street and Cherry Street west of Church Street were approved by City Council on May 21, 2018. With our new federal funding, we are adding the blocks of Bank and Cherry Streets east of Church Street to this project (including the Church St intersections), as well as the new blocks of Saint Paul Street and Pine Street.

This project crosses the Church Street Marketplace at two intersections (Bank St and Cherry St). The concept design currently includes a pedestrian plaza at the Bank St & Church Street intersection that could be included in the Marketplace.

Project Area



Funding for the CDS Cherry and RAISE Reconnecting Downtown Project

From 2016 – 2018, the City developed design plans to reconstruct Bank and Cherry Streets funded by the Waterfront Tax Increment Financing District (TIF), and more specifically, TIF generated from the CityPlace development within the Waterfront TIF District. Because the Waterfront TIF district ends just west of Church Street, the original project also ended there. When the CityPlace development stalled in 2018, the Bank and Cherry project also paused while the City sought other funding sources.

In early 2023, the City was awarded \$15 million of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds from Senator Leahy for Cherry Street. The City Council approved accepting this grant on September 11, 2023. Later in 2023, the City was awarded a \$22 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the entire project area. The RAISE grant also includes a workforce development program which is being managed by the City's Business and Workforce Development department. The City Council approved accepting this grant on February 12, 2024.

This new federal funding allows the City to add the block of Bank Street and Cherry Street east of Church Street and the Church Street intersections to the project so we can rebuild both corridors

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consistently.

Proposed Concept

The proposed concepts are rooted in several years of design and development from the Great Streets Standards and planBTV Walk Bike. Key elements of the proposed concept include:

- Burying the overhead utilities on Bank Street between St Paul and Pine Streets (to allow for bigger healthier trees and a cleaner look)
- Planting all new trees and installing either soil cells or other optimum growing mediums for the street trees
- Providing permeable pavers in greenbelt and other technologies to take stormwater from the sidewalk and tree belt to feed the trees
- Installing granite curbs that will have a longer life than concrete
- Adding bump outs that will narrow pedestrian crossings and add planting /activation areas
- Install new lighting fixtures consistent with BED design standards and meet current lighting standards for both the sidewalk and the street
- Adding amenities along the streets including seating, pedestrian plazas, public art, and bike parking

Concept drawings of the entire project area are included in Attachment 1. The following pages show concept graphics of the proposed improvements for Bank Street and Cherry Street near the Church Street intersections. We are still seeking the community's input on exact locations of streetscape amenities and parking, and these items may be revised during the design development process.

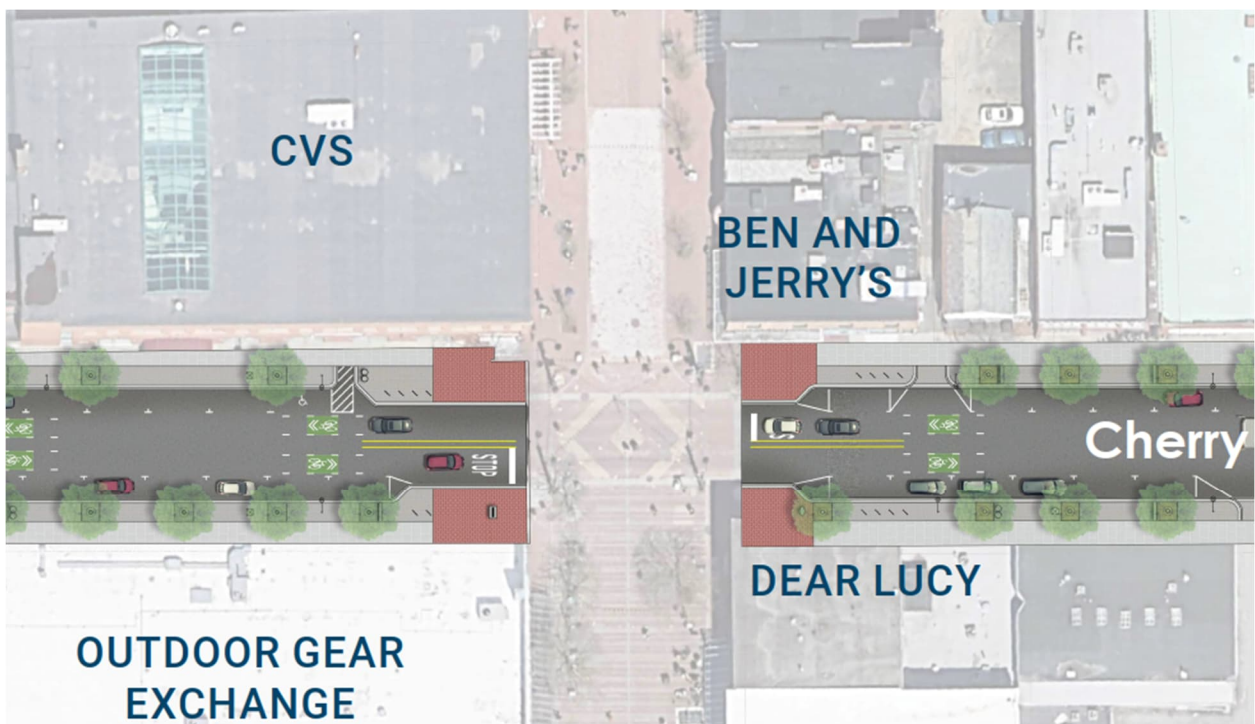
We are seeking the Church Street Marketplace's input on:

- Exact locations of seating areas, parking, rain gardens, or other streetscape amenities
- Installing drinking water fountain on either Bank Street or Cherry Street
- Siting and saving space for a public bathroom (like the Portland loo) but not installing as part of this project

Cherry St & Church St Intersection (see Attachment 1 for more details)



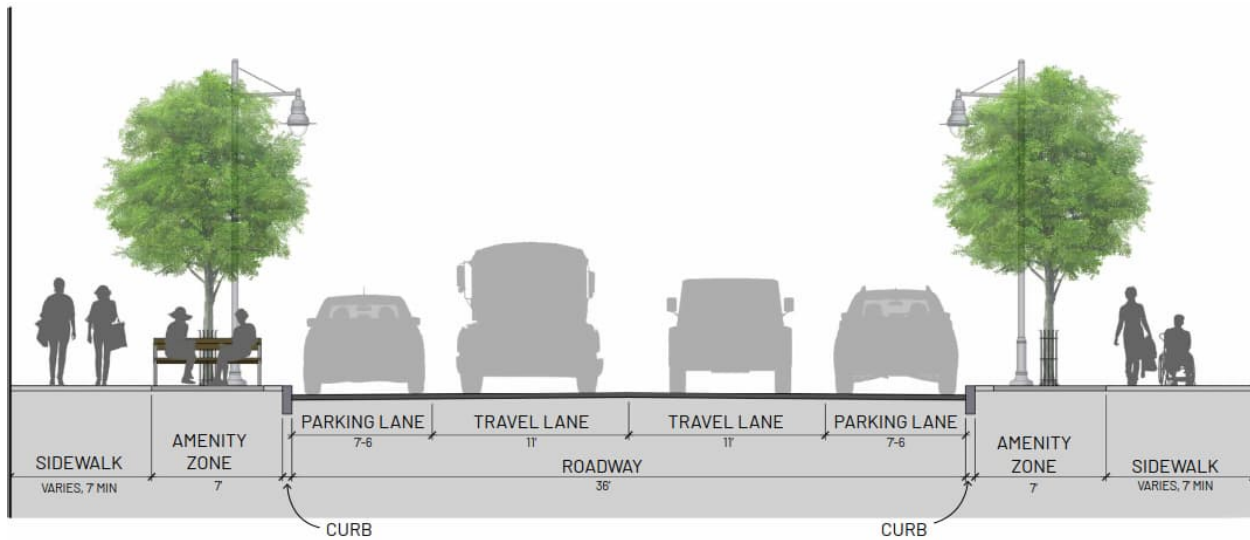
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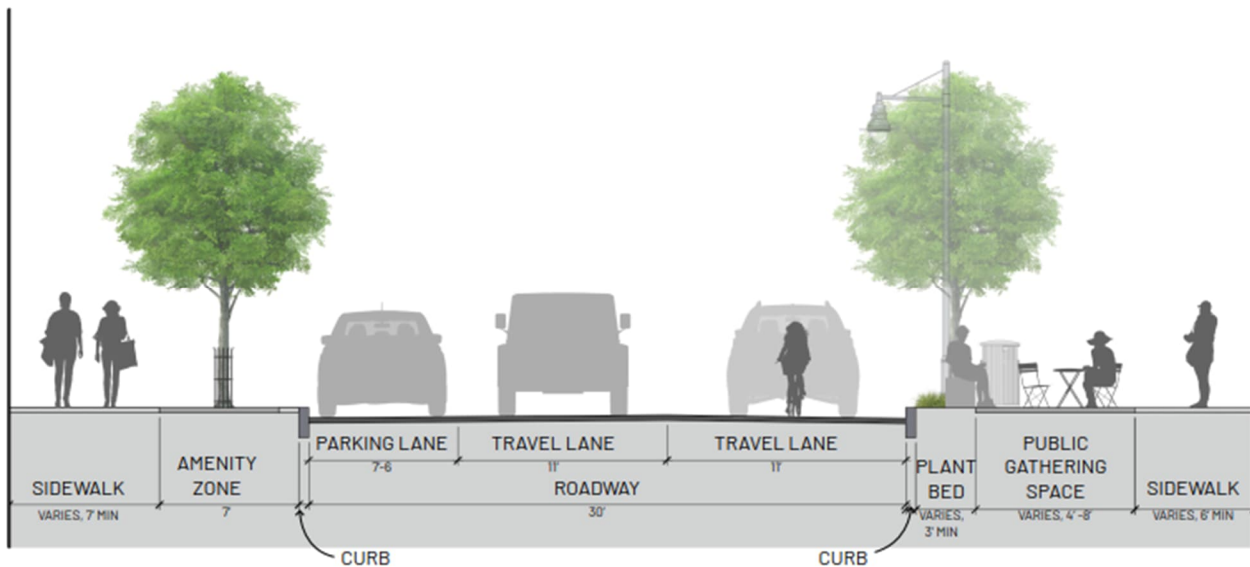
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Cherry Street Cross Section (typical)



Cherry Street Cross Section (with public seating area)

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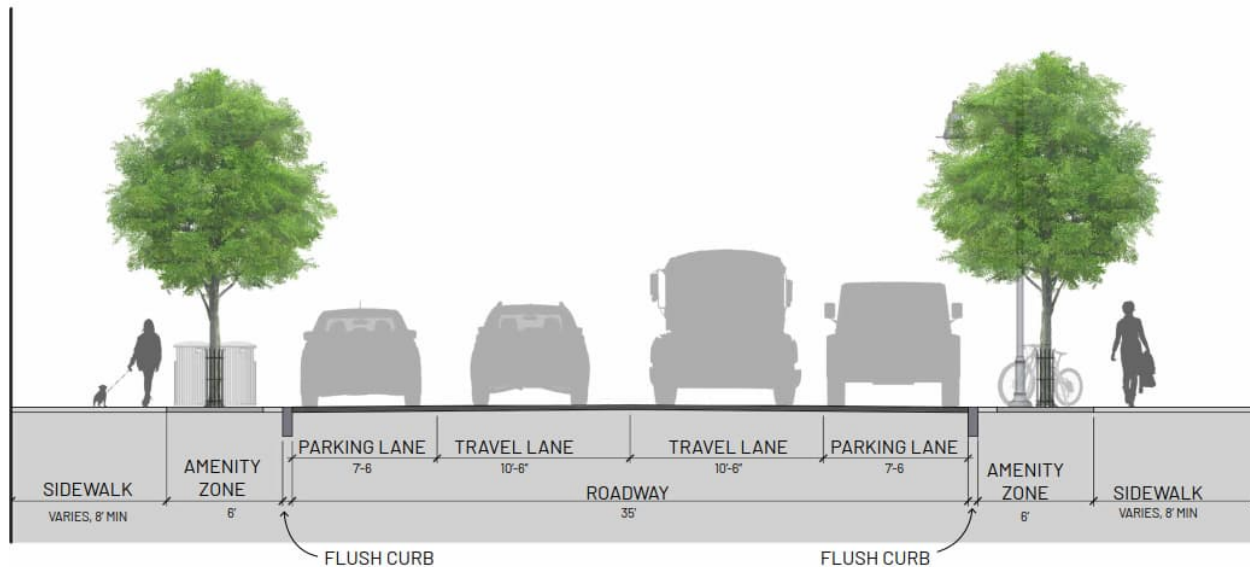
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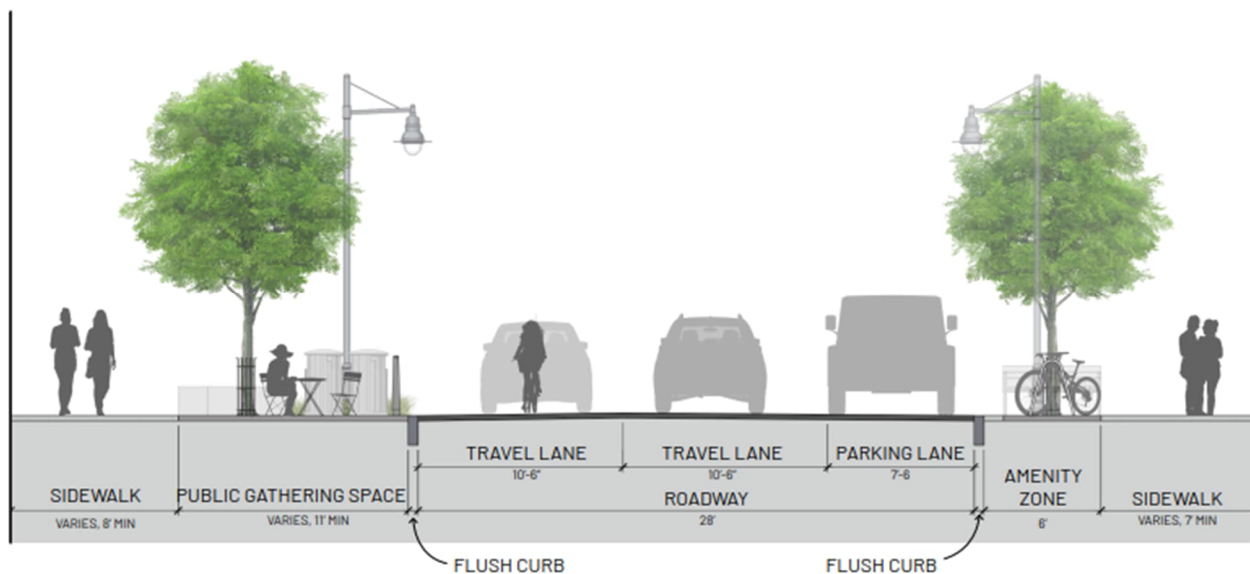
Proposed (potential pedestrian plaza addition to the Church Street Marketplace)

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Bank Street Cross Section (typical)



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May 23, 2024 Public Meeting

These concepts were presented at a public on May 23, 2024 in Contois Auditorium at City Hall and online via Zoom. Approximately 20 members of the public attended. The project team solicited public input and heard comments about additional locations for pedestrian plazas and rain gardens, integrating public safety into the street design, how bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles will interact on the curbsless street, and several clarifying questions. Notes from the public meeting are included in Attachment 3.

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Timeline/Next Steps

The timeline and next steps for this project are as follows:

May – June 2024 | Upcoming Public Meetings

- Church Street Commission | June 12 at 9am
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Additional information and updates can be found on the project website at:

<https://greatstreetsbtv.com/gs-initiative/reconnecting-bank-cherry/>

Attachments

1. Concept Graphics
2. May 23, 2024 Public Meeting Notes



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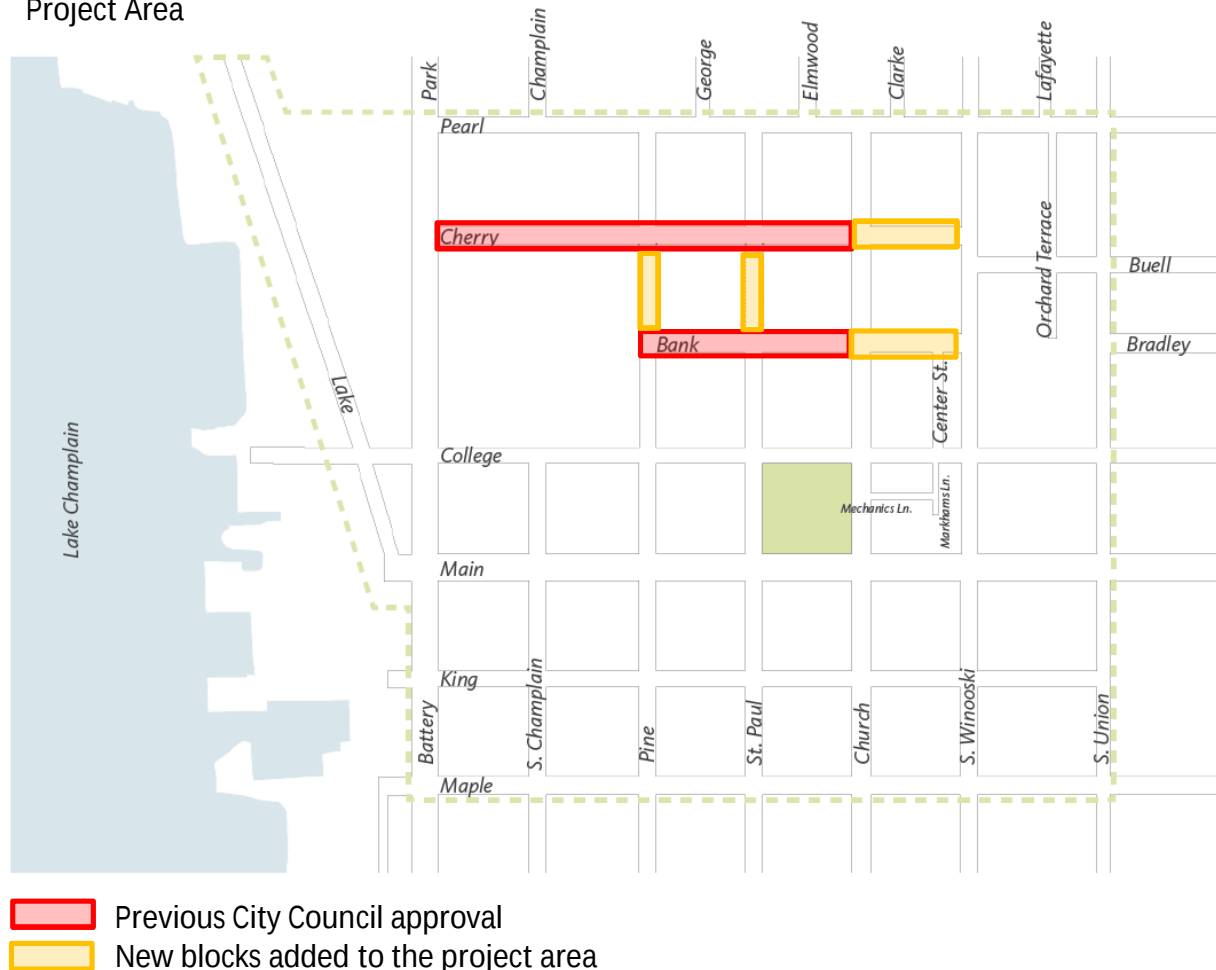
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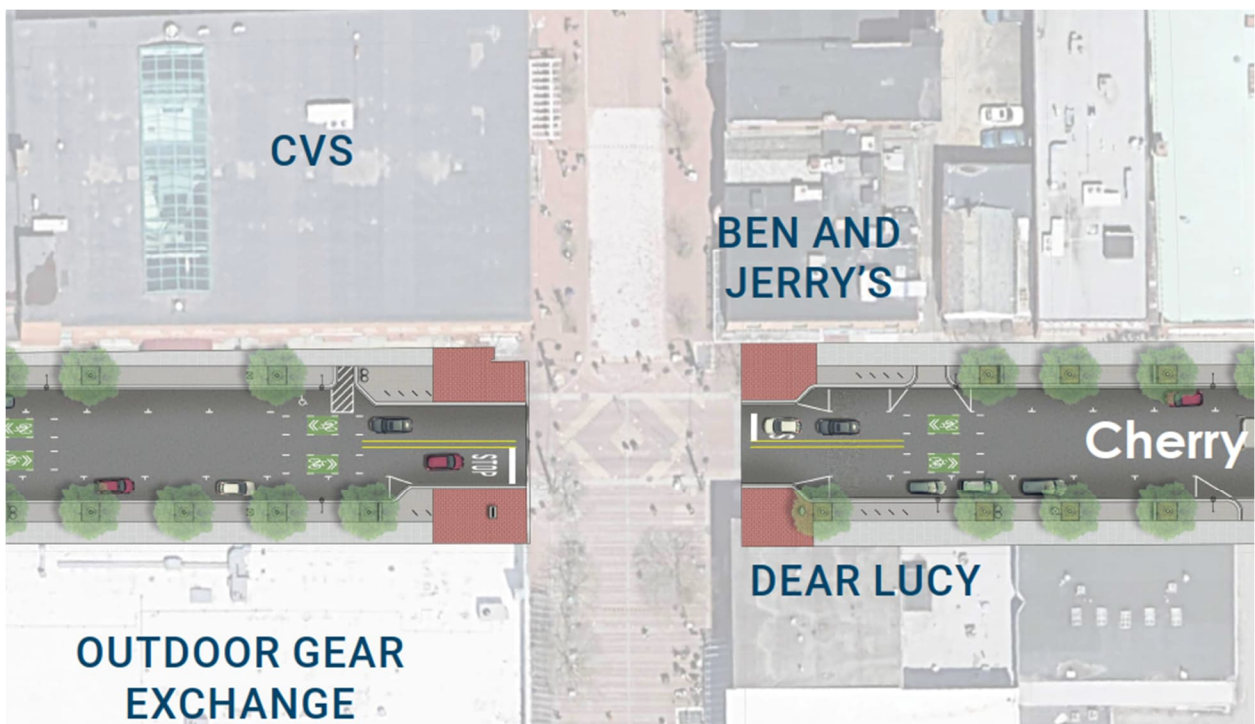
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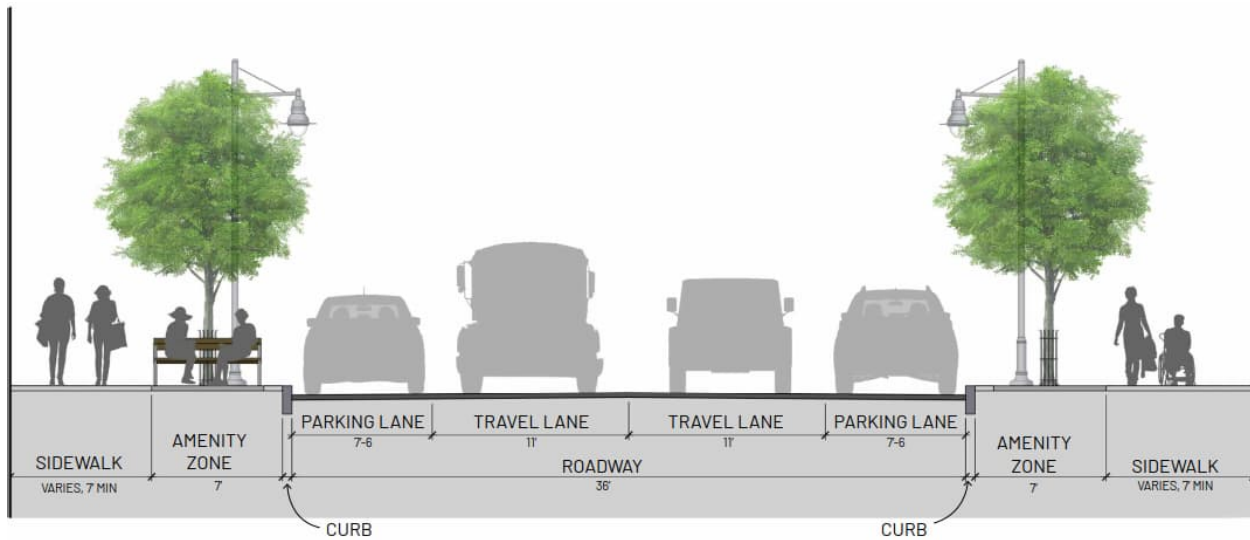
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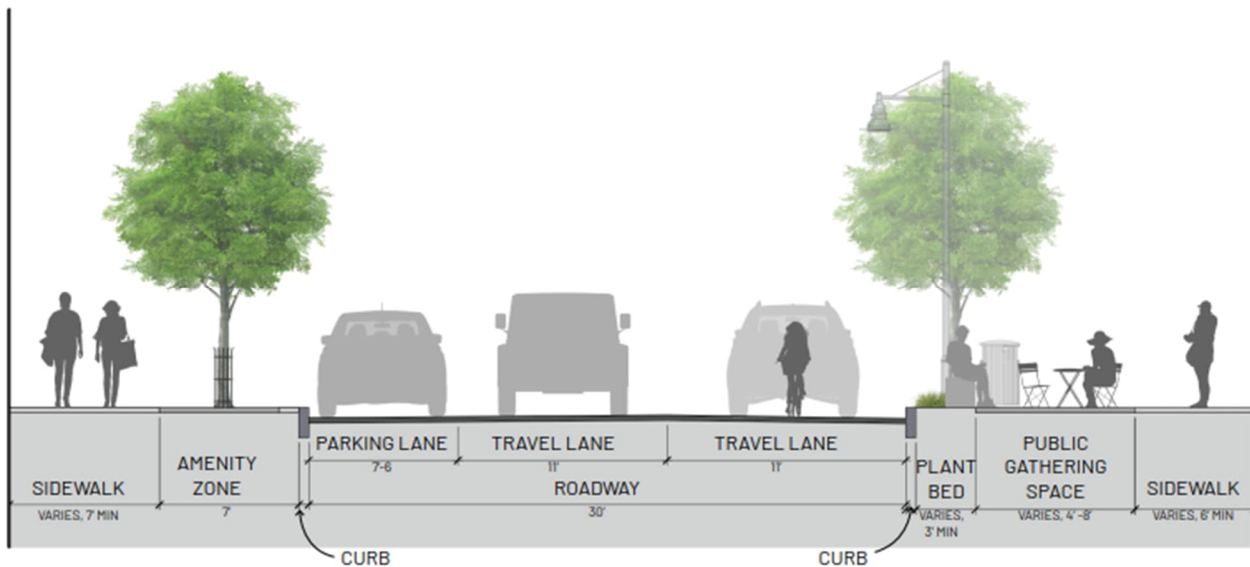
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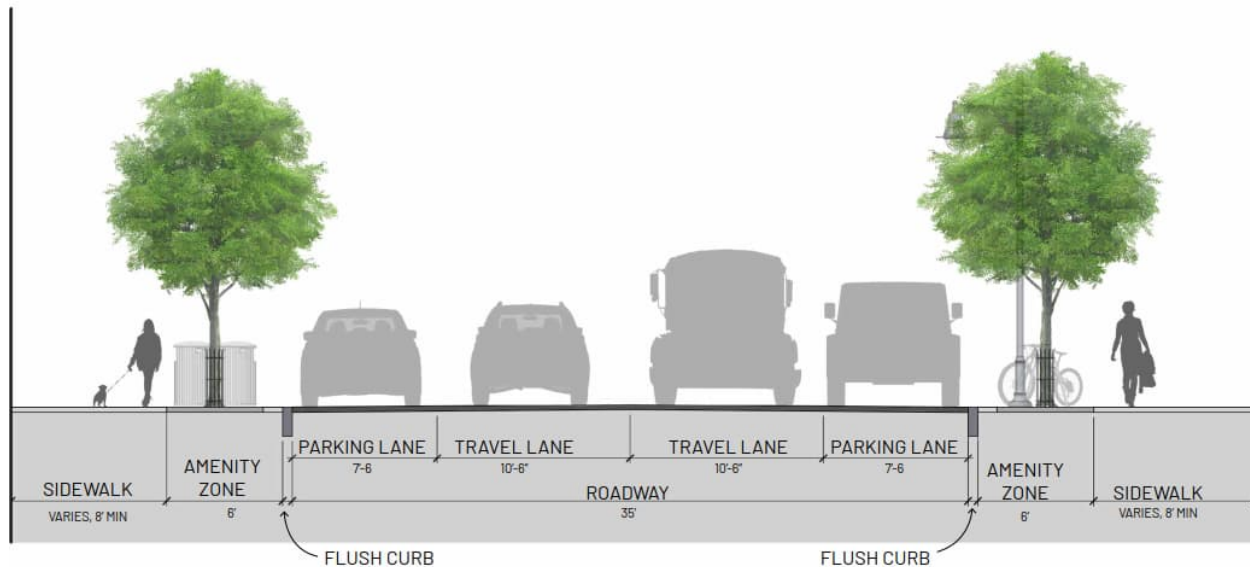
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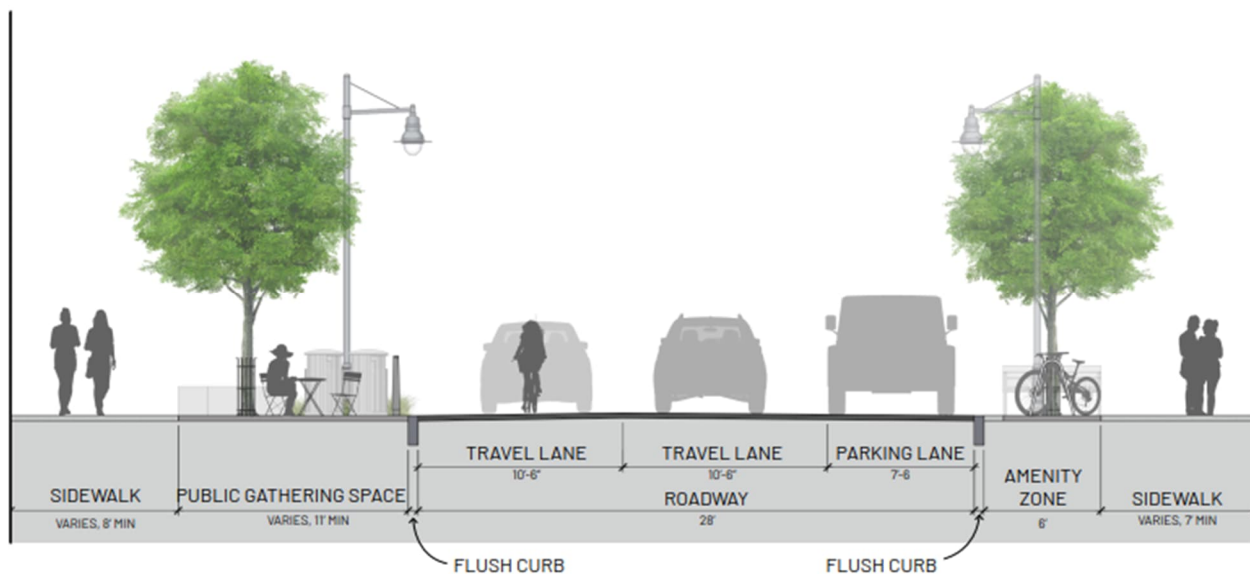
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