

Manchester Bicycle Safety Improvements Scoping Study

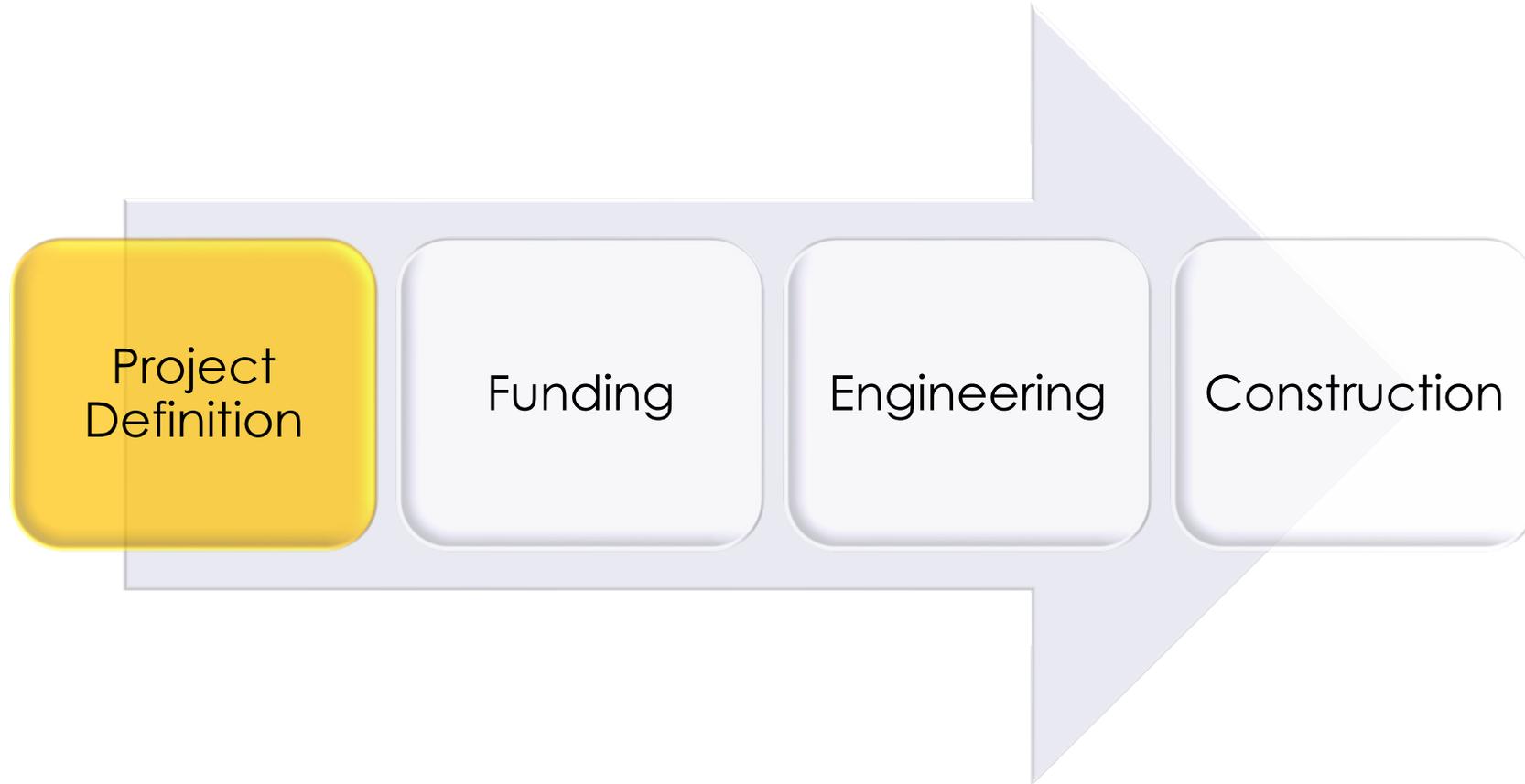
**Alternatives Presentation Meeting
May 20, 2025
Manchester, Vermont and Virtual**



Tonight's Purpose

- Review project development process
- Review existing conditions research
- Show the alternatives
- **Gather feedback on issues, concerns, ideas - open public discussion**
- Discuss next steps

Typical Project Process



Study Tasks and Timeline

- Task 1: Data gathering, existing conditions analysis; **October-November**
- Task 2: Local concerns public meeting; **November**
- Task 3: Alternatives development, PAC meeting; **January – March**
- Task 4: Started analyzing alternatives, draft scoping report, PAC meeting; **March-April**
- Task 5: Alternative presentation, final report; **May - June**

Project Study Area



Purpose and Need

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to construct improvements that increase the safety and mobility of drivers and cyclists along Main Street/Bonnet Street/School Street corridor between the Manchester Elementary School, and Union Street in Manchester Village, regardless of age and ability, and to encourage the use of non-motorized modes of transportation.

Needs

1. *There is a need to provide adequate space for cyclists to travel along Main Street:* The shoulders currently used by cyclists along Main Street are only 2-3 FT wide, less than the minimum 5 FT minimum for bike lanes as called for in the 2012 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. This does not support the comfort and safety for cyclists of all ages and abilities. Both the Town's 2017 Town Plan, and the Village's 2022 Plan of Development include the need to maximize cyclist safety.
2. *There is a need to provide bicycle network connectivity:* At the project area's northern limits, the Historic Marble Rail Trail was recently completed and is planned to be expanded. Land uses in the corridor, including the Town and Village's multiple shops, restaurants, inns, and other businesses, along with the scenic views, provide origin/destination opportunities. Existing roadway facilities do not support the connection from the Village (or downtown or project area) to the Rail Trail for all ages and abilities, due to the lack of adequate shoulders or bike lanes.
3. *There is a need to reallocate roadway space in the study area to accommodate cyclists.* The roadway in the study area is 26 FT wide, with 11 FT travel lanes, and 2 FT shoulders. For the available roadway cross section, travel lanes of that width promote higher motorist speeds which reduce the comfort of cyclists. The current width of travel lanes reduces the space available for cyclists. This roadway configuration in the study area promotes vehicle-only travel and discourages cyclists.
4. *There is a need to address existing congestion in the study area during peak travel periods.* The Village is a destination for both cyclists and motorists, with many visitors traveling through the study area. Local concerns expressed that traffic congestion occurs in the study area.

Segment 1 – Union to Ways



Study Focus: Cyclist Safety Improvements and Connectivity

Segment 1 Existing Conditions

- Resort, lodging, recreation, dining, and retail destinations

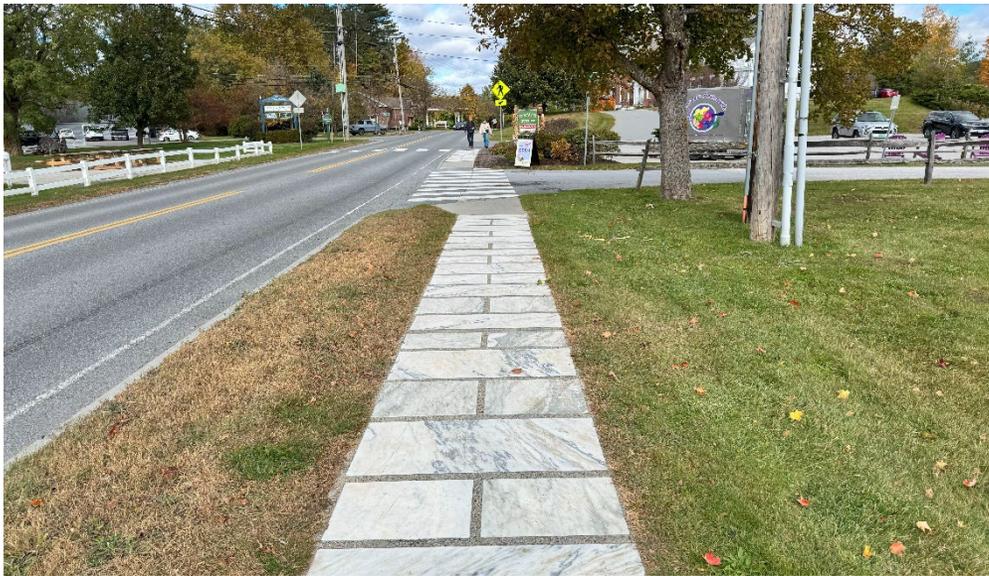


- Sidewalk exists on both sides of Main Street at southern end of segment, and along the east side for the remainder



Segment 1 Existing Conditions

- Speed Limit 30
- 8600 AADT



- ROW width – 66'
- Aerial utilities along west side



Alternative 1 – East Side Path



Alternative 2 – West Side Path



CRITERIA	No Build	Alternative 1: East Side Path	Alternative 2: West Side Path
Project Construction Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Purpose and Need			
Provide safe, comfortable cyclist connection	No	Yes	Yes
Facilitate use by various age groups, experience levels, and trip purposes	No	Yes	Yes
Contribute to town & regional pedestrian & bicycle network	No	Yes	Yes
Impacts			
Safety	No Improvement	Improvement for cyclists	Improvement for cyclists
Right-of-way	None	Temporary easements only	Temporary easements only
Environmental	None	None	None
Cultural Resource	None	None	None
Winter Maintenance	None	Adequate snow storage	Adequate snow storage
Utilities/Drainage	None	None	Potential relocation of utility poles
Stormwater	No Change	None	None

Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Cyclist Safety
- Cyclist connectivity
- Impacts to existing marble sidewalk

Segment 2 – Ways to Bonnet



Study Focus: Cyclist Safety/Connection Improvements

Segment 2 Existing Conditions

- Retail, dining, lodging in Segment 2



- Roundabouts in roadway, sidewalks along both sides of Main Street



Segment 2 Existing Conditions

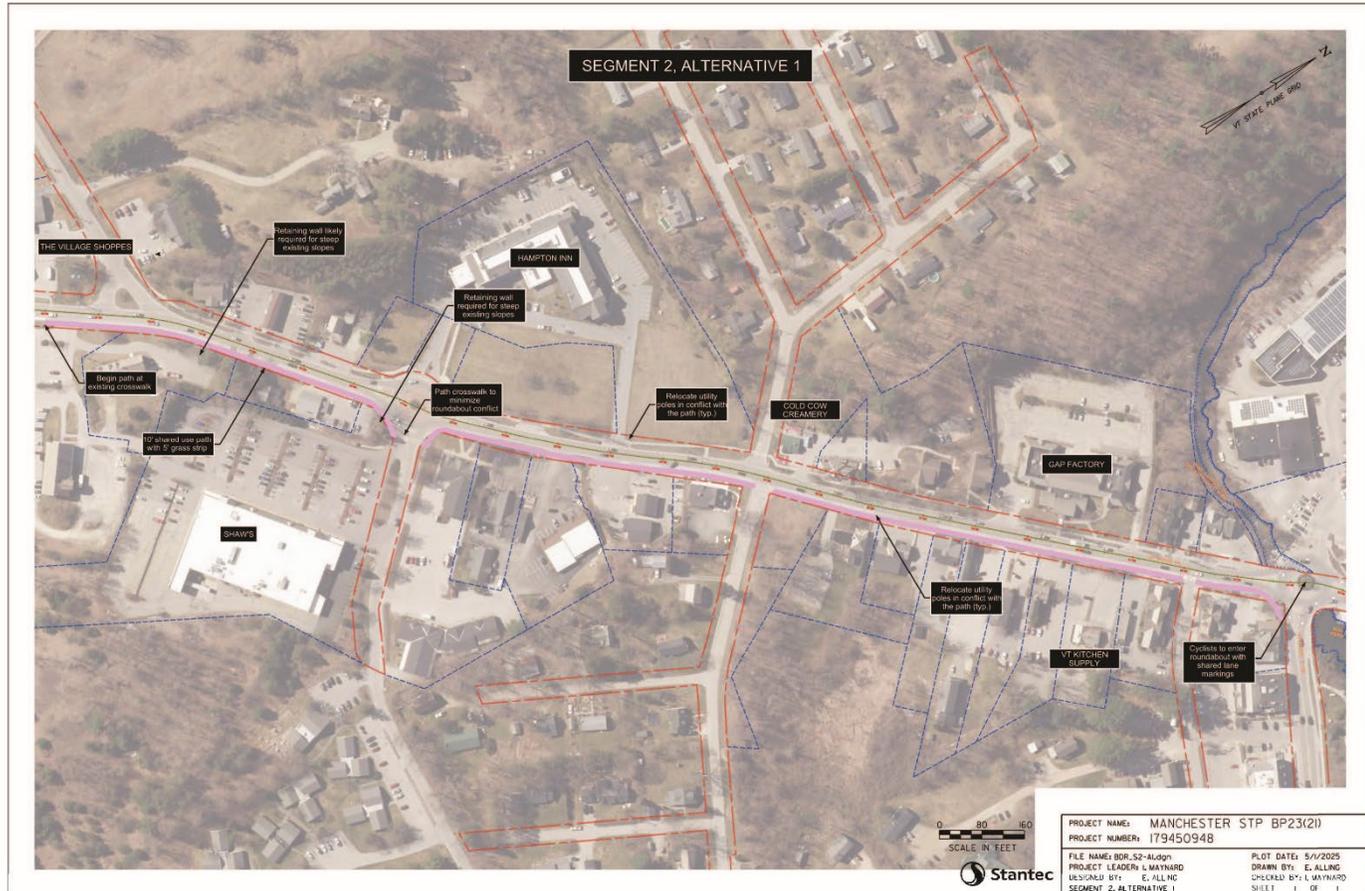
- Speed limit 30
- 11,130 AADT



- ROW width – 66'
- Aerial utilities mostly along western side, some on eastern side



Alternative 1 – East Side Path



Alternative 2 – West Side Path



CRITERIA	No Build	Alternative 1: East Side Path	Alternative 2: West Side Path
Project Construction Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Purpose and Need			
Provide safe, comfortable cyclist connection	No	Yes	Yes
Facilitate use by various age groups, experience levels, and trip purposes	No	Yes	Yes
Contribute to town & regional pedestrian & bicycle network	No	Yes	Yes
Impacts			
Safety	No Improvement	Improvement for cyclists	Improvement for cyclists
Right-of-way	None	Temporary and potential permanent easements at side road intersections	Temporary and potential permanent easements at side road intersections
Environmental	None	None	None
Cultural Resource	None	None	None
Winter Maintenance	None	Adequate snow storage	Adequate snow storage
Utilities/Drainage	None	Potential relocation of utility poles	Potential relocation of utility poles
Stormwater	No Change	None	None

Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Cyclist Safety
- Cyclist connectivity



Segment 3 – Bonnet Street



Study Focus: Cyclist Safety Improvements and connectivity



Segment 3 Existing Conditions

- Retail, dining, residential housing in Segment 3



- On-street parking and sidewalks along both sides of Bonnet Street



Segment 3 Existing Conditions

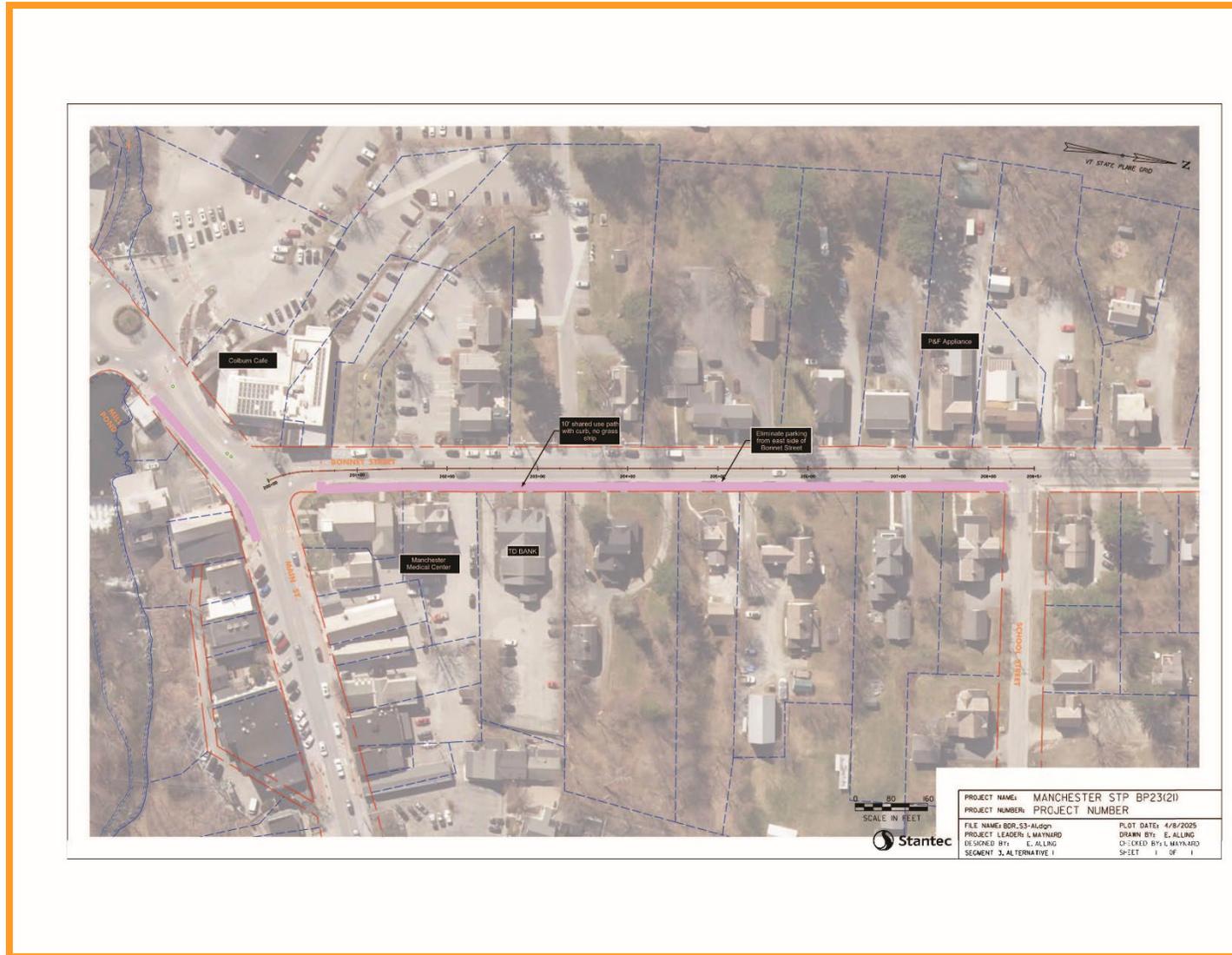
- Speed limit 30
- 6,193 AADT



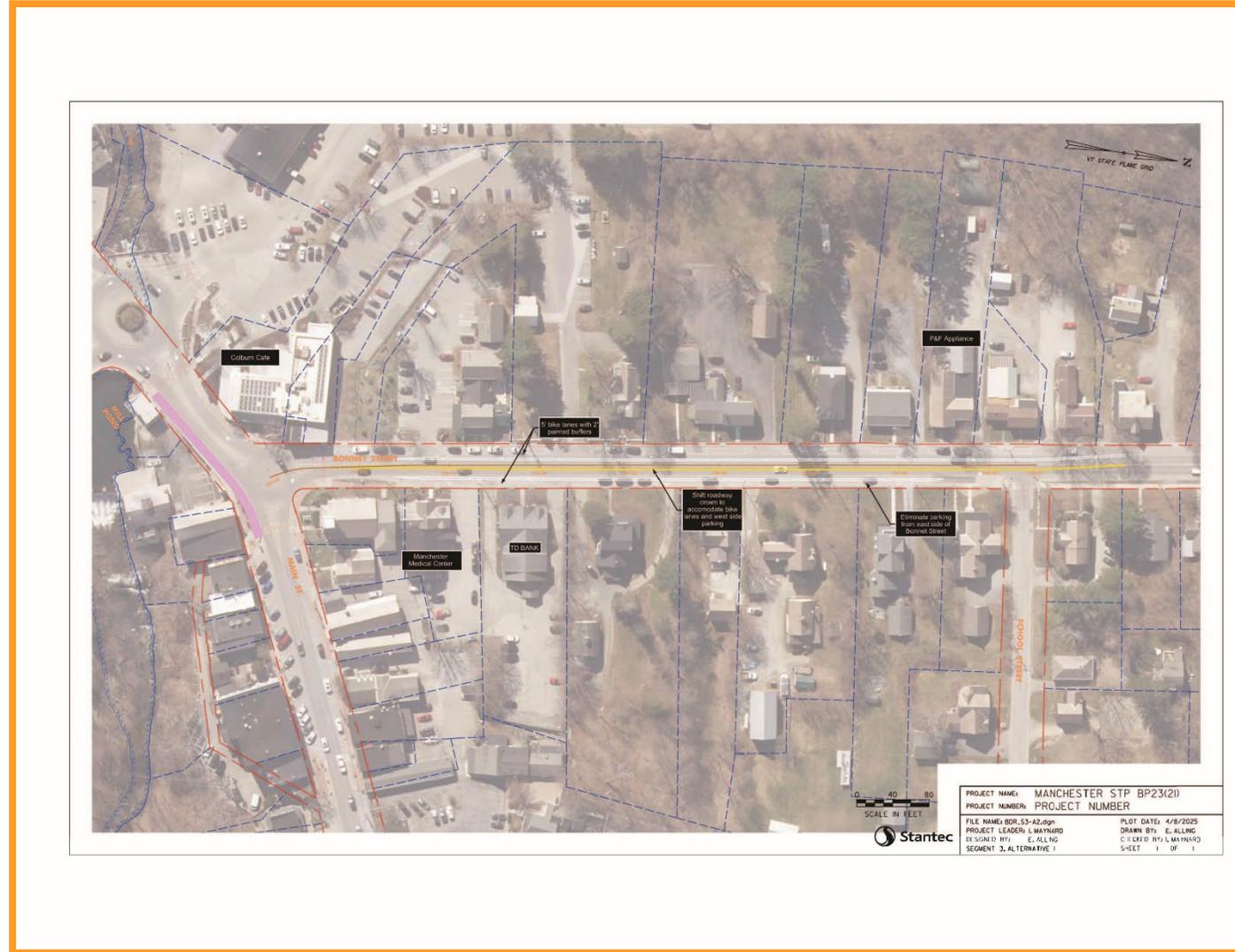
- ROW width –49.5'
- Aerial utilities along eastern side



Alternative 1: Side Path



Alternative 2 – Bike Lanes



CRITERIA	No Build	Alternative 1: Side Path	Alternative 2: Bike Lanes
Project Construction Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Purpose and Need			
Provide safe, comfortable cyclist connection	No	Yes	Yes
Facilitate use by various age groups, experience levels, and trip purposes	No	Yes	No
Contribute to town & regional pedestrian & bicycle network	No	Yes	Yes
Impacts			
Safety	No Improvement	Improvement for cyclists	Improvement for cyclists
Right-of-way	None	None	None
Environmental	None	None	None
Cultural Resource	None	None	None
Winter Maintenance	None	No change	No change
Utilities/Drainage	None	Potential relocation of utility poles	None
Stormwater	No Change	None	None

Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Cyclist safety
- Cyclist connectivity



Segment 4 – School Street



Study Focus: Cyclist safety and connectivity



Segment 4 Existing Conditions

- Residences and elementary school



- Access to new path



Segment 3 Existing Conditions

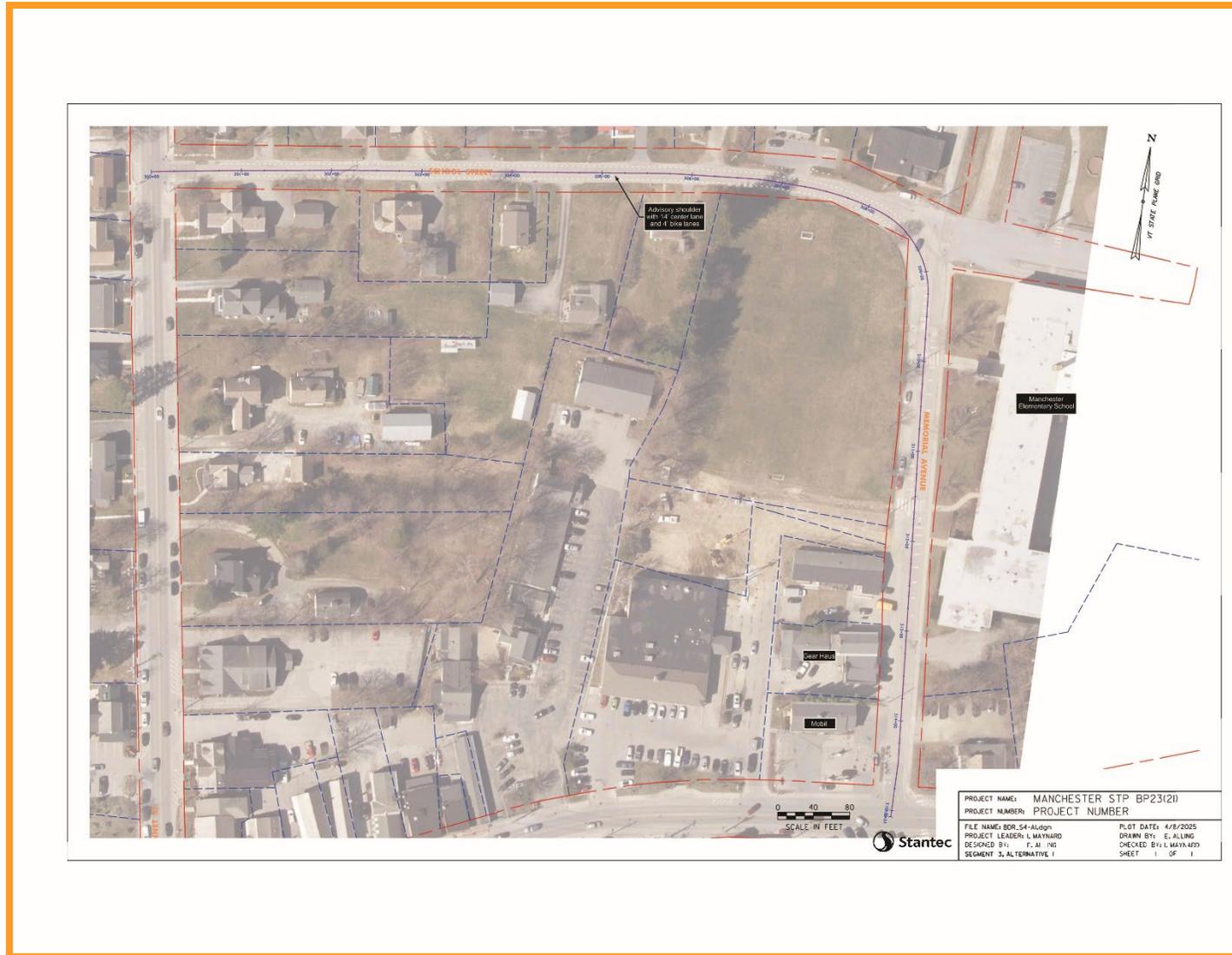
- Speed limit 25
- Low traffic volume



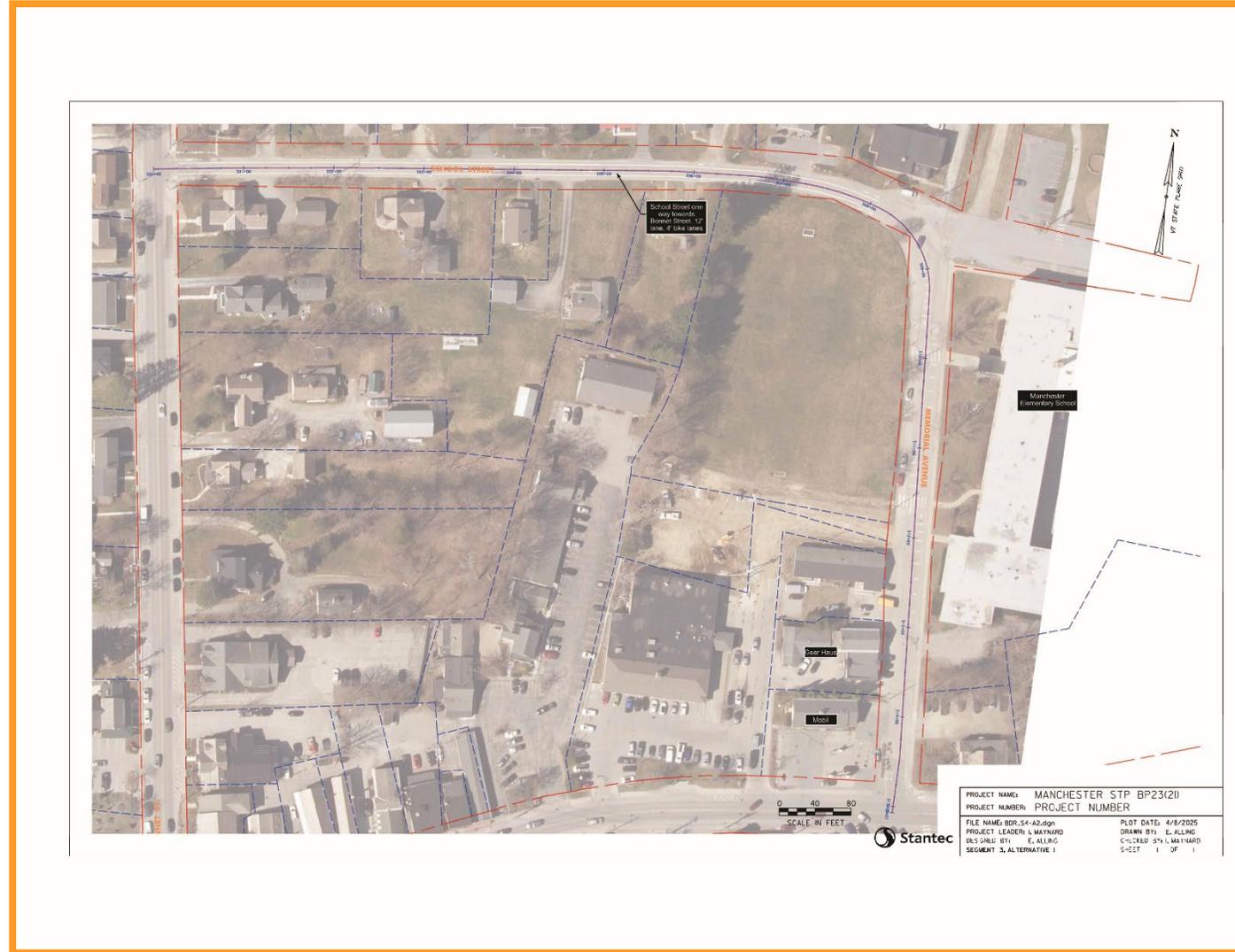
- ROW width – 49.5'
- Aerial utilities along northern side



Alternative 1: Advisory Shoulders



Alternative 2 – School Street One-Way



CRITERIA	No Build	Alternative 1: Advisory Shoulder	Alternative 2: Bike Lanes
Project Construction Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Purpose and Need			
Provide safe, comfortable cyclist connection	No	Yes	Yes
Facilitate use by various age groups, experience levels, and trip purposes	No	Yes	Yes
Contribute to town & regional pedestrian & bicycle network	No	Yes	Yes
Impacts			
Safety	No Improvement	Improvement for cyclists	Improvement for cyclists
Right-of-way	None	None	None
Environmental	None	None	None
Cultural Resource	None	None	None
Winter Maintenance	None	No change	No change
Utilities/Drainage	None	None	None
Stormwater	No Change	None	None

Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Cyclist safety
- Access to trailhead
- Student access to school via cars, bikes, and walking

Next Steps and Public Meeting

- Review with PAC members
- Refine and analyze alternatives
- Final report & Selectboard endorsement – **June**

Thank you!

Contact information

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