



Wauwinet Road Sidepath Alignment Alternatives



Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission
Nantucket Transportation Planning Organization



Project Team



- Federal Highway Administration – Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
 - Jim Talley, Engineering and Project Visualization
 - Thuy Thai, Engineering
 - Timberley Belish, Environmental Compliance
 - Brian Fletcher, Survey/Right of Way/Utilities
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Hartman Rorick
 - Grace Bottitta
- Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission
 - Mike Burns, Transportation Program Manager
- Town of Nantucket
 - Drew Patnode, DPW Director
 - Holly Backus, Preservation Planner
 - Erika Mooney, Operations Administrator



Agenda

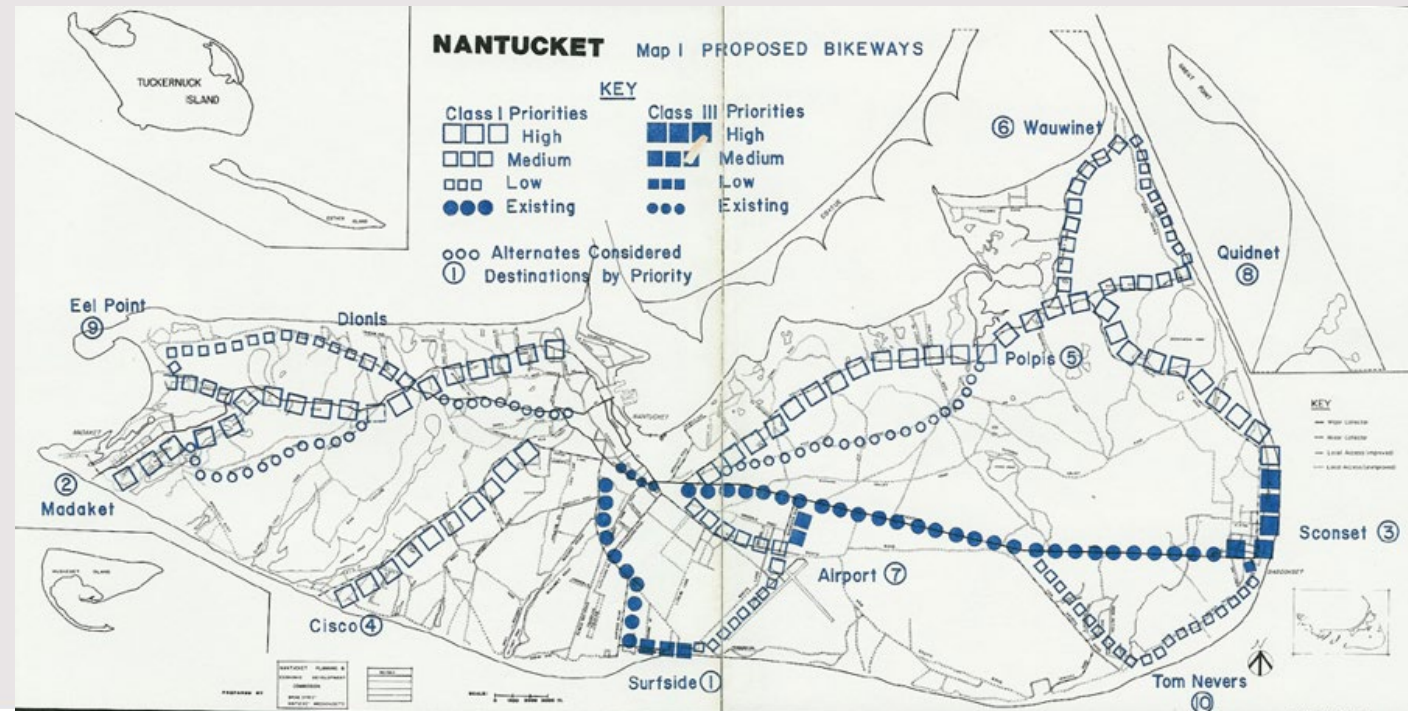


- Background (Mike)
- Alignment Alternatives (Jim)
- Cross Section Alternatives (Jim)
- Environmental Restrictions (Timber)
- Cultural Restrictions (Timber)
- Evaluation of Alternatives (Jim)
- Recommended Alternative (Mike)
- Next Steps (Mike)



Background

- Recommended in the 1977 Nantucket Bikeway Master Plan
- Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Grant funding - \$2.4 million
- Local funding – 2023 Annual Town Meeting (\$4.6 million)
- Preliminary Design Phase
 - Alignment Alternatives
 - Initial Stakeholder Consultation
 - Field Survey
 - Environmental Survey
 - Cultural Survey

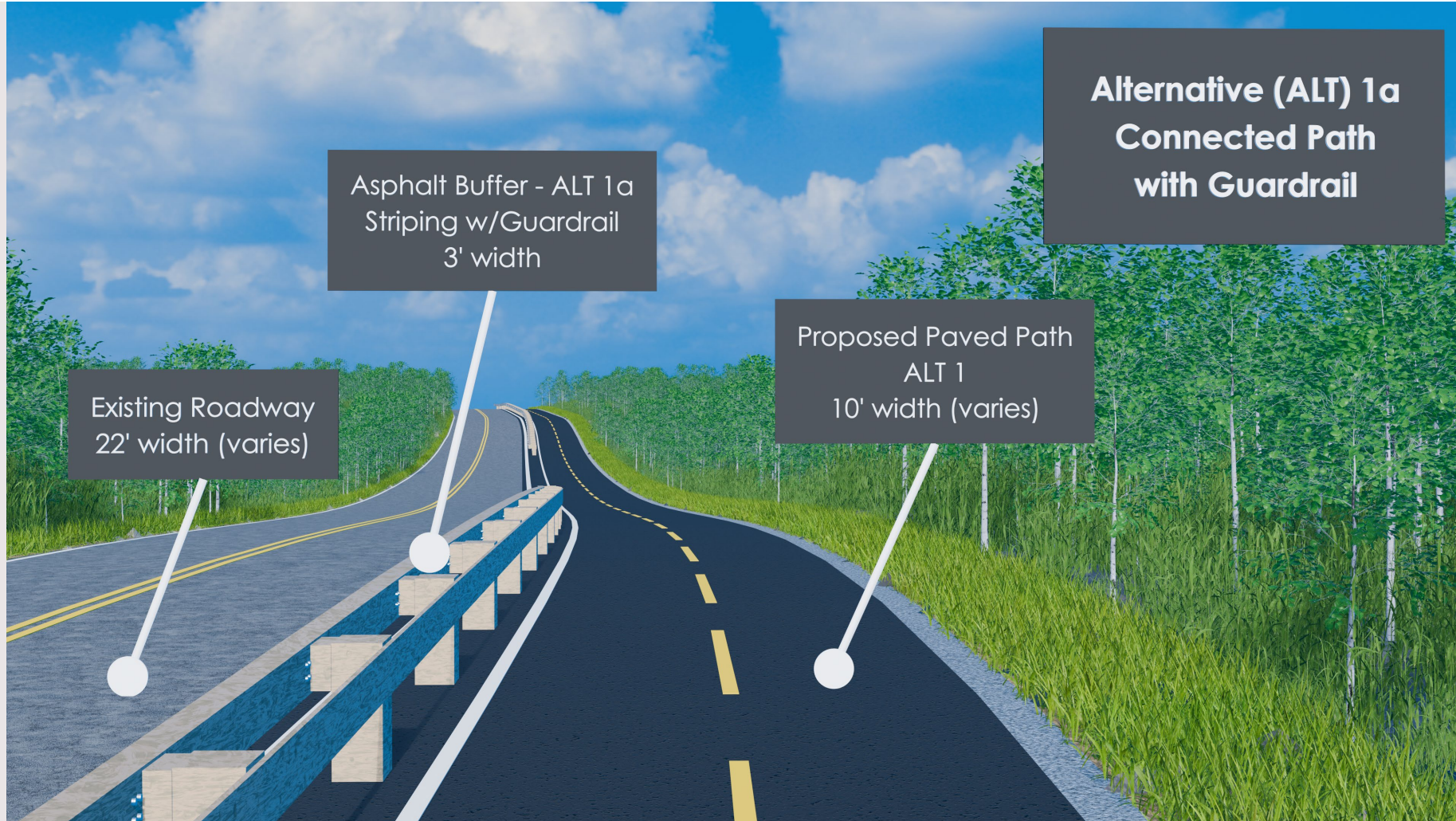


Alignment Alternatives

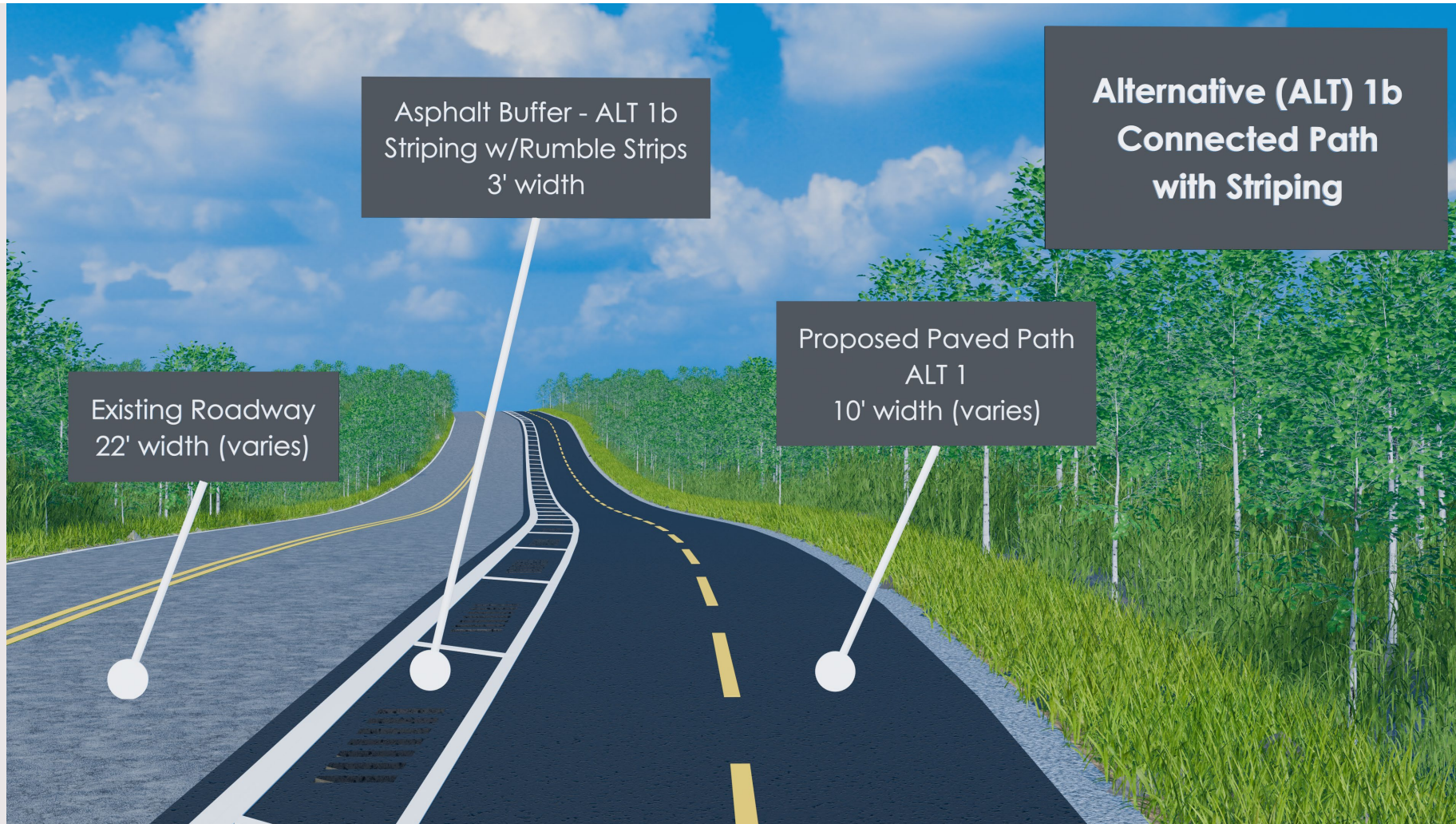
- Section A
 - From Polpis Rd to Eat Fire Springs
- Section B
 - From Eat Fire Springs to Medouie Creek Rd
- Section C
 - From Medouie Creek Rd to Pocomo
- Section D
 - From Pocomo to Squam Brook
- Section E
 - From Squam Brook to Approximately 2 miles from Project Start
- Section F
 - From Approximately 2 miles from Project Start to Project End



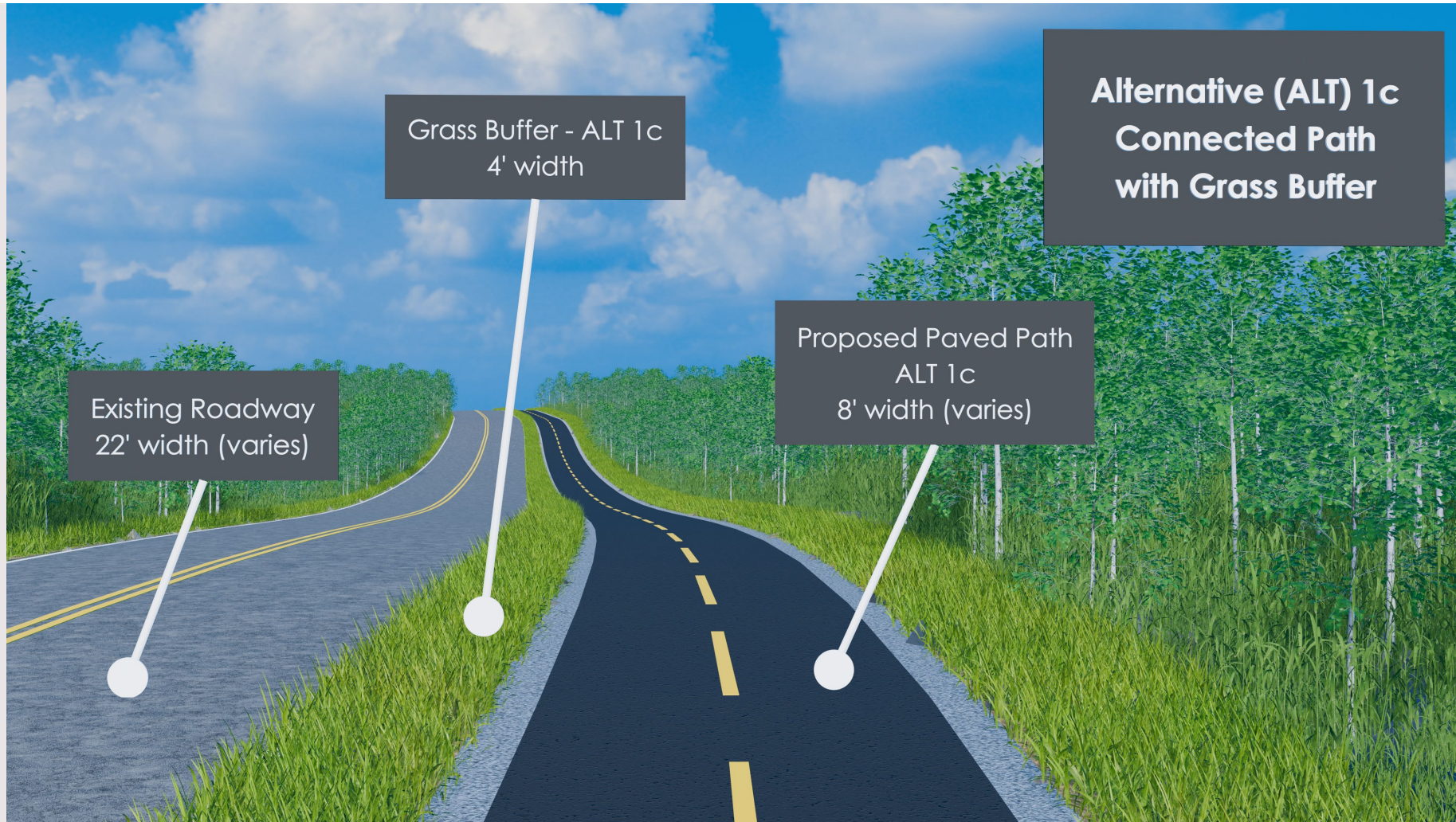
Cross Sections – Alternative 1 (Guardrail)



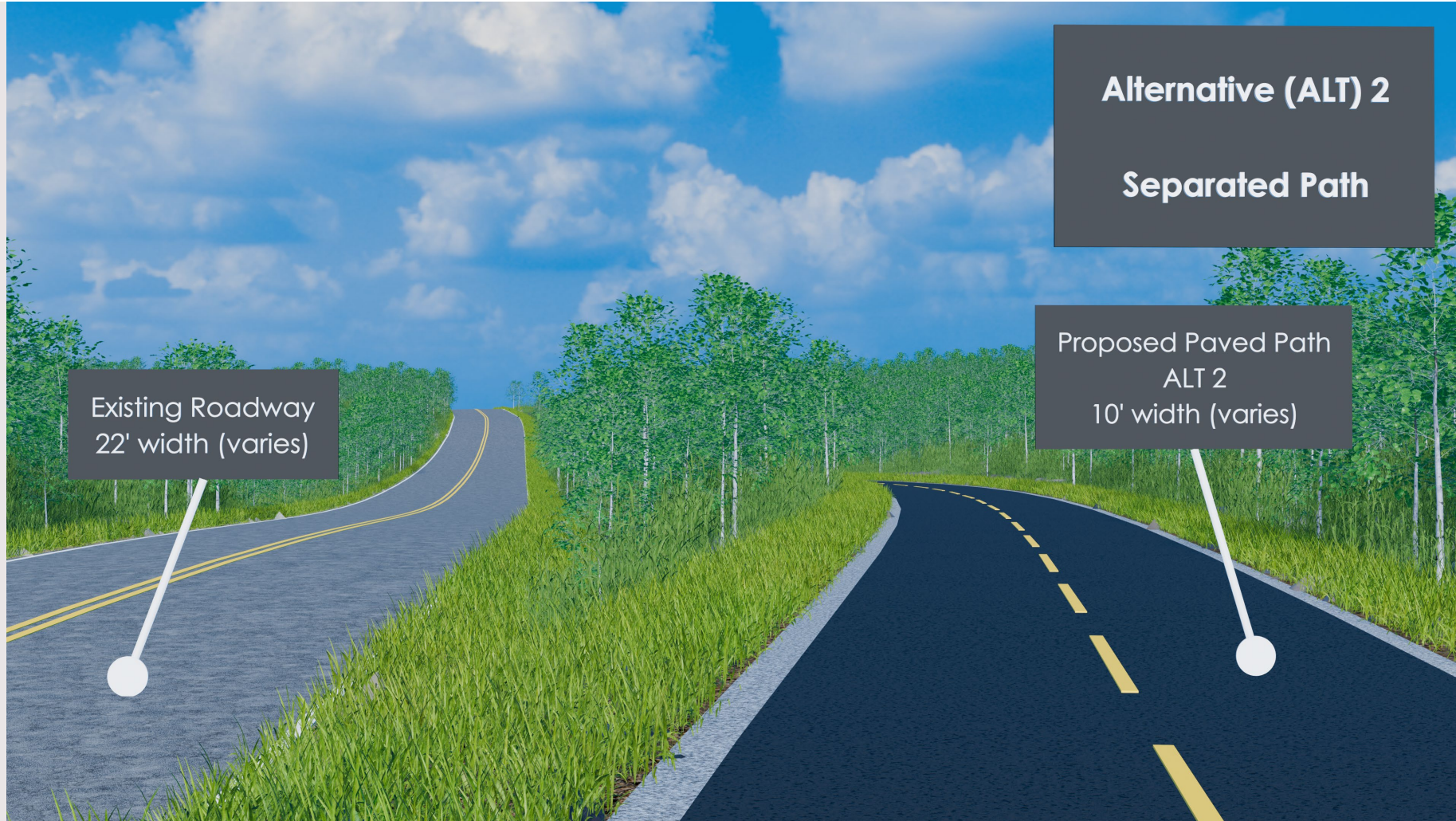
Cross Sections – Alternative 1 (Asphalt Buffer)



Cross Sections – Alternative 1 (Grass Buffer)



Cross Sections – Alternative 2, 3, 4 (Separated)

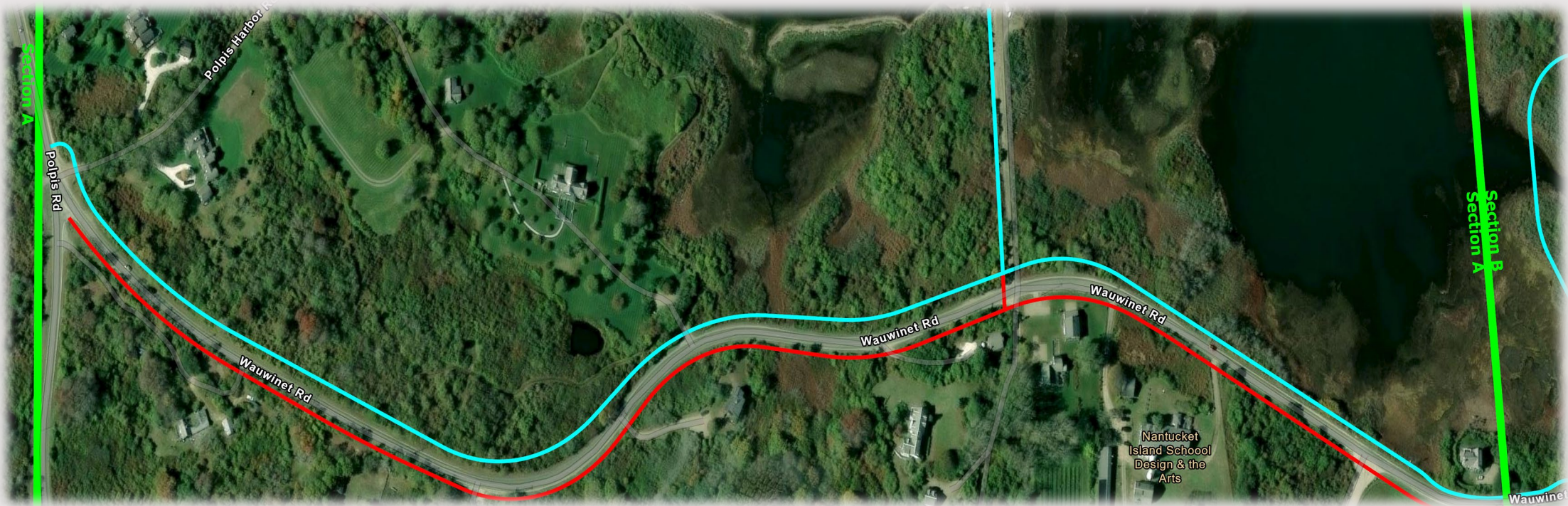


Alignment Alternatives – All Sections

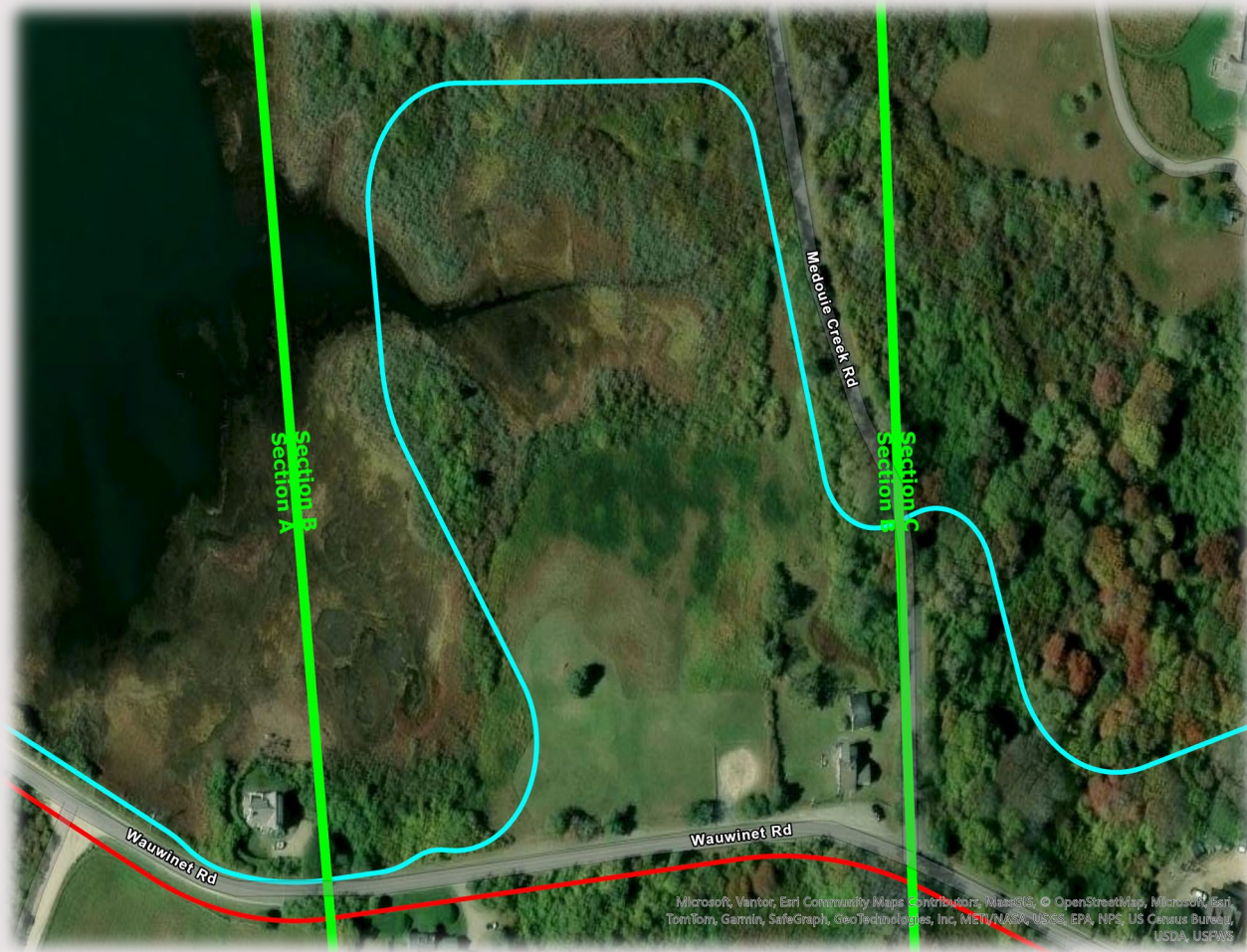


Alignment Alternatives – Section A

- Section A
 - From Polpis Rd to Eat Fire Springs
 - Approximately 0.6 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2 (Cyan)



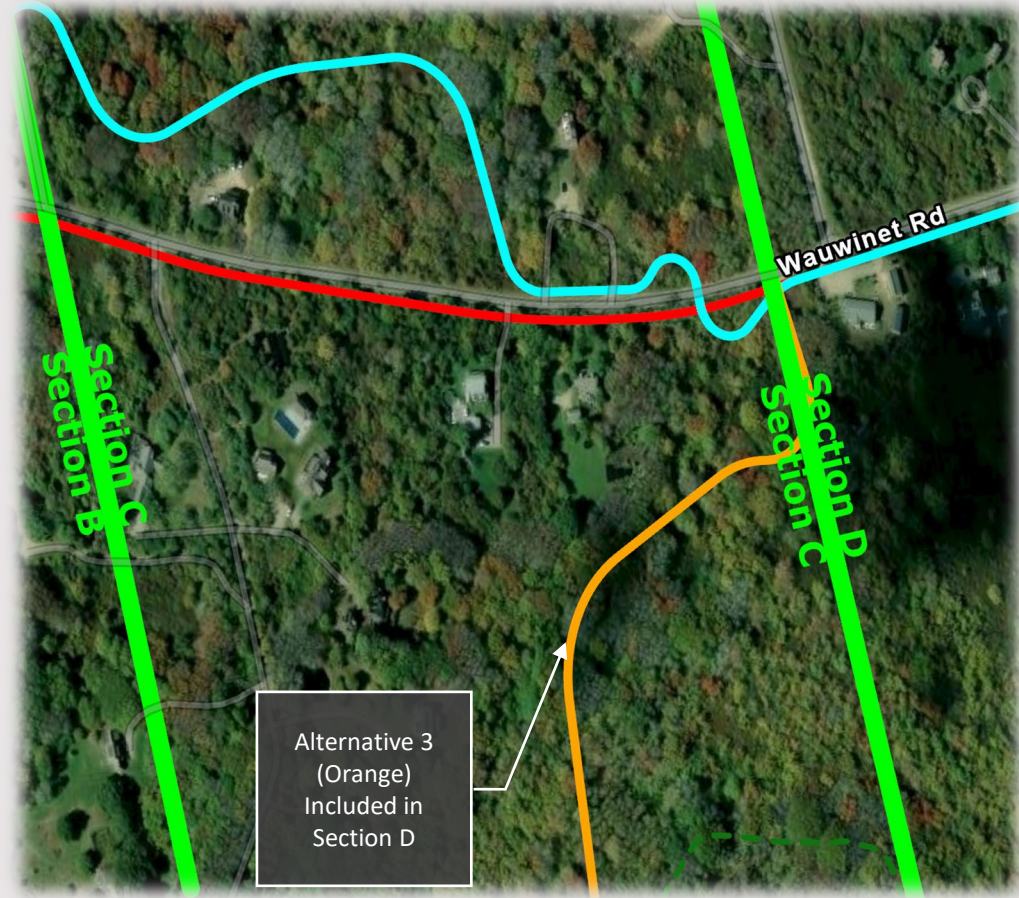
Alignment Alternatives – Section B



- Section B
 - From Eat Fire Springs to Medouie Creek Rd
 - Approximately 0.2 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2 (Cyan)

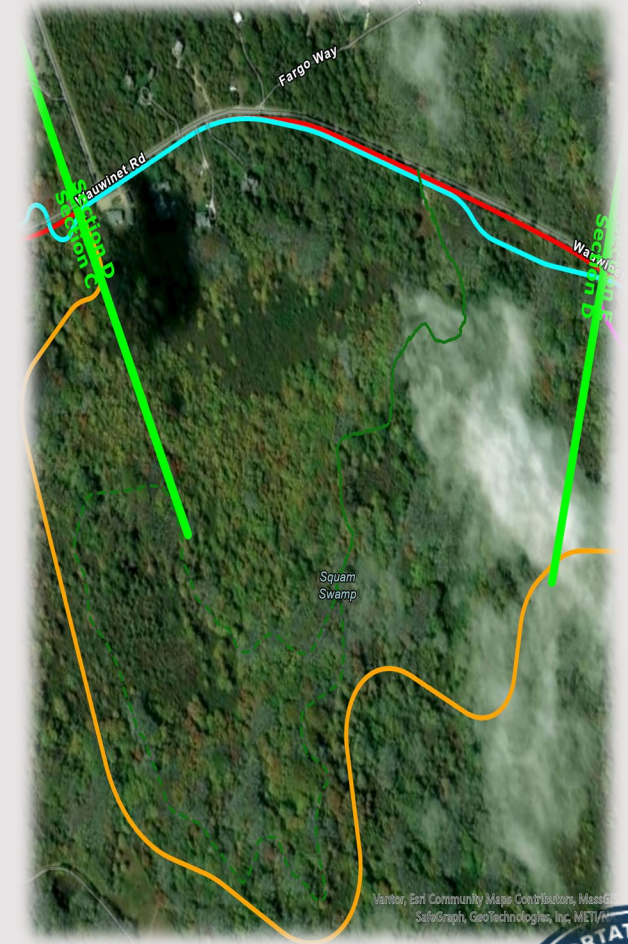
Alignment Alternatives – Section C

- Section C
 - From Medouie Creek Rd to Pocomo
 - Approximately 0.3 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2 (Cyan)
- *Alternative 3 (Orange) included in Section D*



Alignment Alternatives – Section D

- Section D
 - From Pocomo to Squam Brook
 - Approximately 0.5 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2 (Cyan)
- Alternative 3 (Orange)



Alignment Alternatives – Section E



- Section E
 - From Squam Brook to Approximately 2 miles from Project Start
 - Approximately 0.4 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2 (Cyan)
- Alternative 3 (Orange)
 - Merges with Alternative 4
- Alternative 4 (Purple)

Alignment Alternatives – Section F



- Section F
 - From Approximately 2 miles from Project Start to Project End
 - Approximately 0.3 miles
- Alternative 1 (Red)
- Alternative 2, 3, 4 (Purple)

Environmental Restrictions

Wetlands and Waters of the US/State

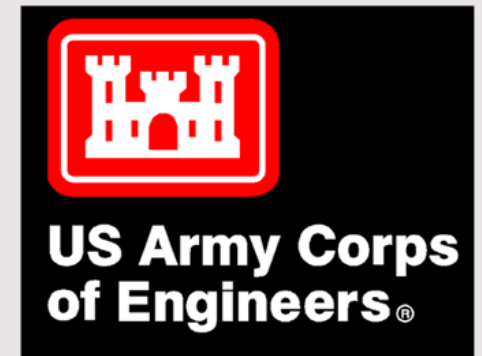
- National wetland inventory data was reviewed at a broad level for all alternatives;
- A wetland delineation in September 2025 in a study area adjacent to the roadway;
- 5 wetlands were identified (0.15 acres)
 - 3 Freshwater Emergent Wetlands
 - 2 Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands



Environmental Restrictions

Next Steps

- Evaluate the impact to wetlands and waters of US/State
- Determine if mitigation is required; define that mitigation and prepare a mitigation plan
- Obtain Clean Water Act 404 and 401 permits from federal and state agencies



Environmental Restrictions

Biological Resources

- Research and site surveys in September 2025 to identify special status species have the potential to occur in the study area
- Initial search identified 6 federal species and 20 state species
- Survey along the alignments adjacent to the roadway identified suitable habitat
 - 5 Federal Species
 - 9 State Species



Environmental Restrictions

Protected Species

Mammals



Northern long-eared bat

Tricolored bat

Invertebrates



Barrens dagger moth

Herodias underwing moth

Waxed swallow moth

Pink swallow moth

Chain dot geometer

Monarch butterfly

Sandplain heterocampa

Heath metarranthis

American burying beetle

Birds



Northern harrier

Plants



St. Andrew's cross

New England blazing star

Environmental Restrictions

Next Steps

- Coordinate with Federal and State Agencies
- Finalize the biological assessment
- Consult with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act



Cultural Restrictions

- Significant historical properties are categorized by their eligibility or their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- Research and pedestrian survey of the alignments adjacent to the roadway was performed
 - Conducted in December 2025
 - Key targets included:



Wauwinet Gatehouse

Potential for
Archeological Sites

Historic Structures

Nantucket Historic
District

Cultural Restrictions

Historic Structures

12

- Historic structures identified
- 10 individual structures
- 2 areas

11

- Historic District Contributors
- Squam Swamp (conservation land) also occurs within the APE

2

- MHC Documents
- Listed on the state inventory of historic properties

2

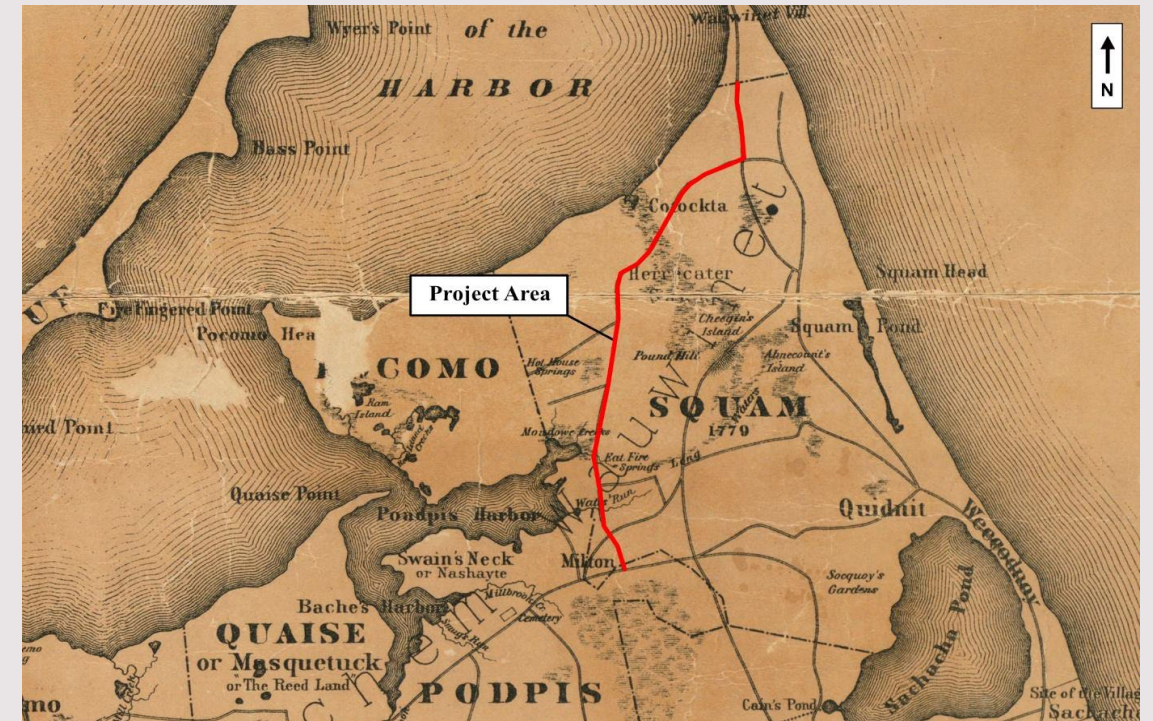
- Properties determined to be ineligible for listing
- Built dates are under 50 years
- Not exceptionally significant



Cultural Restrictions

Archeological Resources

- On-going coordination with MAHC
- Pedestrian survey performed
- Assess the potential for buried resources
 - High, Moderate and Low
- An intensive level survey will be performed after an alternative is chosen



Detail of 1869 (Ewer) map of Nantucket

Cultural Restrictions

Next Steps

- Perform intensive level archeological survey
- Assess potential impacts, including visual impacts
- Prepare a cultural resources inventory report
- FHWA will consult with tribes
- FHWA will consult with MAHC under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act / Local historical commission

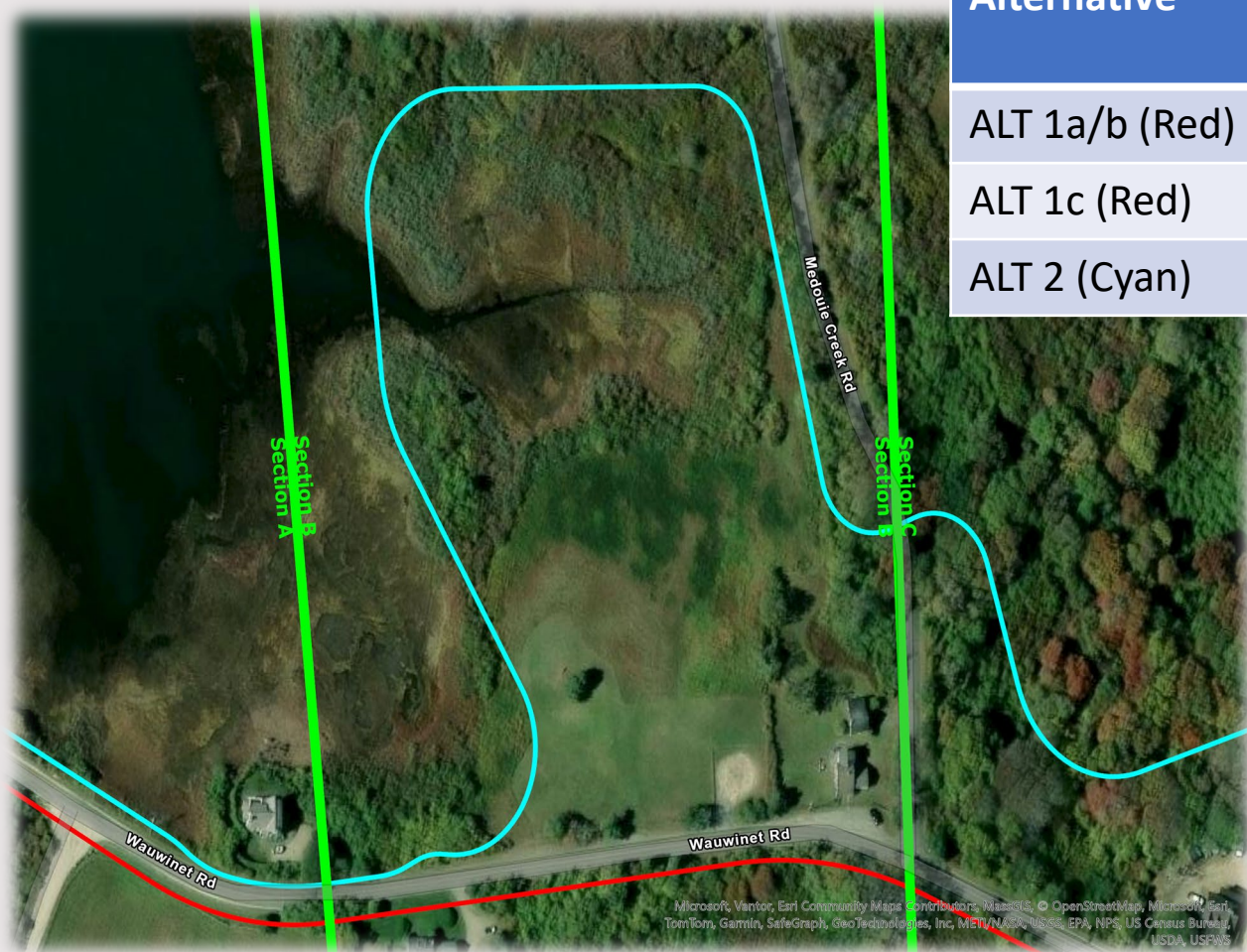


Evaluation of Alternatives – Section A

Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	5,000 sqft	3,000 sqft	Highest	Lower
ALT1c (Red)	4,000 sqft	2,700 sqft	Higher	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	72,000 sqft	1,000 sqft	Lowest	Highest



Evaluation of Alternatives – Section B

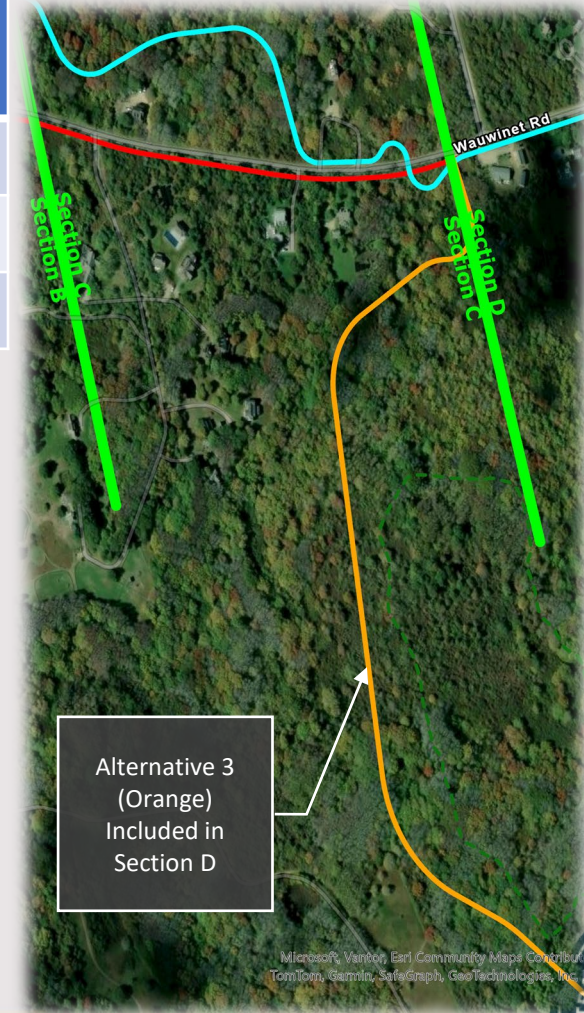


Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	1,500 sqft	N/A	Lower	Lower
ALT 1c (Red)	1,000 sqft	N/A	Lowest	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	12,000 sqft	1,050 sqft	Highest	Highest



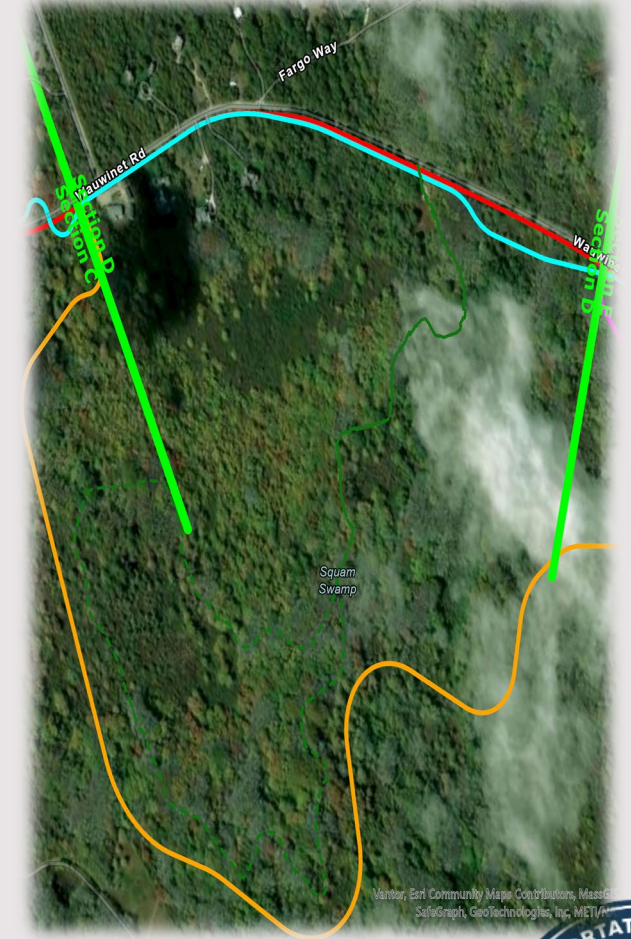
Evaluation of Alternatives – Section C

Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	19,000 sqft	N/A	Lower	Lower
ALT 1c (Red)	17,000 sqft	N/A	Lowest	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	39,000 sqft	N/A	Highest	Highest



Evaluation of Alternatives – Section D

Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	9,000 sqft	N/A	Lower	Lower
ALT 1c (Red)	7,000 sqft	N/A	Lowest	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	35,000 sqft	N/A	Higher	Higher
ALT 3 (Orange)	123,000 sqft	N/A	Highest	Highest



Evaluation of Alternatives – Section E



Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	13,000 sqft	2,500 sqft	Lower	Lower
ALT 1c (Red)	11,000 sqft	1,900 sqft	Lowest	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	25,000 sqft	2,300 sqft	Lower	Lower
ALT 3 (Orange)	35,000 sqft	N/A	High	Higher
ALT 4 (Purple)	40,000 sqft	N/A	Highest	Highest

Microsoft, Vantor, Earth Community Maps Contributors, MassGIS, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/MASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



Evaluation of Alternatives – Section F

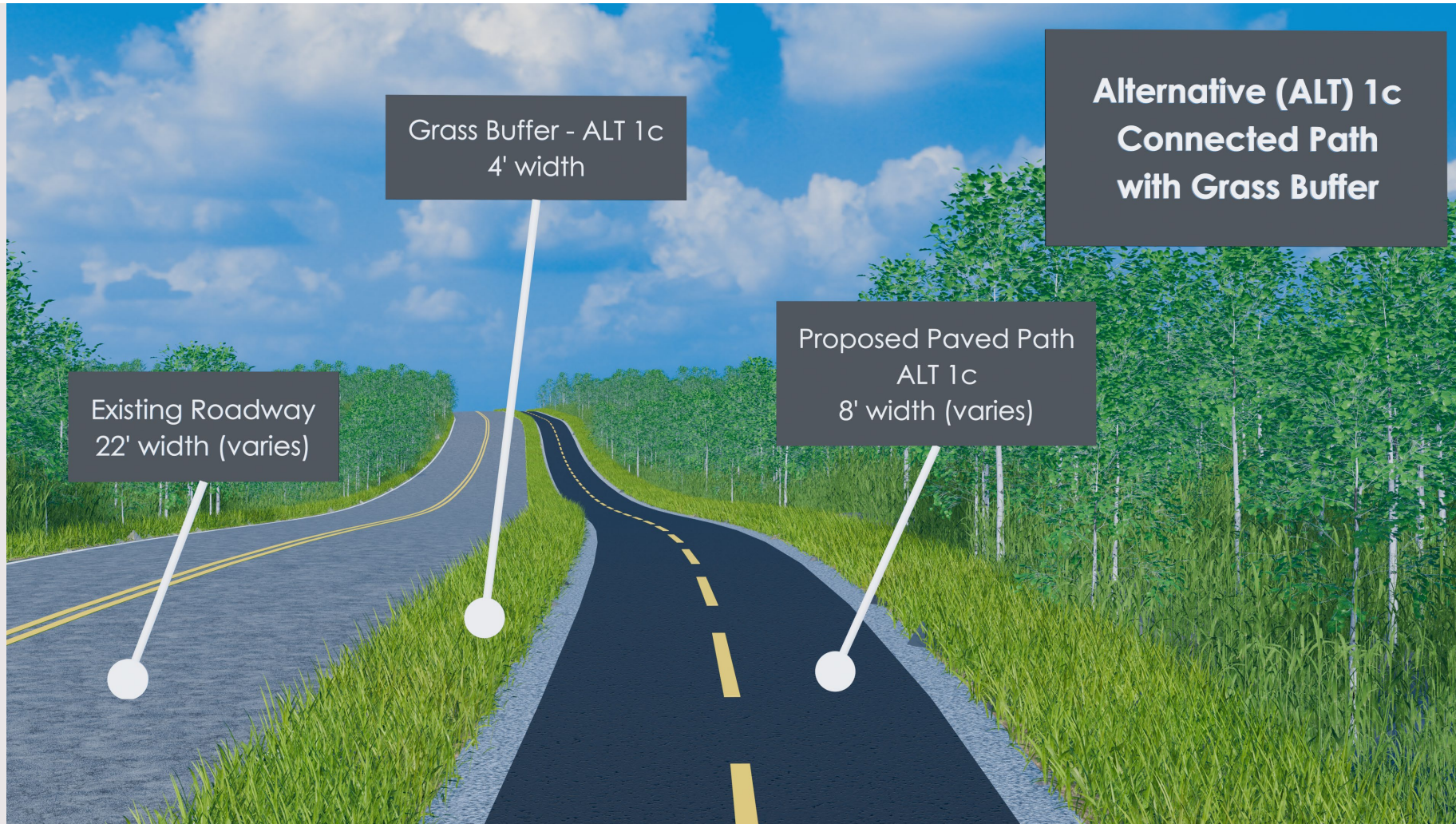


Alternative	Right of Way Impact	Wetland Impact	Cultural Impact	Cost
ALT 1a/b (Red)	12,000 sqft	N/A	Lower	Lower
ALT 1c (Red)	10,000 sqft	N/A	Lowest	Lowest
ALT 2 (Cyan)	16,000 sqft	N/A	Higher	Higher
ALT 3 (Orange)	16,000 sqft	N/A	Higher	Higher
ALT 4 (Purple)	16,000 sqft	N/A	Higher	Higher

Microsoft, Vantor, Bing Community Maps Contributors, MassGIS, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USF



Recommended Alternative: Alternative 1c



Next Steps

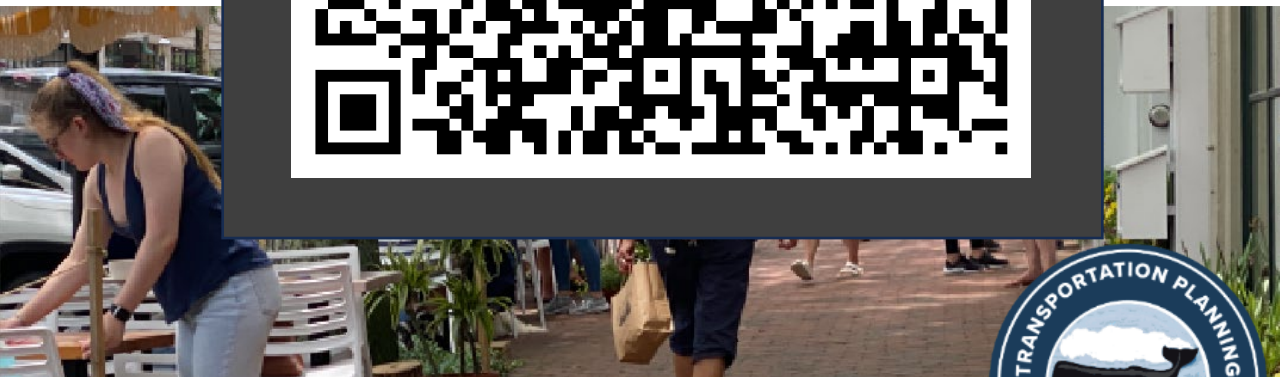
- August 12, 2026 – Presentation of Alignment Alternatives and Impacts
- September/October – Advisory Committees Develop Recommendations
- October 2026 – County Commissioners Approve Alignment
- 2026 – 2028 –
 - FHWA Design Team to develop Preliminary Plans for Permitting
 - Secure Permitting and Right of Way
 - Finalize Design Plans
- Spring 2029 – Anticipated Start of Construction (dependent on permitting)





Questions?

We Want to Hear Your Thoughts! Please Fill Out the Survey!



Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission
Nantucket Transportation Planning Organization

