



# **I-375 Reconnecting Communities Project**

**LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 12, 2025**

# Today's Topics

1. Evening on Black Bottom and Paradise Valley Recap
2. 2025 Local Advisory Committee and Community Meeting Schedule
3. Traffic Operations During Construction
4. Neighborhood Framework Update
5. Design Updates
6. Q&A



# An Evening on Black Bottom and Paradise Valley

The project team, in partnership with the Charles H. Wright Museum, hosted an Evening on Black Bottom and Paradise Valley on Tuesday, February 25.

The event was an opportunity to learn and talk about the history of the project area, share community stories, and gather input that will help inform how the project acknowledges Black Bottom and Paradise Valley



# **AN EVENING ON BLACK BOTTOM AND PARADISE VALLEY**

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**I-375 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT**



# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2025



# Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*\*Exact dates are tentative\**

Date	Meeting/Event	Topics
April 2, 2025	<b>Community Meeting</b> -Neighborhood Framework	Challenges + Opportunities: Early Land Use Scenarios
May 7, 2025	<b>Local Advisory Committee Meeting</b> - Design and Construction	Draft Traffic Operations During Construction scenarios, Design Updates (Boulevard and Interchange)
May 14, 2025	<b>Community Meeting</b> – Design and Construction	Draft Traffic Operations During Construction scenarios, Design Updates (Boulevard and Interchange)
May 19, 2025	<b>Government Advisory Committee Meeting</b>	Project Update, Stakeholder Feedback, Framework, Design Update, Traffic Operations
June 3, 2025	<b>Community Meeting</b> - Neighborhood Framework	Emerging Ideas for Land Use, Draft Neighborhood Framework Plan
July 16, 2025	<b>Local Advisory Committee Meeting</b> - Design and Construction	Updated Traffic Operations During Construction Scenarios Design refinements for Boulevard and Interchange
August 6, 2025	<b>Community Meeting</b> - Design and Construction	Updated Traffic Operations During Construction Scenarios Design refinements
August 21, 2025	<b>Community Meeting</b> - Final Framework	Present the final 375 Framework
September 15, 2025	<b>Government Advisory Committee Meeting</b>	Project Update, Stakeholder Feedback, Framework, Design Update, Traffic Operations
September 23, 2025	Final Framework Document Release	Final Framework Document will be posted on the city's website.



# Traffic Operations During Construction

What We Heard



# Traffic Operations During Construction

## What We Heard

### Common Themes



Maintaining access to businesses and neighborhoods is vital throughout the project.



Ensure clear, consistent, and timely communication regarding road closures and detours



Minimize pedestrian detours and ensure adequate lighting and protection from vehicle traffic.



Effective wayfinding signage to help pedestrians navigate during construction



Consideration of truck loading and unloading patterns when planning detours carefully.



Project impacts on major event traffic, which is already challenging and requires careful planning



# Early Works Construction

- Construction south of E Jefferson to build the stormwater outfall will begin this Fall.
- The project will construct a new stormwater trunkline that is the full length of the new boulevard.
- Crossovers at Jefferson Ave. will improve circulation in the central business district.



# Early Works Construction

## Jefferson Avenue Existing





# Early Works Construction

Jefferson Avenue Proposed



# I-375 Reconnecting Communities Project

**BLACK BOTTOM**  
This street, named after the Black Bottom neighborhood, was the first place where European immigrants settled here in the mid-nineteenth century. Between World Wars I and II it became home to thousands of African Americans who migrated from the South in search of a better future offered by factory work. Housing discrimination forced them into neighborhoods like Black Bottom. They paid overpriced rent and often packed multiple families into single homes as they built a new community. Those who grew up in Black Bottom included Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first black mayor; Joe Louis, the world heavyweight boxing champion from 1937 to 1949; and Ralph Bunche, the first black recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, honored in 1950 for his role as a mediator with the United Nations.

## Neighborhood Framework

The City of Detroit Planning & Development Department

LAC Update- March 12, 2025





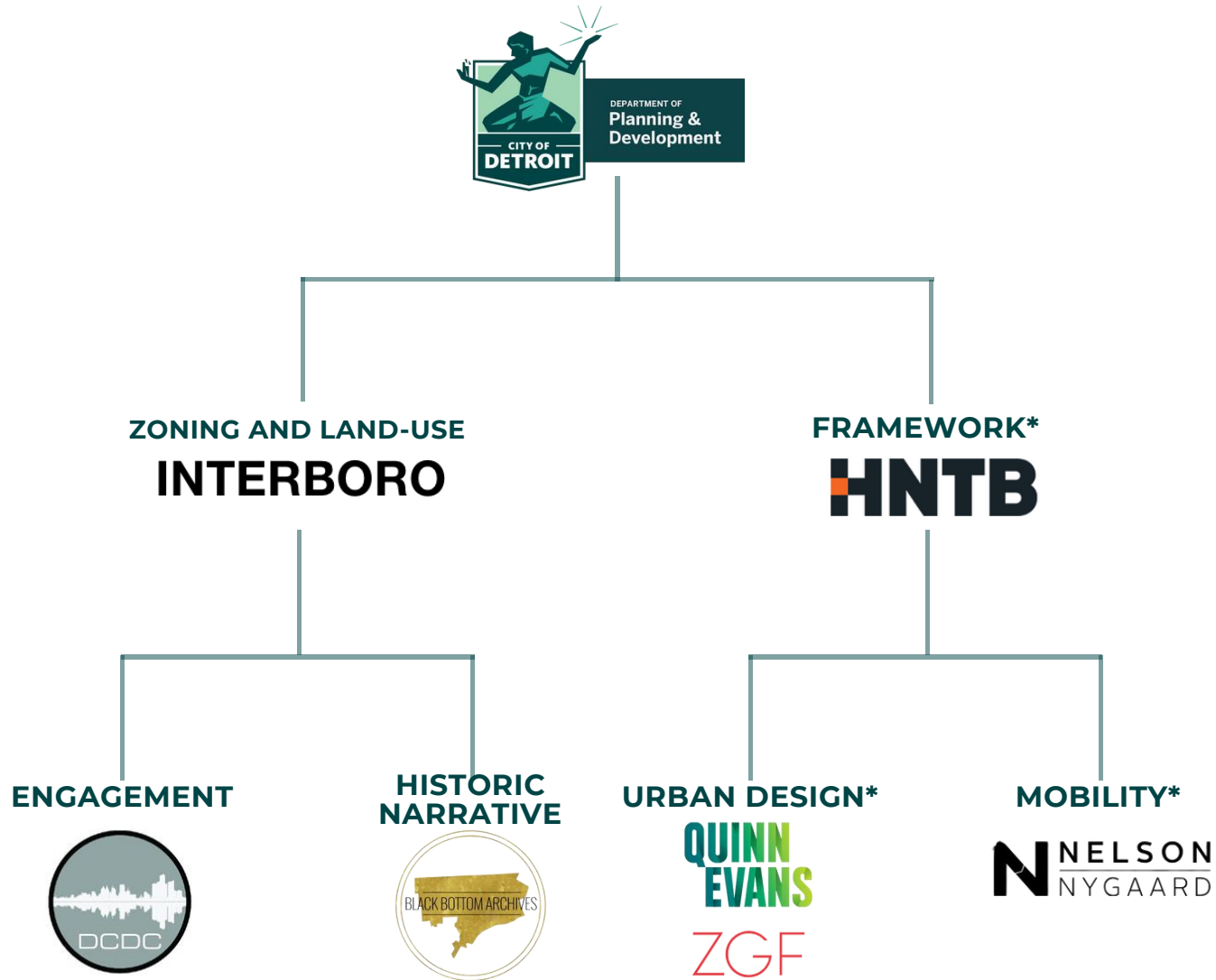
# Framework Overview

The Neighborhood Framework **complements the I-375 Boulevard Design, defines a vision for the new land** created by its construction, and **connects back** to the surrounding communities.

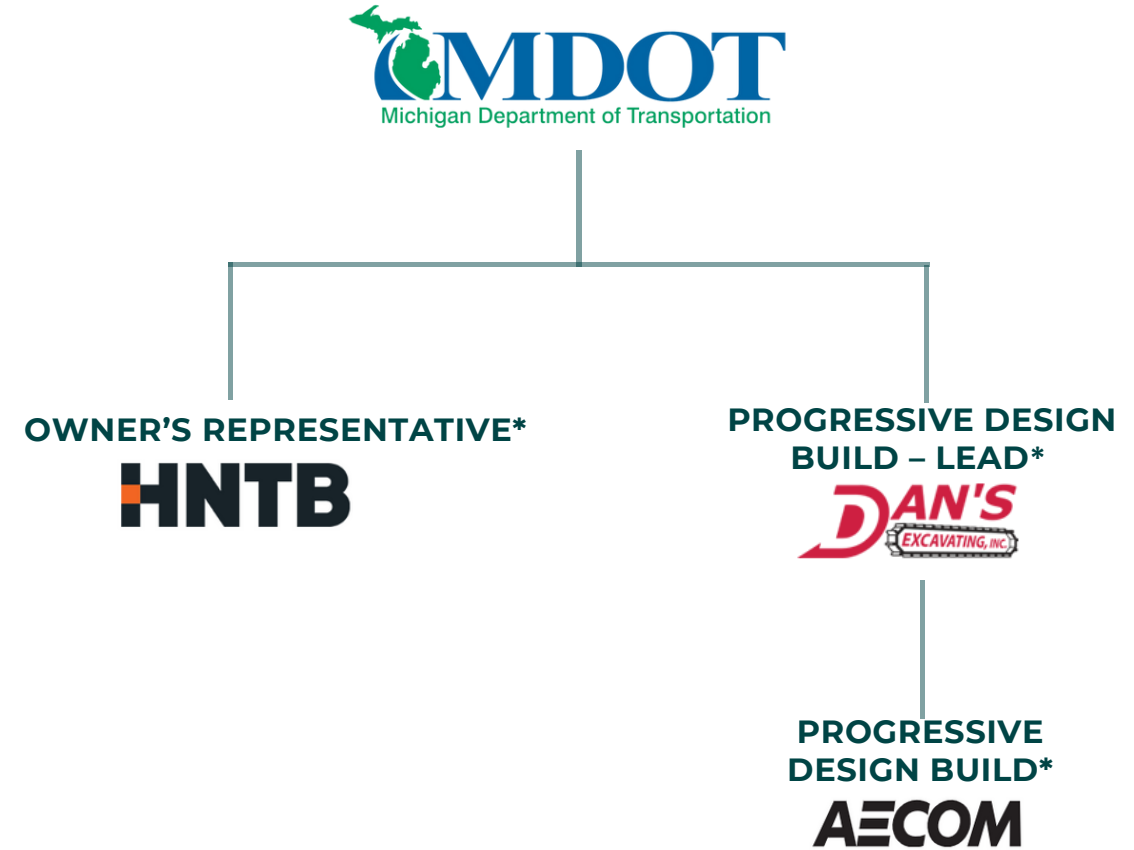
*Overall Framework boundaries are in White. Zoning and Land-Use focus is in Yellow.*



## I-375 NEIGHBORHOOD FRAMEWORK



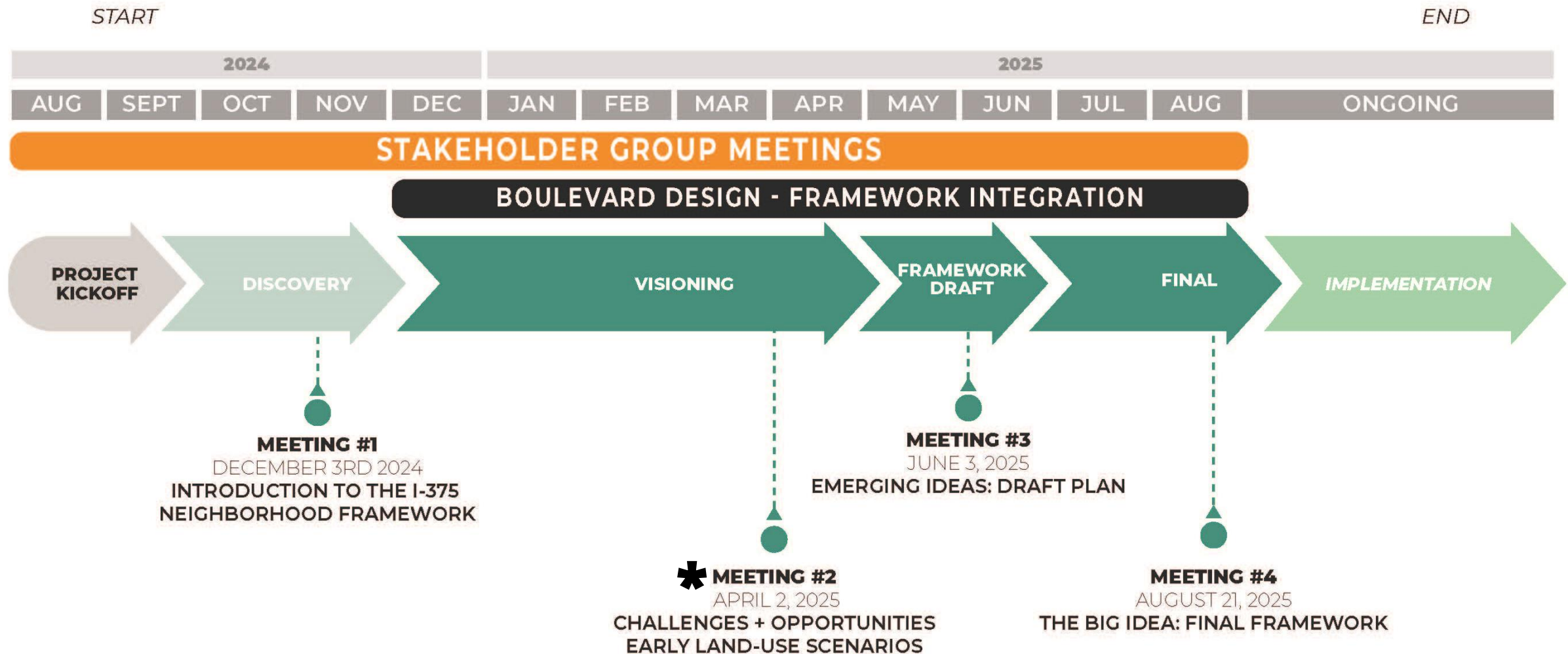
## I-375 BOULEVARD DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION





# Framework Timeframe

## September 2024 — August 2025





# Snapshot – December 3, 2024 Community Meeting





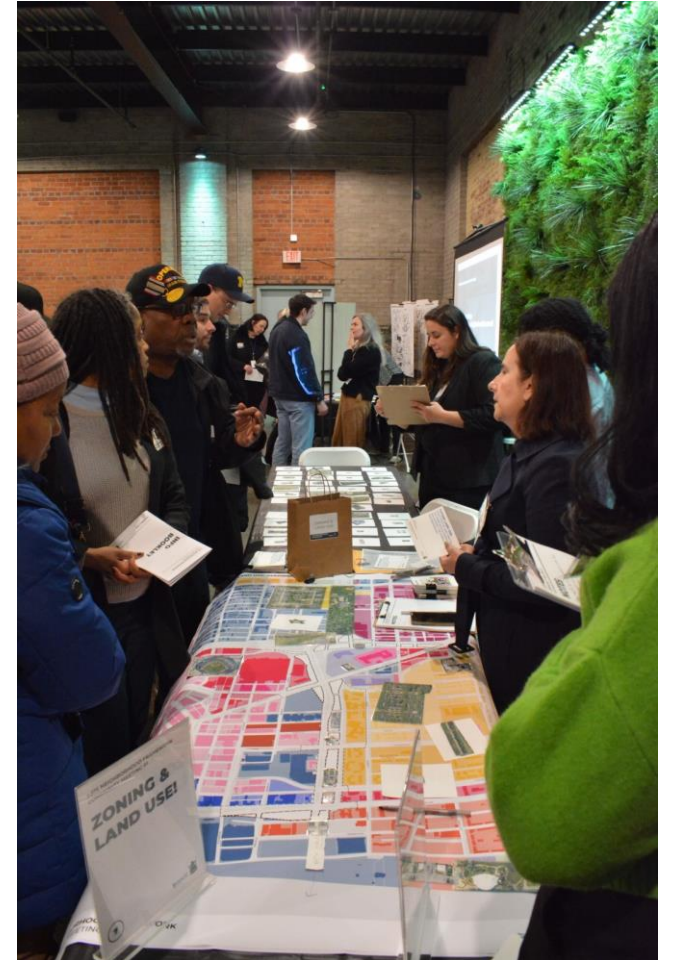
# Snapshot – December 3, 2024 Community Meeting

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	DATE/ Time	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
Community-Wide (In-Person)	December 3 5:30-7:30pm	The Eastern 3434 Russell St Detroit MI 48207	137
Community-Wide (Online)	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Livestream	YouTube	249
Community-Wide (Online - Post December 3-17)	December 17	YouTube	170

Notifications: MDOT Postcard Mailing (13000+ addresses within ½ mile of project area, MDOT media Releases and advisories 14 days ahead if meeting, MDOT and City website, MDOT e-mail, City of Detroit GovDelivery, and various community organizations.

# Snapshot – December 3, 2024 Community Meeting

**Goal – recording and assessing initial challenges, opportunities, and interests related to zoning and land-use and the broader framework in the project area.**



# Snapshot – December 3, 2024 Community Meeting

## KEY FINDINGS AND THEMES

**EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT** –Input included ideas of Community Land Trusts, affordability for low-income (Detroit specific AMI), ability to build wealth, interest of attracting families, environmental sustainability, and preventing gentrification.

**MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT** – strong emphasis on density, food access (grocery store/market), and prioritizing pedestrians. Considerations for live – work, supporting entrepreneurs, 24/7 and all season activations.



# Snapshot – December 3, 2024 Community Meeting

## KEY FINDINGS AND THEMES

**LEGACY PRESERVATION** – Be inclusive of multiple forms of sharing history and culture: visual, audible, architectural, types of gathering spaces, historic markers, and signage.

**BLEND TRANSITIONS** – this theme appeared across scales: between existing neighborhoods and urban fabrics and at smaller scales of roadways and adjacent spaces. Buffering and preserving qualities of residential spaces was also a concern that Lafayette Park residents expressed.



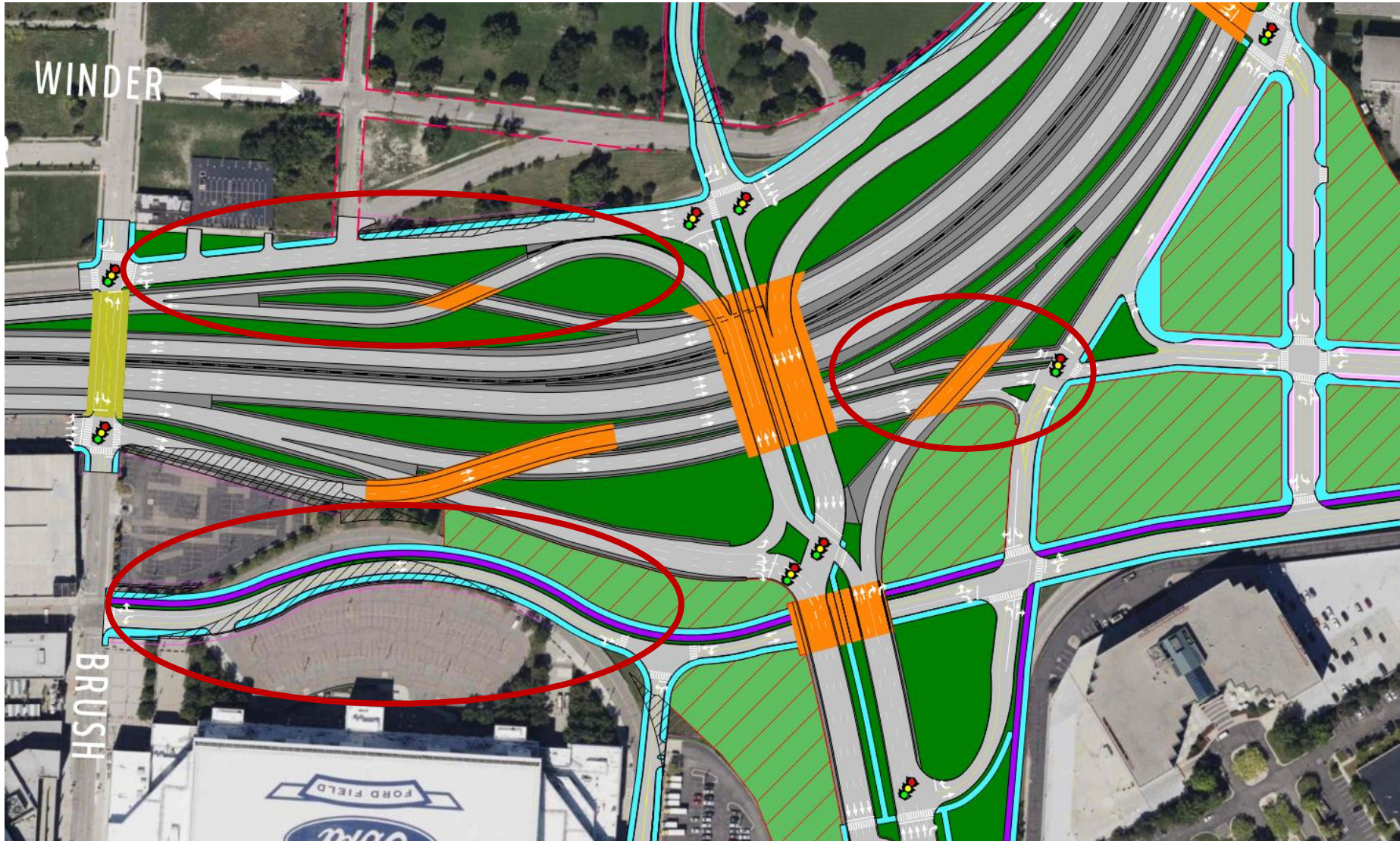
# Design Updates





# Design Concept Update

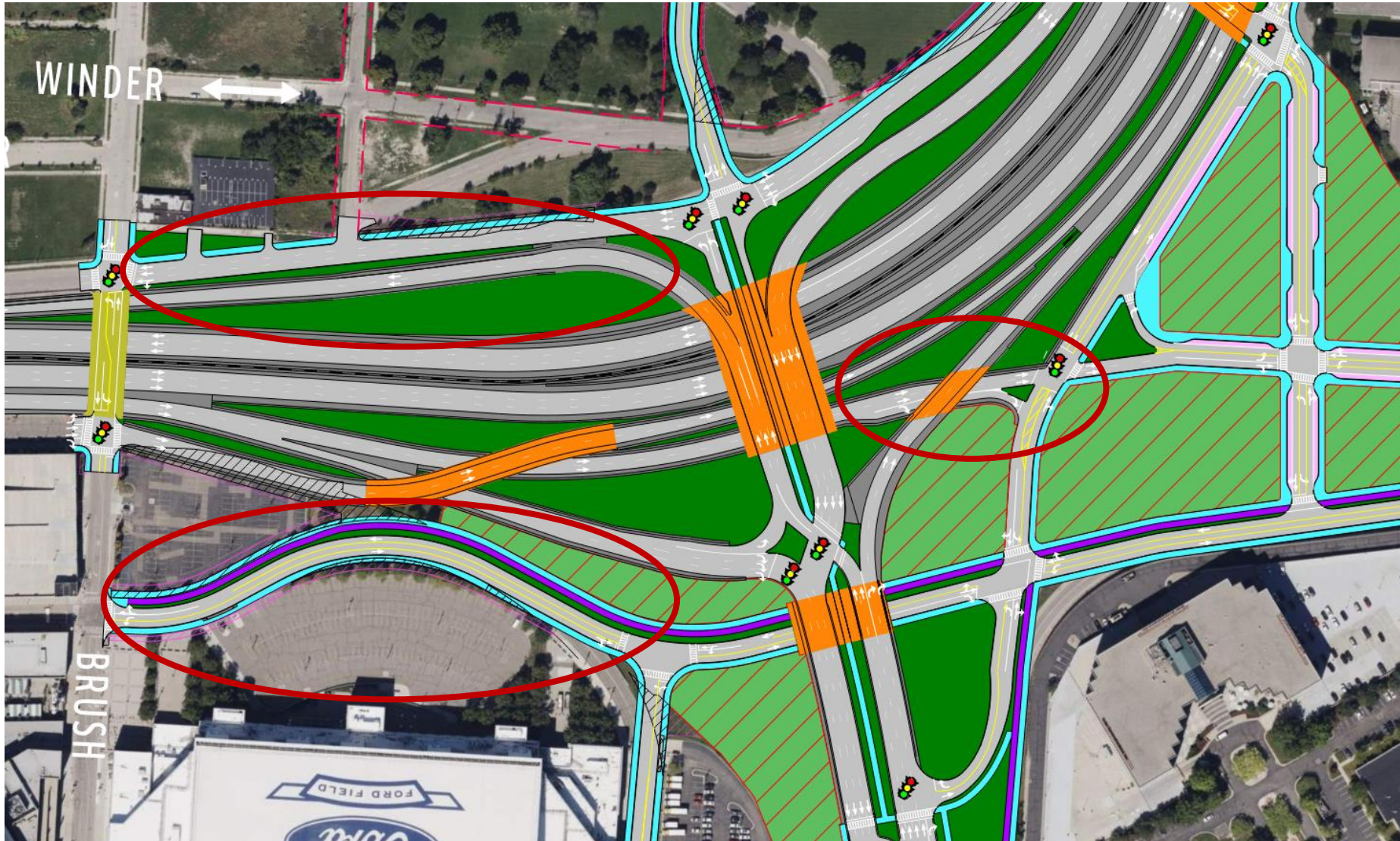
Previous Interchange Concept





# Design Concept Update

Updated Interchange Concept





# Design Concept Discussion

We want your input on key design elements:

- Boulevard features
  - Median treatment
  - Sidewalk widths
- East road features:
  - Travel lanes
  - Street parking

Fixed design concept elements:

- The boulevard alignment
- The number of through vehicle lanes on the new boulevard
- Bike path and sidewalk on east side of the new boulevard

## Potential Visions

OPTIONS FOR NEW BOULEVARD AND EAST ROAD



### 1 OPTION 1

#### New Boulevard

- Wide sidewalks
- Wide medians
- Less excess property

MEDIAN  
TREATMENT

#### East Road

- One northbound lane,  
one southbound lane
- No parking
- Less excess property



### 2 OPTION 2

#### New Boulevard

- Narrow sidewalks
- Narrow median
- More excess property

MEDIAN  
TREATMENT

#### East Road

- One-way southbound  
lane
- Street parking
- More excess property



### 3 OPTION 3

#### New Boulevard

- Wide sidewalks
- Narrow median
- Less excess property

MEDIAN  
TREATMENT

#### East Road

- One northbound lane,  
one southbound lane
- Street parking
- Less excess property











# THANK YOU!

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