

2026 Sidewalk Gap Elimination

Design & Information Meeting

July 29, 2025

City of Ann Arbor – Public Services Area – Engineering

engage.a2gov.org/applepearjohn-sidewalk

Meeting Norms

- Commit to learning and avoiding speculation.
- Please remember the importance of rights and the dignity of others.
  - Critique ideas, not people.
  - Use thoughtful language so this can be a comfortable and respectful session for all participants.

Public Engagement

- **The project team will conduct public engagement through online and in-person means to:**
  - Propose project plan to residents
  - Discuss resident’s concerns and needs

Project Staff

Francisca Chan
Project Manager
fchan@a2gov.org
734.794.6410 ext. 43701



Cyrus Naheedy
Transportation Engineer
cnaheedy@a2gov.org
734.794.6410 ext. 43645



Jasmine Isaac
Community Engagement Specialist
jisaac@a2gov.org
734.794.6320 ext. 42590



Carmelle Tremblay
Professional Engineer
Wade Trim
ctremblay@wadetrim.com
734.947.2768

Agenda

Project Overview and Need

Guided Walk Feedback Review

Sidewalk Design Concepts

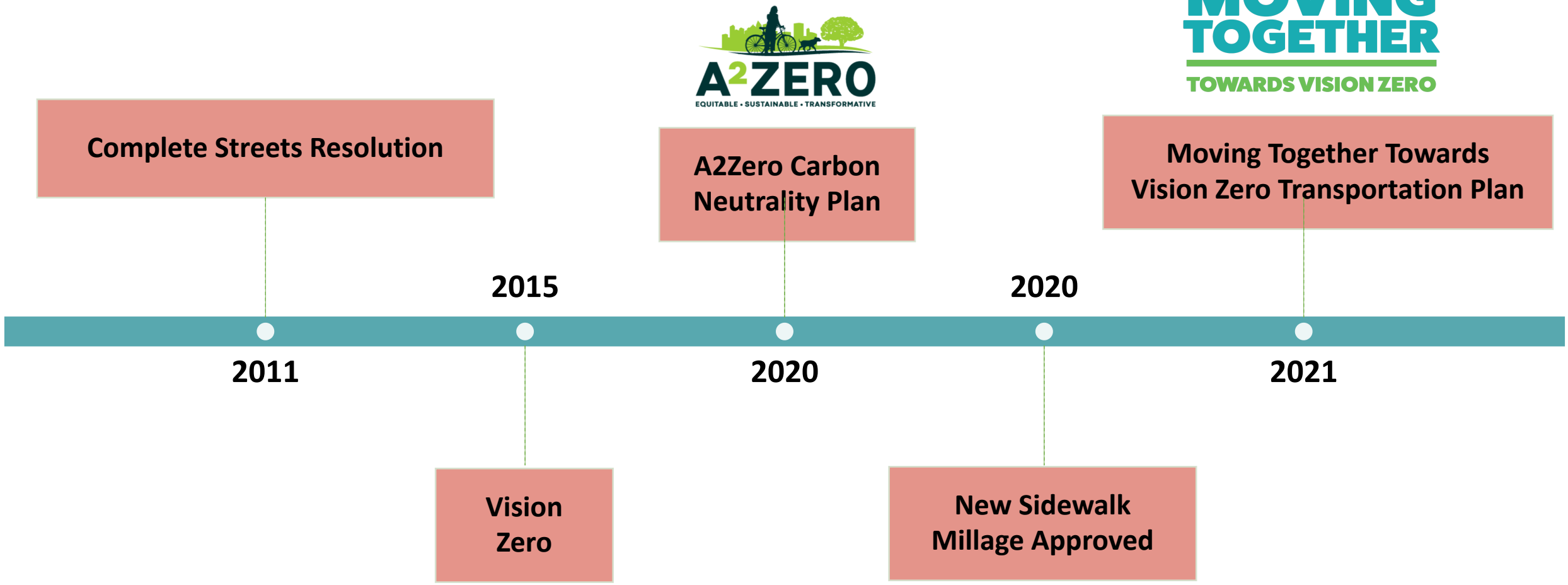
Next Steps

Questions

Project Overview & Need

Project Purpose and Need

Transportation Policy Milestones:



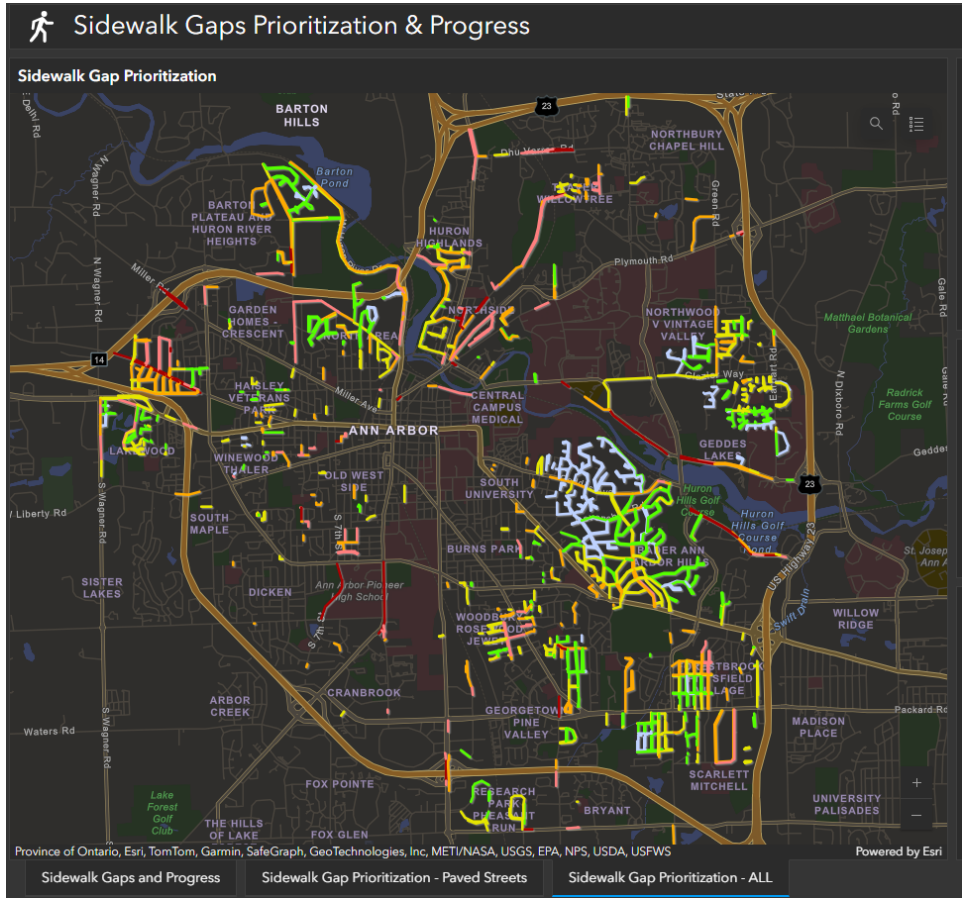
Ann Arbor's Mobility Goals & Values

- ✓Safety
- ✓Accessibility for All
- ✓Mobility

A2ZERO

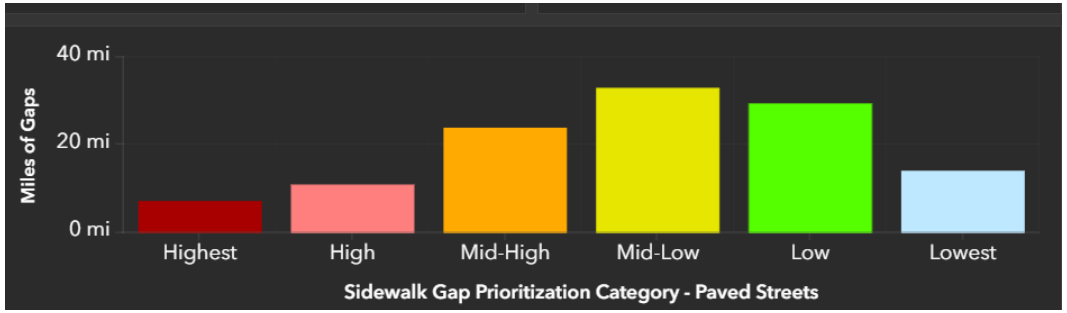
EQUITABLE • SUSTAINABLE • TRANSFORMATIVE

Sidewalk Gap Prioritization and Progress

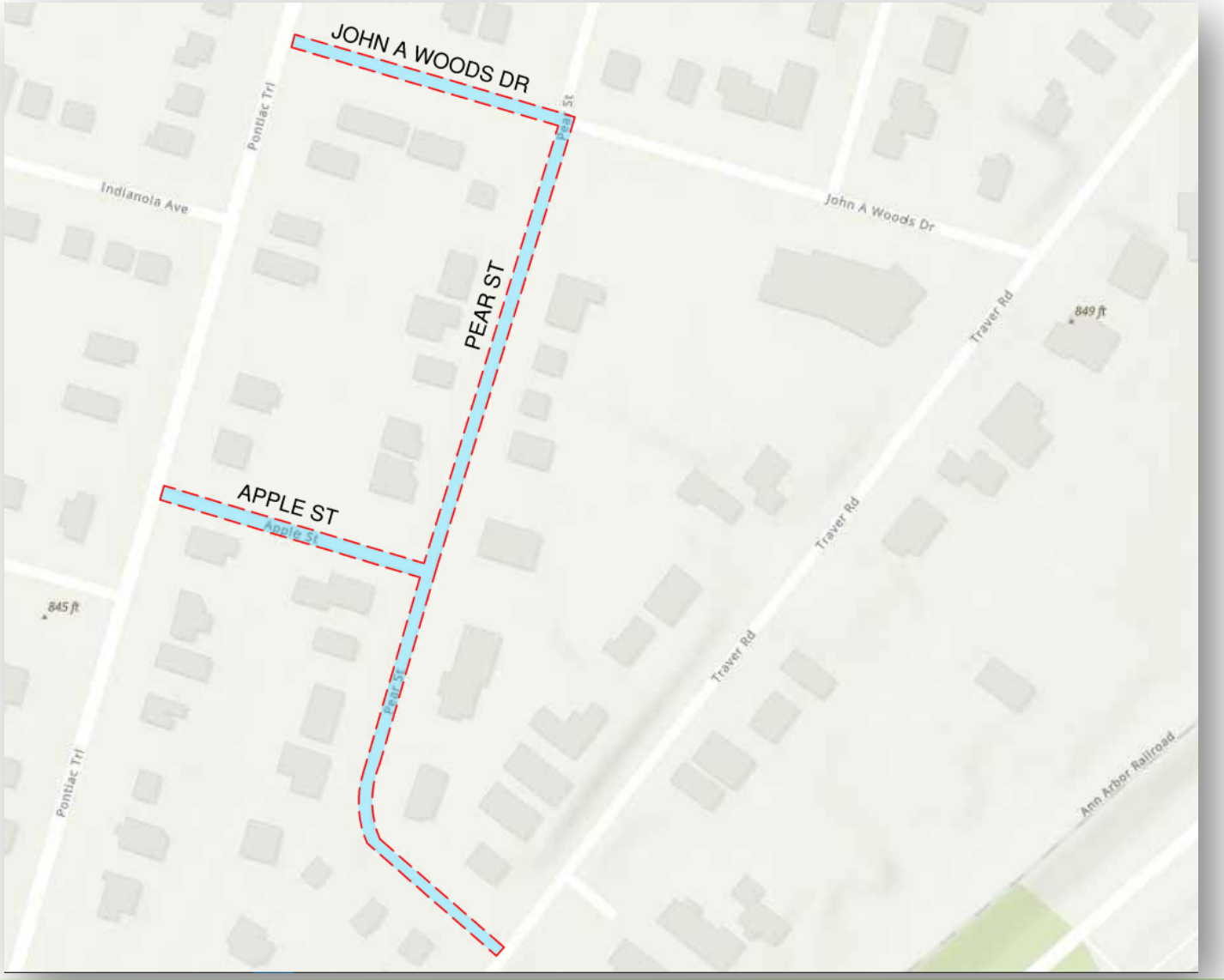


- 442 miles of existing sidewalk
- 140 miles of “sidewalk gaps”
- An online dashboard is available with information on sidewalk gaps:

  a2gov.org/newsidewalks



Apple, Pear and John A. Woods Sidewalk Gap



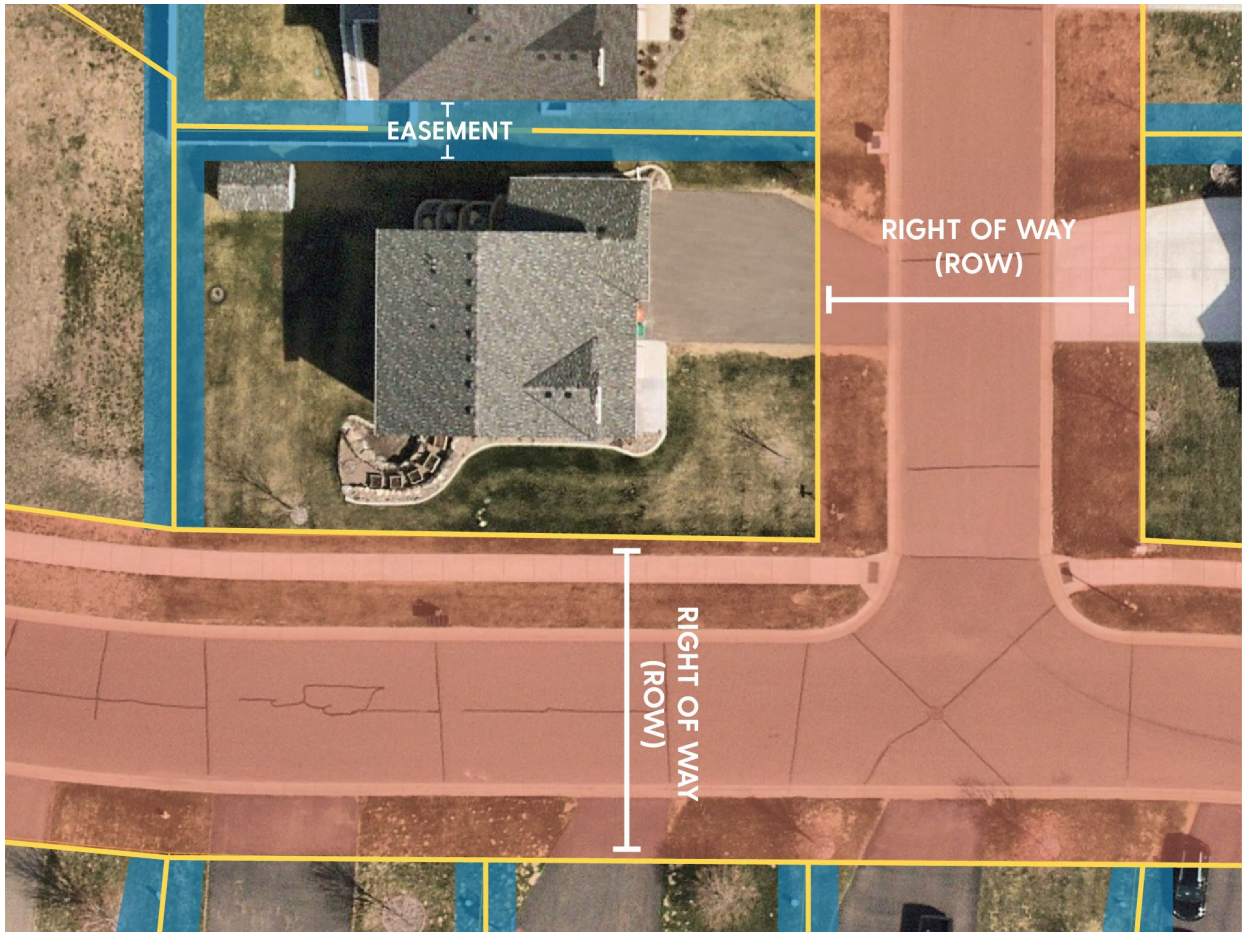


Guided Walk Feedback Review

Public Feedback during Guided Walk (May/June 2025)

Comment / Concern	Consideration / Solution
We want to save as many trees as possible. Is it possible to build the sidewalk around the trees?	We strive to avoid taking down trees as part of sidewalk construction. Meandering the sidewalk around trees is a possibility which will continue to be investigated. The project team will continue to evaluate the feasibility of various options (such as easements) during the preliminary design.
Has traffic calming been considered as part of this project?	Traffic calming is done through our Traffic Calming Program. This is a separate, petition-based effort could take place after this project is completed. More information regarding the program can be found at www.a2gov.org/TrafficCalming. Traffic calming is not a feasible alternative to sidewalks as pedestrians need a safe space to walk that is not on the road.
Will you improve the crosswalk at Pontiac Trail and Taylor?	This crosswalk is not within the scope of this sidewalk gap project.
Can you narrow Apple to remove parking and preserve trees?	Both Pear and Apple are already the minimum width allowable for fire access.

Existing Right-of-Way/Easements



What is a road **right-of-way (R.O.W.)**?

- Property owned by the city, includes the road and strip of property behind it.

What is a **Temporary Grading Easement**?

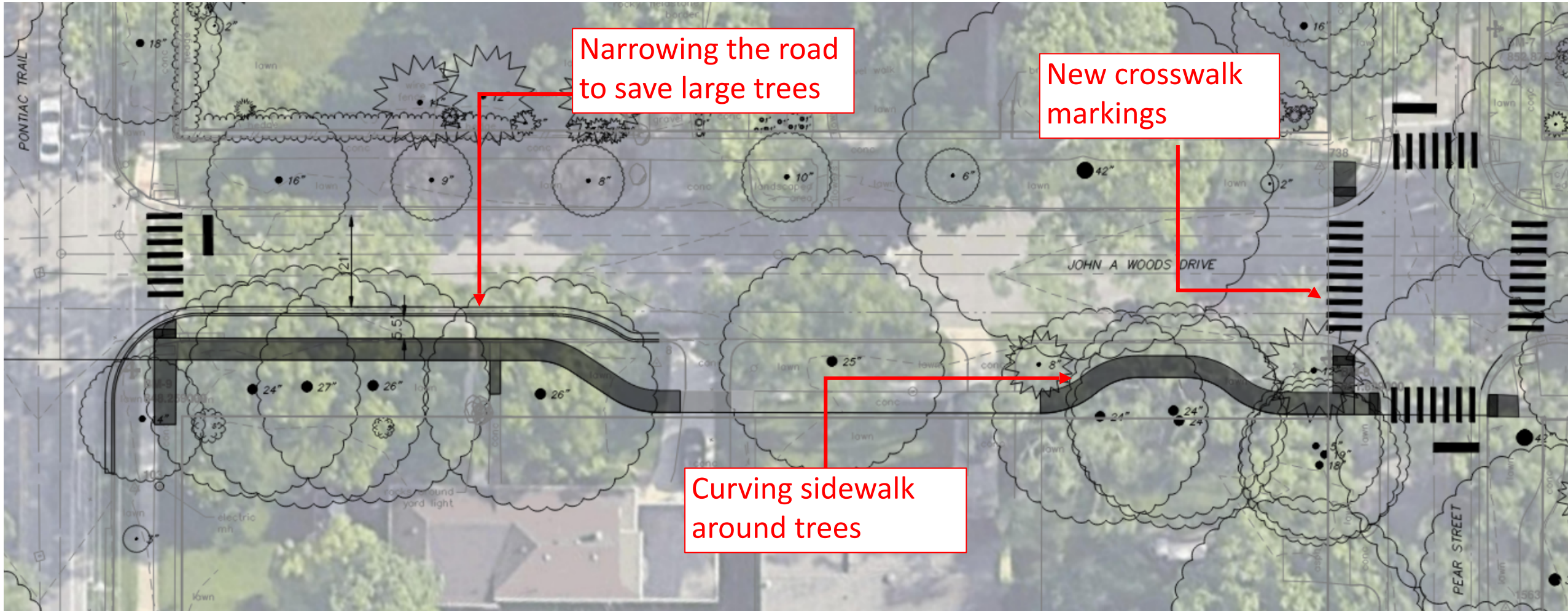
- Portion of property the city and property owner can enter during a specified time period in order to make changes to allow for a sidewalk to blend into the existing ground.

What is a **Permanent Easement** ?

- Agreement between the city and property owner that grants the City legal right to use a specified area of the land. Ie for sidewalks or utilities.

Sidewalk Design Concepts

John A. Woods Concept



John A. Woods Design Concept

- **Road can be narrowed to preserve trees near Pontiac Trail**
- **Meandering sidewalk closer to the road to avoid tree impacts near Pear**
- **Existing sidewalk at middle of block will remain**

Apple Concept

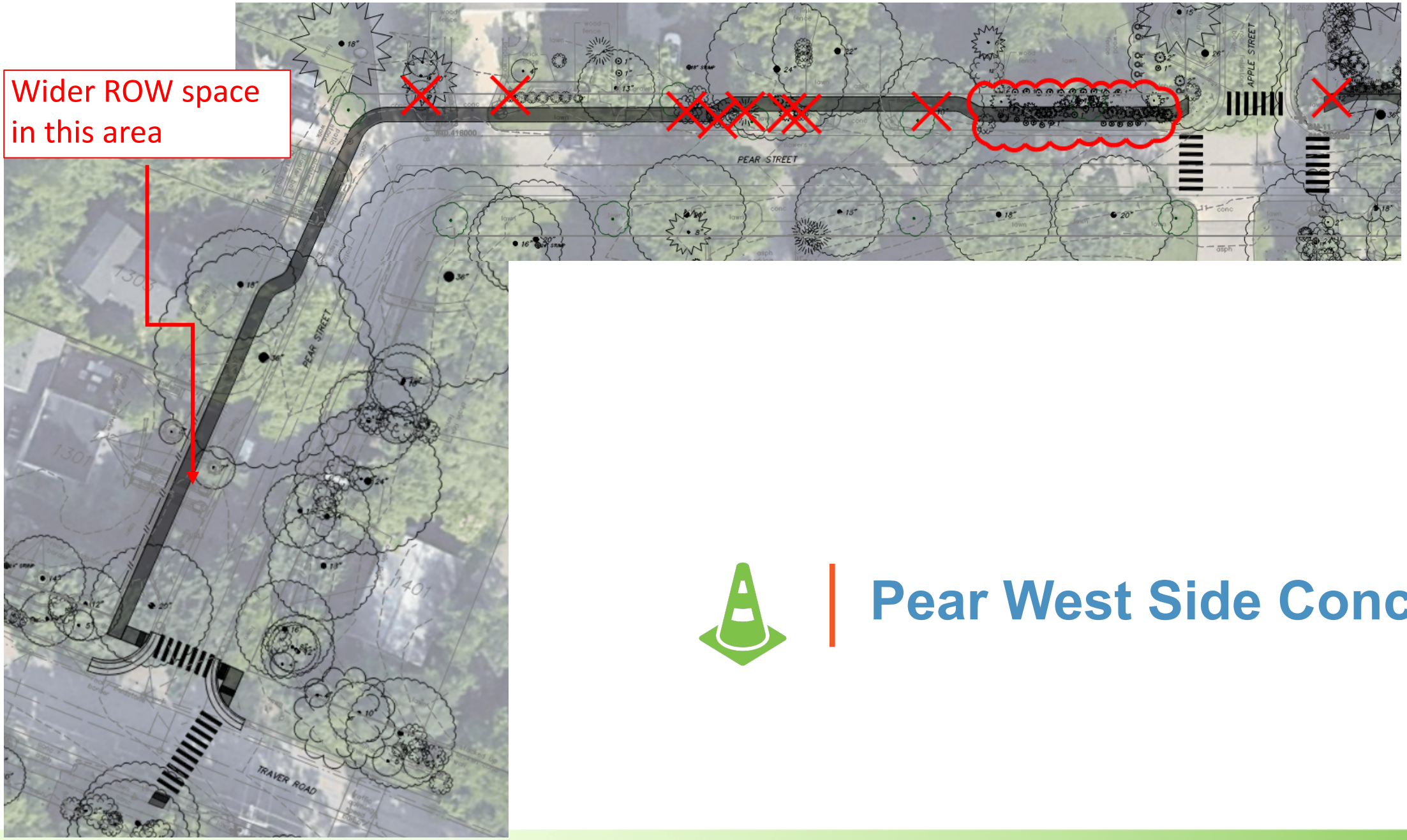
New crosswalk markings



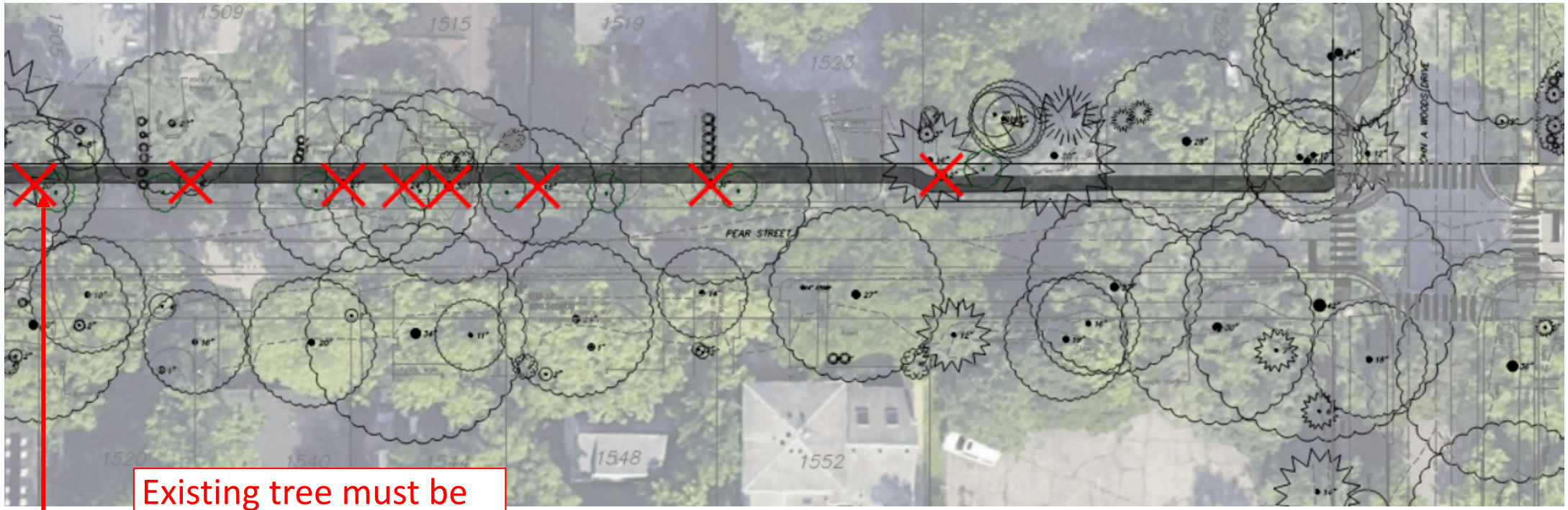
Limited space to meander around trees

Apple Design Concept

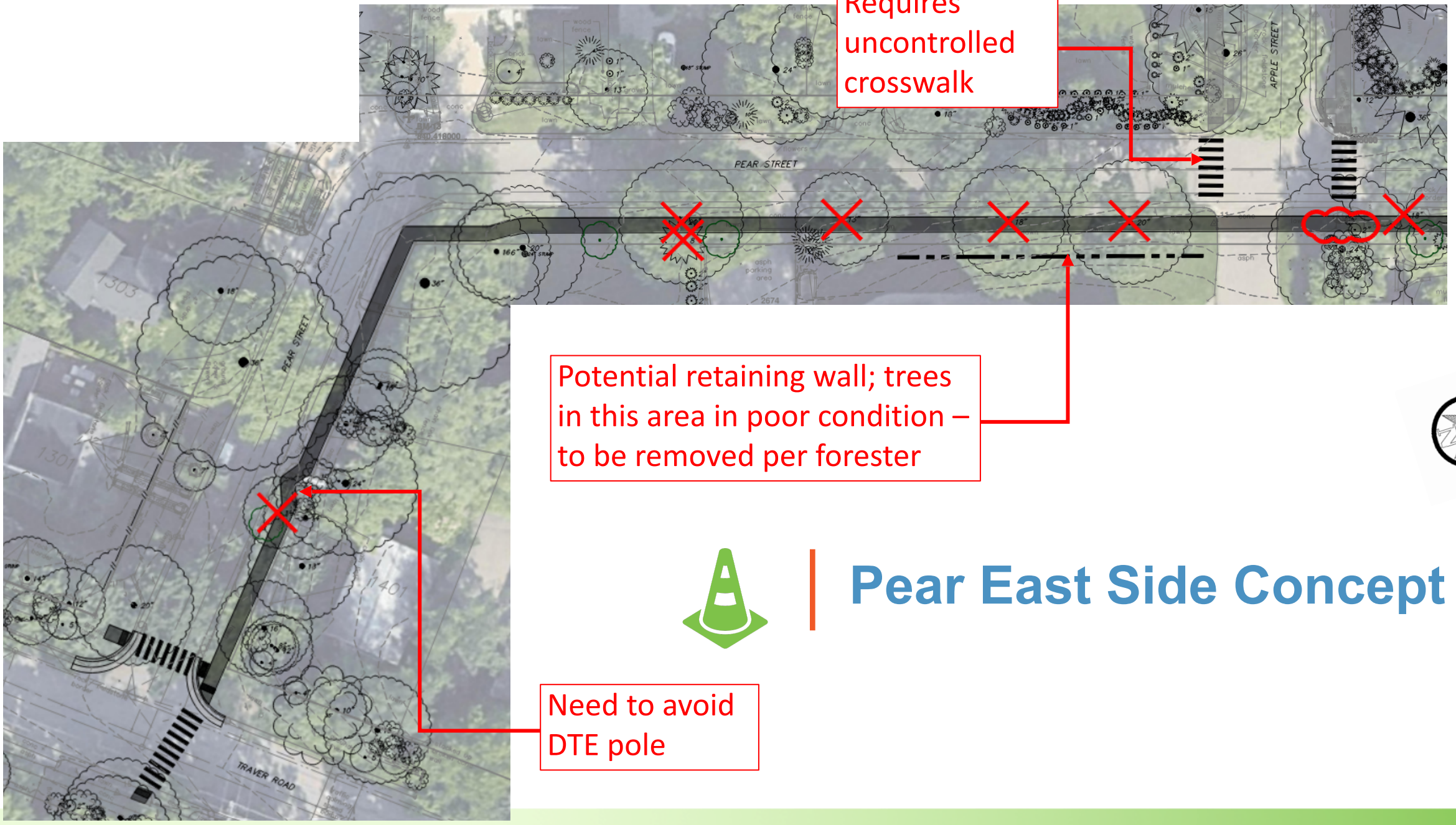
- **Sidewalk is 1 foot from right of way**
- **Curb line remains the same, road is as narrow as possible already**
- **North side of road has enough space to install sidewalk and preserve trees**
- **South side of road does not have enough room between the right of way and curb line to meander around trees**



Pear West Side Concept



Pear West Side Concept

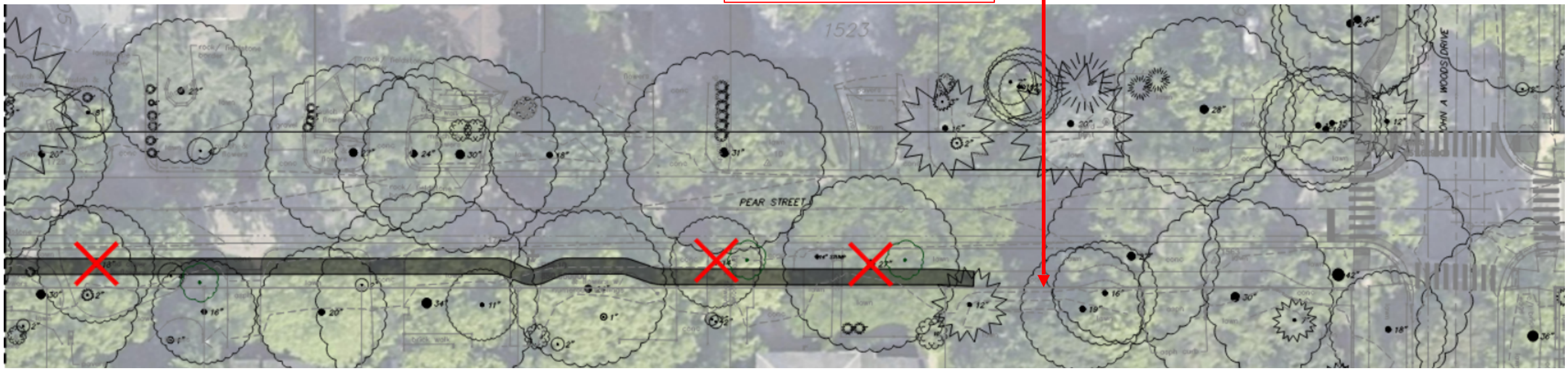


Requires uncontrolled crosswalk

Potential retaining wall; trees in this area in poor condition – to be removed per forester

Need to avoid DTE pole

Pear East Side Concept



Pear East Side Concept

Pear Design Concepts

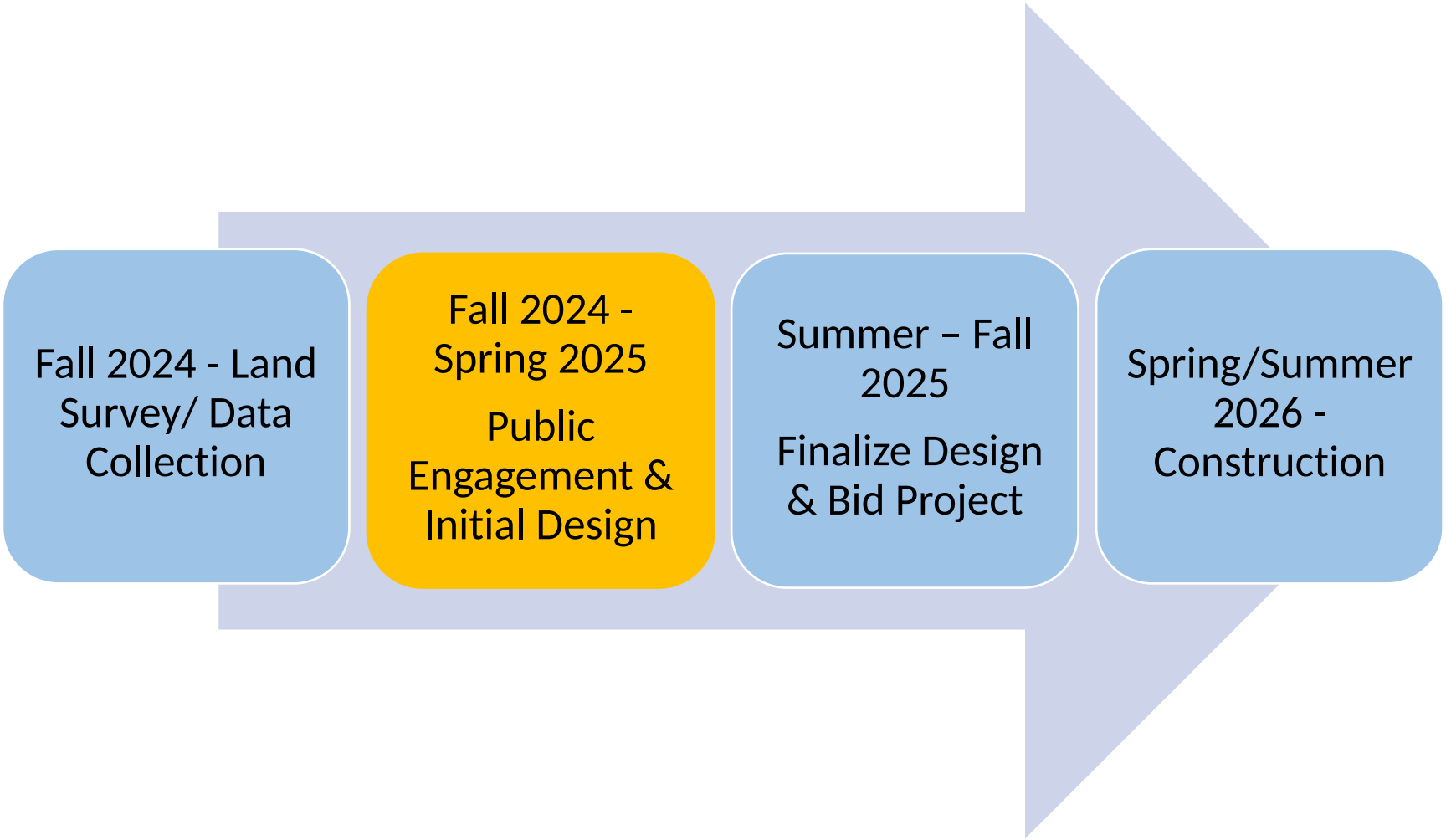
- On most locations the sidewalk starts 1 foot from right of way, in others we meander around the trees to protect them from disturbance where there is enough space
- Existing curb line stays the same, parking is not impacted.
- Permanent sidewalk easements can be considered to reduce tree impacts
- Need to select one side of the road

Review of Pear Concepts

Pear (West Side)	Pear (East Side)
Trees to be removed (without easements) = 12 Trees to be removed (with easements obtained) = 6 Trees scheduled for removal by forester due to poor health = 1 •Assumes trees 8” and larger	Trees to be removed (without easements) = 7 Trees to be removed (with easements obtained) = 4 Trees scheduled for removal by forester due to poor health = 3 •Assumes trees 8” and larger
Homes and private landscaping slightly closer to the road	Homes and private landscaping slightly farther from the road
Will require the removal of fences and planting structures from the right-of-way	May require a retaining wall, and coordination with DTE for proximity to overhead poles
New sidewalk required full length of Pear	120’ of existing sidewalk near John A. Woods will remain
No logical location for a crosswalk at Traver	Crosswalk at Traver is feasible
Would not require a crosswalk at Apple	Would require an uncontrolled crosswalk at Apple

Next Steps...

Project Timeline



Next Steps

- Discuss permanent/temporary easements with individual property owners
- Finalize design (Fall 2025)
- Project updates will be sent via engage hub



Questions?

Questions?

How will you decide what side of the road the sidewalk goes on?

What about personal belongings, fences, etc in the right of way where the sidewalk is to be constructed?

Thank You!

engage.a2gov.org/applepearjohn-sidewalk

City of Ann Arbor – Public Services Area – Engineering