

# Seminary West Safety Improvements

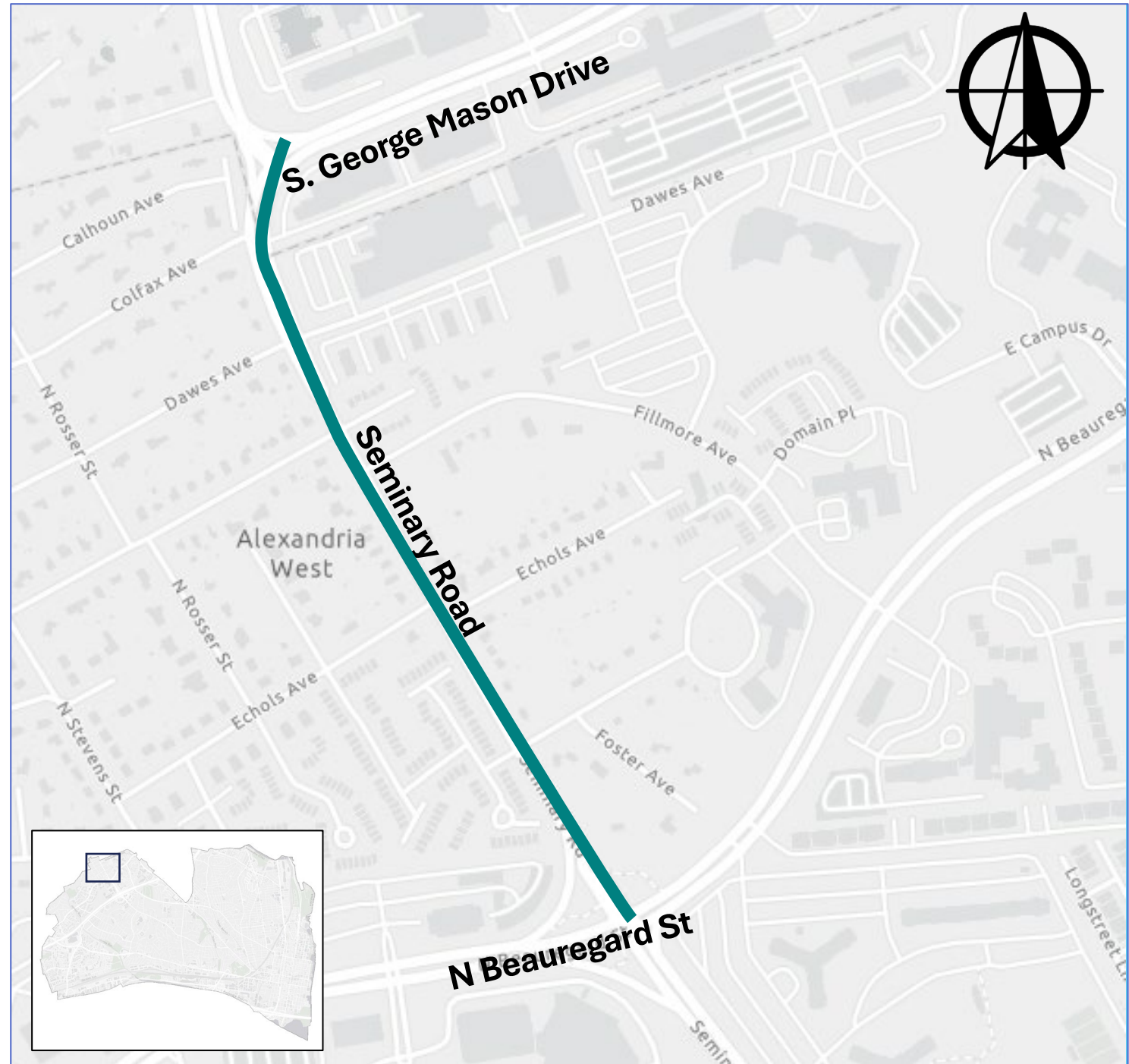




# Project Background

# Project Area

- Seminary Road from North Beauregard Street to South George Mason Drive.
- Note, this project is coordinating with the Seminary Road/North Beauregard Street Intersection Improvements Project.



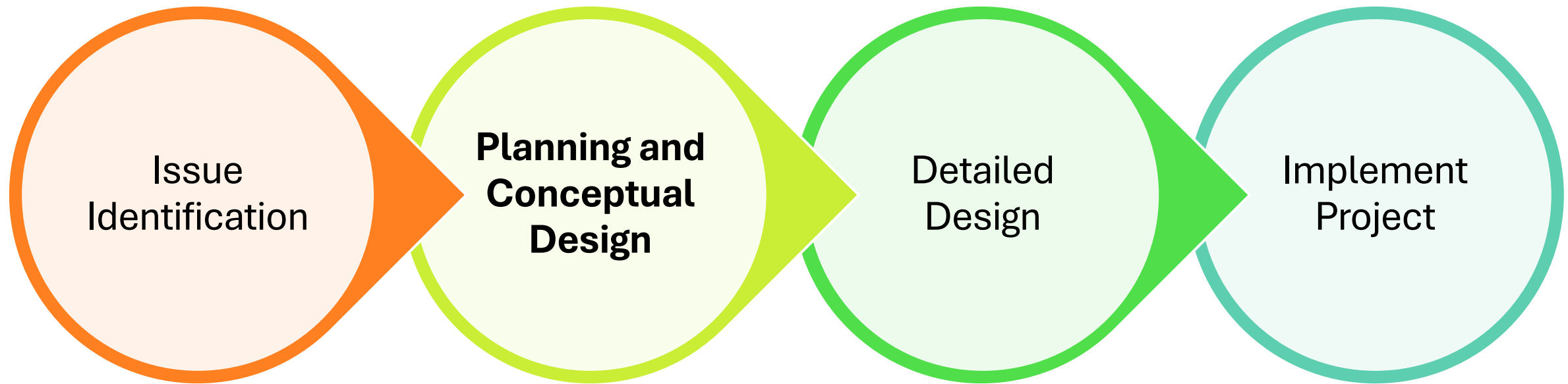
# Background

- Based on citywide crash data, Seminary Road has been identified as one of the City's high-crash corridors.
- Approximately 70% of all fatal and severe crashes occur on these corridors, which comprise about 10% of all Alexandria streets.
- Community residents have voiced concerns about safety issues on Seminary Road.
- In 2024, the City was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Roadway Safety Program to study safety improvements on Seminary Road.



# Project Timeline

WE ARE HERE



# Plans to Keep in Mind



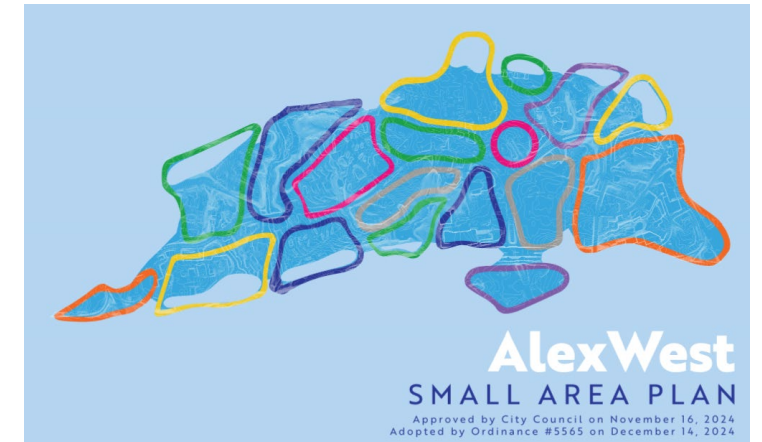
## Vision Zero Action Plan

- Zero fatalities and severe injuries by 2028



## Alexandria Mobility Plan

- Make it easier for more people to choose an alternative to driving alone



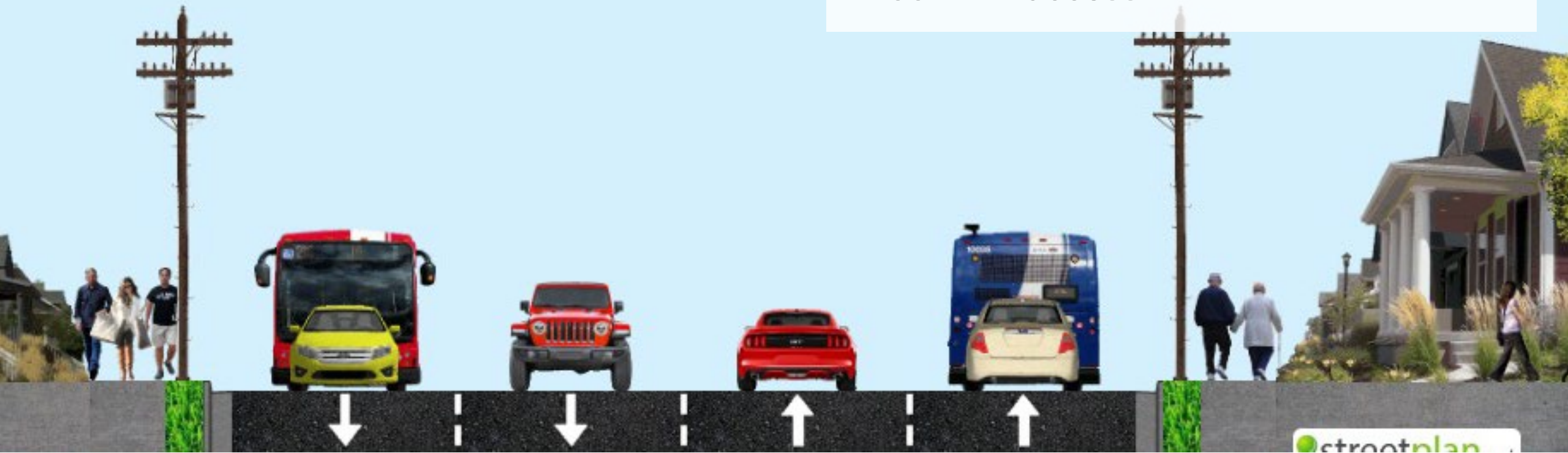
## AlexWest Small Area Plan

- Evaluate Seminary Road for multimodal safety, access, and connectivity
- Recommended off-road multi-use path



# Existing Conditions

- Two travel lanes in each direction
- Overly wide travel lanes
- No medians or turn lanes at most intersections
- Narrow sidewalks
- Numerous driveways
- Poor or limited crossings
- Limited bus stop amenities
- Poor ADA access







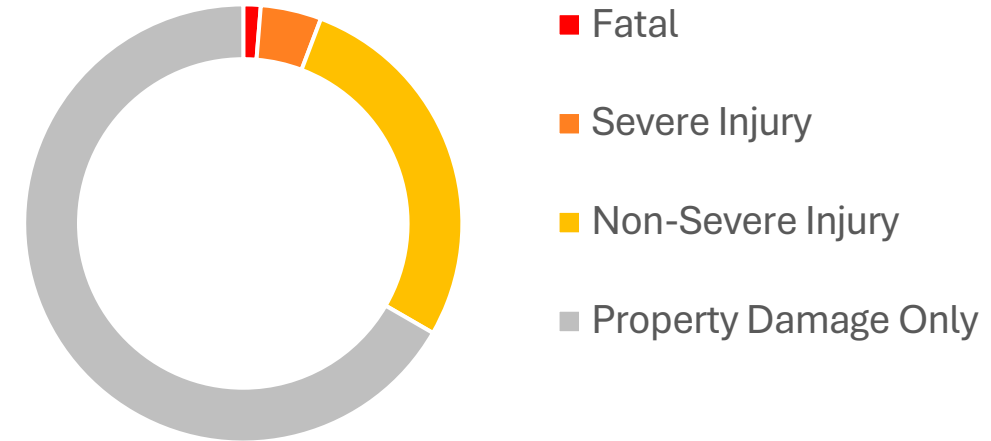


# Existing Conditions

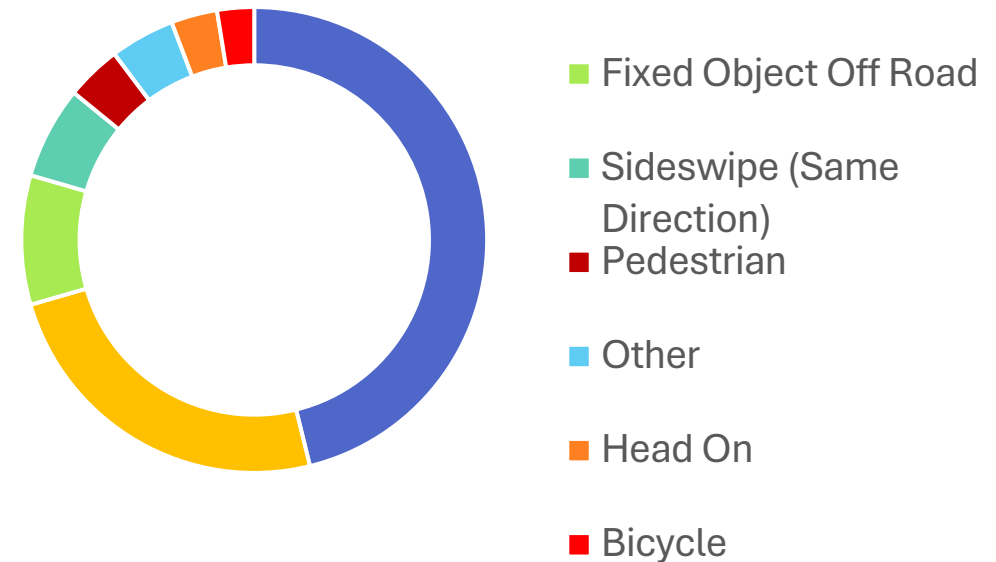
## *Crash Trends (2018-2024)*

- Over **150 total crashes**
  - 22 per year, on average
- 2 fatal crashes
  - Both were pedestrian crashes
- 7 severe crashes, including
  - Bicycle (2)
  - Angle (2)
  - Head-on (1)
  - Rear-end (1)
  - Deer (1)
- Crashes primarily occur at intersections
- Several run off the road crashes

### Crashes by Severity



### Crashes by Type



# Common Crash Themes

- **Unsafe** pedestrian crossings
- **Failure to yield** when turning
- **Sudden stops** related to left turns from inside lane
- **Weaving** around stopped vehicles
- **Roadway departures** related to nighttime, impairment, speed, etc.



# What We've Heard

*November 2023  
community feedback  
form (310 responses)*

## **Top 3 issues**

- Lack of turn lanes (61%)
- Excessive speeding (60%)
- Pedestrian safety (47%)

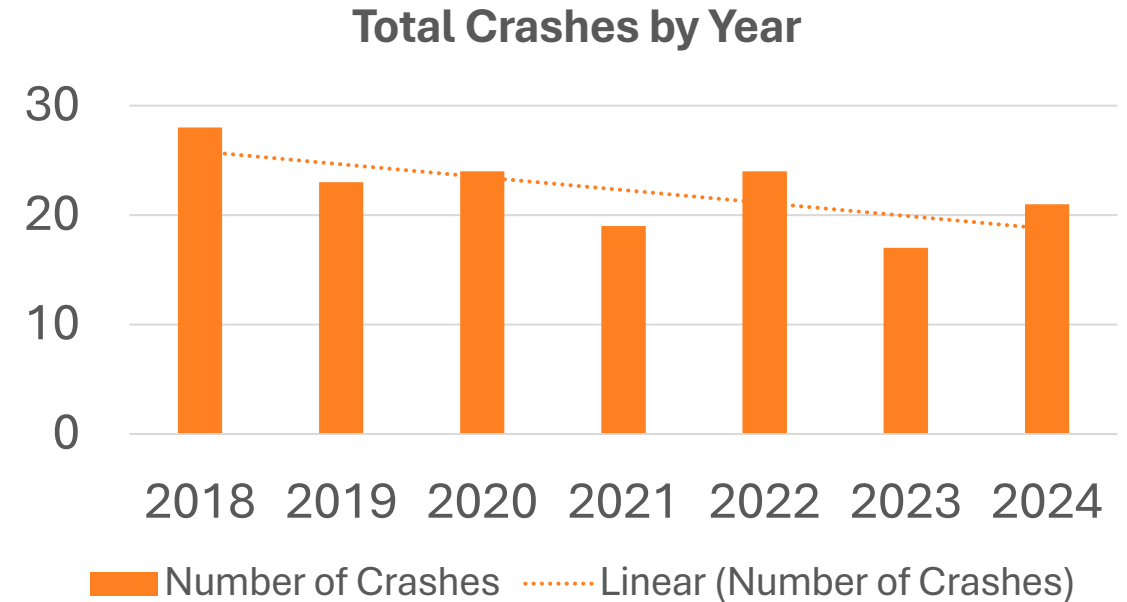
## **Desired intersection improvements**

- Red light cameras
- Pedestrian safety treatments
- Gateway treatments
- Improved signal timing

# What's Been Done So Far

- ✓ Speed limit reduction from 35 MPH to 25 MPH
- ✓ Speed radar signs
- ✓ Quick-build traffic calming
- (Upcoming) traffic signal at Fairbanks Avenue

# What's Changed?



▼ Total crashes tending slightly downward

■ Slight decreases in speed, mostly in the westbound direction



# Project Objectives



Reduce  
traffic  
crashes



Minimize  
traffic  
delay for  
people  
who drive



Encourage  
safe travel  
speeds



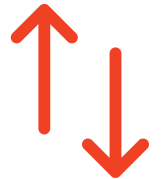
Make it  
easier and  
safer to  
walk



Make it  
easier and  
safer to  
bike



Make it  
easier and  
safer to  
take the  
bus



Make  
driving on  
Seminary  
Road more  
orderly and  
predictable

# Design Options



# Design Options Summary

- The project team developed multiple design options to address the various project objectives.
- No option addresses all of the objectives, so tradeoffs will need to be considered.
- The options consist of both short-term and long-term improvements.

# Option 1

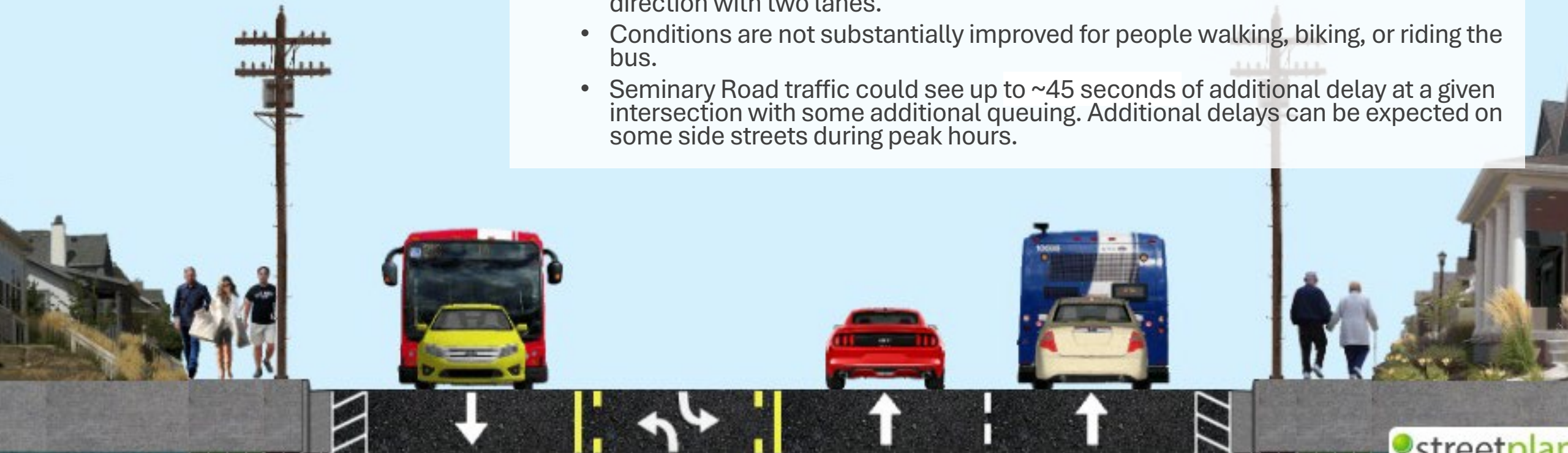
This option repurposes a travel lane as a center turn lane to improve corridor operations and narrows the travel lanes overall to meet current standards.

## Benefits:

- A center turn lane makes it easier to turn left and minimizes traffic disruptions from left-turning vehicles.
- Maintaining two lanes in one direction keeps traffic moving where peak-hour volumes are heaviest.
- Narrower lanes provide a slight buffer for the sidewalk.

## Considerations:

- Minimal impact on speeding. In some cases, speeding may increase in the direction with two lanes.
- Conditions are not substantially improved for people walking, biking, or riding the bus.
- Seminary Road traffic could see up to ~45 seconds of additional delay at a given intersection with some additional queuing. Additional delays can be expected on some side streets during peak hours.



# Option 2

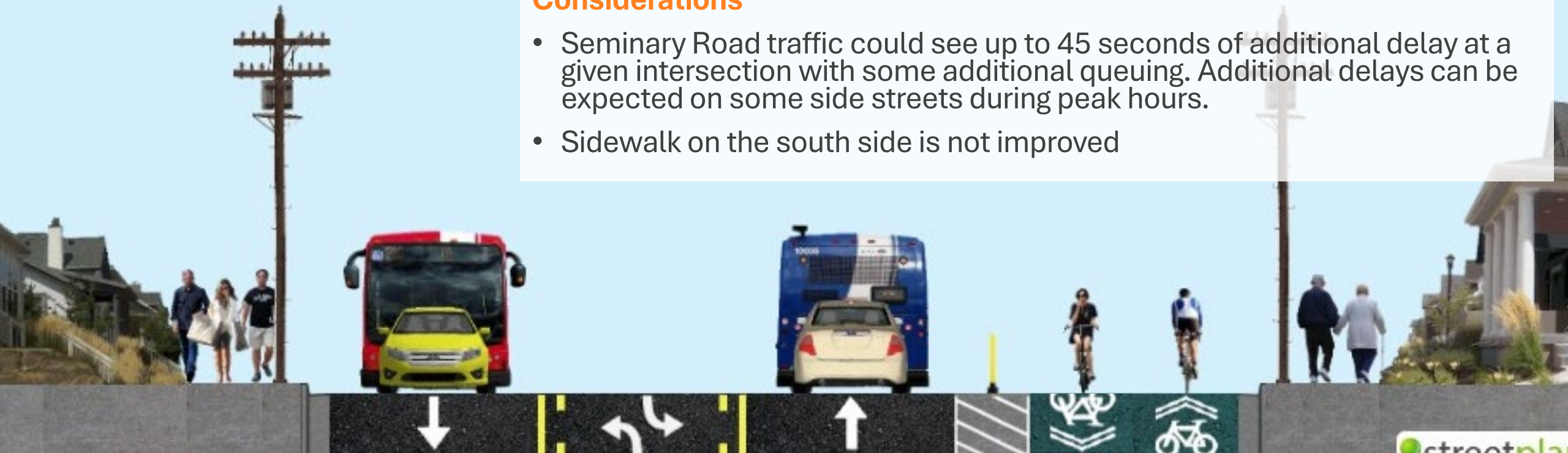
This option rethinks how space is used on the street and provides a center turn lane and a protected two-way bike lane.

## Benefits

- A center turn lane makes it easier to turn left and minimizes traffic disruptions from left-turning vehicles.
- Sidewalk on the north side benefits from the bike lane as a buffer from traffic.
- Fewer travel lanes significantly improves safety at pedestrian crossings.
- Dedicated space for people biking and scooting improves safety.

## Considerations

- Seminary Road traffic could see up to 45 seconds of additional delay at a given intersection with some additional queuing. Additional delays can be expected on some side streets during peak hours.
- Sidewalk on the south side is not improved





# Option 3

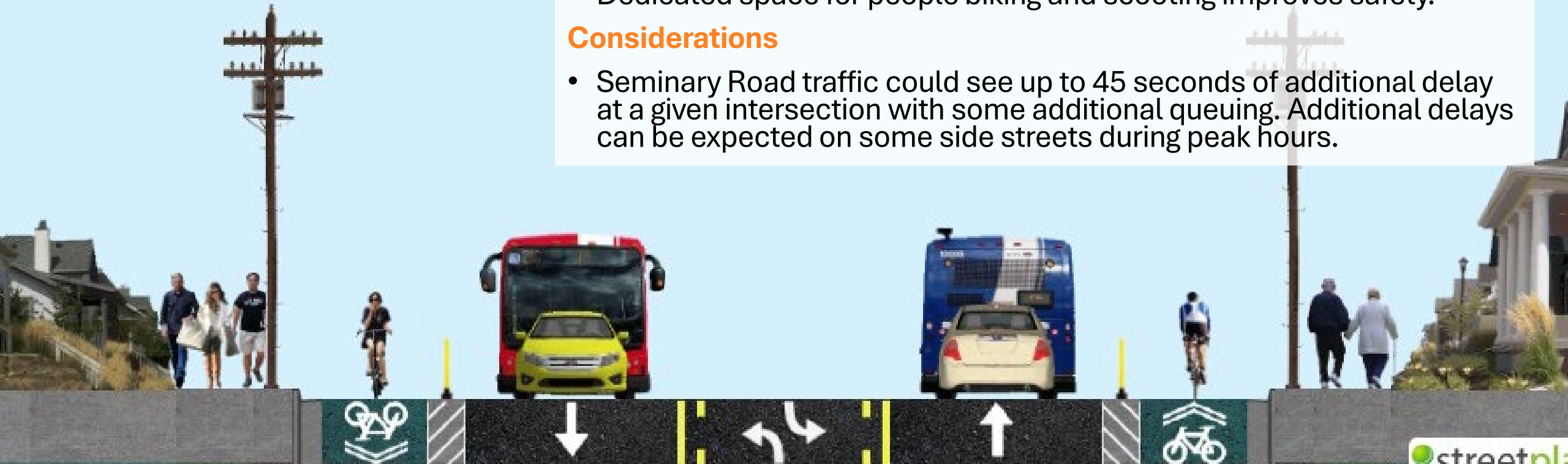
This option rethinks how space is used on the street and provides a center turn lane and a protected two-way bike lane.

## Benefits

- A center turn lane makes it easier to turn left and minimizes traffic disruptions from left-turning vehicles.
- Sidewalks on both sides benefit from the bike lanes as a buffer from traffic.
- Fewer travel lanes significantly improves safety at pedestrian crossings.
- Dedicated space for people biking and scooting improves safety.

## Considerations

- Seminary Road traffic could see up to 45 seconds of additional delay at a given intersection with some additional queuing. Additional delays can be expected on some side streets during peak hours.



# Other Corridor Options That Were Considered

## Roadway Widening

- Cost-prohibitive
- Major impacts to adjacent properties
- Would not meaningfully improve conditions for people walking, biking, or taking the bus

## Reversible Lanes

- Difficult to manage/confusing for drivers
- Would create delays during periods of transition
- Likely infeasible due to limited space for required equipment
- Would not meaningfully improve conditions

## Turn Restrictions

- Potential to couple with other treatments, but would not meaningfully improve conditions on their own

# Seminary Road & South George Mason Drive

Potential improvements at this intersection could include:



## **Curb Extensions**

Shorter crossing distances;  
safer turns



## **Gateway Treatments**

Says to drivers, “you’re  
entering a safe corridor”



## **Crosswalks**

Gives people a designated  
place to cross; can be  
signalized or unsignalized  
depending on location



## **Roundabout**

Encourages safer speeds  
while keeping traffic  
moving; opportunity for  
aesthetic improvements

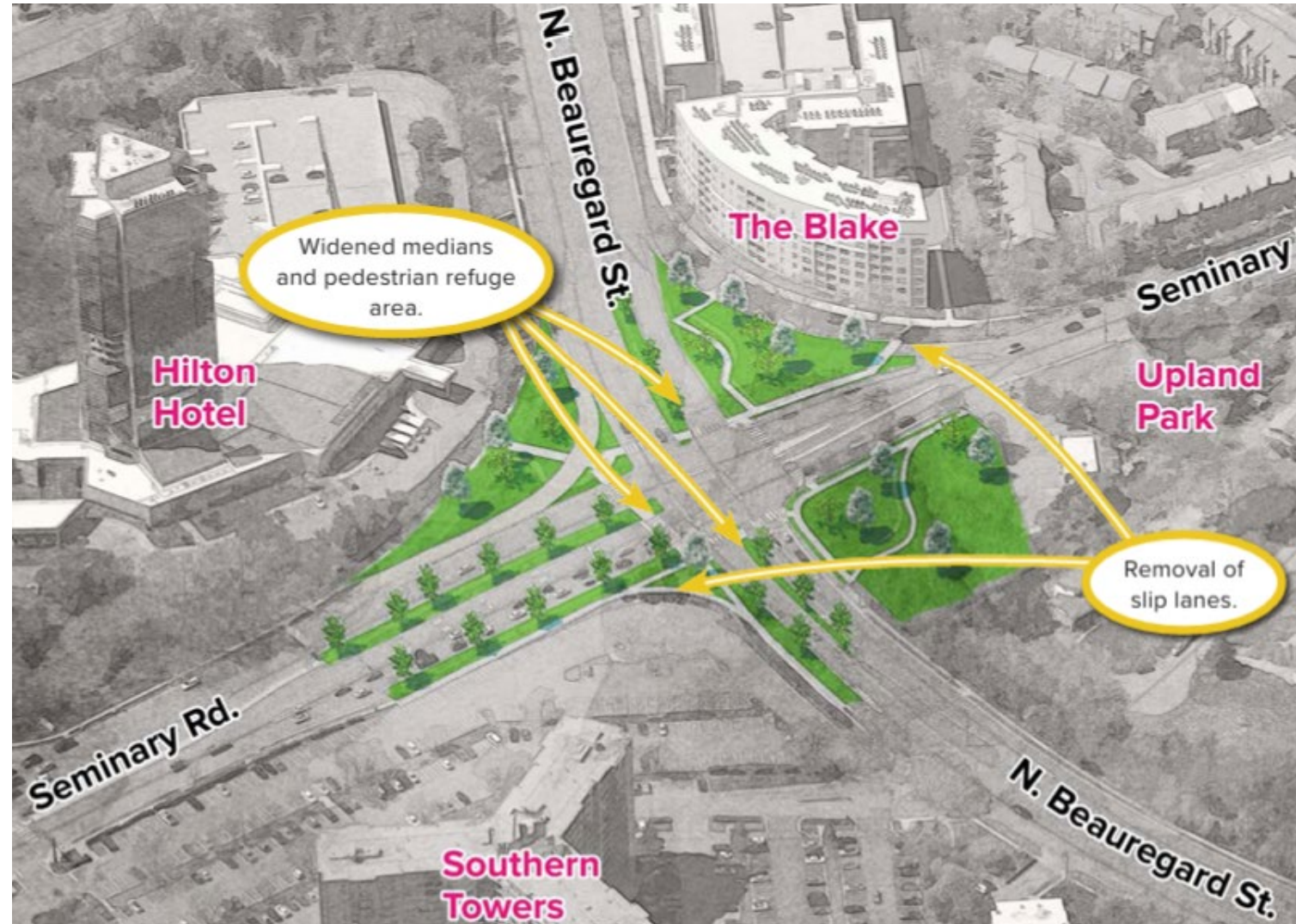


# Related Projects

# Seminary Road & North Beauregard Street

This is a **separate project** but is being closely coordinated with other improvements on Seminary Road.

The adopted AlexWest Small Area Plan envisions this as a **more compact intersection with an enhanced streetscape.**

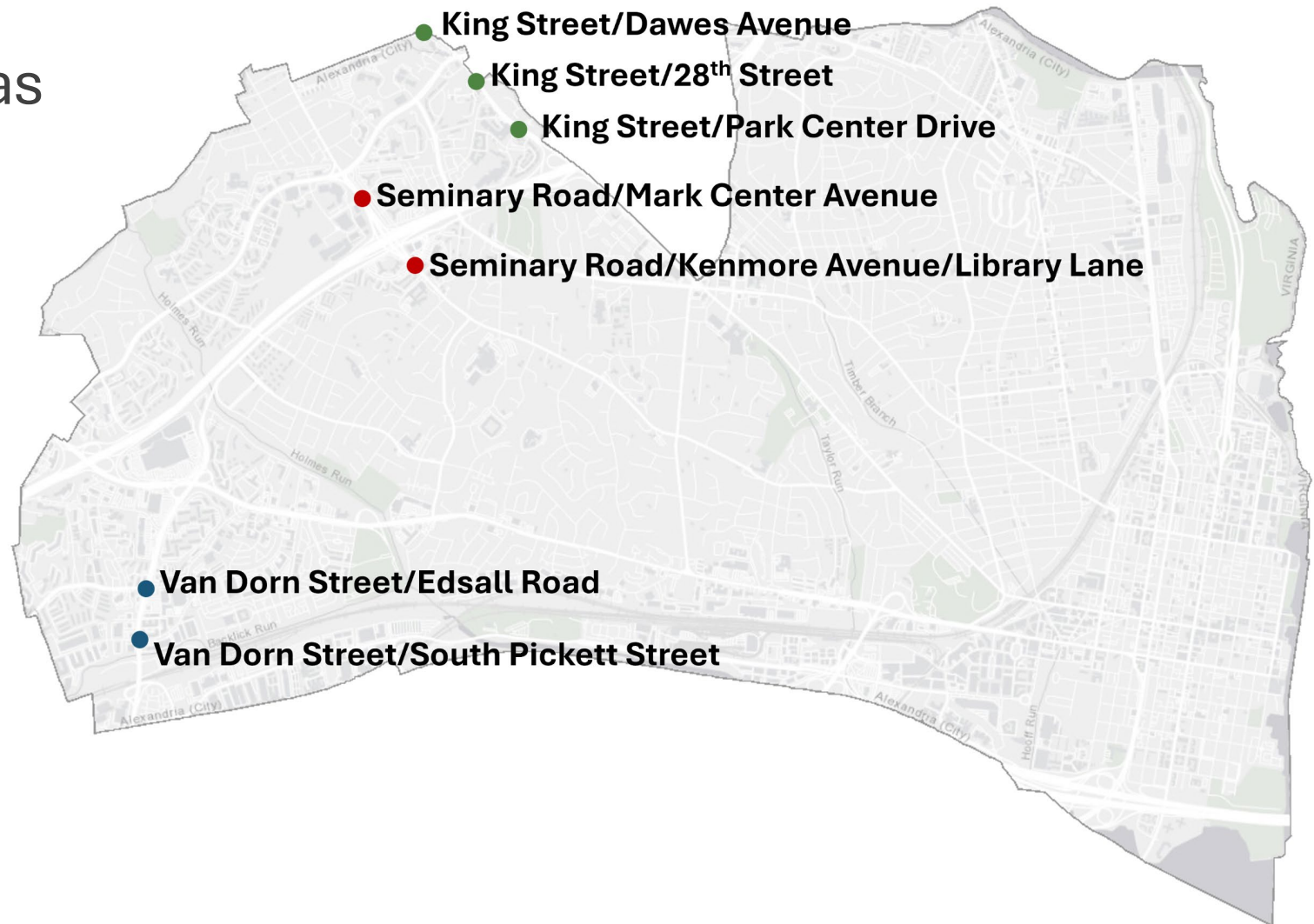


# Seminary Road Near I-395

This is a **separate project** as part of the West End High-Crash Intersections Audit Project.

These projects are being closely coordinated.

For more information, visit [AlexandriaVA.gov/go/4794](https://AlexandriaVA.gov/go/4794)





# Next Steps

# In Summary

There is a lot of work and investment happening in the Seminary Road corridor!

There are no perfect solutions, but we want to work with you to **make things better.**



**Seminary West Safety Improvements (This Project)**

**Seminary & Beauregard Intersection Improvements**

**West End High-Crash Intersection Audits**

**Provide Your  
Feedback!**

Complete the [online feedback form](#) by **May 19**.





# Next Steps

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graph LR; A[Review Community Feedback] --> B[Develop Recommendations and Opportunities for Further Study]; B --> C[Public Hearing for Recommended Changes];
```

Review Community Feedback

Develop  
Recommendations  
and Opportunities for  
Further Study

Public Hearing for  
Recommended  
Changes

# Thank You!

For more project information, visit:  
[AlexandriaVA.gov/go/6552](https://AlexandriaVA.gov/go/6552)