



Alma Street/ Charleston Road Safety Improvements

Community Meeting #1 October 28, 2025

PaloAlto.gov/AlmaCharleston



HEXAGON
TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

CALA

AGENDA



- **Introductions**
- **Purpose**
- **Background**
- **Preliminary Concept**
- **Next Steps**
- **Q & A**

Purpose

- Addresses immediate safety concerns
- Project Limits: Alma Street/ Charleston Road intersection



Background - Funding

Funded by Section 130

- Project initiated by CPUC
- Federal program for the elimination of hazards at at-grade rail crossings
- Partnership between Caltrain, Caltrans, and City
- Adhere to CPUC requirements and guidelines
- Limited to specific scope of work



Background - Railroad Crossing Constraints

- Caltrans Section 130 Funding Scope
- Multiple Stakeholders
 - Caltrans
 - Caltrain
 - California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
- Design Considerations
 - Right-of-Way (no property impacts)
 - Existing Utilities
 - Visibility
 - Sidewalk grades and elevation

Background – Other Project in the Vicinity

Railroad Grade Separation Project

- Major long term infrastructure project
- Alternatives are being refined to 15% design
- Rail Committee review scheduled for November 18, 2025
- Final Design is expected to begin in 2028/2029



Hybrid Concept

Project Website: www.paloalto.gov/gradeseparation

Background – Other Project in the Vicinity

Railroad Grade Separation Project



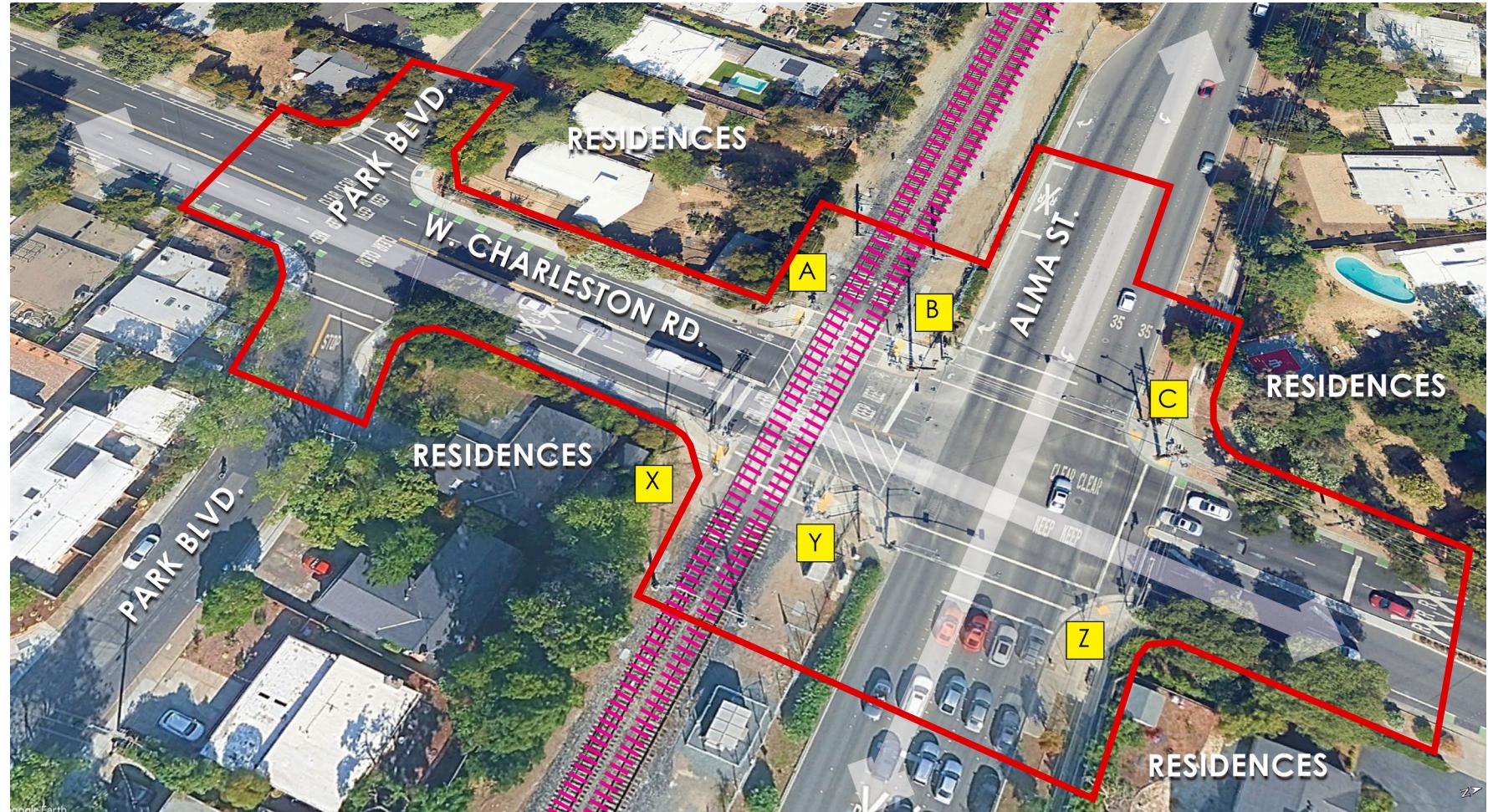
Underpass & Direct Access Ramp Alternative



Underpass and Roundabout Alternative

LEGEND

- PROJECT LIMITS
- CURB RAMPS
- CALTRAIN TRACKS

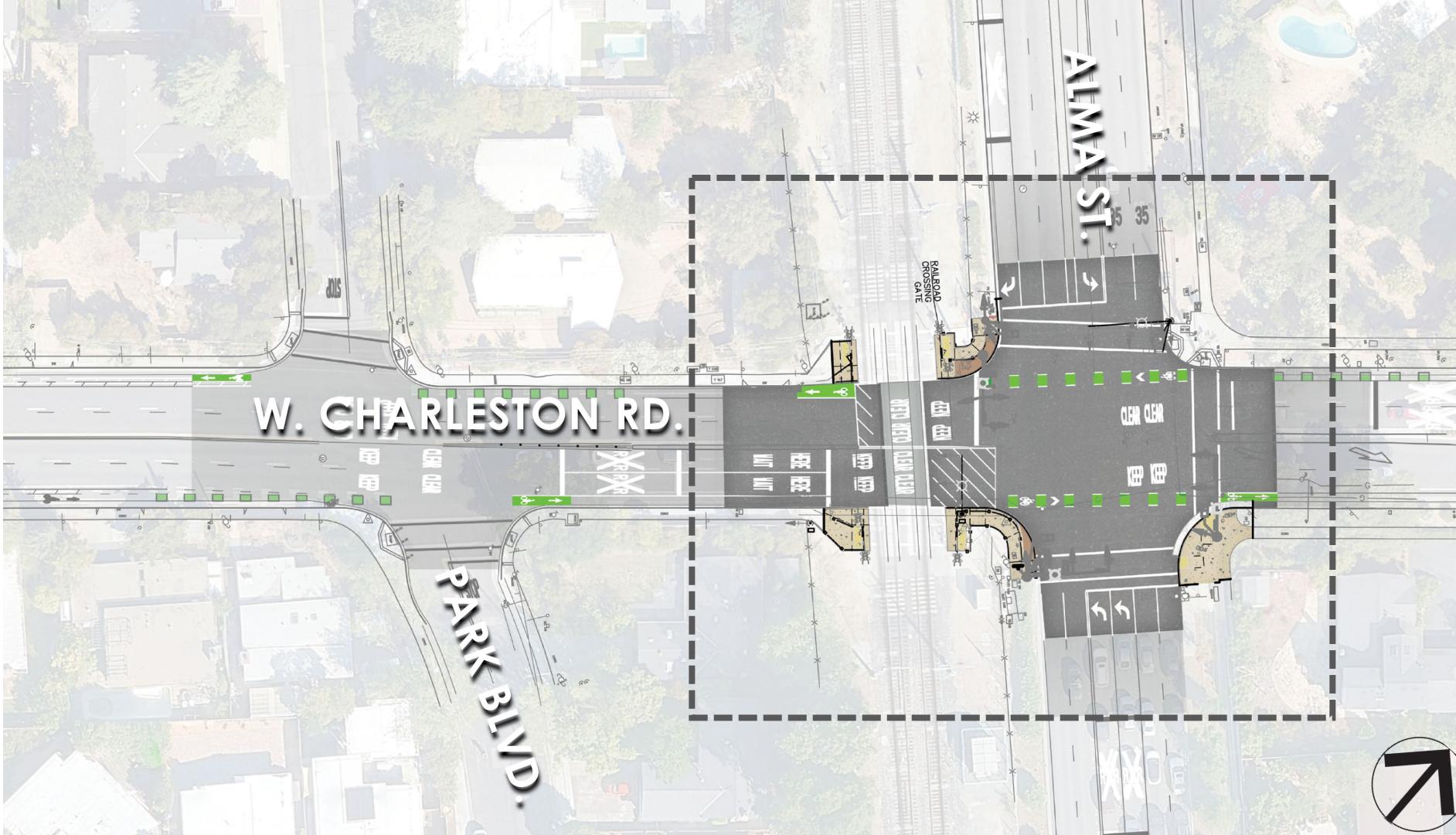




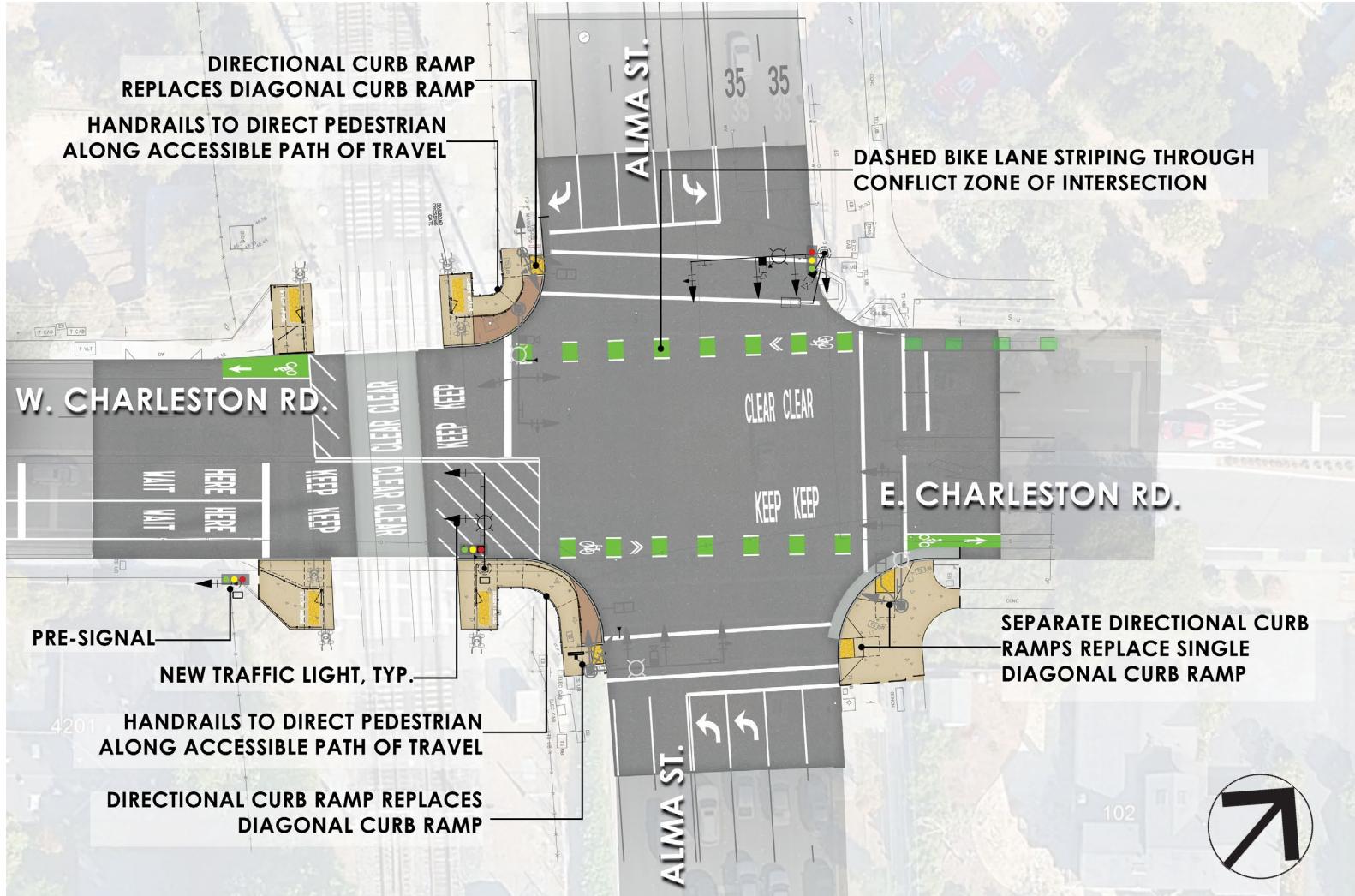
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Preliminary Concept

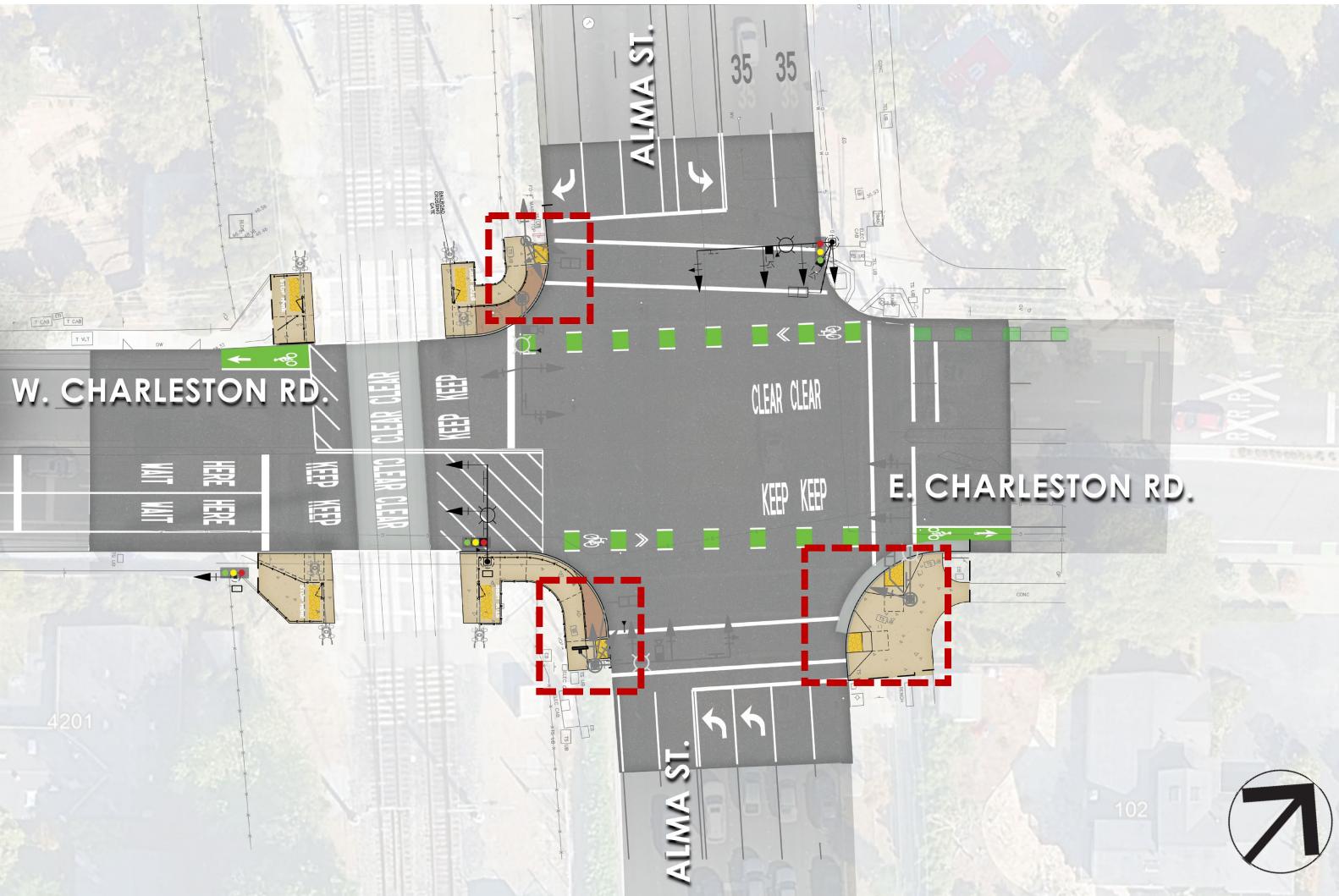
Proposed Improvements



Alma Street/ Charleston Road Intersection



Alma St/ Charleston Rd Intersection – Directional Curb Ramps

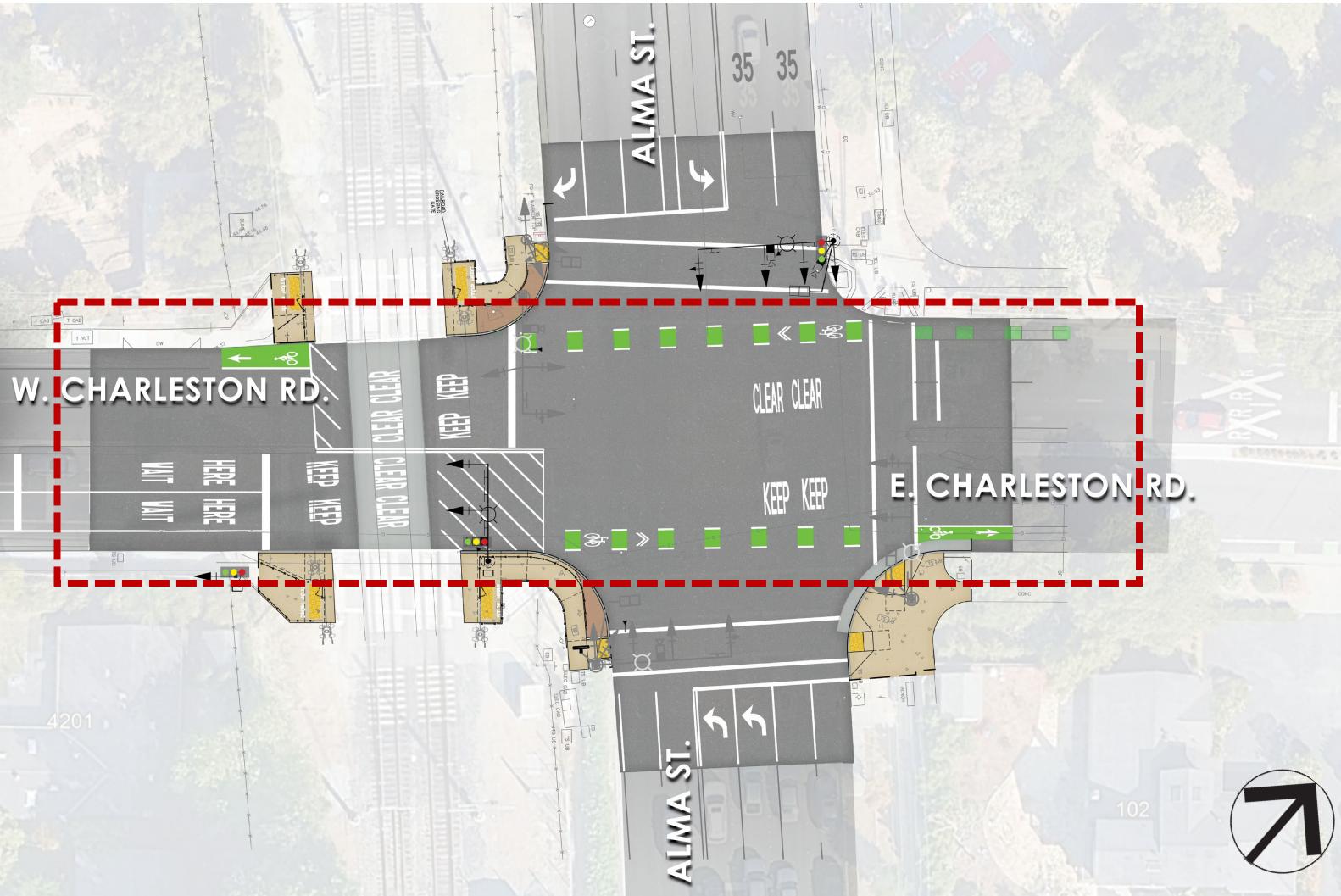


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Alma St/ Charleston Rd Intersection – Handrails

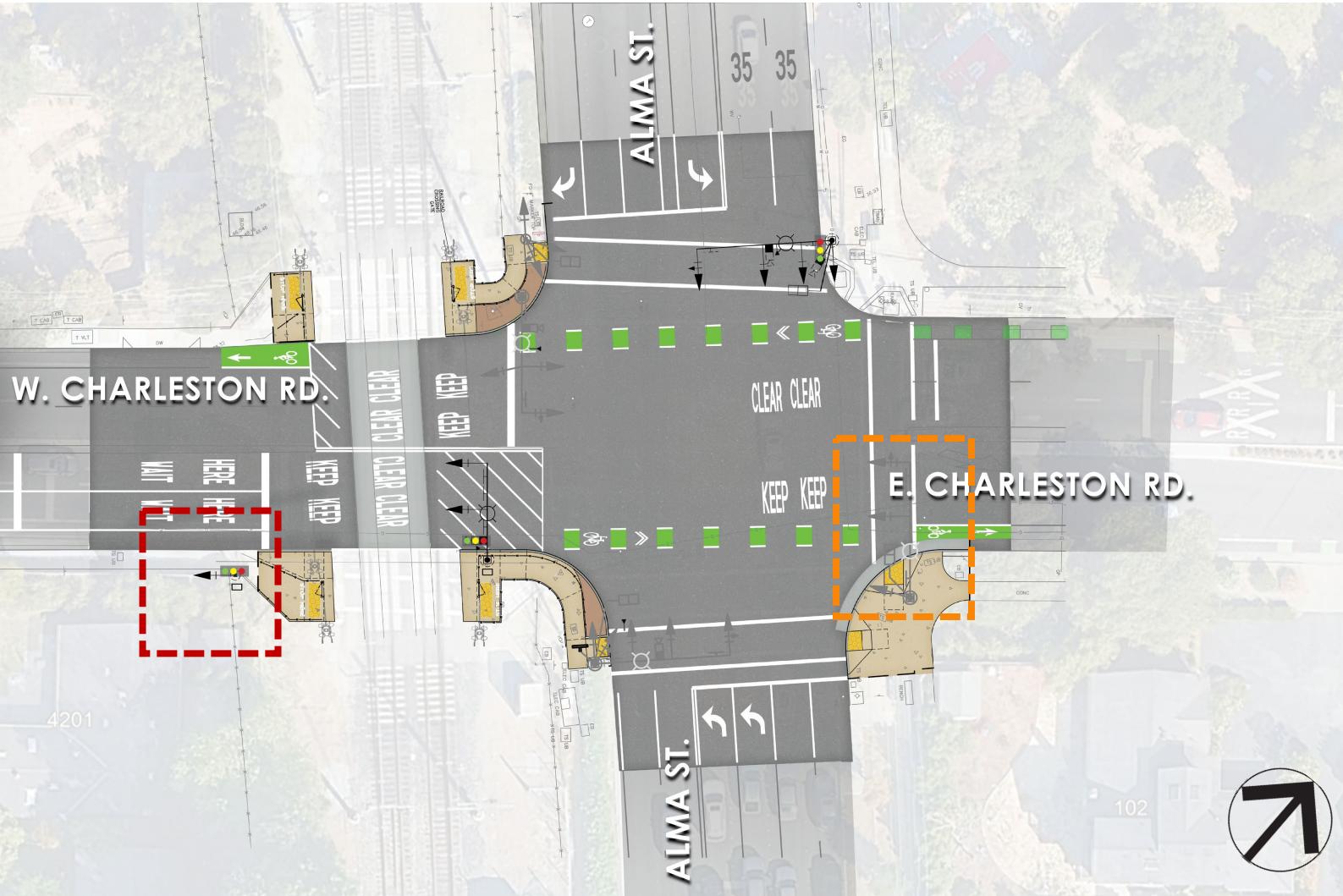


Alma St/ Charleston Rd Intersection – Bike Lane Improvements



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Alma St/ Charleston Rd Intersection – Pre-Signal



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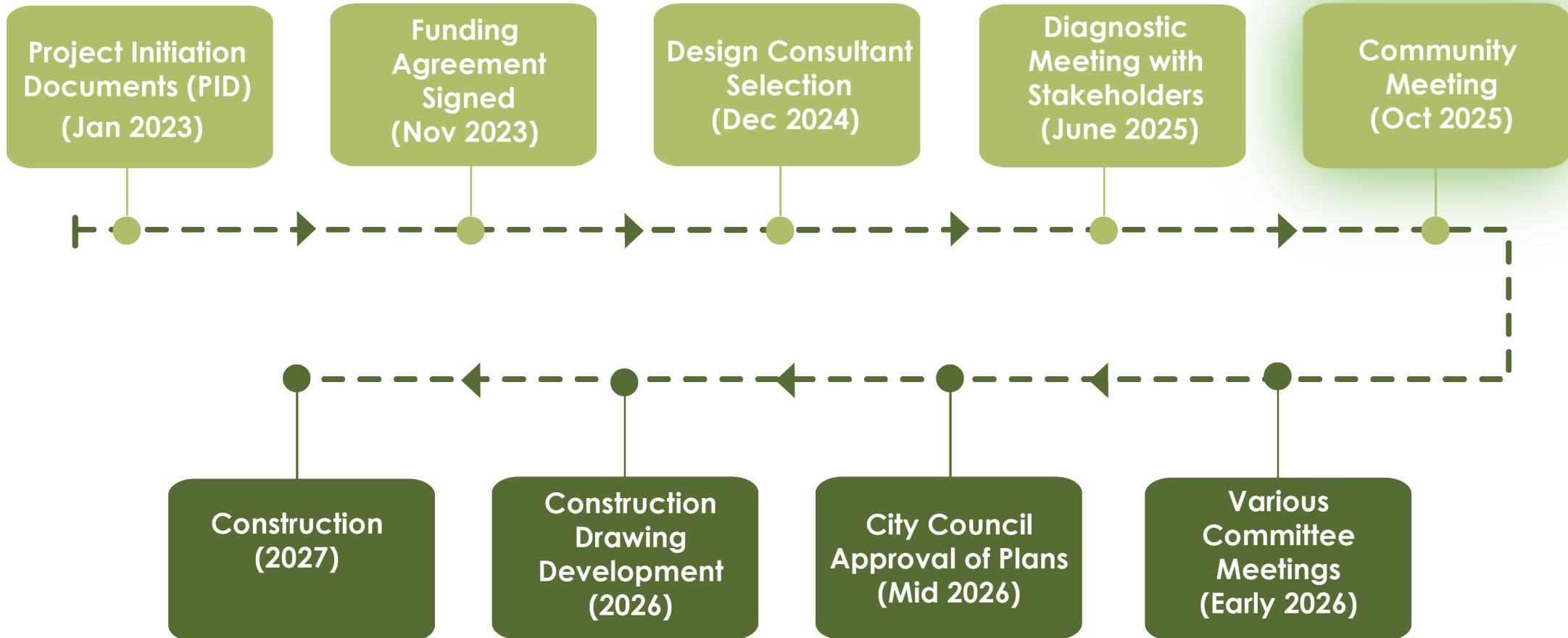
What is a pre-signal?

- Installed before the railroad tracks (EB Charleston)
- Improves safety by preventing vehicles from being stranded on the tracks
- Coordinated with the signal to ensure tracks are cleared



Recently installed pre-signal at Alma St. /Churchill Ave.

Next Steps





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