

Howland Avenue (Route 8) Redesign

Lime Street to North Adams City Line

Growing communities require infrastructure investment. This project aims to deliver that investment while improving the safety and efficiency of the Howland Avenue (Route 8) Corridor for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The project represents a forward investment as this is a principal arterial roadway serving the Town and the region. The improvements are aimed at benefiting the community and current and future businesses.

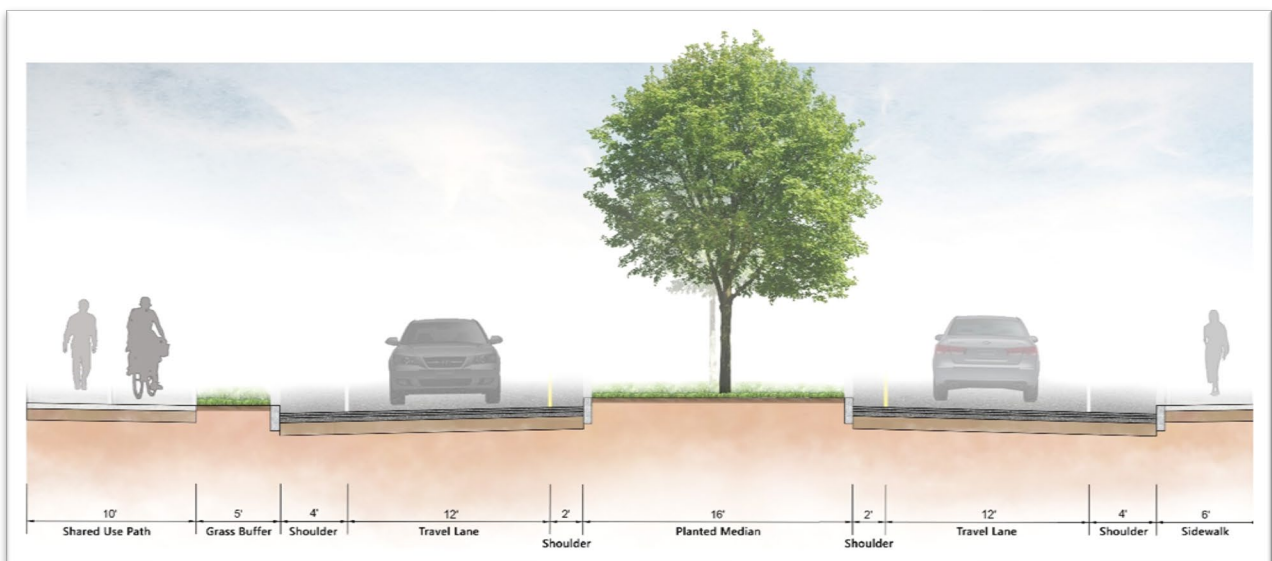
Where is this project located?

The project will extend from the City of North Adams line south to the railroad track crossing just south of Lime Street, or approximately 1-mile.

How will this project improve the Town of Adams?

A draft proposed corridor cross section is inserted below. The project will:

- New pavement will improve safety, traffic flow, and the enhance roadway.
- A new sidewalk is proposed on the easterly side of the roadway enabling safer passage for pedestrians.
- A shared use path will be provided on the westerly side of the roadway enabling safer passage for pedestrians and cyclists.
- ADA compliance throughout project limits will make it safer for more of the population.
- Rapid flashing beacons will be explored at crosswalks to bring awareness to pedestrians crossing the roadway.
- Narrow the pavement cross section and provide a raised center median giving the corridor a boulevard feel.
- The project will include significant aesthetic improvements and increased green space.



How much will this project cost and how will it be paid for?

- Planning estimate for construction is estimated between \$4.3M and \$6.5M, these depends on when construction takes place.
- State and Federal Funding will be sought through the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for construction.
- Town received funding from the State to initiate this design development phase, which will include survey and 10% design.

What are some of the expected benefits of the project?

- New pavement and pavement markings.
- New bicycle and pedestrian accommodations off the roadway.
- Improved aesthetics.
- Narrower travel lanes reduce vehicles speeds (one travel lane proposed vs. two today).
- Enhanced pedestrian crosswalks.

Corridor Facts

- Annual Average Daily Traffic (at City Line) = 16,510 (2019) and 14,021 (2020); 5% trucks.
- 85th percentile traffic speed = 55 mph
- Fatal crash in 2016, north of Orcutt Street
- 76 crashes from 2016 to 2020

Goals of Outreach Meeting and Next Steps

- Hear from abutters and public on the conceptual improvement plan prepared.
- Review comments and incorporate into design, if possible.
- Discuss project with MassDOT, Spring.
- Perform field survey of existing conditions, late Spring.
- 10% design and submission to MassDOT for review, Summer.