

Working Group **Meeting 7**

April 7th, 2025



Agenda

- Public Information Sessions Debrief
- Conceptual Design Update
- Pilot Demonstration Update



Outreach Event No. 4a & 4b

Public Information Sessions

Zoom

Thurs 04.03.25 | 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Sat 04.05.25 | 12 pm – 1:30 pm



Event objectives

- Members of the community were provided information about engagement feedback received to date, the traffic diversion analysis, and next steps to stay informed on Envision Needham Center.



Inform

Provide info on
engagement
feedback + traffic
analysis



Educate

Highlight traffic
analysis approach +
data available to
inform design



Connect

Solicit feedback and
input and provide
resources for future
updates

Results & observations

- Estimated Participant Total:

- Thursday: 57 participants
- Saturday: 46 participants

- Priorities:

- Vibrant business community
- Safety
- Access + wayfinding

- Attendee concerns:

- Decision making
- Degree of public involvement
- Project cost
- Parking + traffic impacts

Key Takeaways



Opportunities for
feedback + say



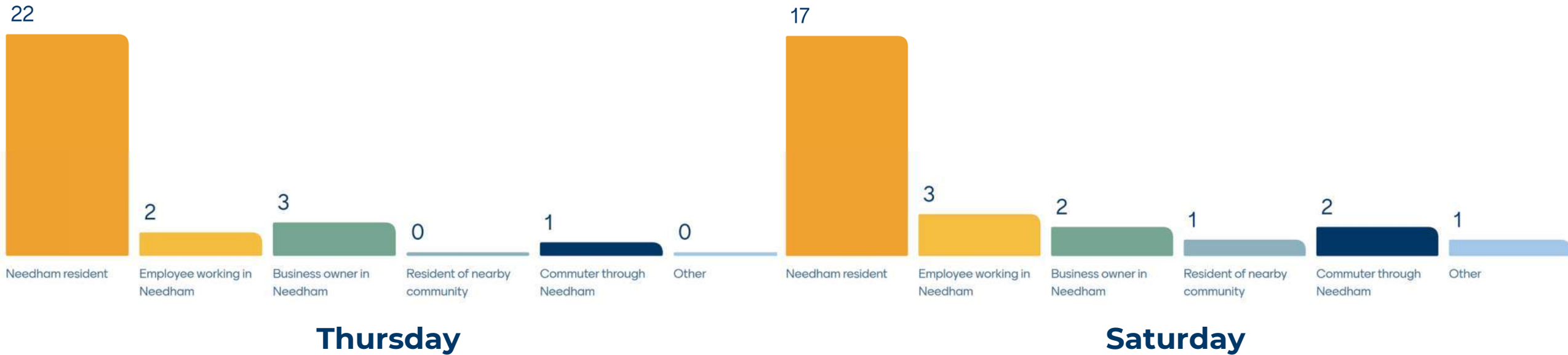
Prioritize Vibrancy + Safety



Wayfinding

Results & observations

What is your connection to Needham Center? (22 & 18 responses)



Results & observations

What do you love most about Needham Center? (46 & 40 responses)



Thursday



Saturday

Results & observations

What is one result you would love to see come out of this project? (42 & 35 responses)



Results & observations

Were any of your priorities or concerns not mentioned? (15 & 15 responses)



A word cloud for Thursday with various phrases in different colors and sizes. The phrases include: cooler in summer --trees, dining on wider sidewalk, preserve pavers, draw in new businesses, alternate traffic routes, timing of pilot, diversity of stores, cars are necessary though, traffic will go to sidest, faster lights for walkers, no cars on garrote's wy, town spent a lot of money, do not spend too much, music, no strobe lights, traffic flow, traffics diversion to sur, overburdening surrounding, stores peoples want, do not re-do town center, bridge over great plain, people not cars, and less bikes.

cooler in summer --trees
dining on wider sidewalk
preserve pavers
draw in new businesses
alternate traffic routes
timing of pilot
diversity of stores
cars are necessary though
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do not re-do town center
bridge over great plain
people not cars
less bikes

Thursday



A word cloud for Saturday with various phrases in different colors and sizes. The phrases include: doesn't get clogged up, feedback from few people, dont pilot in summer, keeping small town feel, no loss of parking, visibility of feedback, people will love it, my concern losing parking, bus stop, train crossings, bike lanes, bike lanes elsewhere, bus prioritization, mobility impaired people, traffic will be too slow, ensure through traffic, and traffic will be a mess.

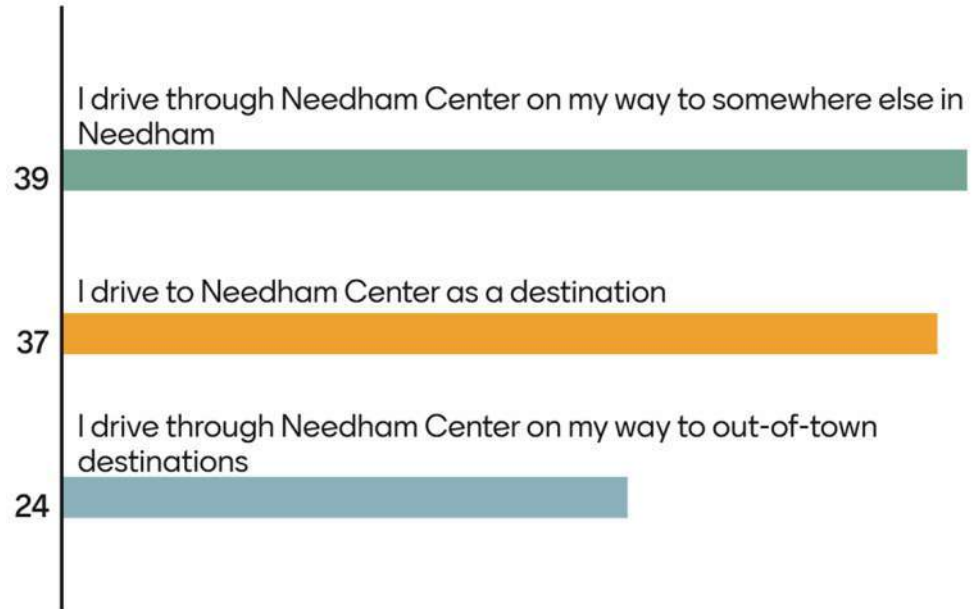
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Saturday

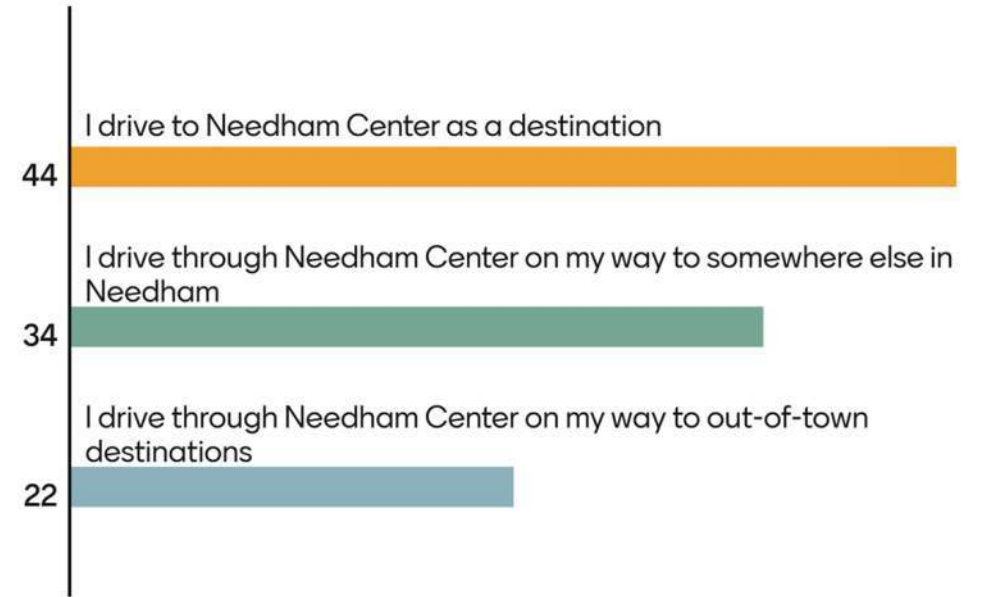


Results & observations

How would you characterize your trips through Needham Center? (23 & 23 responses)



Thursday

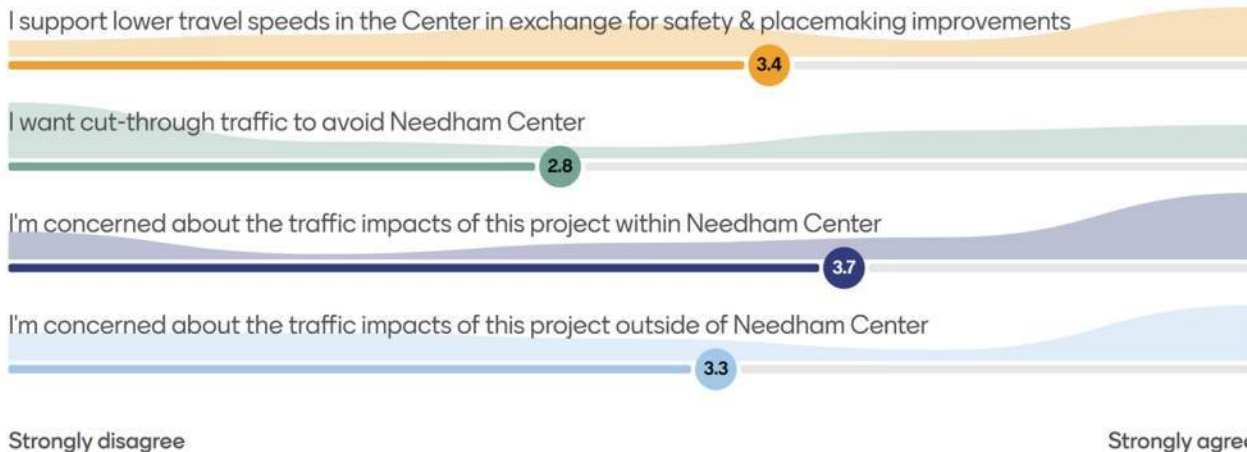


Saturday

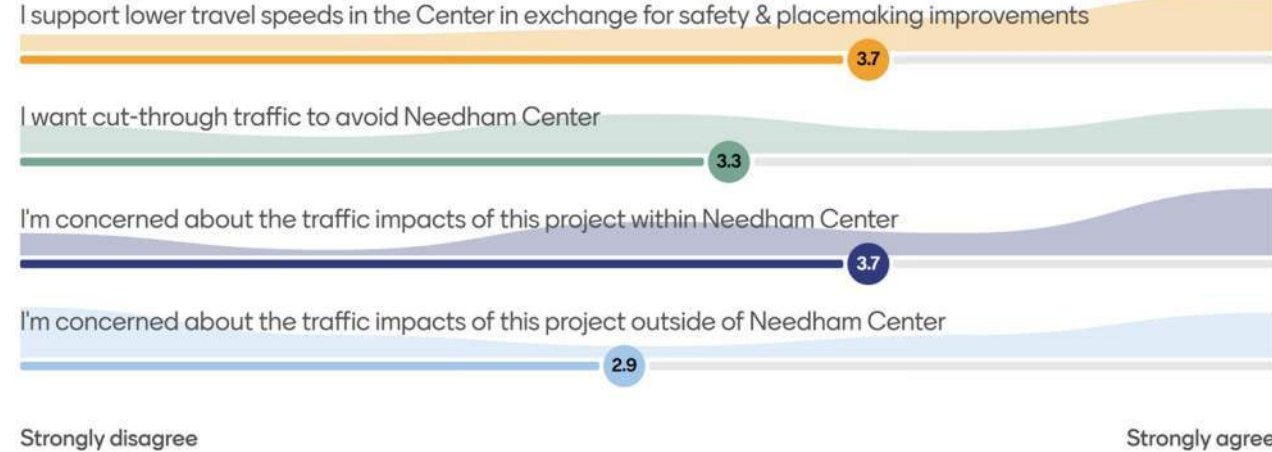


Results & observations

How much do you agree with the following statements? (26 & 27 responses)



Thursday



Saturday



Q&A recap

- Main topics:
 - General:
 - Who are the decision makers?
 - Cost of the project (pilot & full build)
 - How is feedback being incorporated?
 - Pilot:
 - Timeline?
 - Maintenance?
 - Design:
 - Would we consider an alternative with four travel lanes?
 - Has angled parking been considered?
 - Coordination with MBTA (train station & bus stops)
 - Impacts:
 - Diversion of traffic onto local roads
 - Impacts of less parking & more congestion on businesses



Design Update

Conceptual Design Alternatives



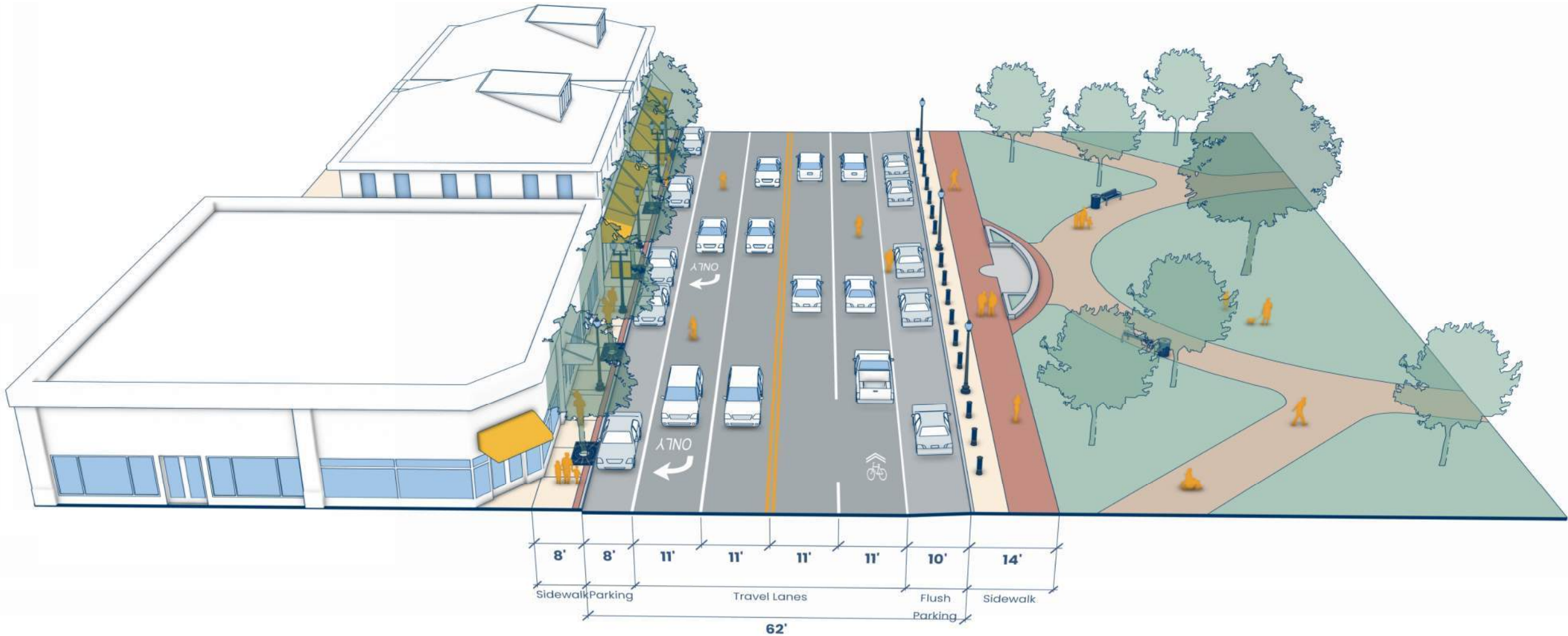
Conceptual Alternatives

Summary

- Alternative 1 (**bold**):
 - Incorporates horizontal shift from Garden St to Pickering St
 - Wider sidewalk along south side of GPA between Chapel & Highland
 - **68** on-street parking spaces provided within project limits (**102** existing)
 - Sidewalk wider than or same width as existing sidewalk throughout project limits
 - Raised street between Chapel & Highland intersections
 - “Scramble” signalized intersections
 - Worse traffic operations
 - Lower bike speeds – bikes use pedestrian phase
 - Expanded opportunities for plantings
- Alternative 2:
 - No horizontal shift included
 - **104** on-street parking spaces provided within project limits (**102** existing)
 - Sidewalks narrower than existing sidewalks in certain locations
 - Designated walk & bike crosswalks incorporated at signalized intersections
 - Better traffic operations
 - Bikes use intersections during vehicular phases



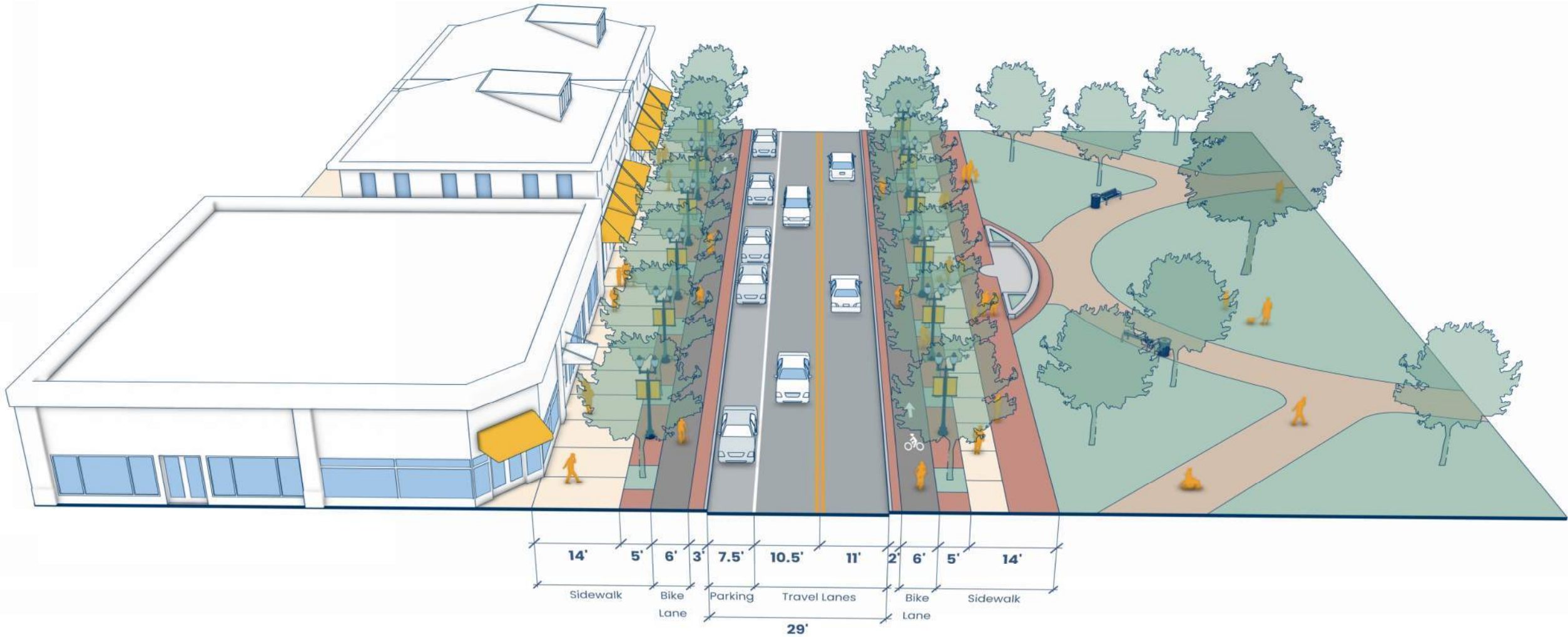
GPA - Chapel to Highland



Existing



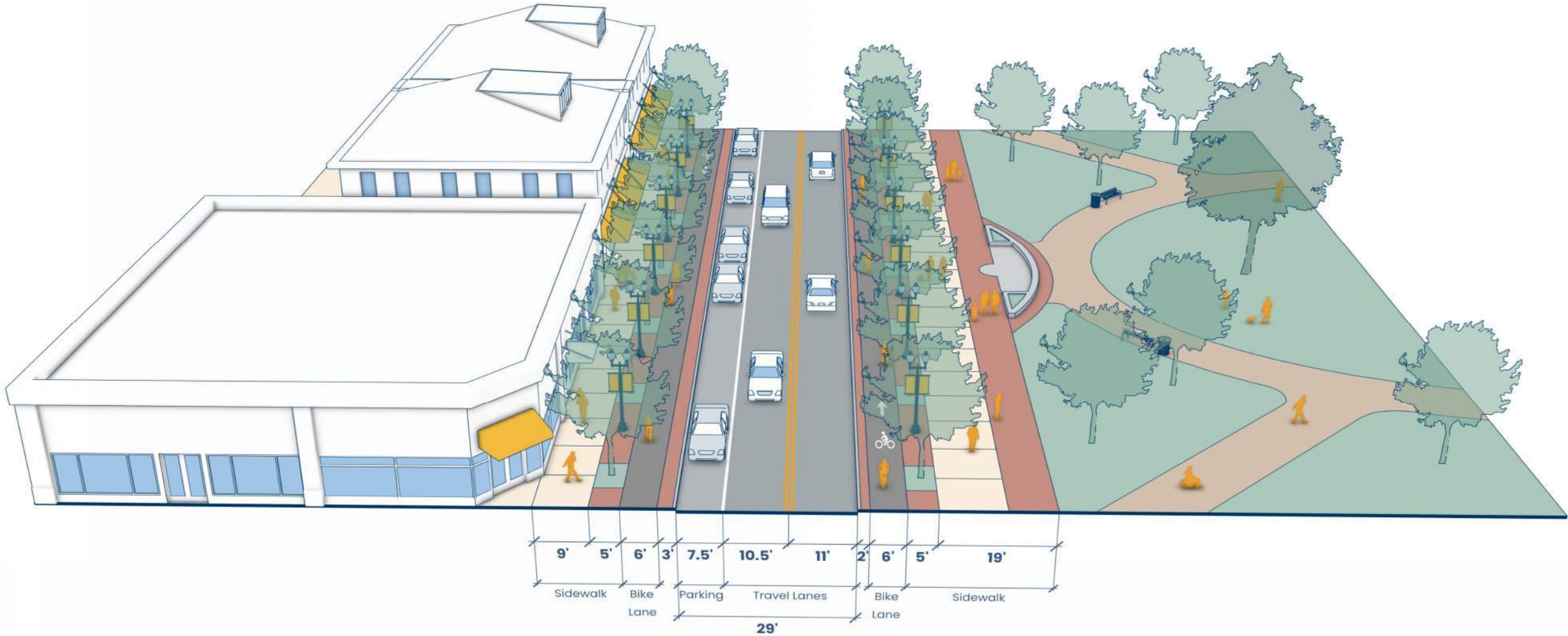
GPA - Chapel to Highland



Alternative 1



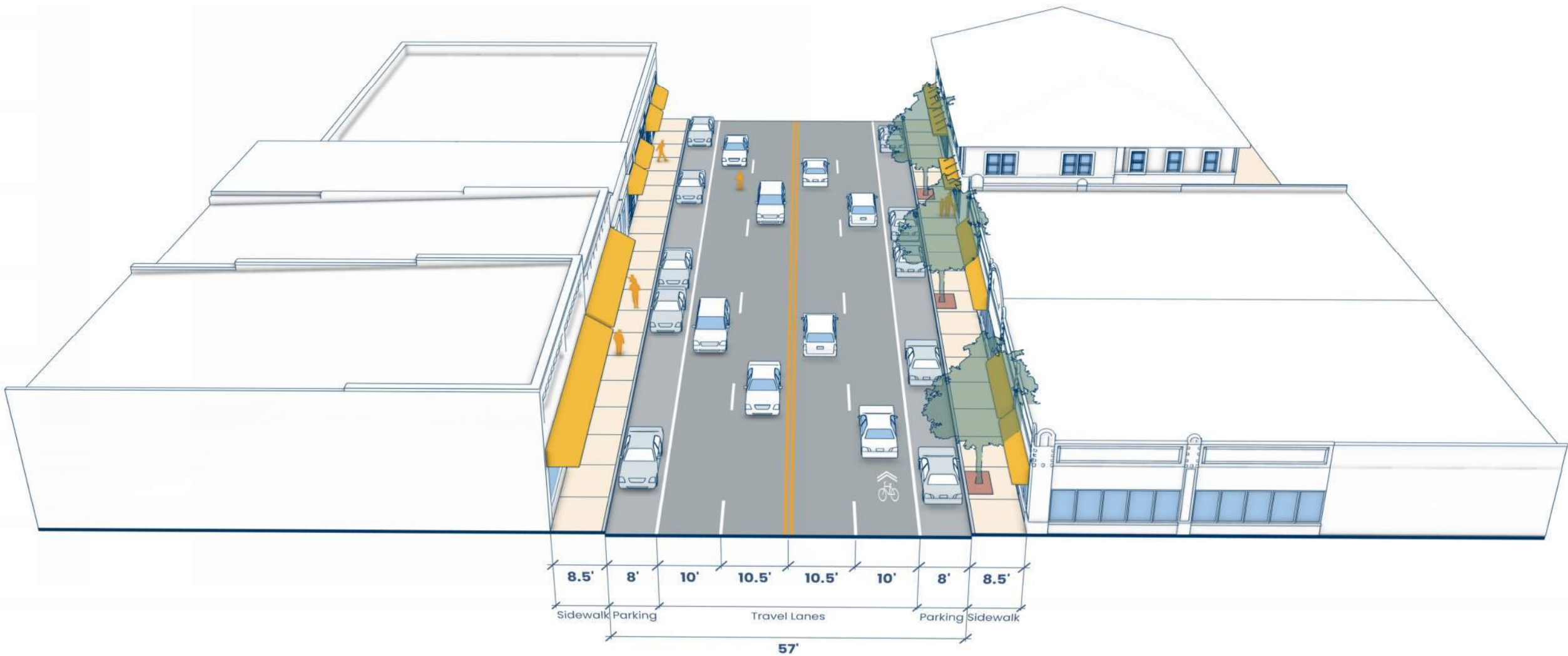
GPA - Chapel to Highland



Alternative 2



GPA - Highland to Pickering



Existing



GPA - Highland to Pickering



Alternative 1



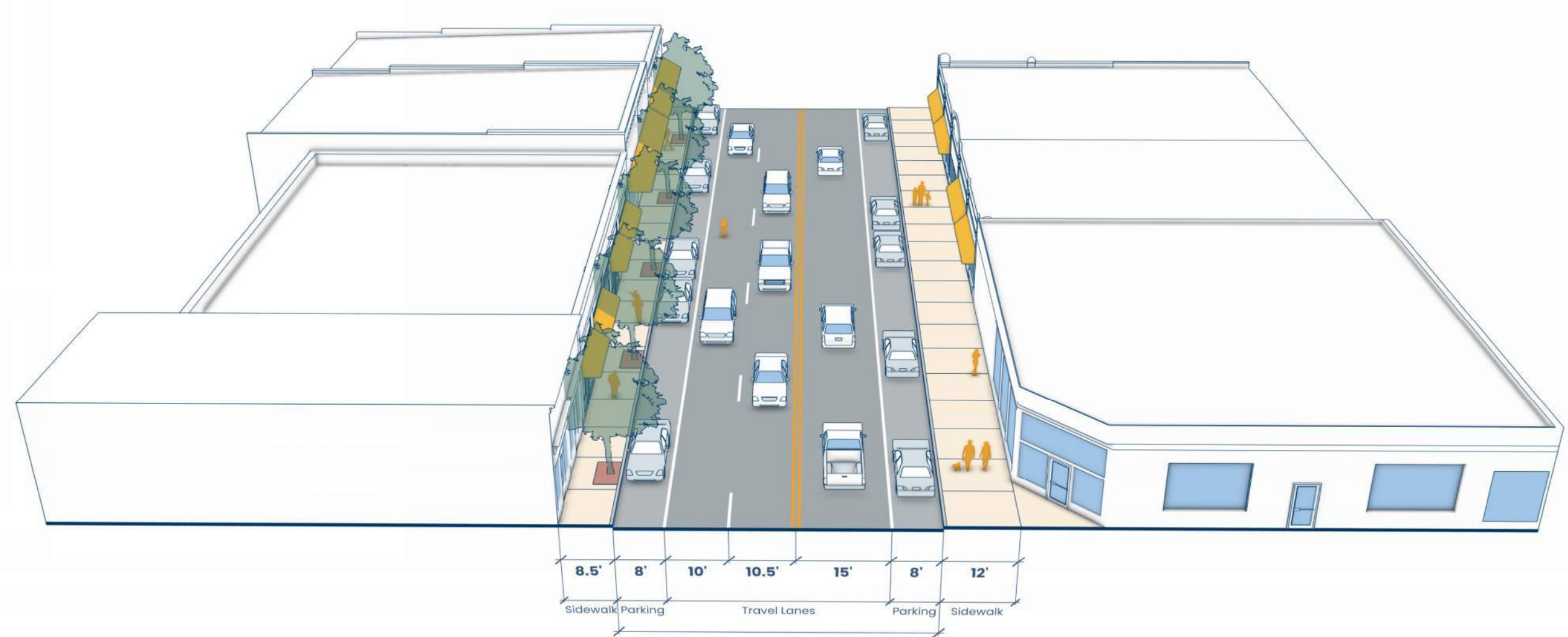
GPA - Highland to Pickering



Alternative 2



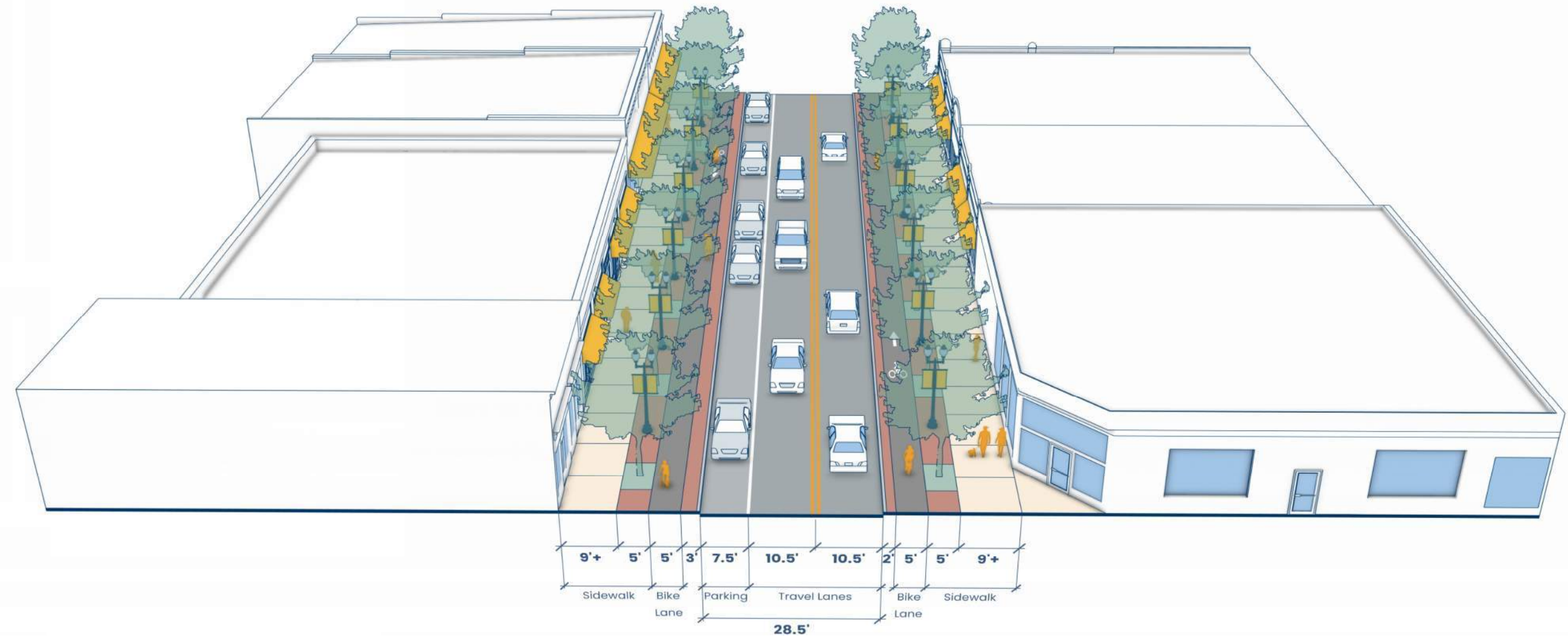
GPA – Nehoiden to Chapel



Existing



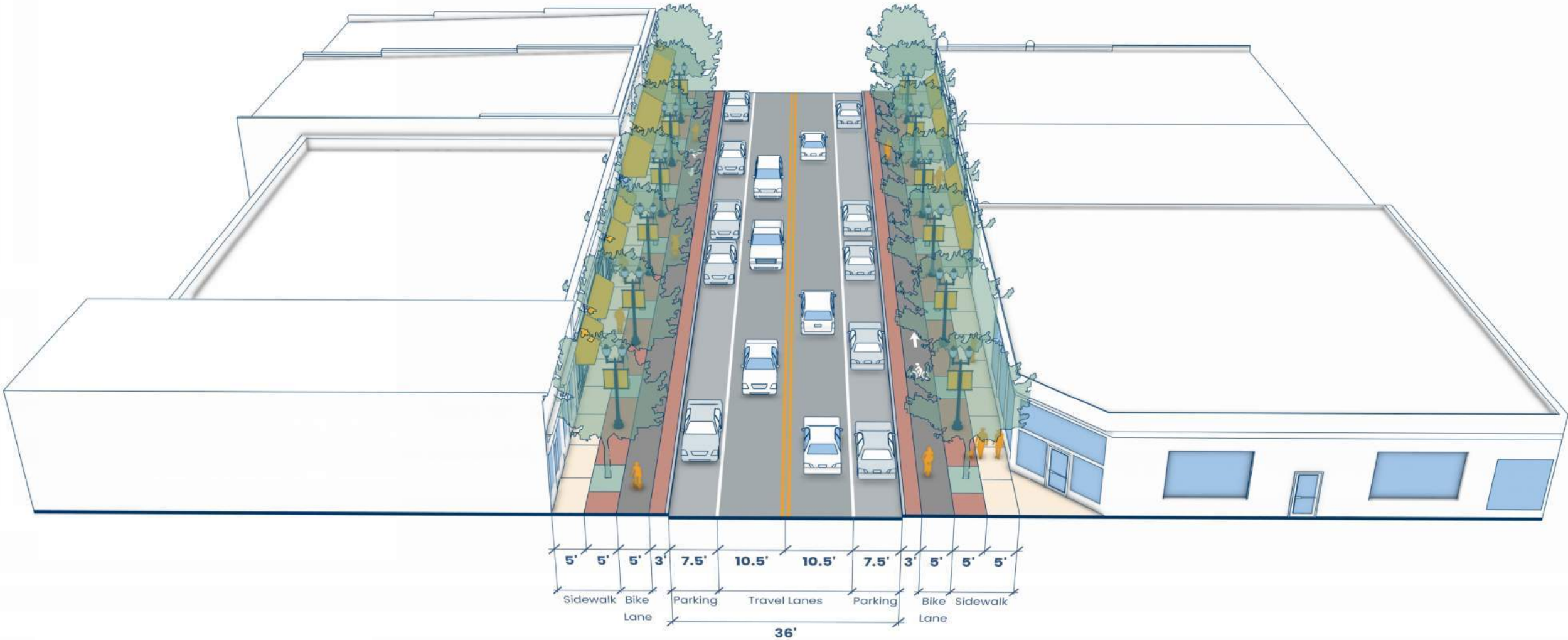
GPA – Nehoiden to Chapel



Alternative 1



GPA – Nehoiden to Chapel



Alternative 2



Pilot Demonstration

Update

