

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Mindy Sanders, Capital Projects Manager

**Date:** January 23, 2017

**Subject:** **Discussion of Concept Design for Tilly Mill Road Intersection Improvements at Mount Vernon Road and Mount Vernon Place**

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### **BACKGROUND**

The intersection at Mount Vernon Road at Tilly Mill Road has been identified in the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) as a high priority project. The lack of turn lanes at the intersection compromises safety and causes longer traffic queues and delays on Mount Vernon Road. The intersection is also lacking in accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists. It is the goal of this project to correct these deficiencies.

The city has partnered with Southeastern Engineers to prepare viable project alternatives at this location as well as the neighboring intersection of Tilly Mill Road and Mount Vernon Place. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations between these two intersections were also explored. These alternatives were presented at a Public Information Open House (PIOH) on August 16, 2016. Public feedback was received on details of the project as well as the prioritization of these projects. Additional layouts for the Mount Vernon Road and Tilly Mill intersection have since been developed to incorporate some of the concerns expressed by adjacent property owners.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Mount Vernon Road at Tilly Mill Road

This intersection is surrounded by newer subdivisions with narrow housing setbacks. As recommended by the CTP, a roundabout was considered for the intersection. However, it was determined that the radius of the project footprint (measured from the center to the outer edge of the proposed sidewalk) would be 70 feet wide and would impact the monument walls of the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Therefore, it was determined that it would not be viable.

The basic recommendations include improving safety and traffic flow by adding left turn lanes on Mount Vernon Road in the vicinity of the intersection and providing improved pedestrian facilities. The project would also incorporate bicycle lanes as recommended in the transportation plan and the city's complete streets policy.

The concept presented at the public meeting incorporated these elements with a symmetrical widening of the roadway east of Tilly Mill Road and widening to the south west of Tilly Mill Road (see attached Concept A1). The symmetrical widening, along with retaining walls along

the right of way line at several locations, minimizes the amount of additional right of way that would be required. Residents of the Bradford Place neighborhood located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection have expressed concern that, although the widening would on their side would not impact the neighborhood wall along the right of way line, it would require removal of hardwood trees in the right of way along the entrance to the neighborhood. Some pine trees and understory vegetation would also have to be removed on the north side of the road east of Tilly Mill Road in the original concept.

As a result of these concerns an additional concept has been developed which maintains the existing edge of pavement on the south side of Mount Vernon in front of Bradford Place and pushes all of the widening to the north side of the roadway (see attached Concept B). In this concept additional right of way would be required from two properties in the northwest quadrant of the intersection as the new sidewalk is shifted 15 to 20 feet to the north from its present location. Additional vegetation removal would be required on the north side of the road, but the south side of the road east of Tilly Mill Road would remain very much as it is today assuming that the existing stormwater infrastructure is adequate.

Construction costs for the entire project between Mount Vernon Place and Northchester Court are estimated to be \$1,600,000 with the variation in cost between the two alternatives estimated to be less than 5%.

#### Tilly Mill Road at Mount Vernon Place

The concept presented for this intersection realigns Mount Vernon Place at Tilly Mill Road. This new alignment of Mount Vernon Place would make it more clear to drivers who has the right of way when approaching the intersection and will improve the lines of sight for a stopped vehicle using this intersection. This concept leverages the city owned property to the north of the intersection and provides an opportunity for additional greenspace within the remnant of the existing right of way.

The comments received at the PIOH were generally favorable to improvements at this location.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$500,000. A few temporary easements would be required but no additional right of way would be needed from surrounding residents.

#### Tilly Mill Road Corridor

Suggested improvements to Tilly Mill Road between the two intersections include adding curb and gutter on the west side of the road for stormwater management and to improve the aesthetics. The position of the curb and gutter is ultimately dependent upon the type of bicycle and pedestrian accommodation desired by the community. Two concepts have been presented:

- *Concept A* provides for bike lanes within the roadway and sidewalks.
- *Concept B* provides for a 10-12' multi-use facility on the west side of the road. This trail could later be extended to provide connectivity to the Georgia State University Dunwoody campus using the existing right of way.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$300,000. Limited Right of Way acquisition may be needed in both concepts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Each of the viable alternatives at Mount Vernon Road and Tilly Mill Road will improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection and are consistent with the recommendations of the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Staff recommends giving higher priority to the Mount Vernon Road at Tilly Mill Road project and advancing the design on Concept B with modifications to minimize impacts to area surrounding the property within Wellesley Place.

The city currently has a number of transportation projects in various stages of design, right of way acquisition and construction and therefore has not funded this project beyond the conceptual design phase. Staff intends to submit a request in the 2018 budget to complete the design for the Mount Vernon Road and Tilly Mill Road intersection. The other two projects would then be funded through separate budget requests in future years.

# *Tilly Mill Intersections*

## Intersection Improvements for Tilly Mill Road at Mount Vernon Road and Mount Vernon Place

Council Meeting  
January 23, 2017

# *Presentation Agenda*

- Project Need and Purpose
- Community Outreach
- Public Information Open House (PIOH)
- Discussion of Concepts
- Next Steps

# *Project Need and Purpose*

- Safety Improvement Project
- Traffic Counts Collected March 17, 2015
- Crash History
- Pedestrian Connectivity



# Community Outreach

- Fall of 2015 Neighborhood Meetings
- Wellesley Place 11/5/15
- Beaumont 11/12/15
- Bradford Place 11/17/15
- Asked Questions
- Listened Carefully



# *Community Outreach: Primary Concerns*

- Overwhelming Support for Improvements
- Safety Concerns
- Traffic Operations (Congestion)
- Pedestrian Access & Connectivity
- Preservation of Community Character
- Property Impacts

# *Public Information Open House (PIOH)*

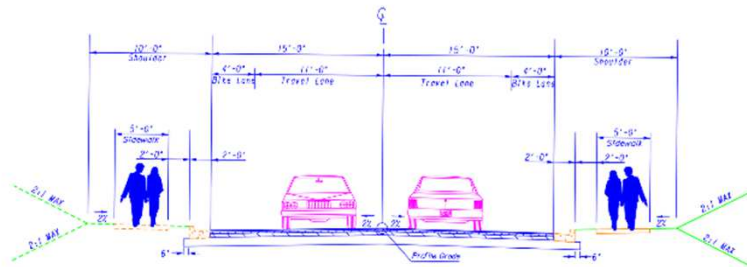
- Held August 16, 2016
- Held at All Saint's Catholic Church
- Majority of Comment Positive
- A typical Roundabout Diameter Shown
- Additional Concepts after PIOH

# Mount Vernon Road at Tilly Mill Road

- This concept Includes Improvements with symmetrical widening

## Criteria

Construction Cost	\$1.6 Million
Required R/W	0.02 Acres
Reqd. Easements	0.21 Acres



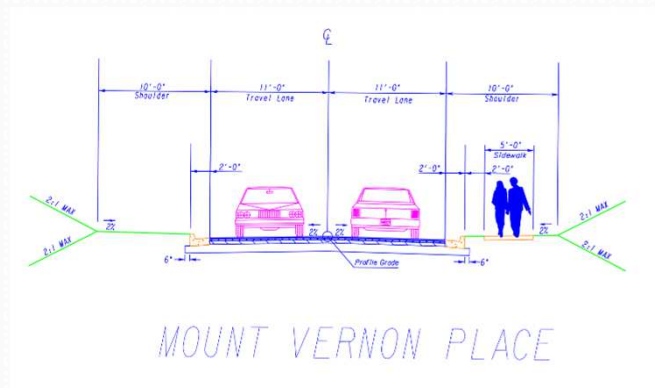
MOUNT VERNON ROAD



# Mount Vernon Place at Tilly Mill Road

- “T-Up” Intersection with Tilly Mill Rd
- Proposed Green Space
- Improved Traffic Flow

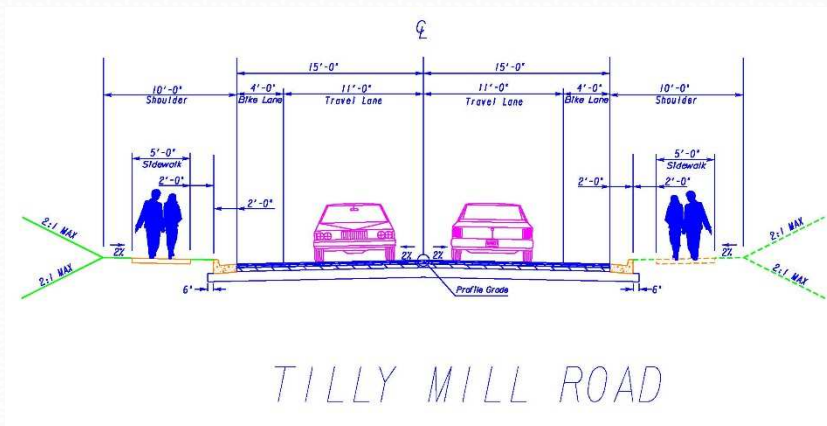
Criteria	
Construction Cost	\$500,000
Required Right of Way	0.25 Acres
Required Easements	0.29 Acres



# Till Mill Road Corridor – Concept A

- Improved Drainage
- Curb & Gutter
- Bike Lanes
- Sidewalks

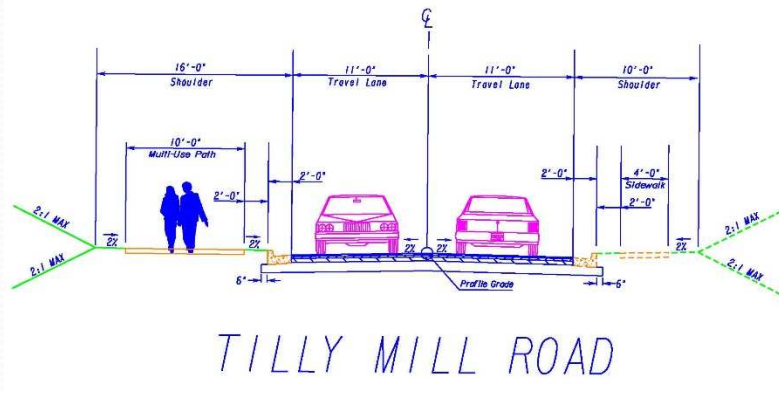
Criteria	
Construction Cost	\$300,000
Required Right of Way	0.02 Acres
Required Easement	0.12 Acres



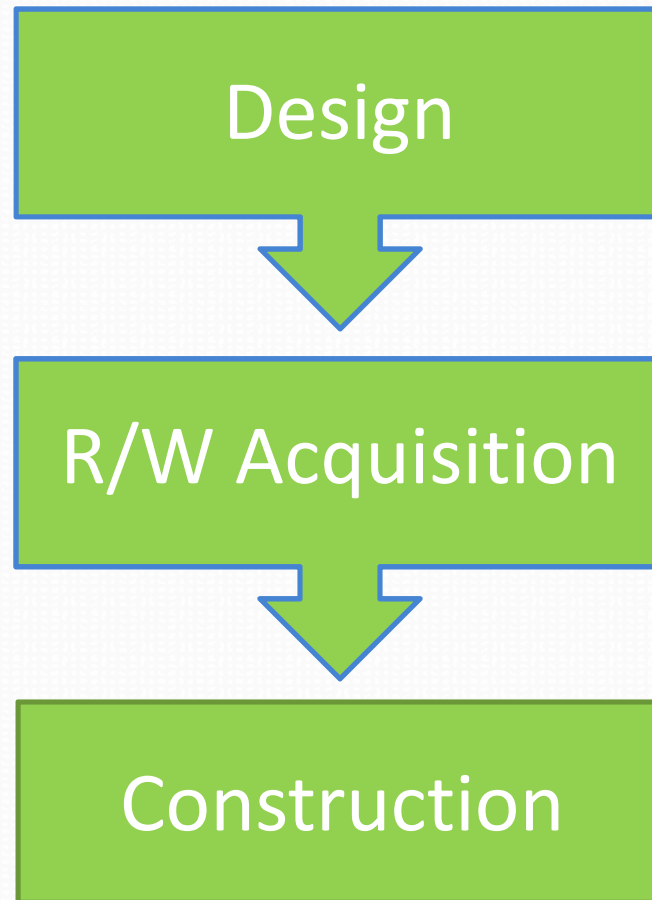
# Till Mill Road Corridor – Concept B

- Improved Drainage
- Curb & Gutter
- Includes 10 ft Multi-Use Facility

Criteria	
Construction Cost	\$300,000
Required Right of Way	0.02 Acres
Required Easement	0.22 Acres



## *Next Steps*



# *Additional Information*

Michael Smith, Director of Public Works

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Mindy Sanders, Capital Projects Manager

[Mindy.Sanders@dunwoodyga.gov](mailto:Mindy.Sanders@dunwoodyga.gov)



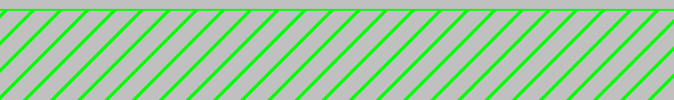




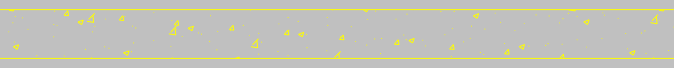

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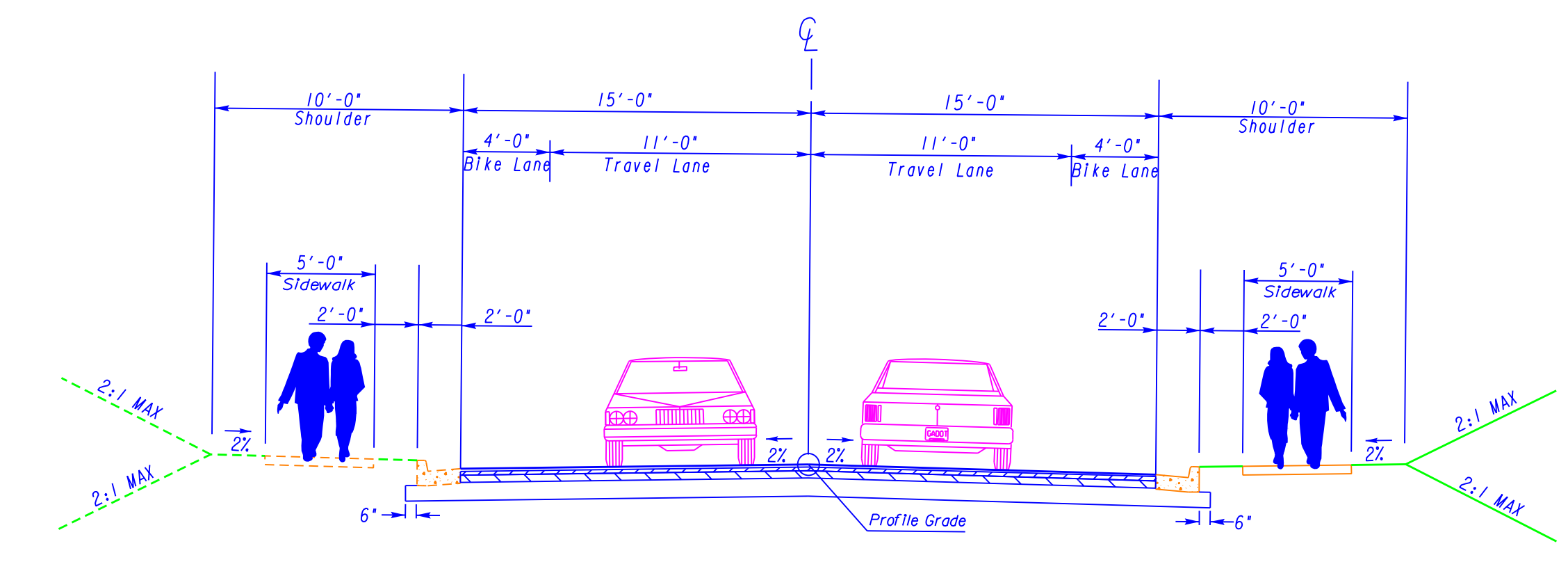




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-  PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY
-  EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
-  TEMPORARY EASEMENT
-  PROPOSED FILL LIMITS
-  PROPOSED CUT LIMITS
-  PROPOSED EDGE OF PAVEMENT
-  PROPOSED WALL
-  PROPOSED SIDEWALK
-  UTILITY POLE

LEGEND

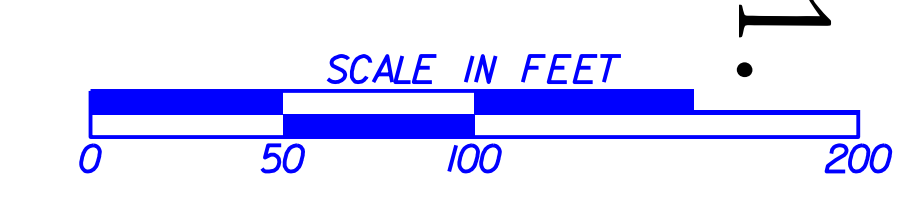


MOUNT VERNON ROAD

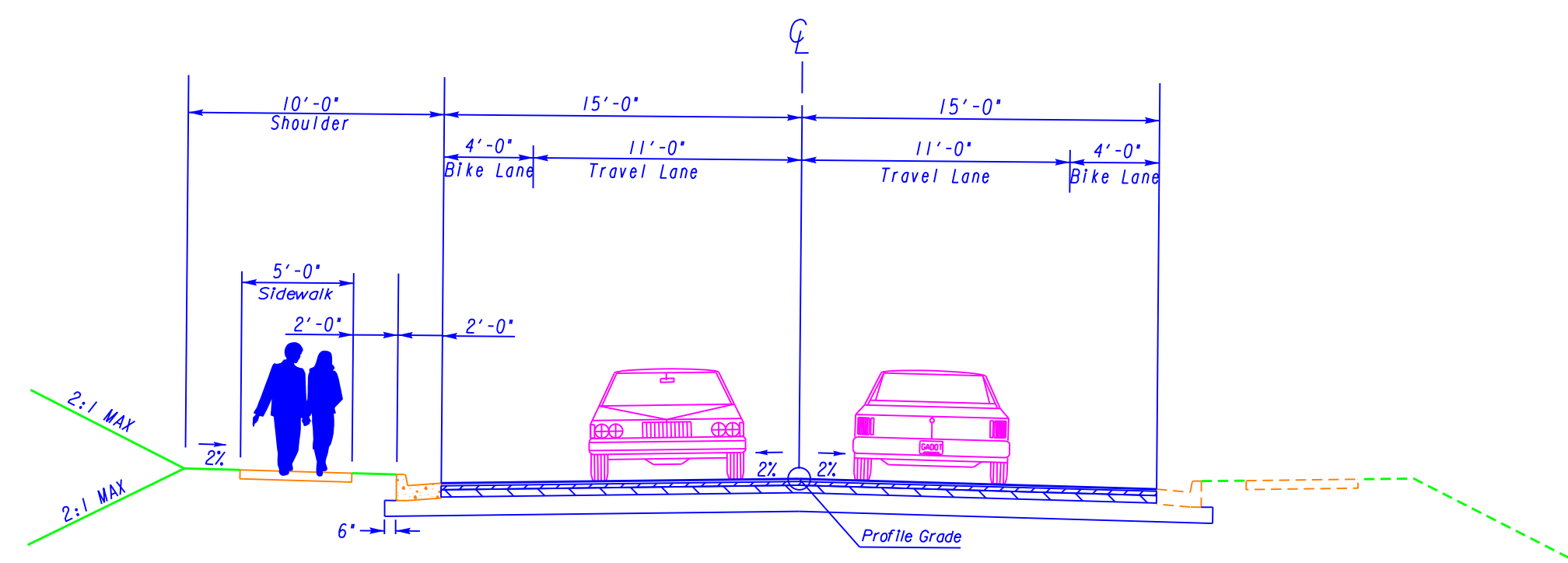
MT VERNON RD WIDENED TO THE SOUTH

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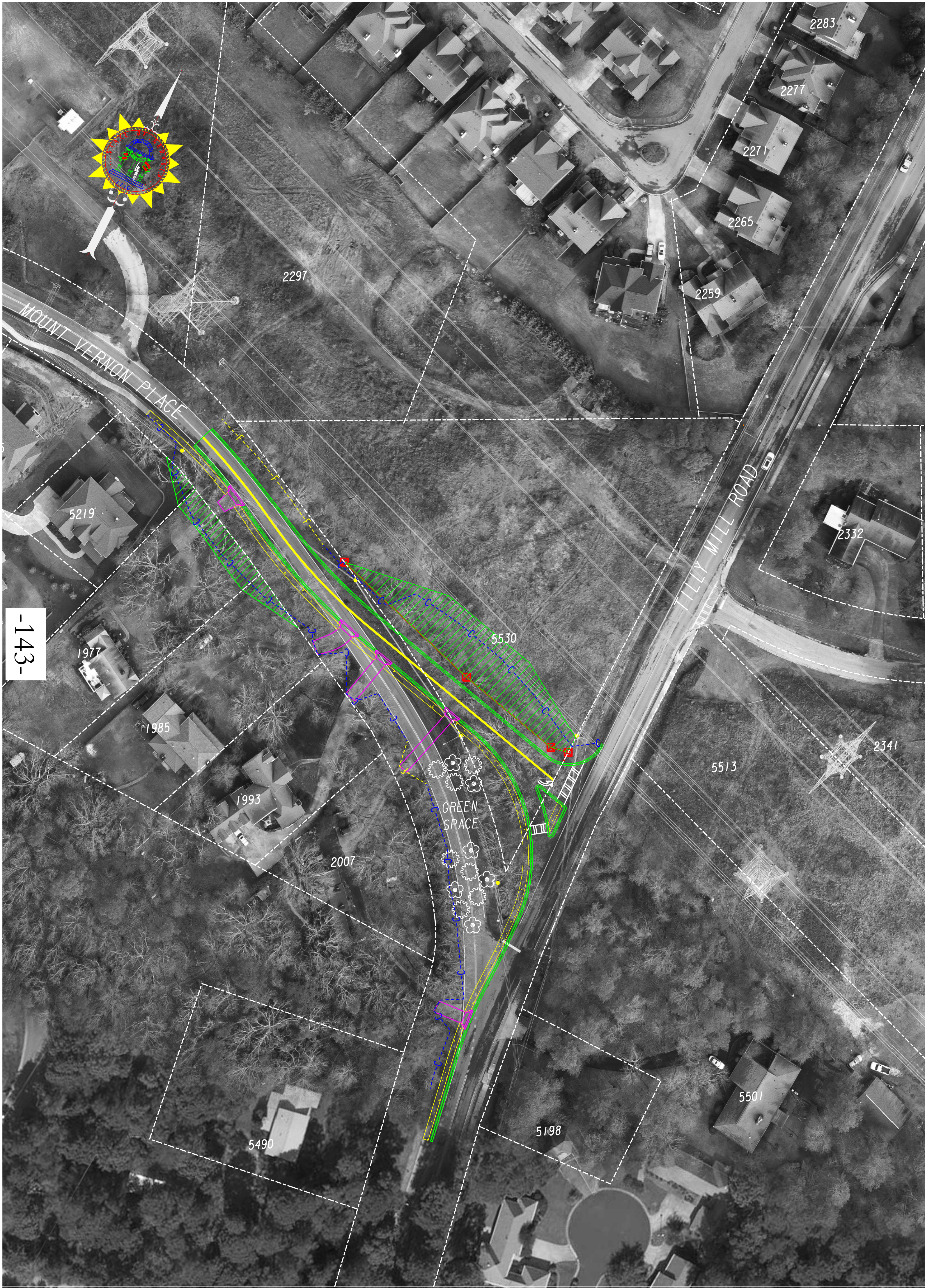
MOUNT VERNON ROAD

CONCEPT C  
MT VERNON RD WIDENED TO THE NORTH  
BETWEEN TILLY MILL AND NORTHCHESTER CT



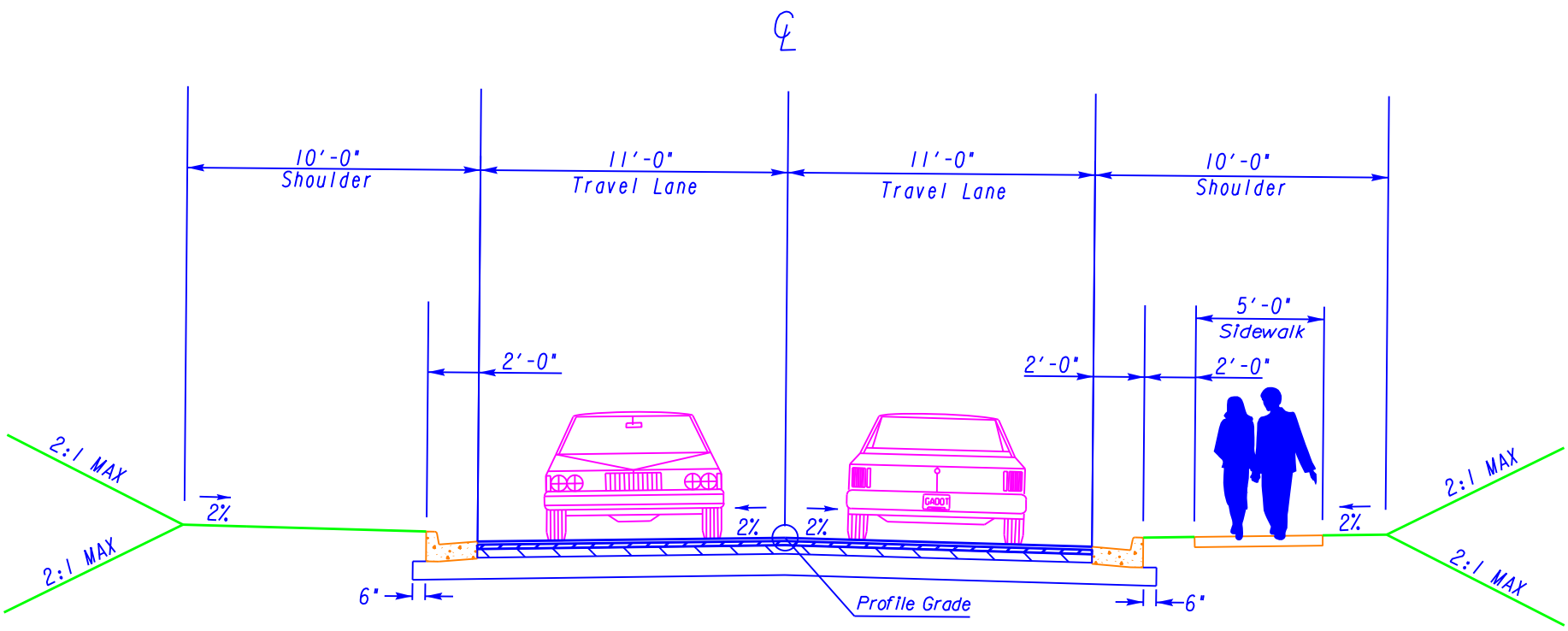
	PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY
	EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
	PROPOSED FILL LIMITS
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	PROPOSED WALL
	PROPOSED SIDEWALK

LEGEND



	PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY
	EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
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	PROPOSED WALL
	PROPOSED SIDEWALK
	UTILITY POLE

# LEGEND

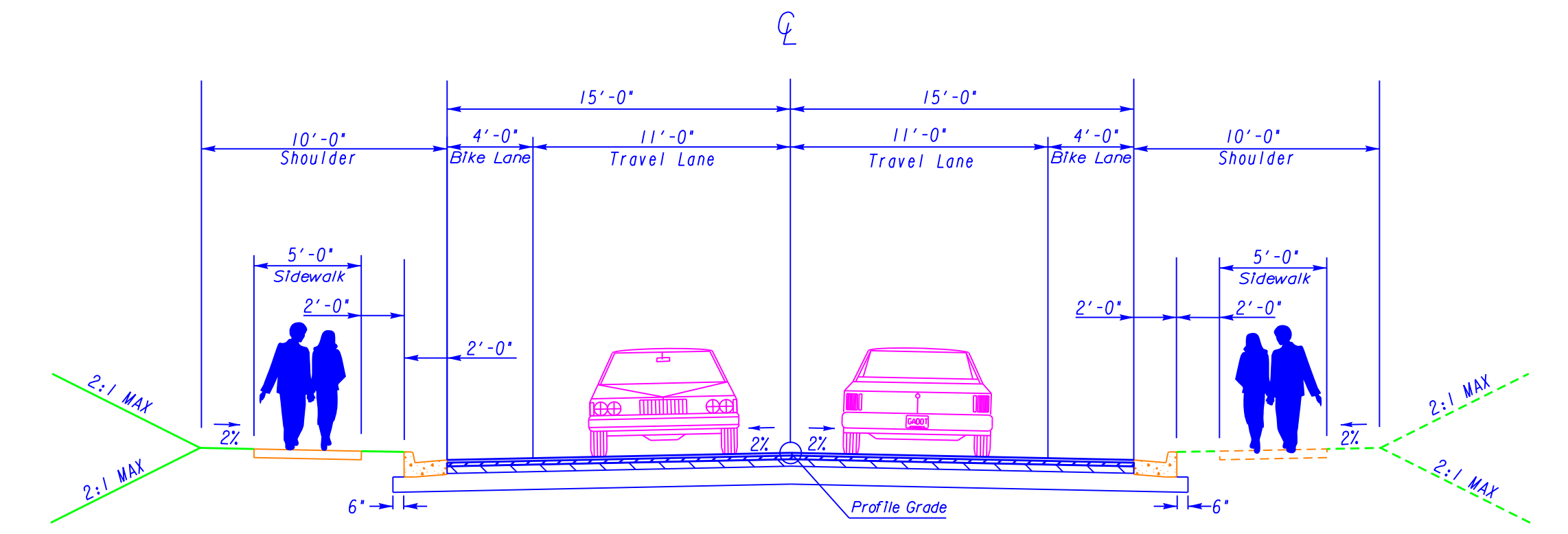


# MOUNT VERNON PLACE

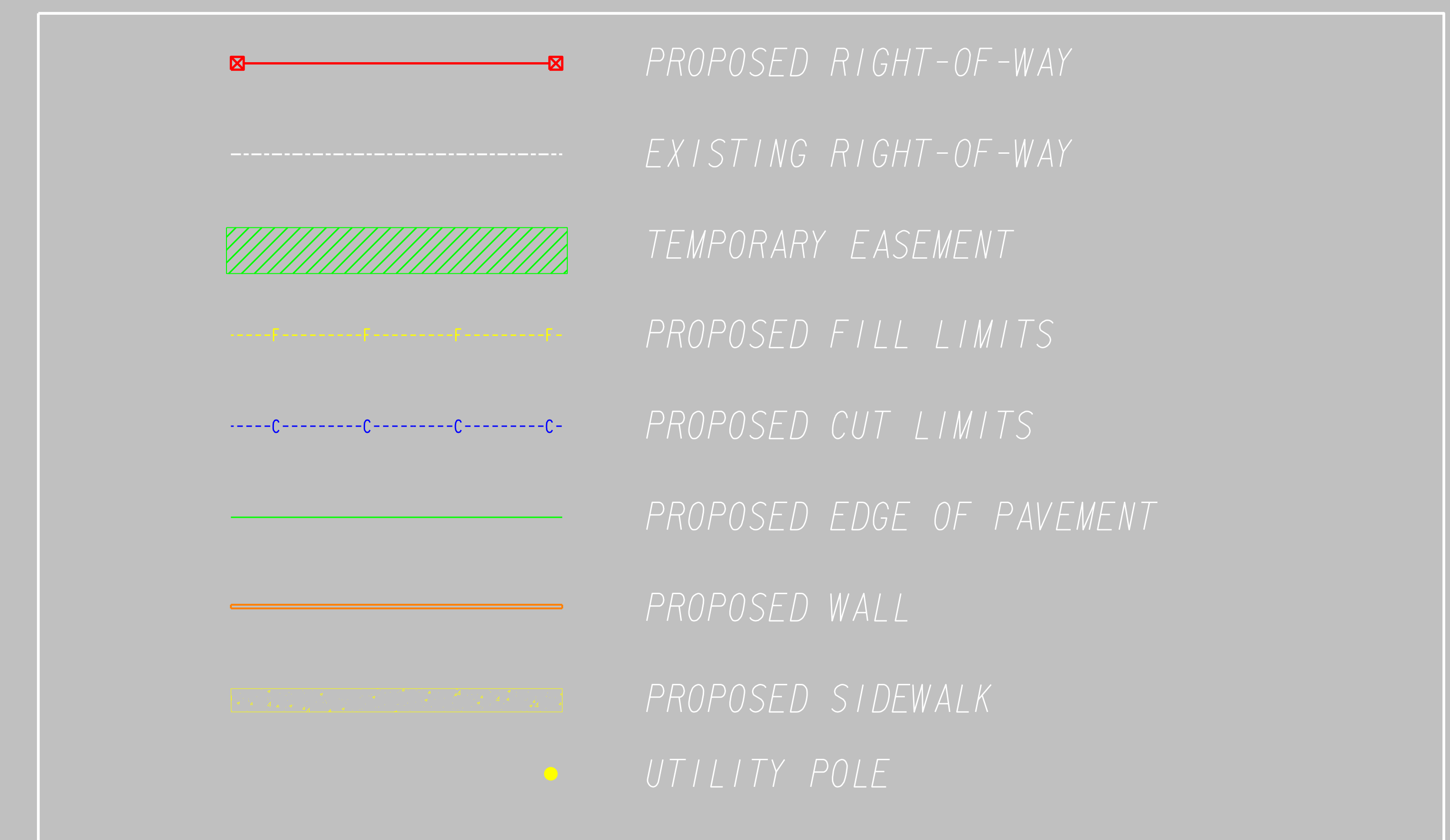
# MT VERNON PLACE CONCEPT



# TILLY MILL ROAD CONCEPT A: BICYCLE LANES WITH OPTIONAL SIDEWALK



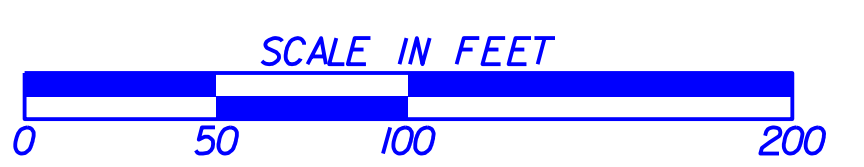
TILLY MILL ROAD



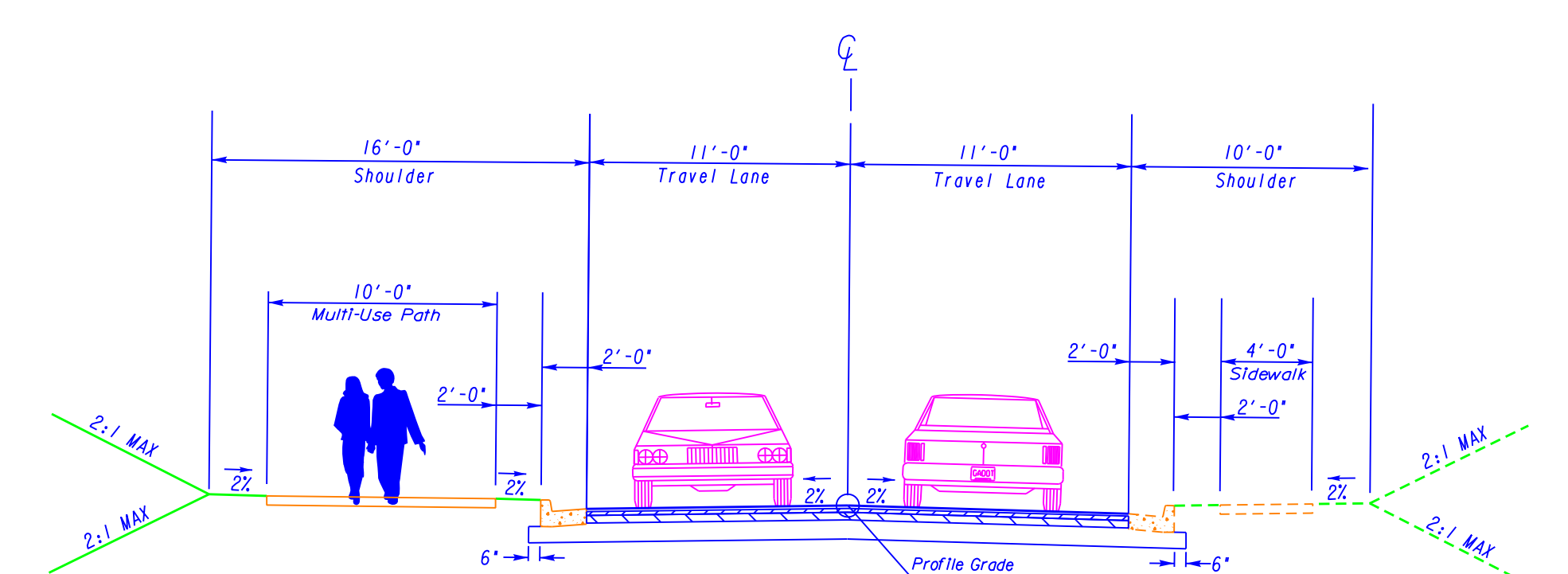
LEGEND

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# TILLY MILL ROAD CONCEPT B: OPTIONAL MULTI-USE PATH



TILLY MILL ROAD