

West River Greenway Connector Trail Public Information Meeting #2 – July 20th 2016

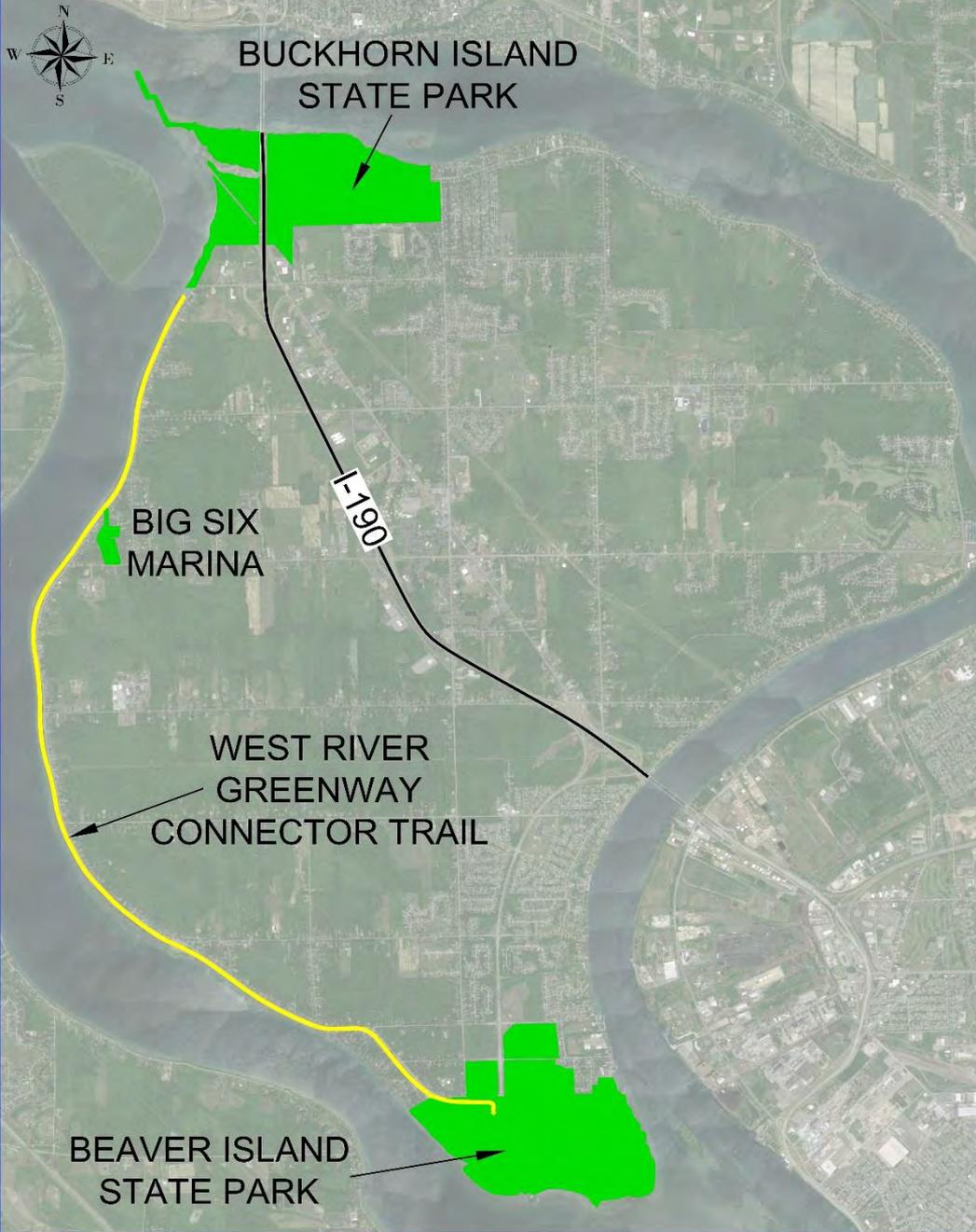


Town of Grand Island
Erie County, New York

Consultant:

C&S Engineers, Inc.
Victor O'Brien, P.E., Project
Manager
Tim Hughes, P.E., Project
Principal

WEST RIVER-GREENWAY CONNECTOR TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN



Background

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Grant application submitted June 2014
- Applicant: Town of Grand Island
- Sponsor: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (Parks)
- Grant approved October 2014



Budget

- Total budget \$2.5 million (design, construction)
- 64% Federal Funding (TAP Grant)
- 36% State Parks/Regional Funding



Project Objectives

- Provide an **alternative transportation** connection between the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls that will be safer for non-motorized vehicles
- Provide a critical **missing link** in the Niagara River Greenway Trail system
- Enhance **connectivity** and improve pedestrian & bicycle **safety**
- **Improve air quality**
- Promote **health** through **physical activity**
- Construct the **entire** connector trail



Public Information Meetings

- General public meeting October 6, 2015
- Focus group/stakeholders meetings November 10, 2015
 - Buffalo Riverkeeper/Go Bike Buffalo/Niagara River Greenway Commission
 - Grand Island Recreation & Conservation Boards
 - West River Homeowners Association



Summary of Public Comments

- Concern with guardrail, signs, and other obstructions that would potentially effect view of the river
- Safety concerns—close proximity to 55mph parkway; intersections with side streets
- Convert existing roadway to trail to avoid extra pavement
- Existing & future maintenance concerns with regard to mowing
- Proximity of trail to homes on West Oakfield Road
- Brush clearing and other environmental concerns
- Consider other locations in the town



Three Alternatives Evaluated

1. Construct new 10' wide trail from Beaver Island State Park to Long Road between the existing parkway and the Niagara River.
2. Identical to alternative 1 except the trail will cross the parkway at Alt Road and use the median and existing snowmobile trail to connect to the Spaulding Trail.
3. Close West River Parkway to vehicular traffic between Long Road and Oakfield Road and reuse existing pavement for trail.



Preferred Alternative-Alternative Three:

Closing the parkway and re-purposing pavement as the new greenway trail.

- Strongly supported by NY State Parks and Town of Grand Island based on analysis.
- Meets all project objectives
- Causes the least environmental impact.
- Is practical, sustainable and park friendly.
- Addresses most safety, access and resident viewshed concerns.
- Minimal impact on maintenance operations/cost.

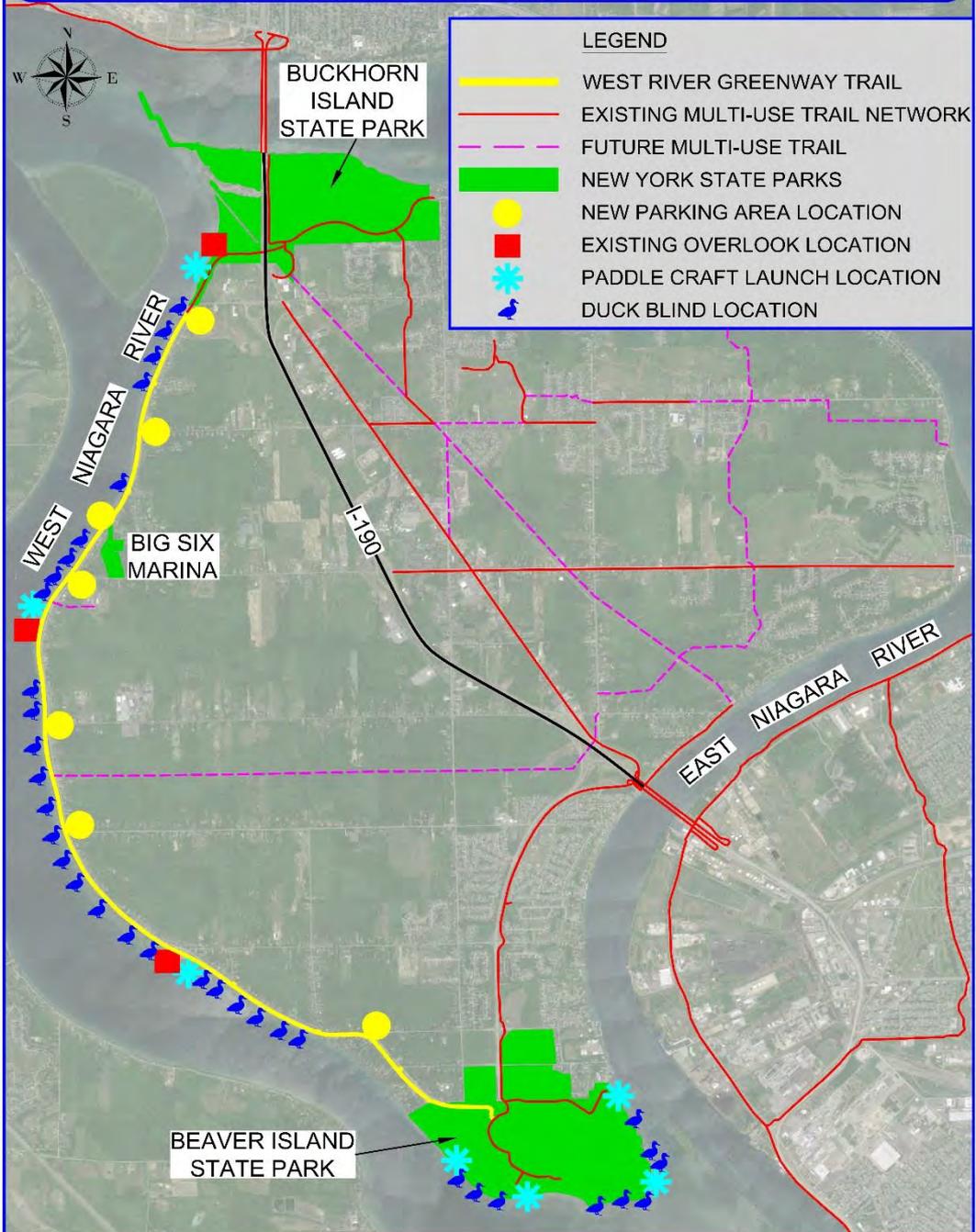


Comparison of Alternatives

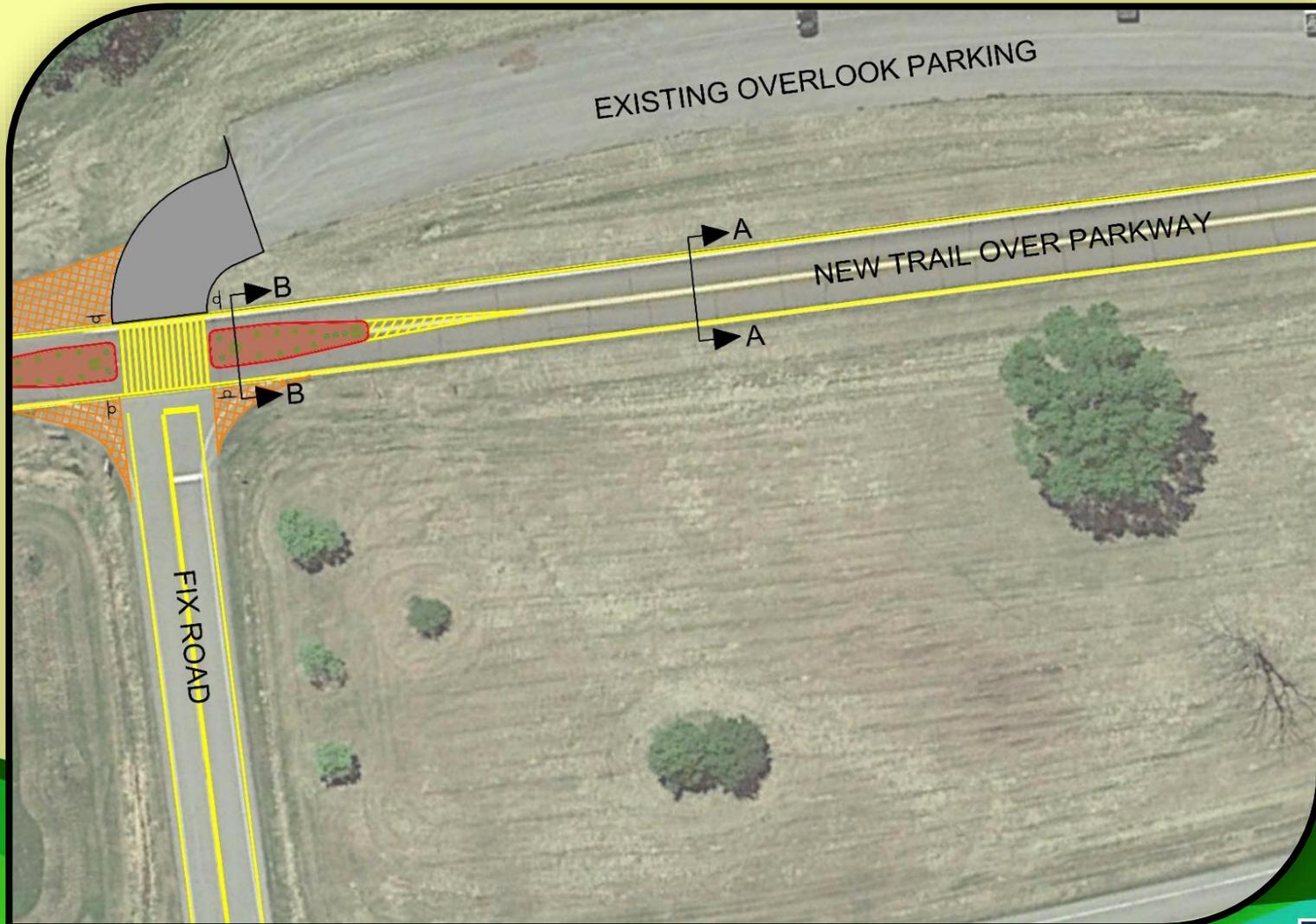
Alternatives			
Category	1-Off road	2-Off road	3-On parkway
Construction Cost	\$2.98 million	\$2.96 million	\$1.81 million
Wetland Impacts	0.25 acres	0.25 acres	0.23 acres
Tree Removal	20	8	8
Brush/woods Clearing	1.86 acres	2.45 acres	0.24 acres



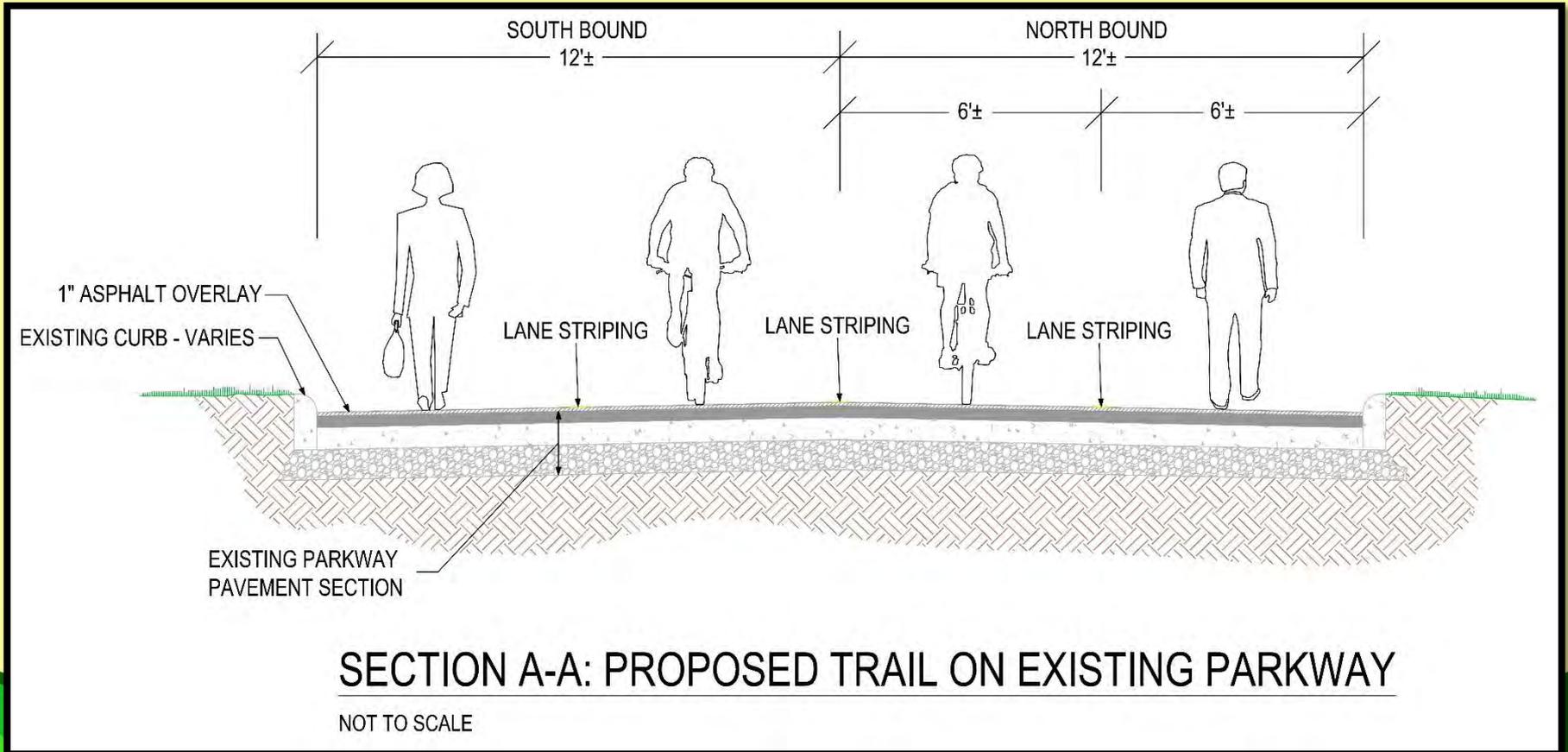
WEST RIVER-GREENWAY CONNECTOR TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN



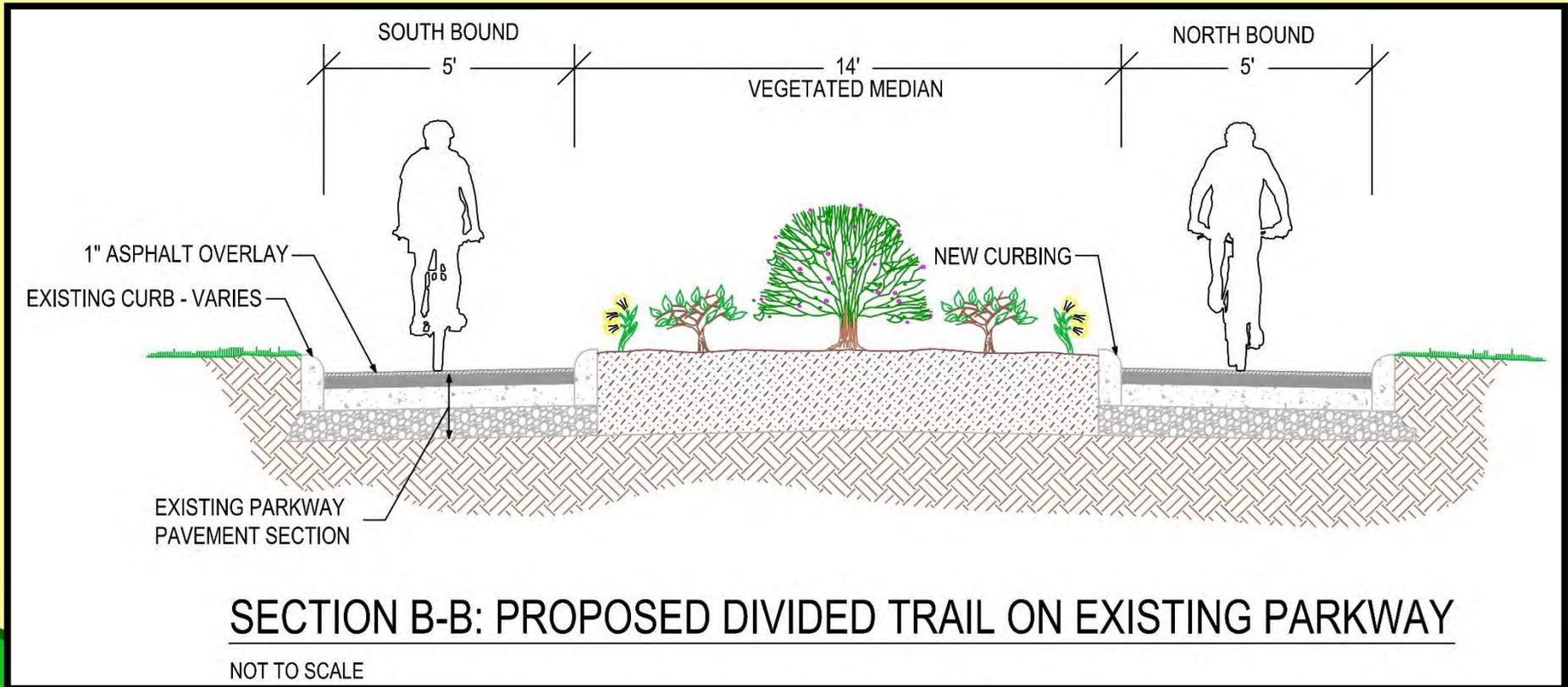
Typical Trail on Existing Parkway



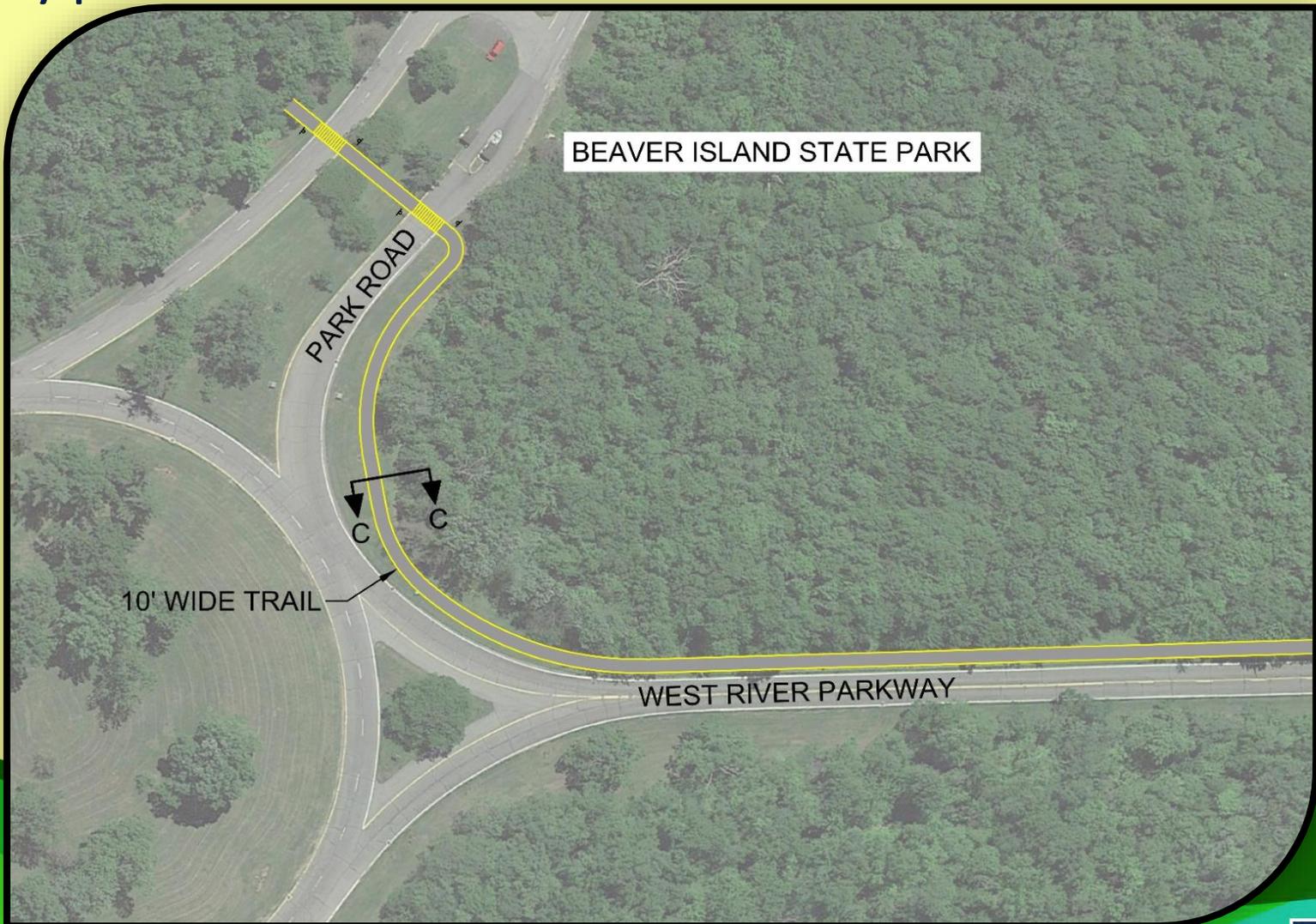
Section View



Section View



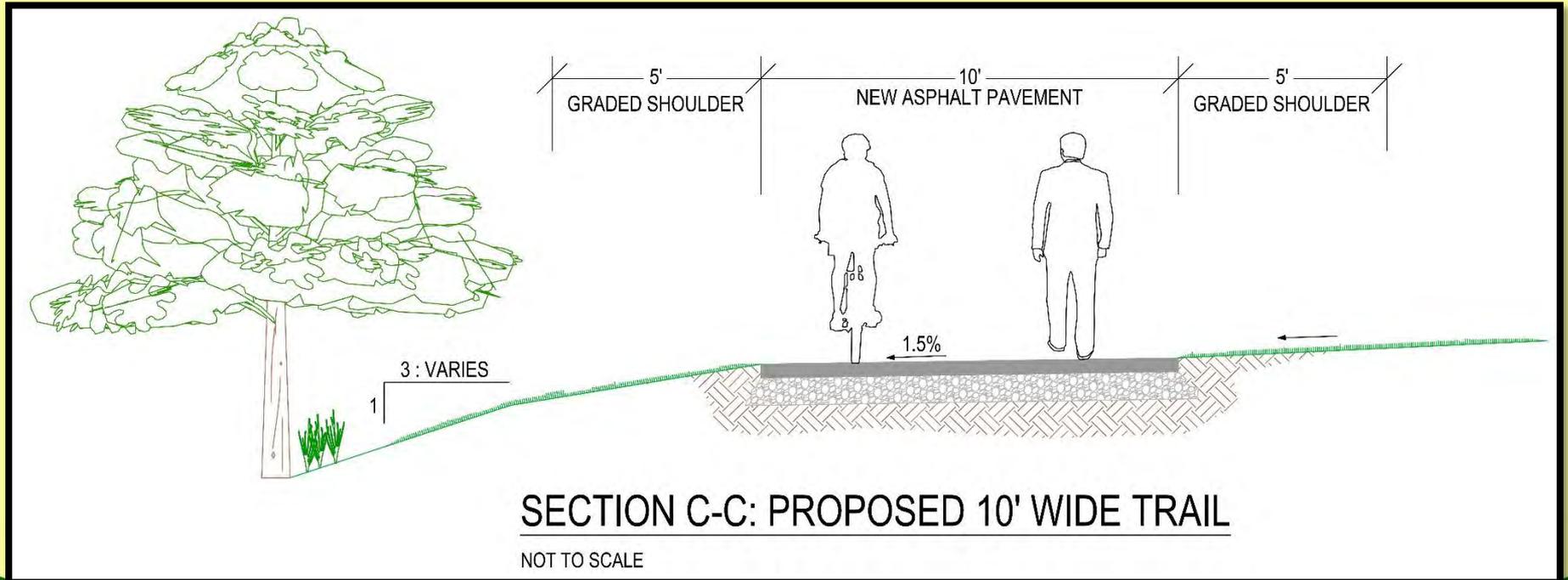
Typical 10' Wide Paved Trail



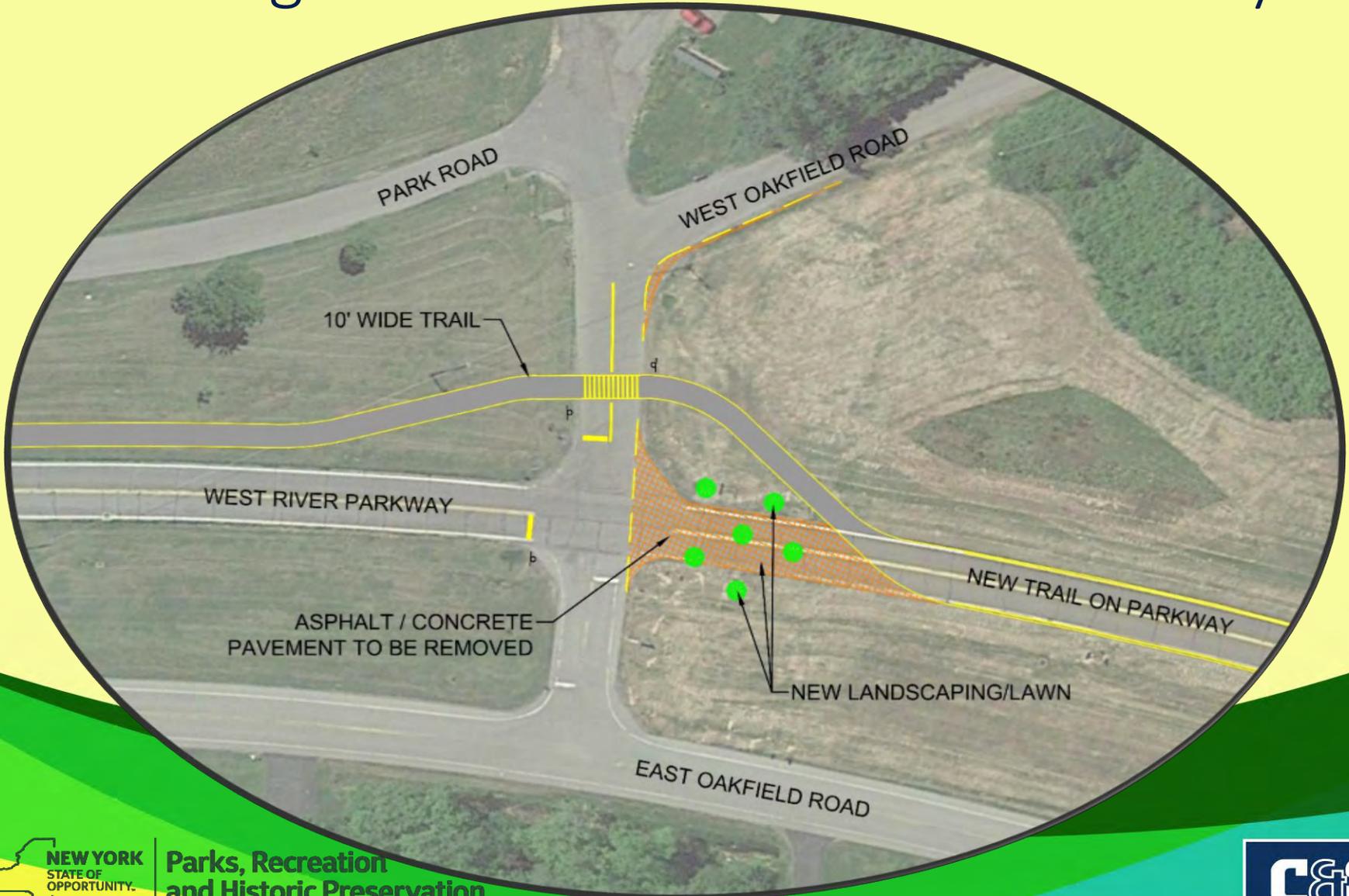
**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**



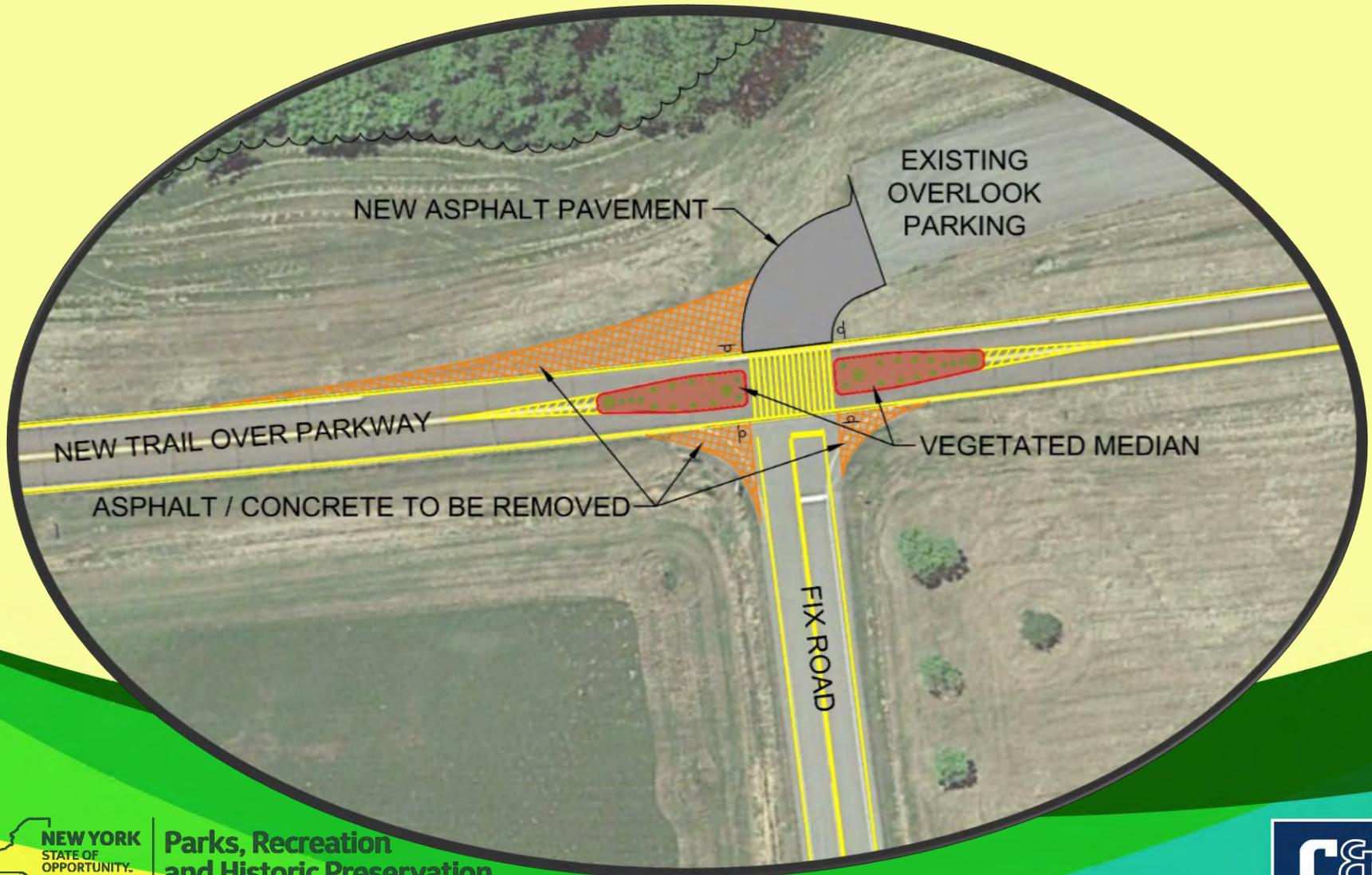
Section View



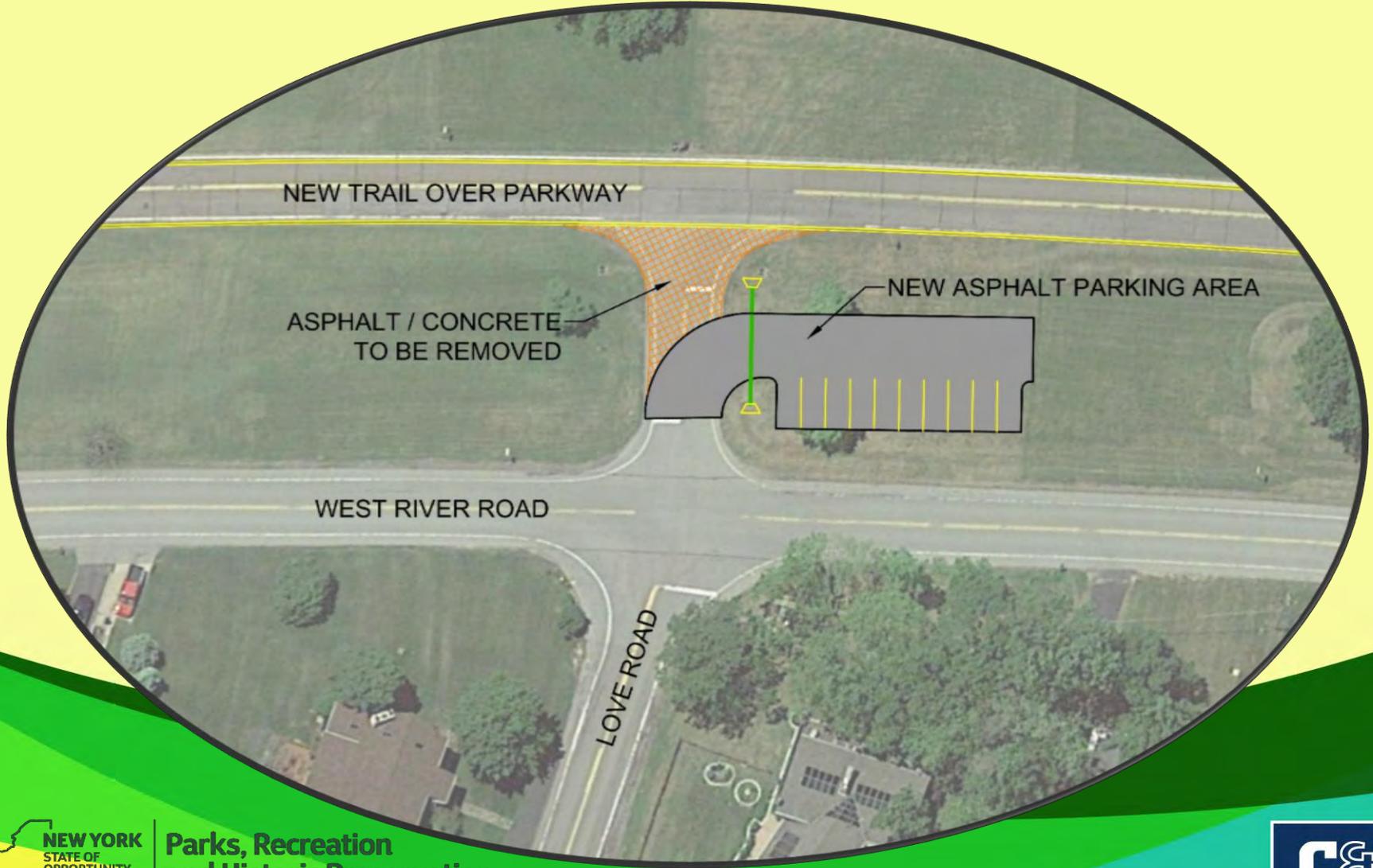
Enlarged View of Transition to Parkway



Enlarged View of Intersection at Fix Road Overlook



Enlarged View of New Parking Area at Love Road Intersection



Next Steps

- NYSDOT Design Approval Fall 2016
- Final Design Spring 2017
- Bid Summer 2017
- Construction Begins Fall 2017
- Construction Complete Summer 2018



Comments



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

