



Public Square Collaboration with the Group Plan Commission and City of Cleveland

Presented to: Committee of the Whole

December 6, 2022



BACKGROUND

- **June, 2016:** new Public Square opened
- Superior closure maintained
- **March, 2017:** Superior opened with barriers + temporary measures
- **2017-2022:** group coordination around permanent alternative
- **March, 2022:** City Council funding approval for rehabilitation + RTA Board Meeting appearance
- **August-November, 2022:** City, RTA, and partners coordination on design concept

ORIGINAL PUBLIC SQUARE DESIGN

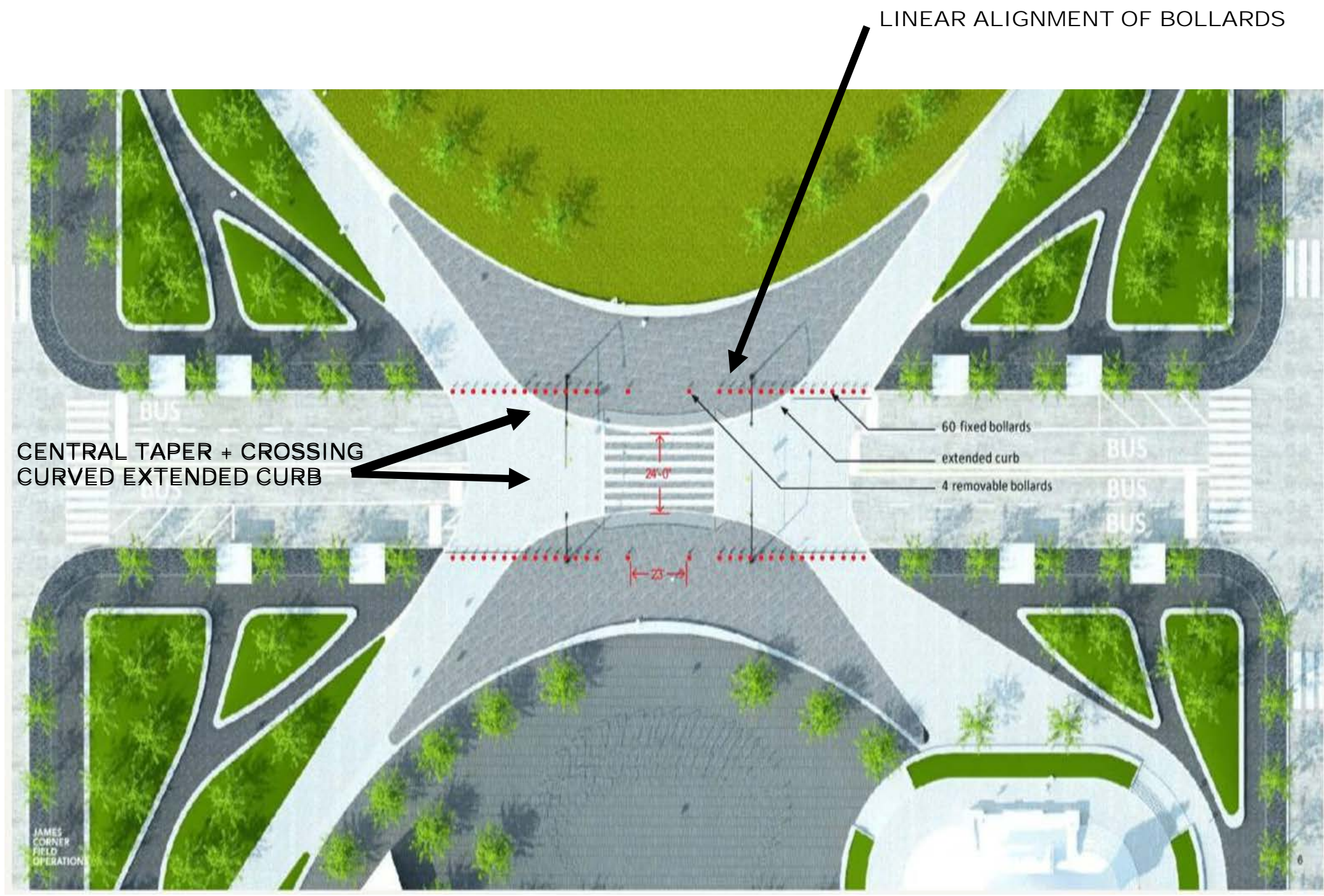


2022 SUPERIOR CROSSING WORKING GROUP

- City of Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland RTA
- Group Plan Commission
- LAND studio

2022 SUPERIOR CROSSING DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Address Homeland Services concerns in **routine/every-day operations**
- Plan for easy and secure closure of Superior for **special events**
- **Repair existing damage** to roadway surface where pavers are currently in place
- Provide **safe pedestrian crossings**, including mid-block on Superior
- Account for **bicycle circulation** around Public Square
- Accommodate **RTA service needs**



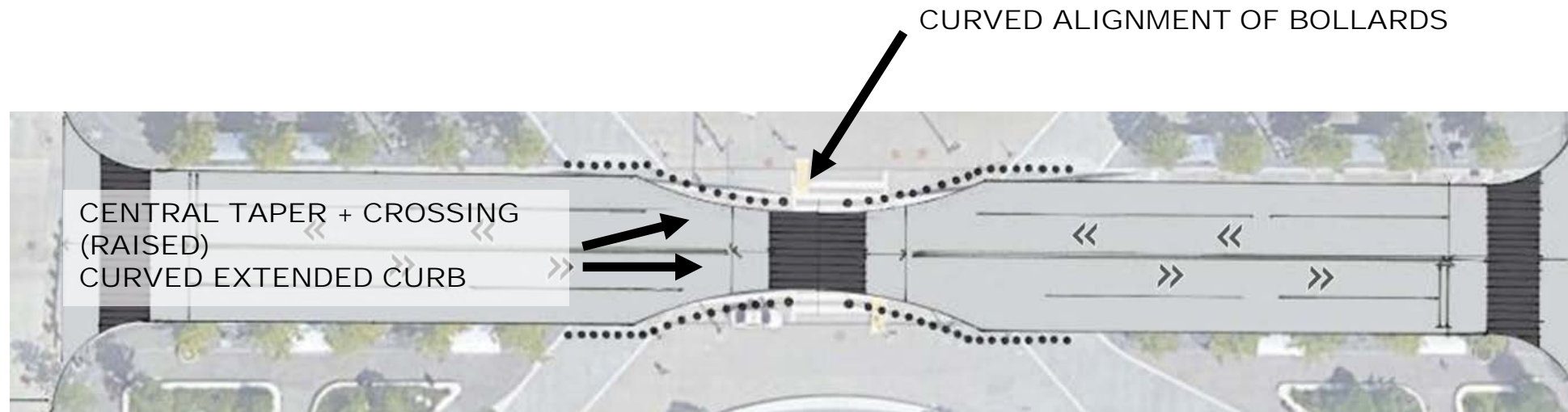
SUPERIOR CROSSING: ORIGINAL PROPOSAL
TEMPORARY ELEMENTS MADE PERMANENT

SUMMER-FALL

GROUP DESIGN PROCESS

- Held 15+ team meetings and small-group coordinating conversations
- Conducted multiple site visits to Public Square
- Drafted and reviewed 8 potential design alternatives

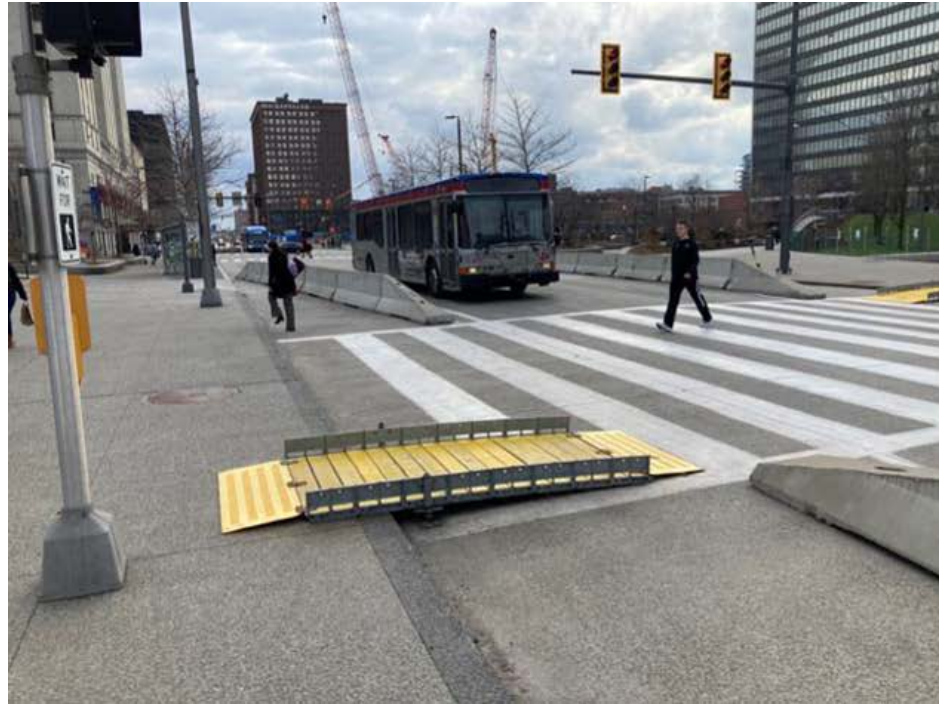
- SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO ORIGINAL CONCEPT IN LANE ALLOCATION + CURB LINES
- IMPROVED CENTRAL CROSSING
 - Bollard alignment with curb extensions increases pedestrian space
 - Raised/tabletop midblock crosswalk improves pedestrian crossing comfort and aids bus traffic through the Square
- SHARROWS ARE RESTORED ALONG SUPERIOR (2016 design element)



SUPERIOR CROSSING: CONSENSUS CONCEPT

EXISTING CONDITIONS













SCOPE

BARRIER REMOVAL + CURB
REPLACEMENT

SIGNAL REMOVAL + REPLACEMENT

CROSSWALK REMOVAL + REPLACEMENT
STRIPING

BOLLARD INSTALLATION

SUPERIOR SPECIAL EVENT CLOSURE



BUDGET + FUNDING UPDATE

NEXT STEPS

RTA BOARD REVIEW OF MOU + FUNDING

- Finalize MOU between City, RTA + Group Plan
- 12/6 Committee meeting
- 12/20 Board Meeting

CITY DESIGN REVIEW/PLANNING COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

- Jan 5 Downtown/Flat Design Review Advisory Committee Meeting
- Jan 6 City Planning Commission Meeting

IN PARALLEL

- City will convene protected bikeway connectivity workshops
- Group Plan will enter into contract for design and construction

Benefits to GCRTA

- Reconstructing Superior Avenue will decrease wear and tear on buses.
- Improving signal timing on Superior Avenue will enhance safety and expedite traversal of Public Square by buses.
- Developing an improved closure system to control traffic on Superior Avenue will reduce time and disruption to transit service when closing and reopening Public Square for major civic events.
- Enhancing safe, convenient pedestrian travel along and across Superior Avenue.

Impact to transit operations

The partners will minimize impact to transit operations by:

- Completing all work impacting transit operations on Superior Avenue within a single period of no more than 60 days.
- Completing all work impacting transit operations on the perimeter roads within a separate period of no more than 30 days.

GCRTA funding contributions

- The proposed contribution from GCRTA is not to exceed \$500,000
- Upon certification by Group Plan Commission that 95% of funds necessary for the Superior Avenue work items have been raised, GCRTA will advance 60% (\$300,000) for the purpose of ordering long lead-time materials.
- Upon commencement of physical construction on the Superior Avenue work items, GCRTA will advance the remaining 40% (\$200,000).

Recommendation

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Memorandum of Understanding to the Board of Trustees for approval.