



# A Proposal to Rep. Ruth Balsler “Safety at Quinobequin Road & Ellis Street”



A FIRST STEP TOWARDS LINKING HEMLOCK GORGE RESERVATION  
AND THE QUINOBEQUIN TRAIL SAFELY

A PROPOSAL FROM THE FRIENDS OF HEMLOCK GORGE AND  
THE FRIENDS OF THE QUINOBEQUIN/WABAN AREA COUNCIL

# Proposal

- ▶ There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge to Quinobequin Road
- ▶ Crosswalks with curb cuts
  - ▶ Across the Route 9 exit ramp that ends at Ellis Street
  - ▶ Across the Route 9 entrance ramp at Quinobequin Road
  - ▶ Ideally, all four street crossings at each location
- ▶ Access to the Quinobequin Trail near Route 9
  - ▶ The guardrail does not allow access to the Quinobequin Trail
  - ▶ Right around the corner, the guardrail was modified to allow river canoe portage access for the Run of the Charles!



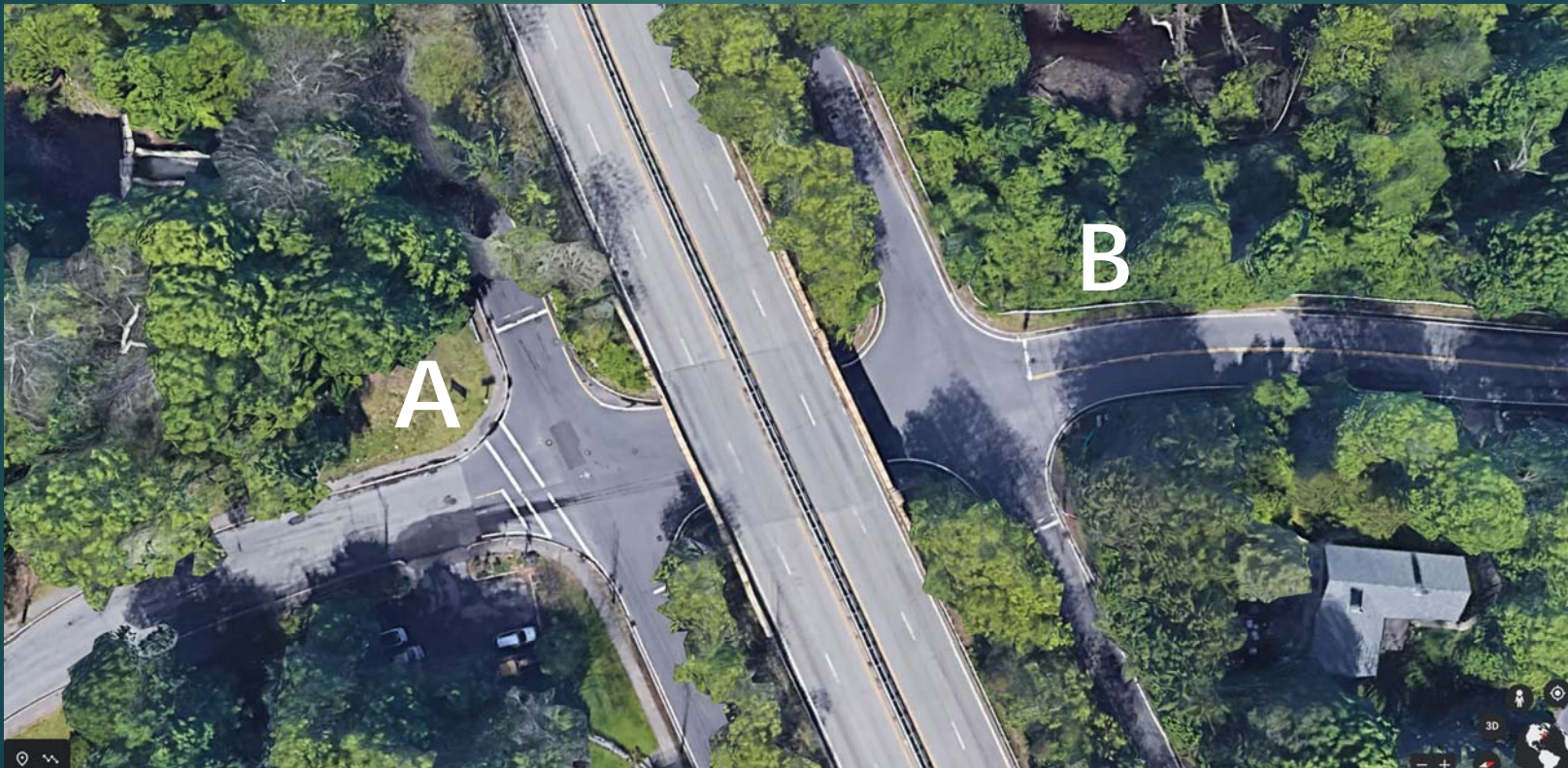
# The Lay of the Land





# Problem

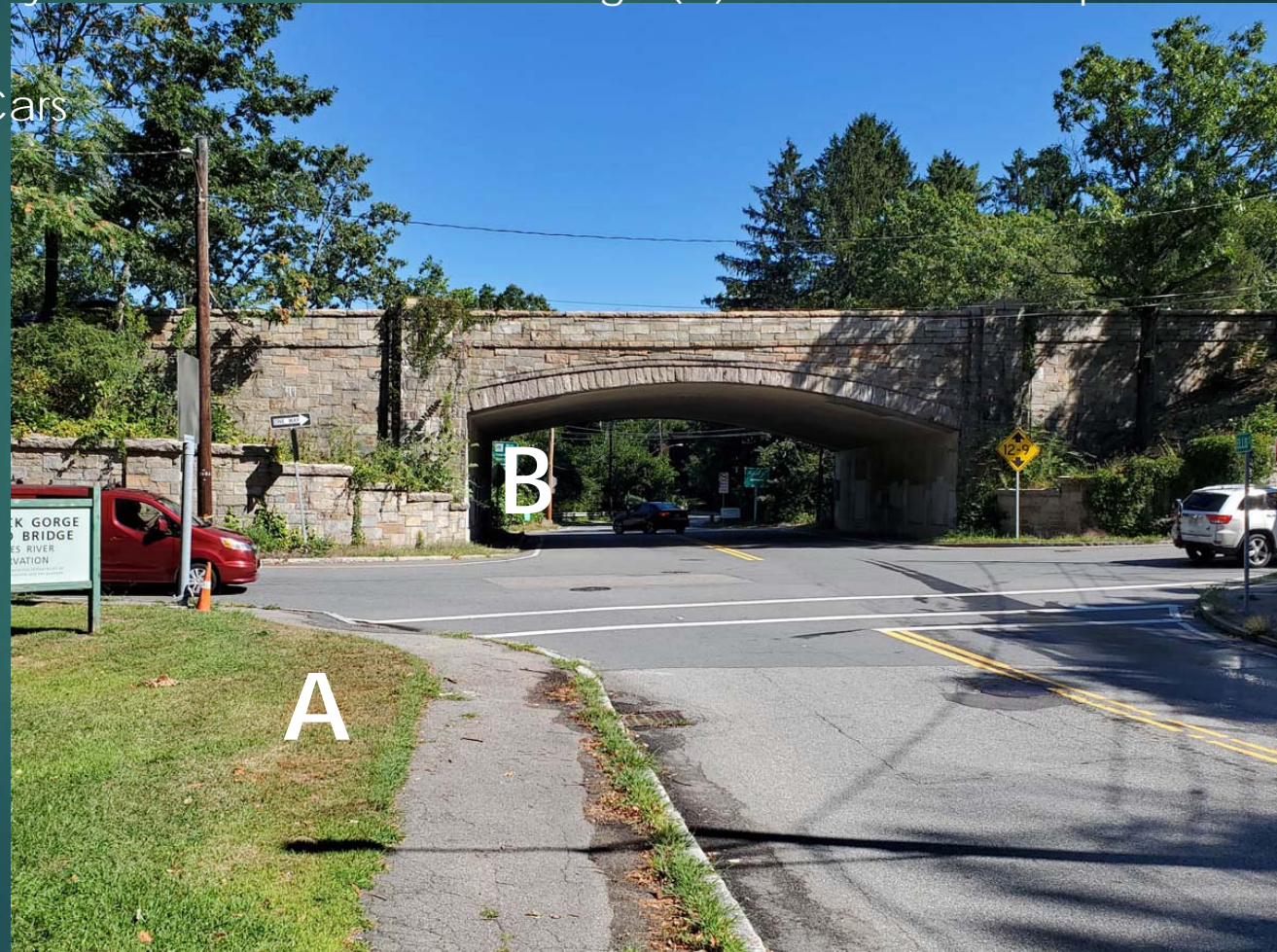
- ▶ There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge Reservation (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)





# Problem

- ▶ There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- ▶ Street View with Cars





# Problem

- ▶ There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- ▶ Street View with Cars





# Problem

- ▶ There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- ▶ Even when you get to B, a guardrail makes trail access difficult



# The Problem

- ▶ Hemlock Gorge Reservation and the Charles River Path along Quinobequin Road are parts of Boston's 'Emerald Necklace' conceived by Charles Eliot in 1892
  - ▶ [www.hemlockgorge.org](http://www.hemlockgorge.org)
  - ▶ [newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/](http://newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/)
- ▶ The parklands are adjacent but separated by Route 9 and its on-and off-ramps
- ▶ Problem: There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge to Quinobequin Road
- ▶ The following slides lay out the problem and our proposed solution



# Proposal

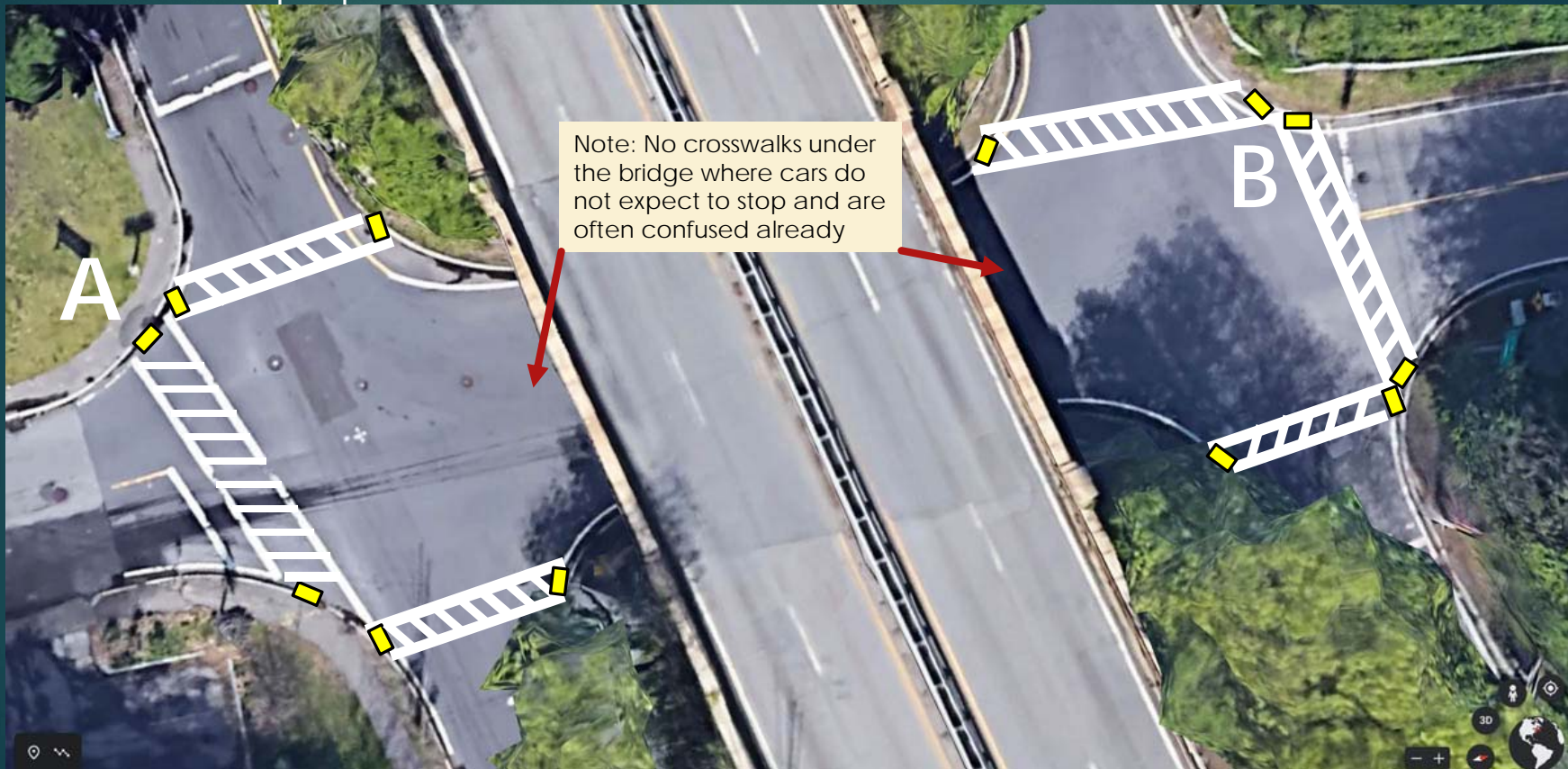
- ▶ Add painted zebra-stripe crosswalks for pedestrians
- ▶ Here is the before view





# Proposal

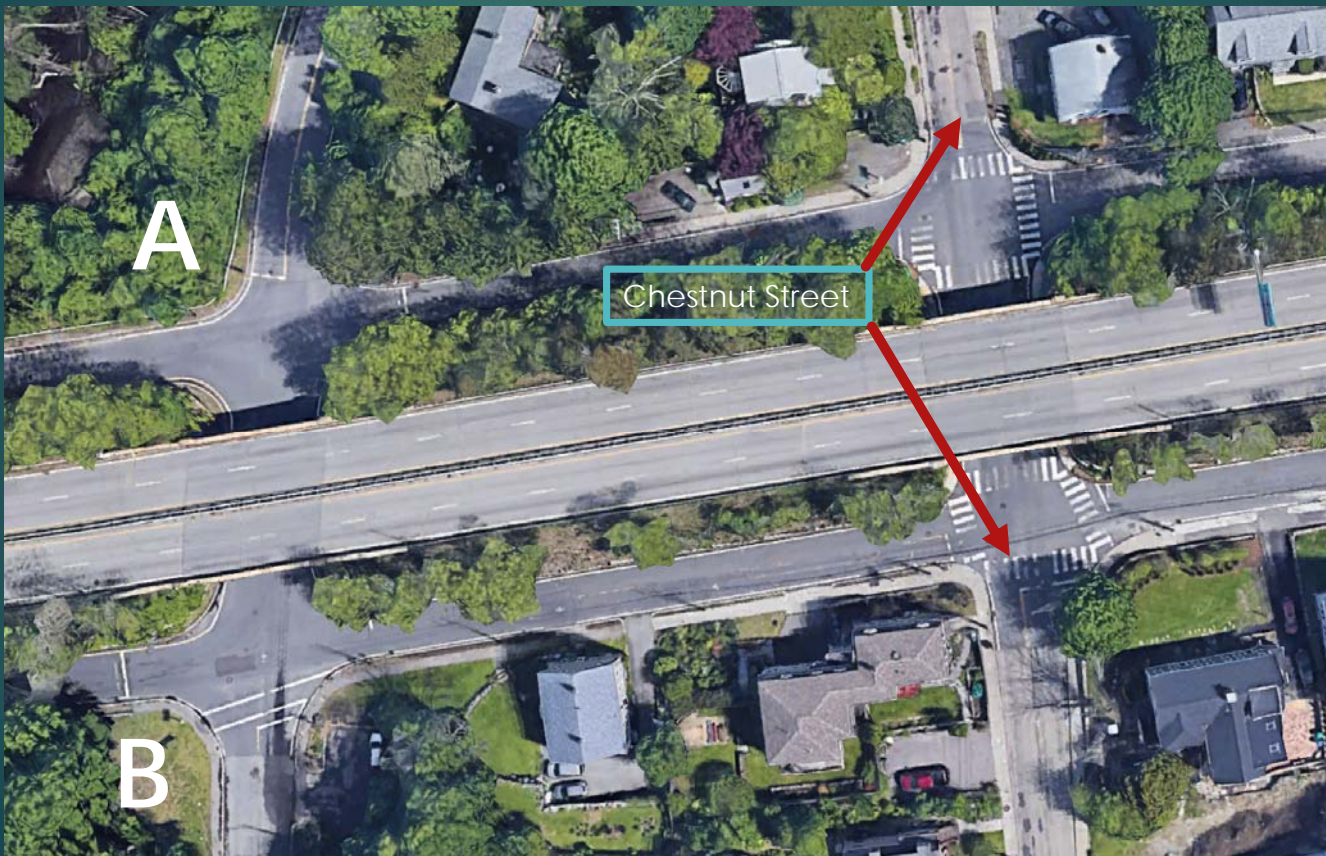
- ▶ Painted zebra-stripe crosswalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps
- ▶ Here is the proposed after view:





# Proposal

- ▶ Painted zebra-stripe crosswalks would be similar to those already in place at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Route 9





# Proposal

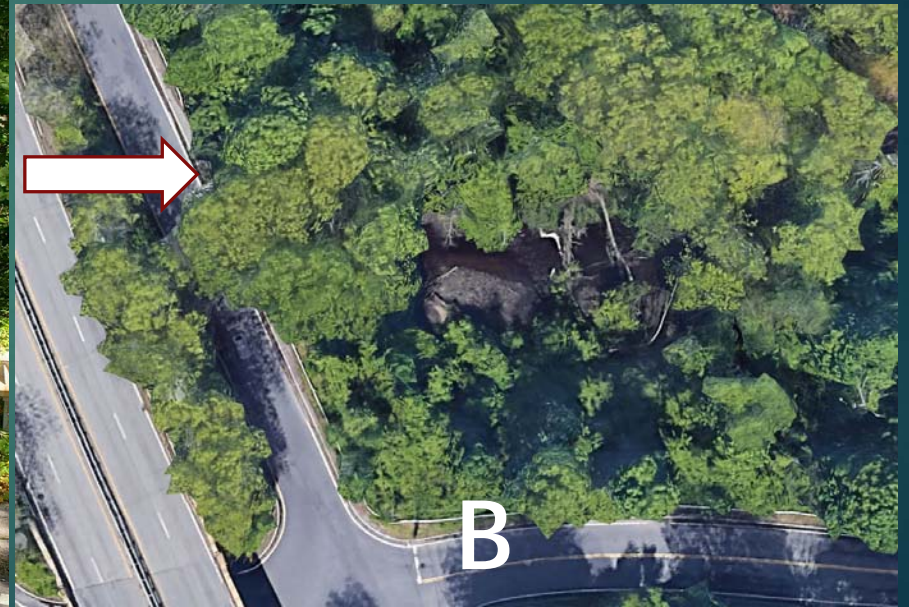
- ▶ Then Add Access to the Quinobequin Trail
- ▶ This is the before view:





# Proposal

- ▶ This is the potential solution that is just around the corner from "B"
- ▶ This river access was created for Run of the Charles canoeists portaging their boats around the circular dam





# Conclusion

- ▶ Respectfully submitted by
  - ▶ The Friends of Hemlock Gorge
    - ▶ [www.hemlockgorge.org](http://www.hemlockgorge.org)
  - ▶ The Friends of the Quinobequin subcommittee of the Waban Area Council
    - ▶ [www.wabanareacouncil.com/issue/friends-quinobequin](http://www.wabanareacouncil.com/issue/friends-quinobequin)
    - ▶ See also: [newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/](http://newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/)
- ▶ With full recognition that our proposal may involve complex coordination of efforts by:
  - ▶ The State Department of Transportation
  - ▶ The Department of Conservation and Recreation
  - ▶ The City of Newton