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# Memo

Date: April 19, 2023

To: Public Works Commission

From: Ravi Venkataraman, AICP, Transportation Planner  
Julia Ursaki, PE, Public Works Engineer  
Laura Wheelock, PE, Senior Public Works Engineer

CC: Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works  
Norm Baldwin, PE, Assistant Dir of Public Works / City Engineer  
Phillip Peterson, PE, Public Works Engineer

Subject: East Ave Traffic Calming and Parking Removal

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For your consideration, a draft motion to amend Appendix C is below:

To adopt the following proposed amendments to Appendix C, Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission, Sections 7 (No-parking areas), of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington, in relation to removing parking on East Ave for the purpose of installing traffic calming measures. The Traffic Regulation is included in Attachment 1.

- Section 7 No-parking areas.  
(1-293) As written

(294) ~~In front of 154 East Avenue for a distance of fifty (50) feet.~~ On the east side of East Avenue, beginning at East Village Drive and extending 200 feet to the north

(295) On the east side of East Avenue, 100 feet ~~either side~~ south of Case Parkway

(296-297) As written

(298) On the east side of East Avenue, 260 feet north of ~~Centennial Court~~ Catamount Drive

(299-581) As written

(582) On the east side of East Ave, 160 feet north of Case Parkway

(583) On the east side of East Ave, from 340 feet north of Catamount Drive to 540 feet north of Catamount Drive

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to lower vehicle speeds on East Avenue. Traffic data on East Ave shows that 85 percent of all vehicles on East Avenue drove 33 miles per hour or higher. Between 2015 and 2020, 31 crashes occurred, of which nine resulted in injuries. Between 2020 and March 2023, 33 crashes occurred, of which five resulted in injuries. Based on the existing speeds and crash data, East Avenue qualified for traffic calming treatments per the criteria listed in the 2020 Traffic Calming Manual.

## Project Checklist

	N/A	Yes	No	Reference
Aligns with MUTCD standards and/or established City Policy?		X		MUTCD Chapter 3B
Aligns with City Plans?		X		planBTV Walk Bike designates East Ave. as a corridor slow zone
Followed Public Engagement Plan?		X		This Traffic Regulation change is defined as an INVOLVE project in the Public Engagement Plan (PEP).

## Staff Recommendation

The Department of Public Works (DPW) received a neighborhood traffic calming request from the residents of East Avenue in 2017. After reviewing speed data, crash data, and City plans, the DPW developed traffic calming plans to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety of all users on East Ave. To fit the proposed traffic calming features, DPW recommends removing 13 on-street parking spaces on East Avenue.

## Background

The proposed improvements to East Avenue stem from a traffic calming request from May 2017. We deferred the design of this traffic calming project to 2021 when funds became available.

We have directly engaged with the community through a series of public meetings and worked with VHB to develop designs that best fit the community's needs. The final set of roadway designs features medians and chicanes as well as two raised crossings on East Avenue at the intersections of Bilodeau Court and University Road. This raised crossing at Bilodeau Court complements the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) installed in 2021, which will remain in place. These traffic calming features are spaced to achieve 25 mile per hour speeds on East Ave. With this proposed design, of the 56 existing parking spaces, 13 parking spaces will be removed to fit the traffic calming features.

## Observations

East Avenue has two vehicle travel lanes, with on-street parking on the east side of the street. The East Avenue corridor is predominantly residential. Residential uses along the roadway have one to two driveways and garages for resident parking.

The East Avenue corridor currently has 56 parking spaces. The proposed design would lower the parking to 43 spaces. We conducted parking counts in January 2023, and concluded the parking demand on East Ave can still be accommodated on the corridor with this parking loss. The maximum number of parked cars was 19 during a weekday count, and 14 during a weekend count. The full parking count data is below.

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – East Avenue

Sections of East Avenue	Parking Spaces			Occupied Spaces		
	Existing	Proposed number to be removed	Proposed	9am	1pm	7pm
Colchester Ave to University Rd	21	0	21	12	10	14
University Rd to Case Parkway	7	3	4	0	2	0
Case Parkway to Bilodeau Ct	2	0	2	1	0	0
Bilodeau Ct to East Village	5	3	2	5	5	2
East Village to Catamount Dr.	21	7	14	1	0	3
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>56</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>43</u></b>	<b><u>19</u></b>	<b><u>17</u></b>	<b><u>19</u></b>

Saturday, January 21, 2023 – East Avenue

Sections of East Avenue	Parking Spaces			Occupied Spaces		
	Existing	Proposed number to be removed	Proposed	9am	1pm	7pm
Colchester Ave to University Rd	21	0	21	7	4	9
University Rd to Case Parkway	7	3	4	0	0	0
Case Parkway to Bilodeau Ct	2	0	2	0	0	1
Bilodeau Ct to East Village	5	3	2	4	4	4
East Village to Catamount Dr.	21	7	14	0	0	0
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>56</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>43</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b>

Public Engagement

We hosted two neighborhood meetings on February 15, 2022 and August 23, 2022 with VHB’s assistance. Mailers informing the neighborhood about the respective meetings and the public

comment period for two weeks after each meeting were sent two weeks in advance of each public meeting. We also posted information about the meeting on Front Porch Forum.

During both meetings, we presented a set of draft concepts of the roadway and received feedback from community members. From the February 15, 2022 meeting, we received concerns about the removal of parking between Colchester Avenue and University Road. We revised our plans accordingly and kept the existing parking between University Road and Colchester Avenue. During the August 23, 2022 meeting, the attendees supported our recommended approach, and suggested that we present this to the Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly. We presented the proposed traffic calming design during a Ward 1 NPA meeting on December 14, 2022. The presentation from this meeting, which shows the current design, is included in Attachment 2.

To test the geometry of the roadway with the fire trucks, we conducted a pilot project on September 21, 2022.

Ahead of the April 19, 2023 Public Works Commission meeting, we sent a mailing informing residents and property owners on East Avenue and its side streets of our final recommended plans, and the date and time of the April 19, 2023 Public Works Commission meeting to share their input. The mailing we sent is enclosed. Public input we received by email is included in Attachment 4. As of April 14, 2023, we have received two emails: one in support and the other opposed to this project.

We also informed city councilors representing this area of the proposed plans for East Avenue, and the April 19, 2023 Public Works Commission meeting.

## Conclusion

Based on current speed data and crash data, there is a need for traffic calming on East Avenue to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for all users. We recommend the removal of 13 parking spaces along East Avenue to install the proposed traffic calming treatments. Plans for traffic calming treatments on East Avenue are enclosed for your consideration.

## Implementation Approach and Timeline

If the removal of parking is approved by the Public Works Commission, we anticipate finalizing the design and construction documents in the coming months. Then, we would procure a contractor for the installation of the traffic calming measures. Construction would begin later this year or during the spring and summer of 2024, depending on bids received.

## Attachments

1. Traffic Regulation
2. Presentation slides for December 14, 2022 Ward 1 NPA Meeting
3. April 2023 Public Works Commission Meeting Mailing
4. Public input received by email

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In the Year Two Thousand Twenty-three

A Regulation in Relation to

Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission—  
Section 7. No parking areas.

Sponsor(s): <u>Public Works Commission</u> Action: <u>Approved</u> Date: <u>4/19/2023</u> Attestation of Adoption:  <hr/> <i>Phillip Peterson, PE</i> <i>Public Works Engineer, Technical Services</i> Published: _____ Effective: _____
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It is hereby Ordained by the Public Works Commission of the City of Burlington as follows:

That Appendix C, Rule and Regulations of the Traffic Commission, Section 7, No parking areas, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 7: No parking Areas**  
.....

- (1-293) As written
- (294) ~~In front of 154 East Avenue for a distance of fifty (50) feet.~~ On the east side of East Avenue, beginning at East Village Drive and extending south to the driveway for 154 East Avenue.
- (295) On the east side of East Avenue, 100 feet ~~either side~~ south of Case Parkway.
- (296-297) As written
- (298) On the east side of East Avenue, 260 feet north of ~~Centennial Court~~ Catamount Drive
- (299-581) As written
- (582) On the east side of East Ave, 160 feet north of Case Parkway
- (583) On the east side of East Ave, from 350 feet north of Catamount Drive to 500 feet north of Catamount Drive

\*\* Material stricken out deleted.  
\*\*\* Material underlined added.

# East Ave Traffic Calming

December 14, 2022 | Ward 1 NPA Meeting

Julia Ursaki, PE and Laura Wheelock, PE



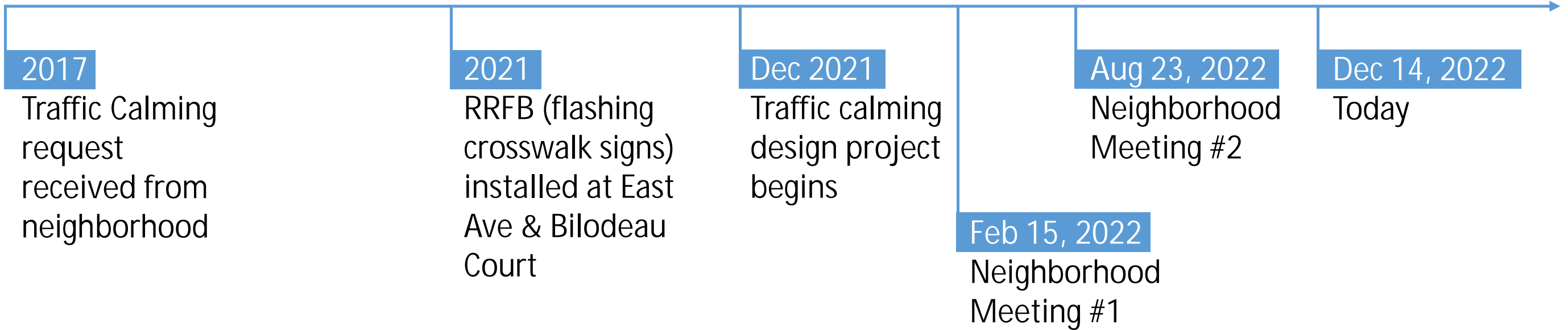
# Scope of this Project

- Design and evaluate traffic calming features along East Ave



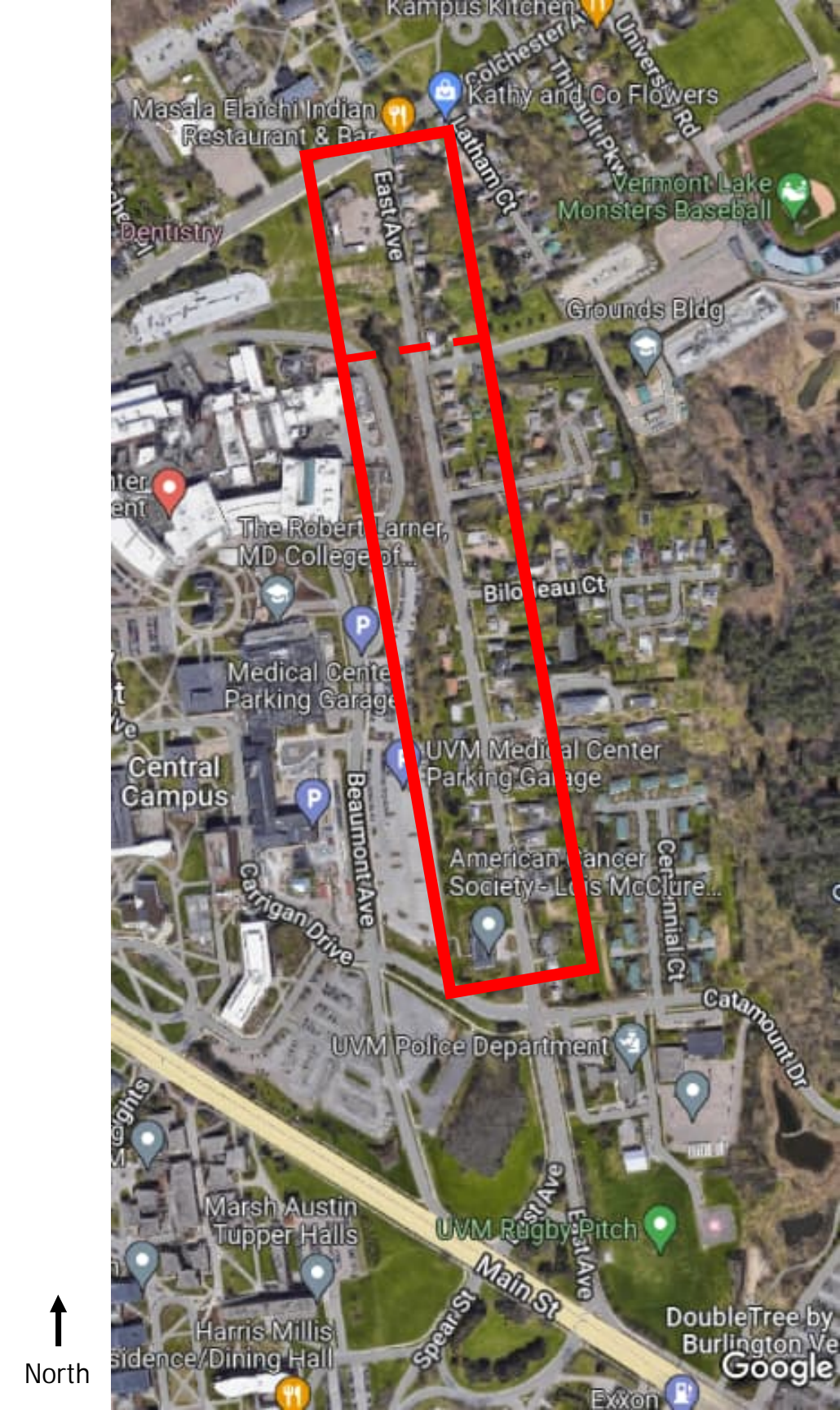


# Project History



# Project Area

- Carrigan Drive – University Road
- Originally included northern block of East Ave, removed due to concerns over parking loss

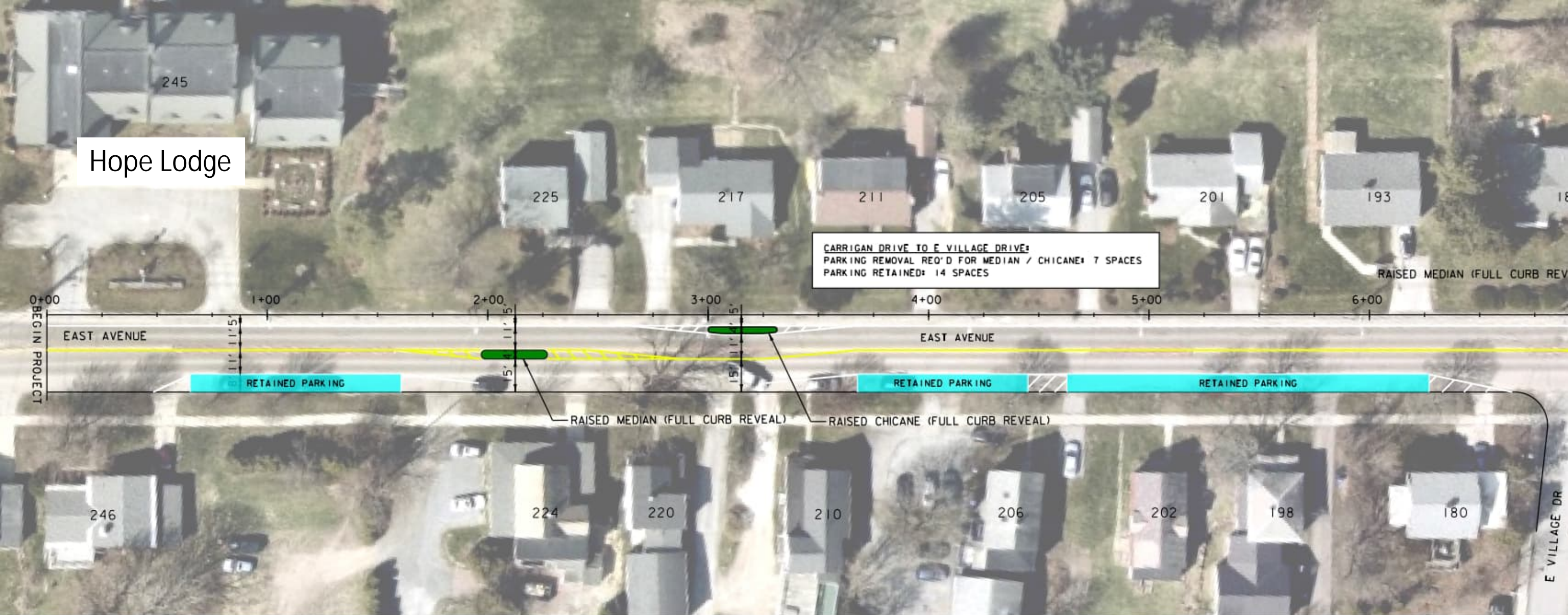


# Traffic Calming Features Median/Chicanes



# Traffic Calming Features Raised Crosswalks





Hope Lodge

CARRIGAN DRIVE TO E VILLAGE DRIVE:  
 PARKING REMOVAL REQ'D FOR MEDIAN / CHICANE: 7 SPACES  
 PARKING RETAINED: 14 SPACES

RAISED MEDIAN (FULL CURB REVEAL)

BEGIN PROJECT

EAST AVENUE

EAST AVENUE

RETAINED PARKING

RETAINED PARKING

RETAINED PARKING

RAISED MEDIAN (FULL CURB REVEAL)

RAISED CHICANE (FULL CURB REVEAL)

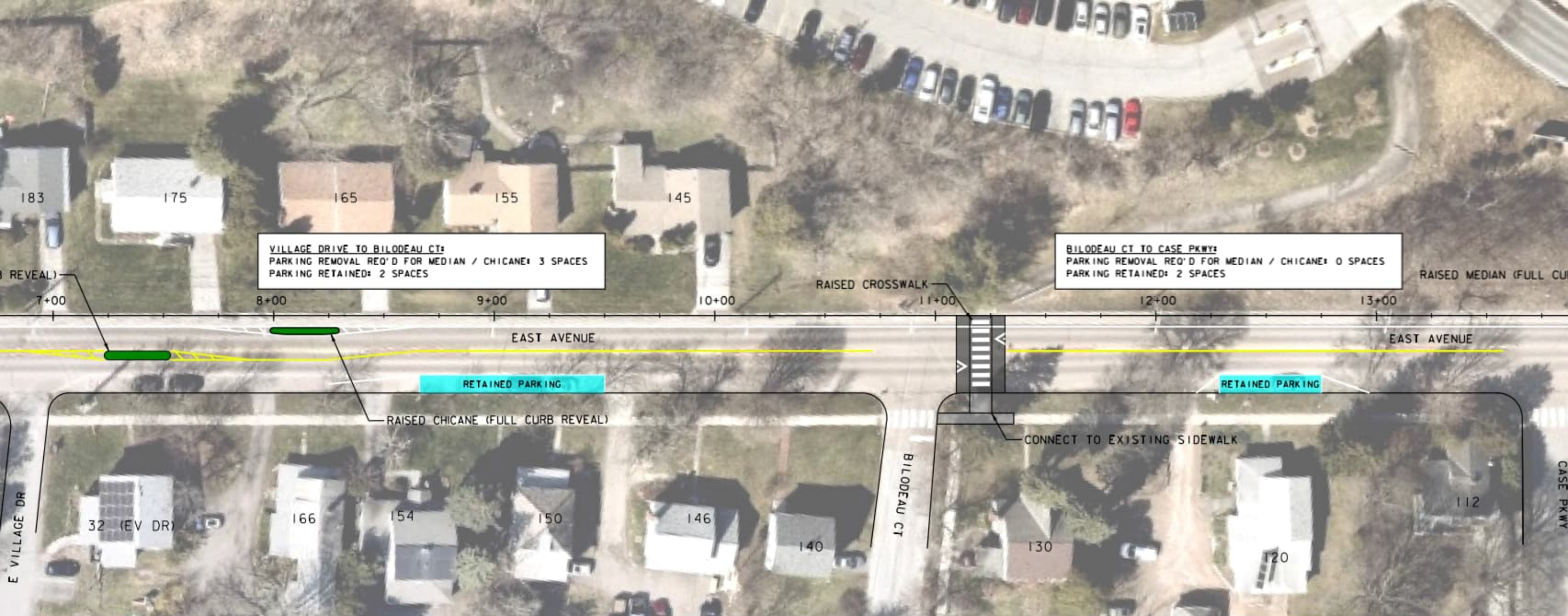
E VILLAGE DR



# Carrigan Drive to East Village Drive

- 1 median/chicane
- Remove 7 parking spaces; retain 14





## East Village Drive to Bilodeau Court

- 1 median/chicane
- Remove 3 parking spaces; retain 2

## Bilodeau Court to Case Parkway

- 1 raised crosswalk
- Retain 2 parking spaces





# Case Parkway to University Road

- 1 median/chicane
- 1 raised crosswalk
- Remove 3 parking spaces; retain 4



# Next Steps

Spring 2023

Final design and construction documents

2023 or 2024 Construction Season (April-October)

Anticipated construction





# Contact

Julia Ursaki, PE

[jursaki@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:jursaki@burlingtonvt.gov)

802-809-1355





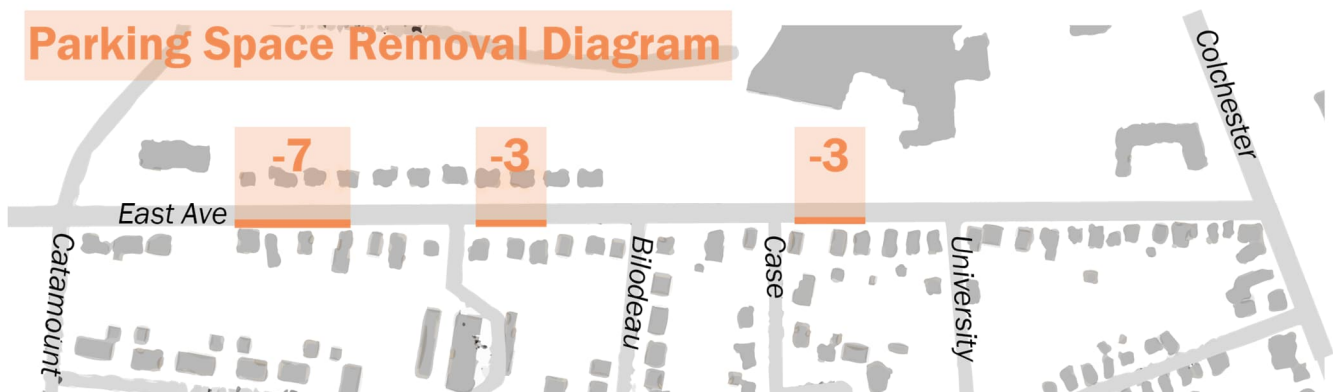
## Dear East Ave Residents & Property Owners,

After receiving a Traffic Calming Request from the neighborhood in 2017, the Department of Public Works developed traffic calming plans to reduce vehicle speeds on East Ave and improve safety on this street for all users. This includes installing three median/chicanes and two raised crosswalks. To fit these traffic calming features, 13 on-street parking spaces would need to be removed from East Ave. This proposal is consistent with concepts presented at the Ward 1 NPA in December and neighborhood meeting in August 2022.

DPW parking counts in January 2023 indicate that the existing parking demand can still be accommodated on the corridor with this parking loss. East Ave currently has 56 on-street parking spaces and the proposed design would lower this to 43 spaces. Of the 56 on-street parking spaces available, the maximum number of parked cars was 19 during a weekday count and 14 during a weekend count.

For these reasons, DPW staff recommends removing 13 on-street parking spaces on East Ave to install traffic calming features on the road. DPW staff intend to bring their final recommendation to the Public Works Commission at their April 19, 2023 meeting, where a vote will potentially be taken. This will be another opportunity to share public comment. If approved, the traffic calming measures would be installed in the summer of 2023 or 2024, depending on construction bids. The traffic calming plans are available to view on the Burlington DPW website: [burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/TrafficCalming](http://burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/TrafficCalming)

To submit feedback ahead of the Public Works Commission meeting, email us at [dpwplanning@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:dpwplanning@burlingtonvt.gov) or phone (802-863-9094). You can also share your feedback during the Public Works Commission meeting on April 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the meeting room at 645 Pine St., and online via Zoom. When available, those details can be found at [burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Commission/Agendas](http://burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Commission/Agendas).



Julia Ursaki

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From: Julia Ursaki  
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 10:27 AM  
To: Peg Boyle Single  
Cc: Phillip Peterson  
Subject: RE: East Avenue Traffic Calming

Hi Peg,

Received and understood, thank you for reaching out. Since this parking request isn't specifically related to our traffic calming project, I am adding Phillip here who handles parking requests like this one.

Julia

Julia Ursaki, PE (she/her)  
*Public Works Transportation Engineer*  
Burlington Department of Public Works  
645 Pine Street | Burlington VT, 05401  
802-809-1355  
[jursaki@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:jursaki@burlingtonvt.gov)

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.

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From: Peg Boyle Single <pegboylesingle@gmail.com>  
Sent: Saturday, April 8, 2023 1:16 PM  
To: dpwplanning <dpwplanning@burlingtonvt.gov>  
Subject: East Avenue Traffic Calming

You don't often get email from [pegboylesingle@gmail.com](mailto:pegboylesingle@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Dear Planning Team,

Thank you for the work you are doing on East Avenue to make the traffic flow more smoothly and to make it safer for our children and everyone.

Removing one parking spot on the northernmost spot on East Avenue would have a big return on investment. It would allow another lane so drivers could make a right-on-red and not cause the regular backup from East Avenue onto Colchester Avenue. I know this spot is for the restaurant, but if they were given a spot somewhere on Colchester, on Trinity Campus, or in the Department of Health parking lot, it would make the biggest impact

in terms of making traffic move more smoothly on East Avenue heading north.

Please confirm that you have received this email and it is being folded into the feedback you are receiving.

Thank you,  
Peg Boyle Single

Julia Ursaki

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From: Daniel Albert <legionshome@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 7:39 PM  
To: dpwplanning  
Subject: East Avenue Traffic Calming Plans

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed

You don't often get email from legionshome@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

I offer this feedback to the DPW recommended plan for traffic calming on East Avenue, calling for the reduction of on-street parking by 13 spaces.

1. Why has it taken 6 years from the time of the residents initial request to get to this point? This seems remarkably slow and inefficient.
2. I question the accuracy of your data. When was the data collected? In 2017? Was your data collected during the day or after the normal work-day was over, when the tendency is for more parked cars to be on the street? Was the data collected during UVM's "winter session" when the student body is considerably smaller than other times?
3. Your letter to residents says "This proposal is consistent with concepts presented at the Ward I NPA in December and neighborhood meeting in August 2022." It's interesting to note there is no claim by DPW that the concepts were endorsed by the participating citizenry, only that they were "presented".

We can do better. Back to square one with a robust effort, grounded in creative thinking, to come up with a more workable plan. Thank you.

Dan Albert  
10 East Village Drive  
Burlington 05401