



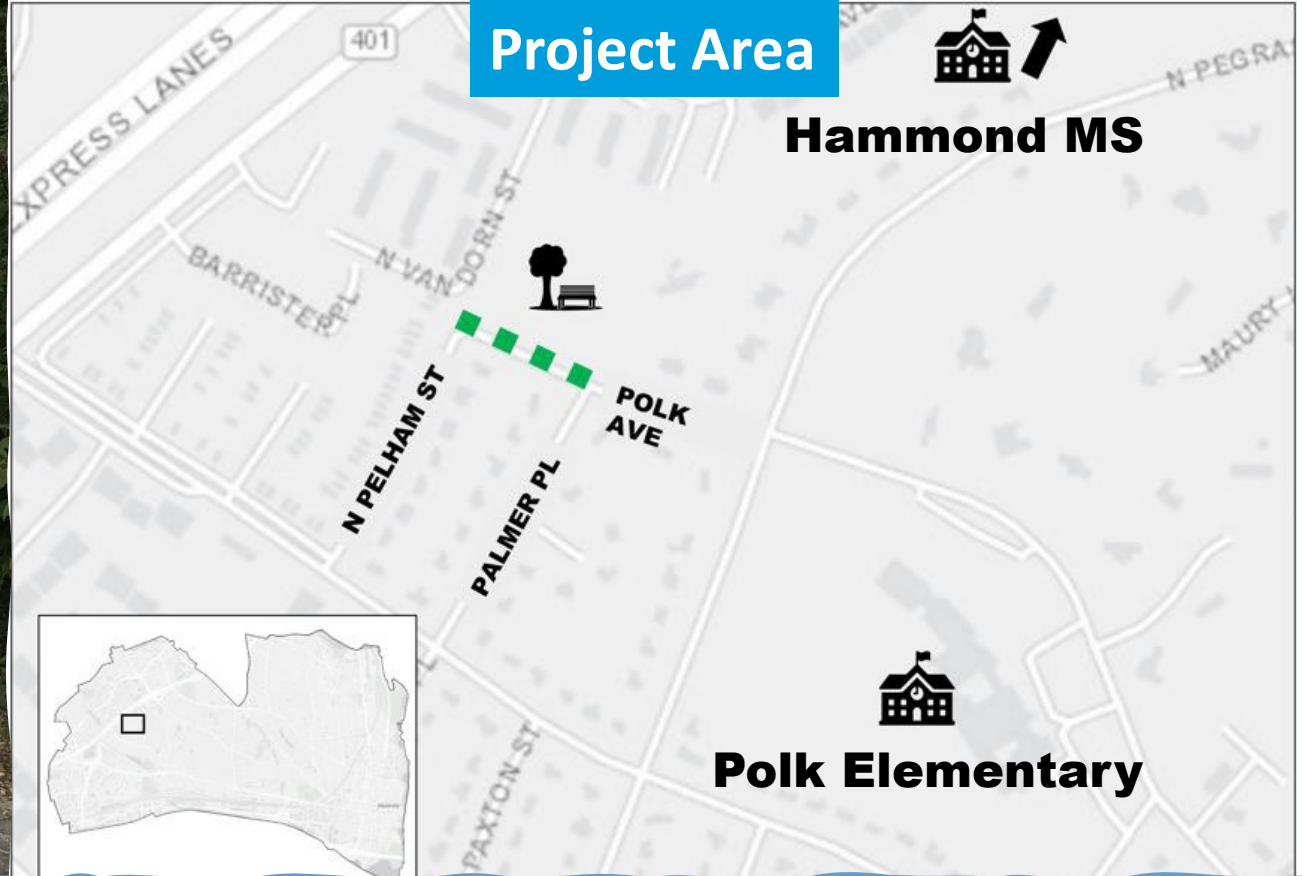
# Polk Avenue Sidewalk Project

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Complete Streets Program Manager  
City of Alexandria  
July 2022



Missing Sidewalk



Project Area

Hammond MS

Polk Elementary

# Background

- Sidewalk gap on Polk Avenue between Pelham Street and Palmer Place
- Sidewalk recommended in Safe Routes to School Walk Audit for Polk Elementary School
- **Council-adopted Complete Streets Policy:** Streets should provide safe and convenient travel for everyone
- **Council-adopted Alexandria Mobility Plan:** “Build out a continuous, connected, and accessible pedestrian network”
- **Council-adopted Vision Zero Action Plan:** Implement Safe Routes to School engineering recommendations



Today, people must either walk in the street or cross to continue along their route.



# Proposed Sidewalk

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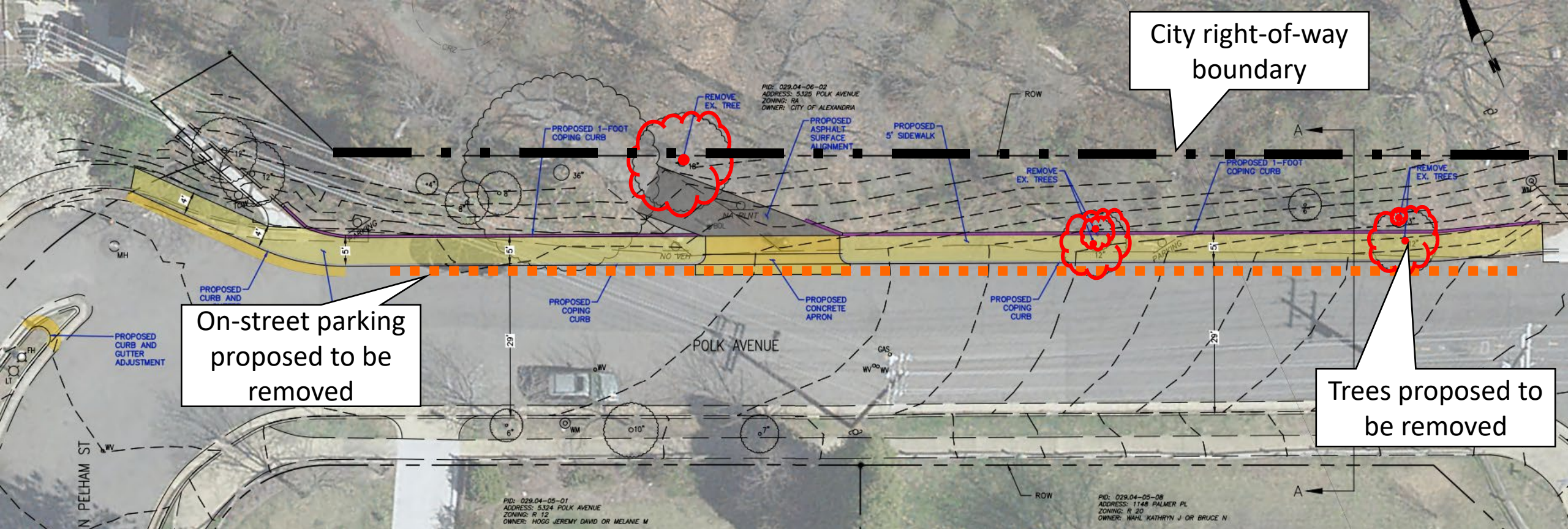
- A safe, dedicated place to walk
- Improved access to Polk Elementary and Hammond Middle
- Improved access to park and neighborhood



Existing



Proposed (for illustrative purposes only)



On-street parking proposed to be removed

Trees proposed to be removed

# Proposed Sidewalk – Draft Concept

- 4-5' wide sidewalk to fill existing sidewalk gap
- Within City street right-of-way
- Largely on existing street footprint (60%)
- 5 trees would require removal (18", 12", 12", 6", 3")
- 9 parking spaces would require removal

# What We've Heard So Far: Support

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- Reduces need to cross Polk Avenue
- Reduces need to walk in the street
- Concern about conflicts between people driving and walking
- Supports City policies and infrastructure recommendations

*"We've seen children have to walk around parked cars and therefore into the middle of the street ... It can get dicey when cars are also coming down the street at the same time."*

*"Having a sidewalk here would be much safer for us, and it is something we have wanted for years."*

*"I believe it is imperative to give the children a safe and direct way to walk to school without making the choice of walking on a road without a sidewalk or crossing a busy neighborhood street to reach the existing sidewalk."*

# What We've Heard So Far: Concerns + How We've Responded



## **Impact to park space**

*Sidewalk is entirely within public right-of-way and not within the open space*



## **Impact to trees**

*Staff have revised plans to avoid impacting largest tree*



## **Impact to parking**

*Sufficient parking is available via on-street parking and private driveways*



## **Request for crosswalk**

*Crosswalks can be provided at Palmer Pl, but sightlines are insufficient for a crosswalk at Pelham St*



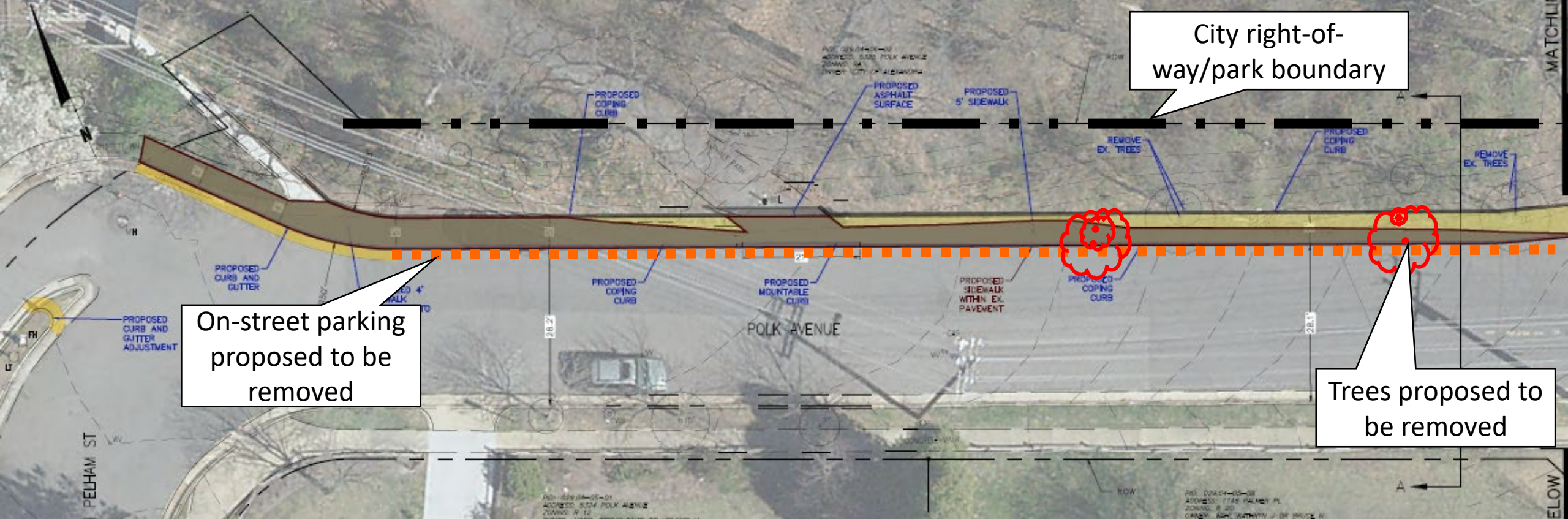
## **New impervious surface**

*Majority of proposed sidewalk would be installed on existing paved area*



## **Stability of park**

*Staff have determined a max 1' curb is sufficient retention between hill and sidewalk to maintain stability*



# Revised Concept Based on Community Feedback

- 4-5' wide sidewalk to fill existing sidewalk gap
- Within City street right-of-way
- **Predominantly on existing street footprint (82%)**
- **4 trees would require removal (12", 12", 6", 3")**
- **9 parking spaces would require removal, + up to 6 additional spaces if new crosswalks are included**



# Next Steps

- Send remaining comments to [Alexandria.Carroll@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Carroll@alexandriava.gov) by Sunday, July 17
- Traffic & Parking Board Public Hearing on **Monday, July 25 at 7pm**
  - Meeting information: [alexandriava.gov/TrafficParkingBoard](http://alexandriava.gov/TrafficParkingBoard)
  - Email [Alex.Block@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alex.Block@alexandriava.gov) before the meeting if you wish to speak during the public hearing
- Complete sidewalk design

Thank You!  
Questions?

