Mass Ave & Appleton Safety and Accessibility Project

Final Design Update

May 20, 2024

John Alessi, Senior Transportation Planner
Department of Planning & Community Development
Town of Arlington

Tonight's Requested Action

Submit a support letter to the EOED alongside the Town's MassWorks application for funding to construct the Mass Ave & Appleton Safety and Accessibility Project.

AGENDA

1. **Project History**
2. Final Design Update
3. MassWorks Letter of Support
4. Next Steps

Project History

- Conceptual design approved at the Select Board's September 26, 2023 meeting.
- Stantec converted the concept into a preliminary design between Nov – Dec 23'.
- Town released the preliminary design in Jan 24' and engaged with residents in the following ways:
  - Released news post and online feedback form.
  - Presented to TAC and ABAC.
  - Scheduled key stakeholder meetings.

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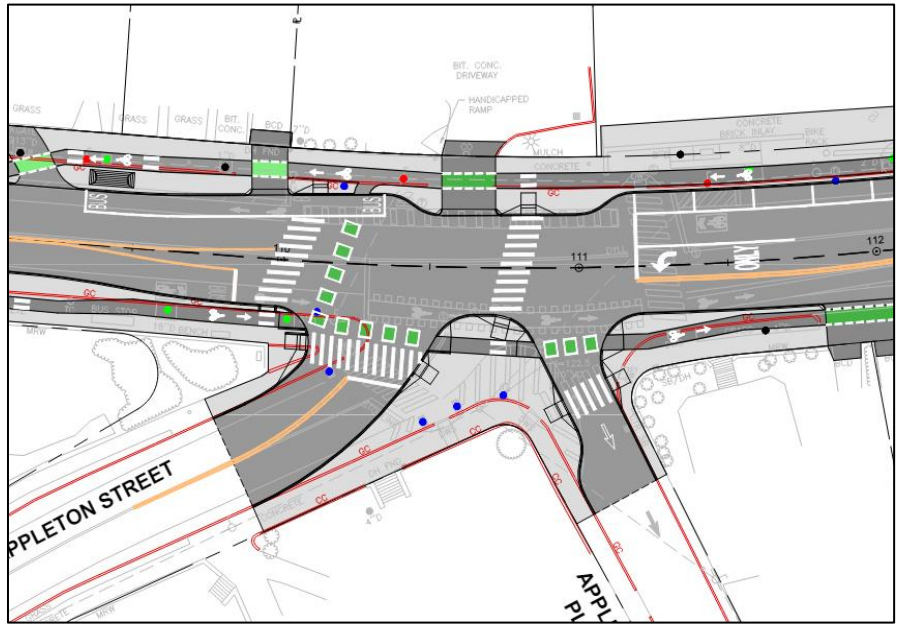
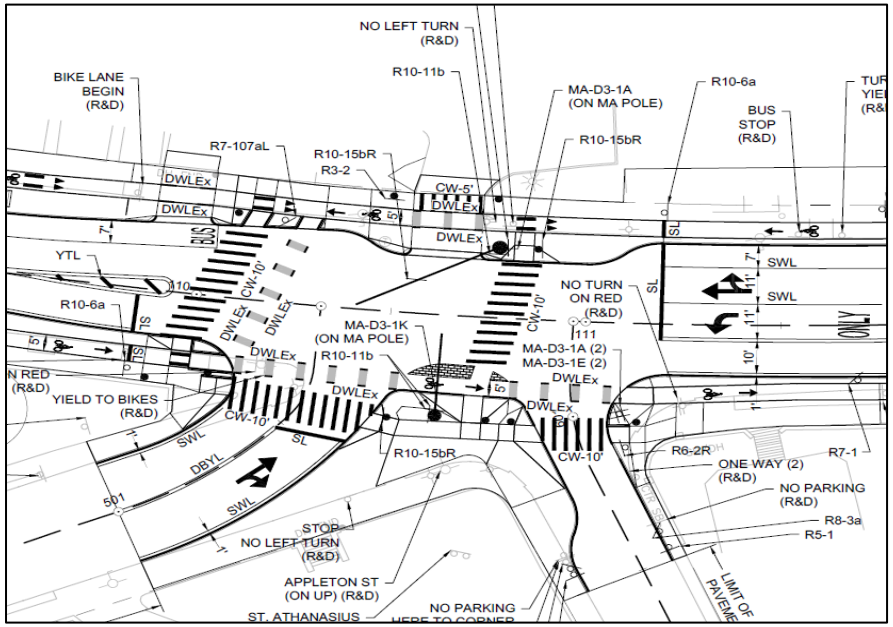
Final Design Update

- Final design released to the public May 15th.
- Remains true to the conceptual design approved by the Select Board in Sep 23'.
- Town is conducting final meetings with key stakeholders.



Conceptual Design



Final Design

May 20, 2024

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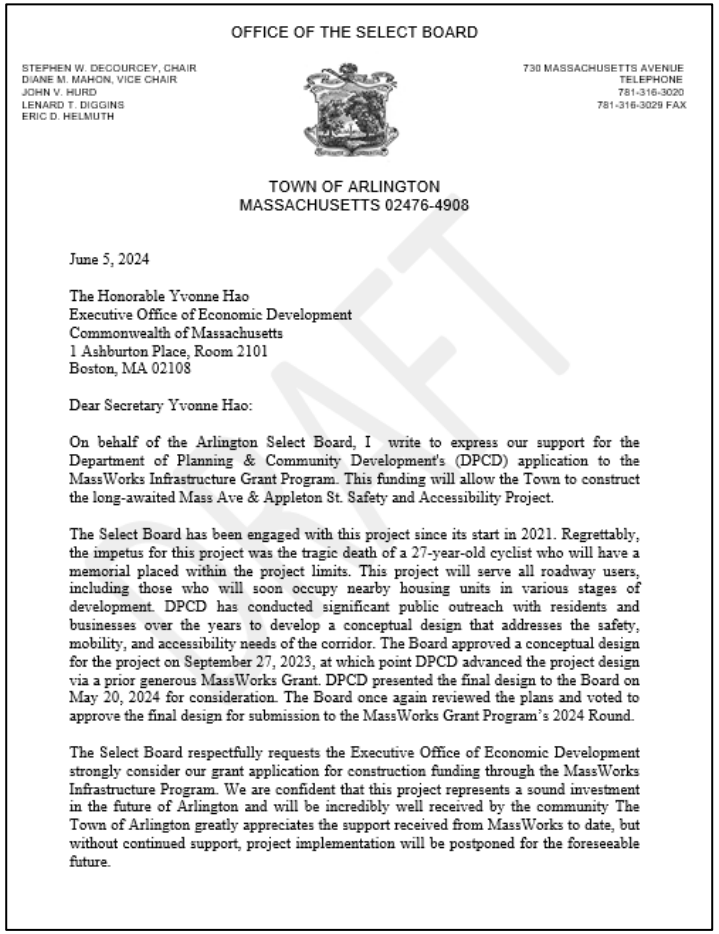
May 20, 2024

MassWorks Letter of Support

- Town submitting a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant application by June 5th requesting construction funding for the project.
- Select Board support letter bolsters evidence of community support for the project.
- Draft support letter provided to members beforehand to consider signing onto.



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June 5, 2024

The Honorable Yvonne Hao
Executive Office of Economic Development
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
1 Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Secretary Yvonne Hao:

On behalf of the Arlington Select Board, I write to express our support for the Department of Planning & Community Development's (DPCD) application to the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program. This funding will allow the Town to construct the long-awaited Mass Ave & Appleton St. Safety and Accessibility Project.

The Select Board has been engaged with this project since its start in 2021. Regrettably, the impetus for this project was the tragic death of a 27-year-old cyclist who will have a memorial placed within the project limits. This project will serve all roadway users, including those who will soon occupy nearby housing units in various stages of development. DPCD has conducted significant public outreach with residents and businesses over the years to develop a conceptual design that addresses the safety, mobility, and accessibility needs of the corridor. The Board approved a conceptual design for the project on September 27, 2023, at which point DPCD advanced the project design via a prior generous MassWorks Grant. DPCD presented the final design to the Board on May 20, 2024 for consideration. The Board once again reviewed the plans and voted to approve the final design for submission to the MassWorks Grant Program's 2024 Round.

The Select Board respectfully requests the Executive Office of Economic Development strongly consider our grant application for construction funding through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program. We are confident that this project represents a sound investment in the future of Arlington and will be incredibly well received by the community The Town of Arlington greatly appreciates the support received from MassWorks to date, but without continued support, project implementation will be postponed for the foreseeable future.

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4. **Next Steps**

Next Steps

1. Submit MassWorks Construction application by June 5th.
2. Wait for decisions to be announced in Fall 2024.
3. If awarded, commence construction as early as Spring 2025.

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Submit a support letter to the EOED alongside the Town's MassWorks application for funding to construct the Mass Ave & Appleton Safety and Accessibility Project.