

# FAIRFAX DRIVE & KIRKWOOD ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## Final Concept Introduction

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# Staff Introduction

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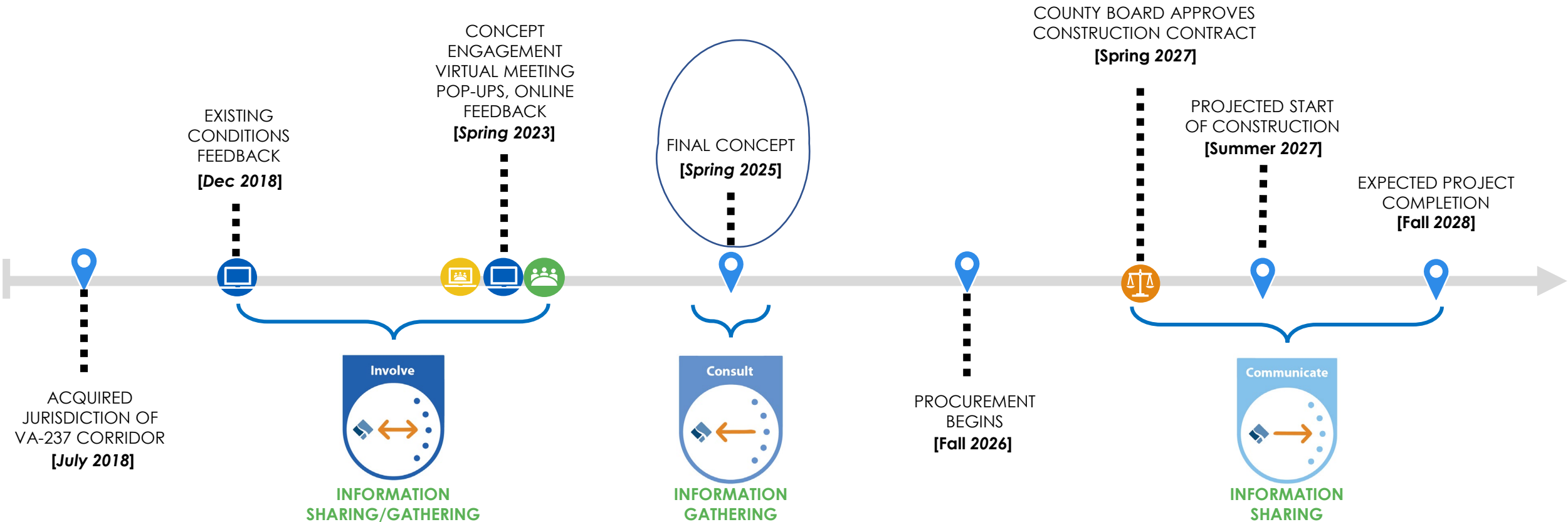
# Agenda

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- Project Background
- Concept Design Feedback (Spring 2023)
- Final Concept Introduction (Spring 2025)
- Next Steps – Final Engineering

# Fairfax/Kirkwood – Public Engagement Timeline

**Funding:** Local funds  
**Staff Contact:** Ariel Yang  
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# Project Background



# Project Area



- Fairfax Drive and Kirkwood Road
  - Kirkwood Rd from Washington Blvd to Fairfax Dr
  - N Jackson Street from Fairfax Dr to Wilson Blvd
- In 2018, Arlington acquired jurisdiction of the VA-237 corridor from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

# Goals & Planning Guidance

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- The intersection project seeks to improve safety for people walking and rolling, taking transit, biking, and driving.
- The **Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element** (2019) identifies Fairfax Drive as a primary bicycle corridor.
- The **Clarendon Sector Plan** (2022) identifies the project intersection as an improvement area to better connect the western end of Clarendon to the central Clarendon.
- **Vision Zero High-Injury Network Audit** (January 2023) also identifies this intersection as a capital project to improve safety in the corridor.
- The project is in the **Arlington Public Schools (APS) Walk Zone** for Washington and Liberty High School.

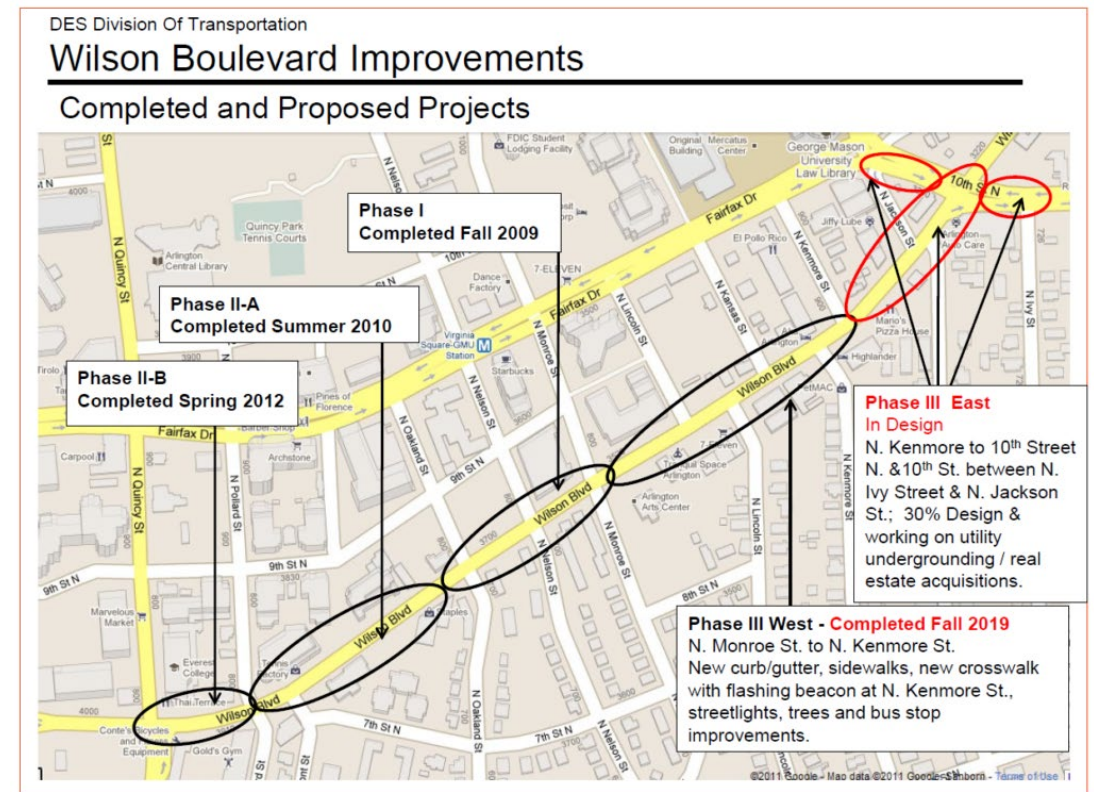


# Adjacent County Projects

## ■ Wilson Boulevard Streetscape Improvements, Phase III East

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Wilson-Boulevard-Streetscape-Improvements-Clarendon-Area>

- The final east phase, including utility undergrounding, is in 100% design. Construction is anticipated to begin fall 2025.





# Concept Design Feedback Summary

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Spring 2023



# Feedback We Incorporated

	Community Feedback
<b>Bicycle/Scooter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Desire for bike skip marks adjacent to high visibility crosswalk in the west leg of intersection</li><li>▪ Desire for vertical protection on Kirkwood Road</li><li>▪ Desire for bike/scooter access through Jackson Street</li><li>▪ Concern over flipped directional bike crossing in the northern leg</li><li>▪ Desire for bike skip marks for NB and SB bike lanes over Washington Blvd intersection</li><li>▪ Desire for better wayfinding for cyclists</li><li>▪ Desire for separation of modes on the large median island</li></ul>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Concern about 10<sup>th</sup> St median nose conflicting with vehicles turning left from EB Fairfax Drive to continue on EB Fairfax Drive</li></ul>

# Feedback for Next Design Phase

	Community Feedback
<b>Pedestrian Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Desire for trees and shade at the intersection</li><li>▪ Desire for larger extent of concrete sidewalk replacement</li></ul> <p>Project Team will finalize landscape and sidewalk details when layout of the project is confirmed.</p>
<b>Bicycle/Scooter Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Concern over ability of cargo bikes maneuverability</li><li>▪ Interest in adding a bike box in EB Fairfax Drive left turn lane</li><li>▪ Desire for vertical protection for eastbound bike lane on Fairfax Drive</li><li>▪ Desire for bike path from SB Kirkwood Road to EB Fairfax Drive median to facilitate left turn movement</li></ul> <p>Project Team will review specific bike movements when overall design for bike routes is confirmed.</p>
<b>Motor Vehicle Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Desire to extend median on Fairfax Drive to serve as barrier to prevent vehicles from heading toward Jackson Street</li></ul> <p>Project Team will review when overall intersection geometric layout is confirmed.</p>

# Final Concept

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Spring 2025



# Final Concept

Washington  
Blvd/Kirkwood Rd  
Intersection

Fairfax Dr/Kirkwood  
Rd Intersection

Jackson St/Wilson  
Blvd Intersection



# Final Concept – Fairfax Dr/Kirkwood Rd

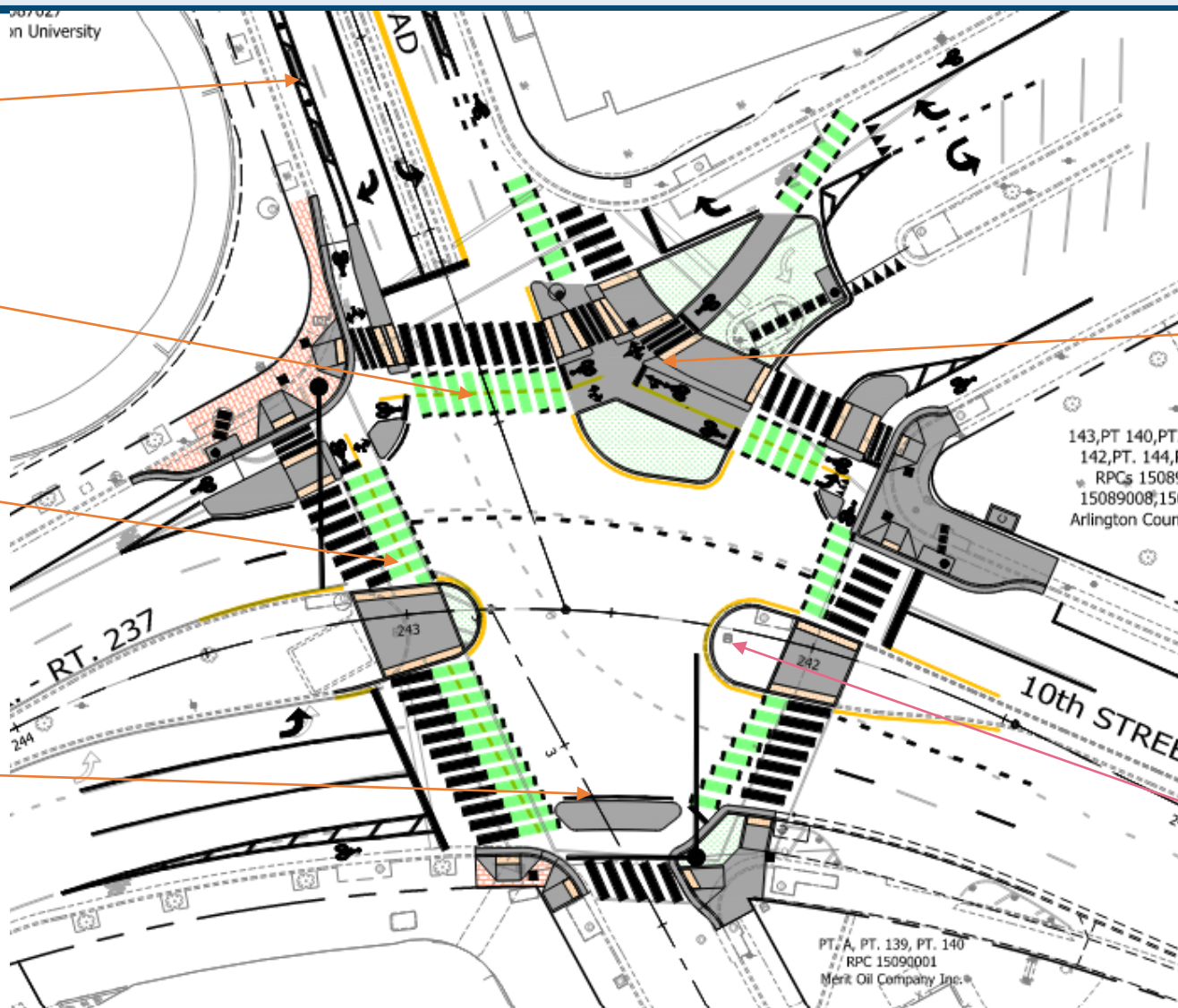
Added vertical protection on Kirkwood Road.

Removed flipped directional bike crossing.

Added two-way bike skip marks adjacent to high visibility crosswalk.

Added bike protection island with mountable curb, closing Jackson Street for motor vehicles while allowing bike/scooter access through Jackson Street.

\*Project team continues to review the effectiveness of bike protection island at this location given recent feedback on safety and fire truck access.



Separated bikes from pedestrians in the large median island, making wayfinding easier.

- Pedestrian spaces are separated by raised header curb from bike lanes.
- WB Fairfax Drive continues through the island, crosses over Kirkwood Rd and through a protected intersection corner.
- SB Kirkwood Rd to EB Fairfax Drive are facilitated through the large median island.
- EB Fairfax Drive to NB Kirkwood Rd movement is provided through separated bike lanes.

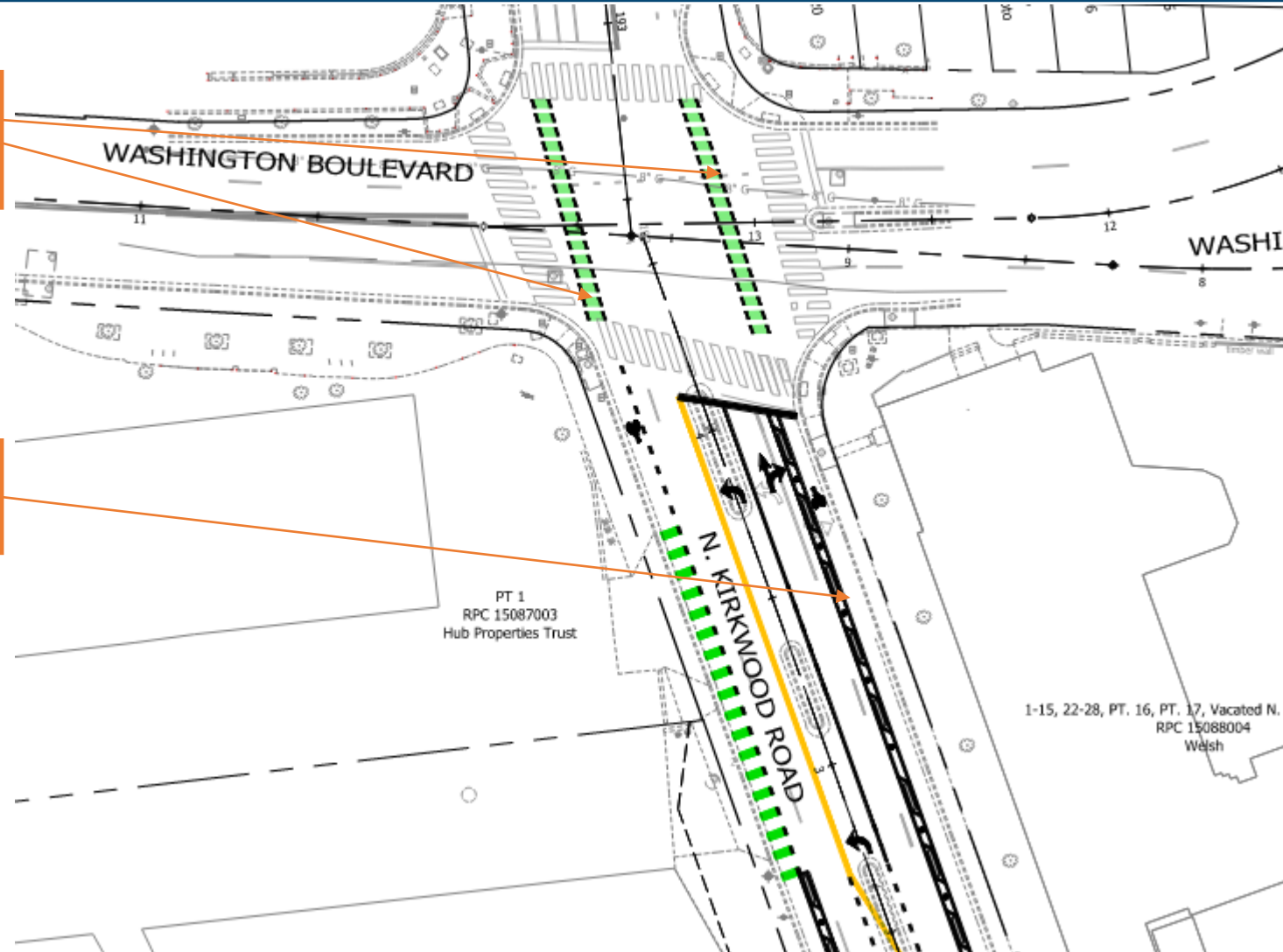
Trimmed median nose to reduce potential conflict with vehicles from EB left turn pocket on Fairfax Dr continuing east on Fairfax Drive through the intersection.



# Final Concept – Washington Blvd/Kirkwood Rd

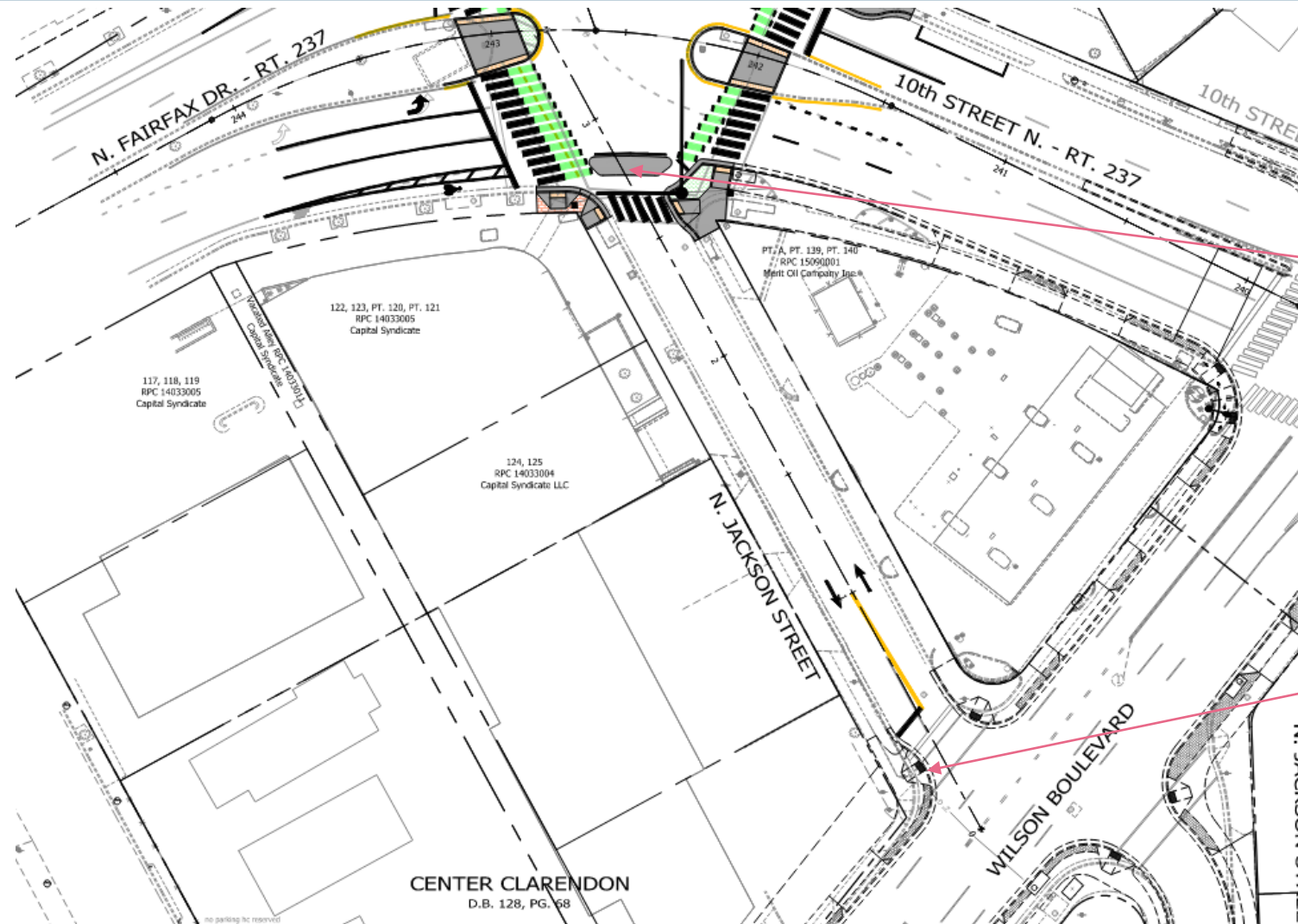
Added bike skip marks in NB and SB direction through Washington Blvd/Kirkwood Rd intersection

Added vertical protection on Kirkwood Road.





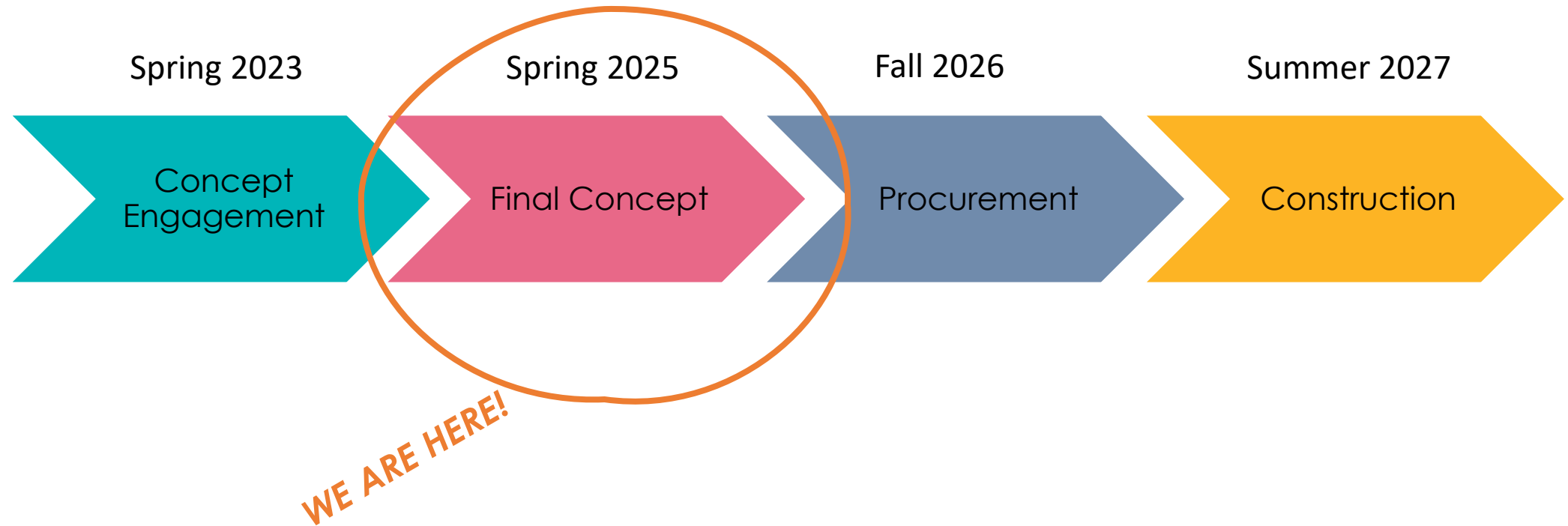
# Final Concept – Jackson St/Fairfax Dr



Closed Jackson St at Fairfax/Kirkwood intersection to motor vehicles to improve safety for all users.

Motor vehicle access maintained at Jackson St/Wilson Blvd and pavement markings improved for two-way traffic.

# Next Steps



# Questions?

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**Thank you!**

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