

LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

University Avenue and Bertrand Drive Modernization & Revitalization

Date: June 16, 2026
Location: Council Auditorium
705 W. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506



Lafayette
CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT



CAN LAFAYETTE IMPROVE, MODERNIZE, AND RETROFIT IT'S INFRASTRUCTURE?

University Avenue Corridor

Project Goals and Objectives – Phase I, II, and III

- Reduce the crash rate which was higher than the statewide average
- Reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries
- Installation of Pump station, generator and warning system for flooding
- Serve as a revitalized business corridor and community gateway
- Repair damaged sidewalks and create ADA accessibility
- Provide new sidewalks, median, landscaping and lighting
- Upgrade traffic signals
- Invest in pedestrian intersection improvements and connectivity for UL Students
- Addition of local, community-related Public Art

Phase I Segment I-10 to Walker Road

Project Funding

- \$10.32M – Federal BUILD grant
- \$2.58M – LCG
- **\$12.9M Total Project Cost**

Project Elements

- Safety Measures
- Medians
- Intersection Improvements
- Sidewalks

Project Timing

- 2020 - BUILD Award
- 2022 – University Road Transfer
- 2022 – Design Completed
- 2023 – Bid Awarded
- 2024 – Construction Began
- 2026 - Construction Complete

Progress to date

- Sidewalks
- Median
- Partial Landscaping

Coming Next – Q3 of 2026

- Asphalt Overlay
- Stripping of roadway to 10 ft travel lanes
- Improve car drownings by installation of a high water warning system, a new generator, and existing pump repairs – active as of 6/15
- Final landscaping
- Aggregate connector in two areas for safe pedestrian crossings
- Project completion and potential modifications based on public input

Economic Development Opportunities: Bottle Arts Lofts Improvements, Redevelopment of Blighted properties, EDD Catalytic Investment Identification and more.

Considered Project Scope Modifications

- Byron Street one-way access to Madeline Avenue
- **Upon Federal Project Completion**
the following will be evaluated:
 - Potential widening of travel lanes
 - Increased business access
 - Increase cross-access with J-turns
 - Curbs 6” in height after asphalt



Phase II Segment – Cameron to Lee Street

Project Details

- Project is bid
- Contract award and notice to proceed in Q3
- Construction cost of \$5 Million

Project Improvements

- Pedestrian Improvements
- Intersection ADA Sidewalks
- Milling and overlaying roadway
- Standalone traffic signal improvements
- Travel lane widths remain the same

Phase III Segment – St. Landry to Taft Street

Project Details

- Opinion of probable cost \$5 Million
- Project scope is being developed
- Prioritizes pedestrian infrastructure around University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Project Improvements

- Pedestrian Improvements
- Intersection ADA Sidewalks
- Milling and overlaying roadway
- Standalone traffic signal improvements
- Travel lane widths remain the same

Bertrand Drive

Active conversations about project re-prioritization

Goal of the Project

- Connectivity
- Safety Improvements
- Infrastructure modernization
- Economic development – 36 businesses
- Quality of Life
- Links Moncus Park, Cajun Field, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, surrounding neighborhoods, and local business.

Project Cost

\$13M – \$15M Local Funds Total Project Cost

Actual costs vary based on Right of Way acquisition, utility relocations, construction bid pricing, etc.

WE HEARD YOUR COMMENTS

Johnston St. Intersection Safety	Pedestrian Scale Lighting
Johnston St. Intersection Pedestrian Crossing	Safe Lighting
Bertrand lack of pedestrian crossings	Left and Center Turn Lane Access
Bertrand Vehicular High Speeds	Raised Crosswalks
Eliminate Straight Thru Lane Crossing Johnston	Mid-block Crosswalks
Remove Slip Land On Southeast Corner	Emergency Vehicle Access and Response
Bring In Curb On The Johnston Side	18 Wheeler and Large Truck Access
Road collects water	Crosswalk Lighting
Slow Down Traffic/Calming Amenities	Art At Crosswalks

Bertrand Drive Timeline and Outreach History

- 2014** – Better Block Bertrand
- 2016** – Bertrand Drive Re-striped
- 2021** – Moncus Park opens to the public
- 2023** – Administrative Rezoning



Bertrand Drive Timeline and Outreach History

- 2024 – Nov. 20th** Public Outreach with Businesses & Stakeholders (*Yard Goat*)
- 2024 – Dec. 9th** Lafayette Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee meeting
- 2024 – Dec. 18th** Public Meeting (*SoLACC*)
- 2025 – Jan.-Oct.** Individual Meetings with Businesses & Stakeholders
- 2026 – Apr. 8th** Public Unveiling (*Russo Park*)
- 2026 – May 19th** Meeting requested by Businesses & Landowners (*Deano's*)
- 2026 – May 20th** Overlay District Meeting with Businesses & Landowners (*Rosa Parks*)
- 2026 – June 15th** Meeting with Businesses (*Joey's*)



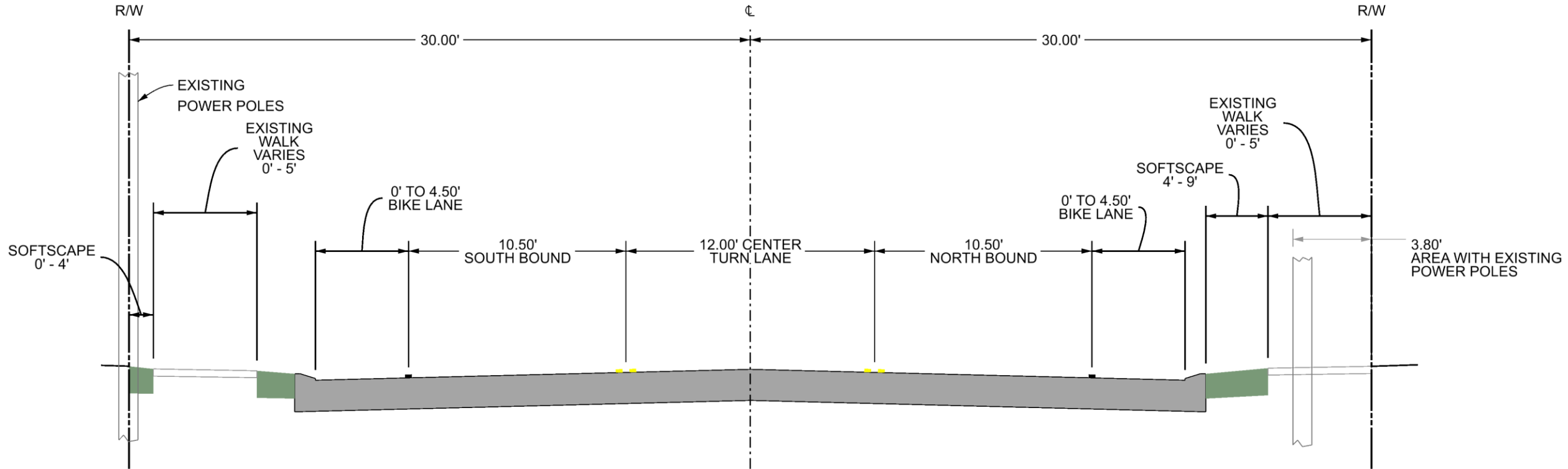


ROADWAY DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENTS

Existing Conditions - Bertrand



EXISTING ROAD



EXISTING SECTION

Johnston / Bertrand Intersection Improvements

Proposed Improvements

- Improves pedestrian safety across Johnston St by eliminating conflict points
- Improve vehicular flow and travel from Bertrand to Johnston
- Reduces traffic crashes and injuries
- Builds connectivity between shopping centers and Moncus Park
- Provides for ADA compliant crossings



N College, Theater and Reinhardt Dr Intersection

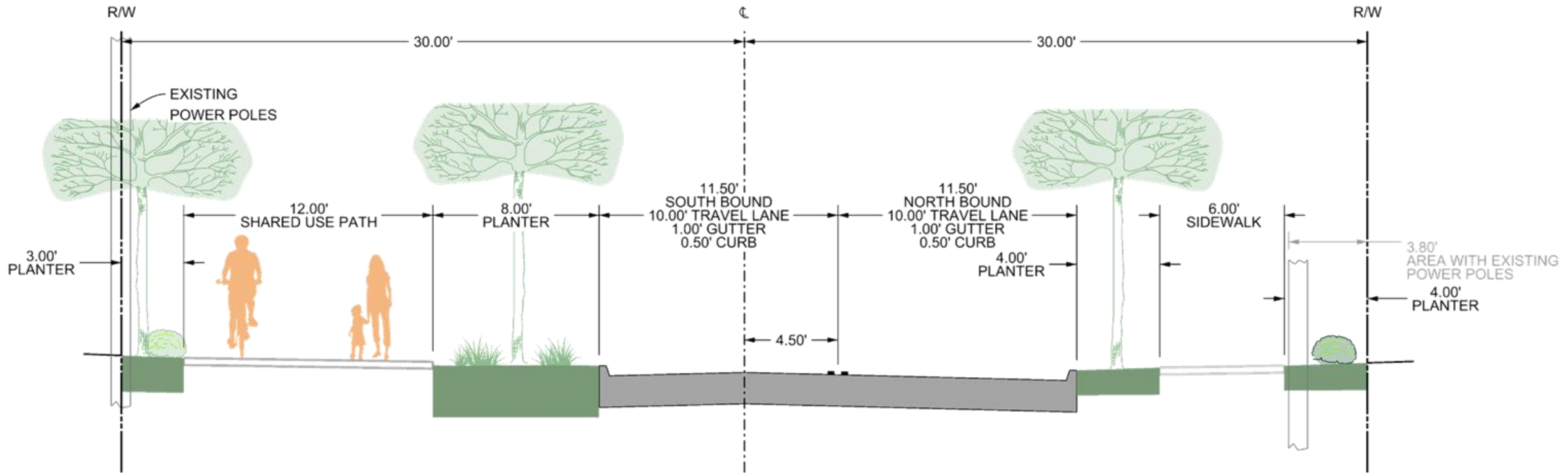
Proposed Improvements

- Improve vehicular flow and travel
- Transitions an unconventional intersection to a T-type intersection
- Restores left turn from N College onto Bertrand Drive
- Improves safety on N College through road re-alignment and traffic signalization
- Realigns Reinhardt to UL's Master Plan 2.0
- Provides for ADA compliant crossings



Presented Nov 2024
Preliminary Studying
0% Plan Design

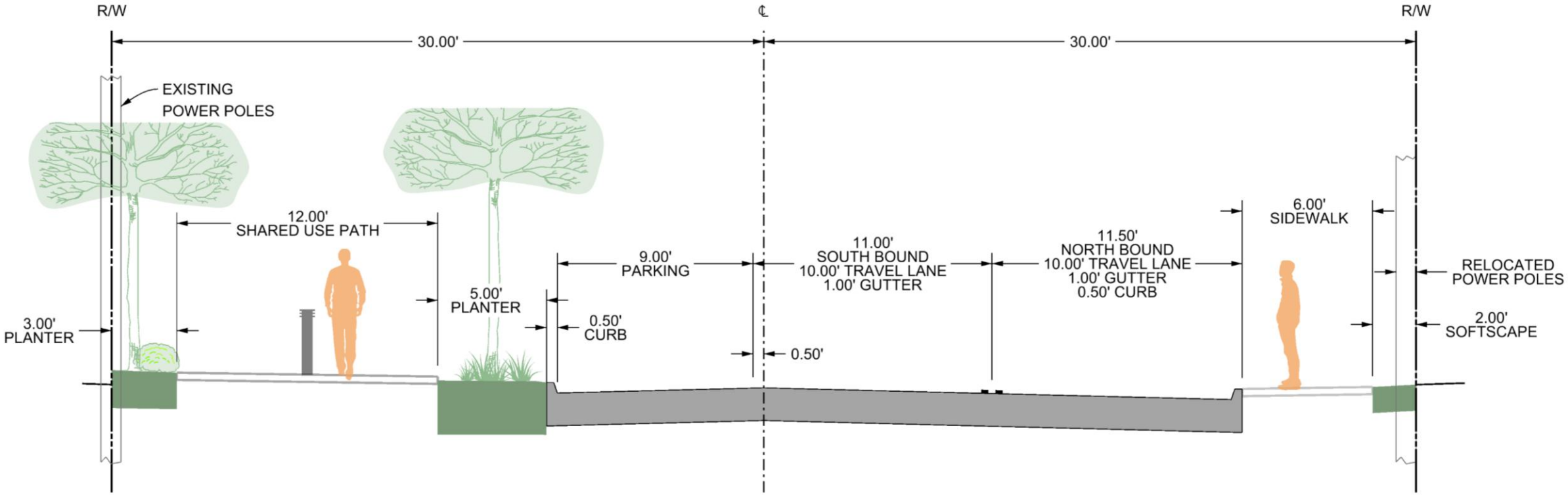
INITIAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN



DESIGN SECTION
OAK ST. TO ARCENEUX ST.

Presented Nov 2024
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0% Plan Design

INITIAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN



DESIGN SECTION
AT PARKING

DRIVEWAY AND ON-STREET PARKING CHANGES

Parking Needs

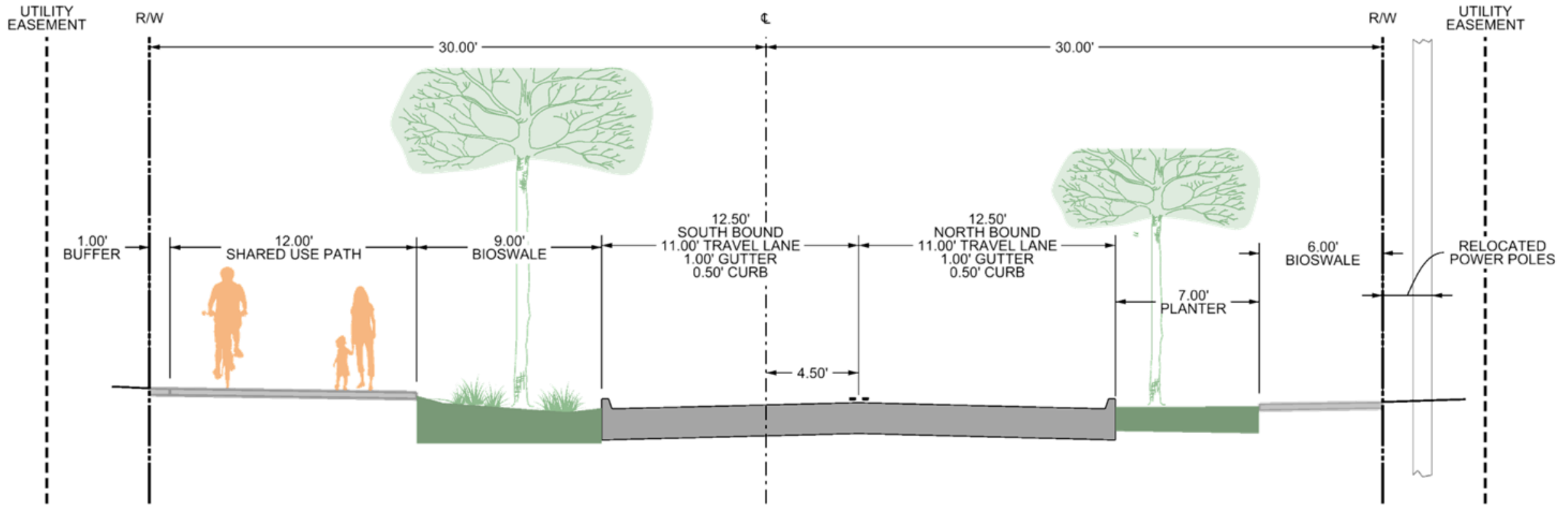
- Adding a total of 17 additional parking spots
 - Sunnyvale side street addition (near Legends)
 - Arceneaux side street addition (near Salon Bliss)
 - Along Bertrand itself
 - Drug Emporium

Exchange of individualized parking to on-street parking

- Ms. Sew and Sew
- Private Residence

Parking is being coordinated through individual business discussions and negotiations.

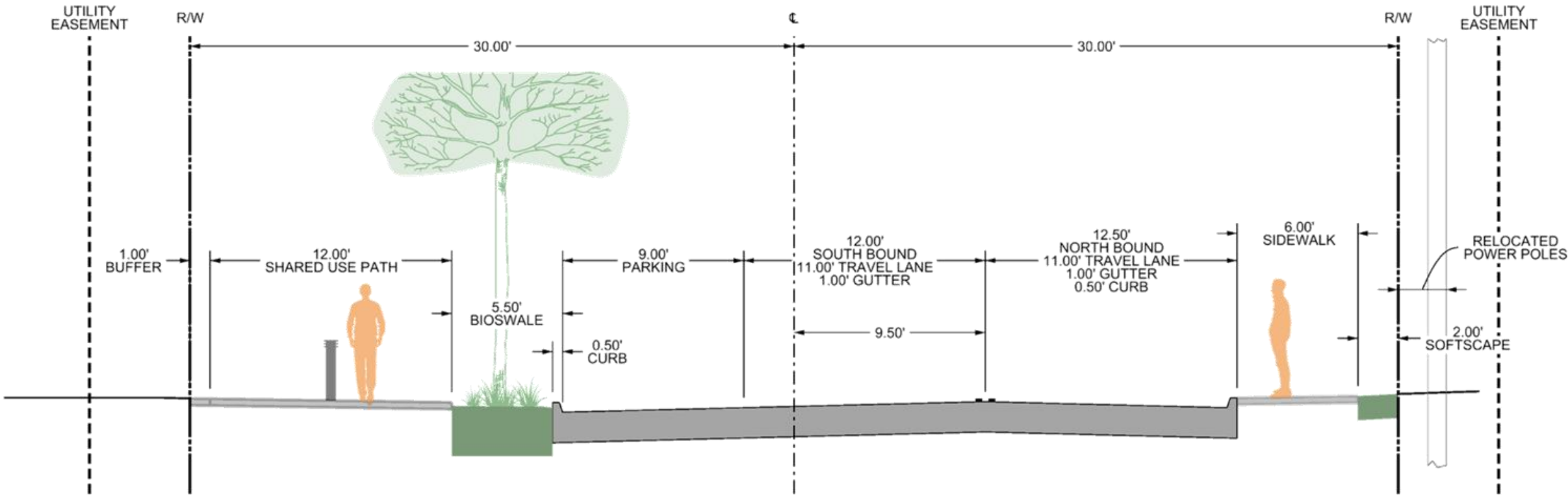
60% PRELIMINARY DESIGN – Feedback Period



DESIGN SECTION
OAK ST. TO ARCENEUX ST.

Design As of June 2026

60% PRELIMINARY DESIGN – Feedback Period



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AT PARKING

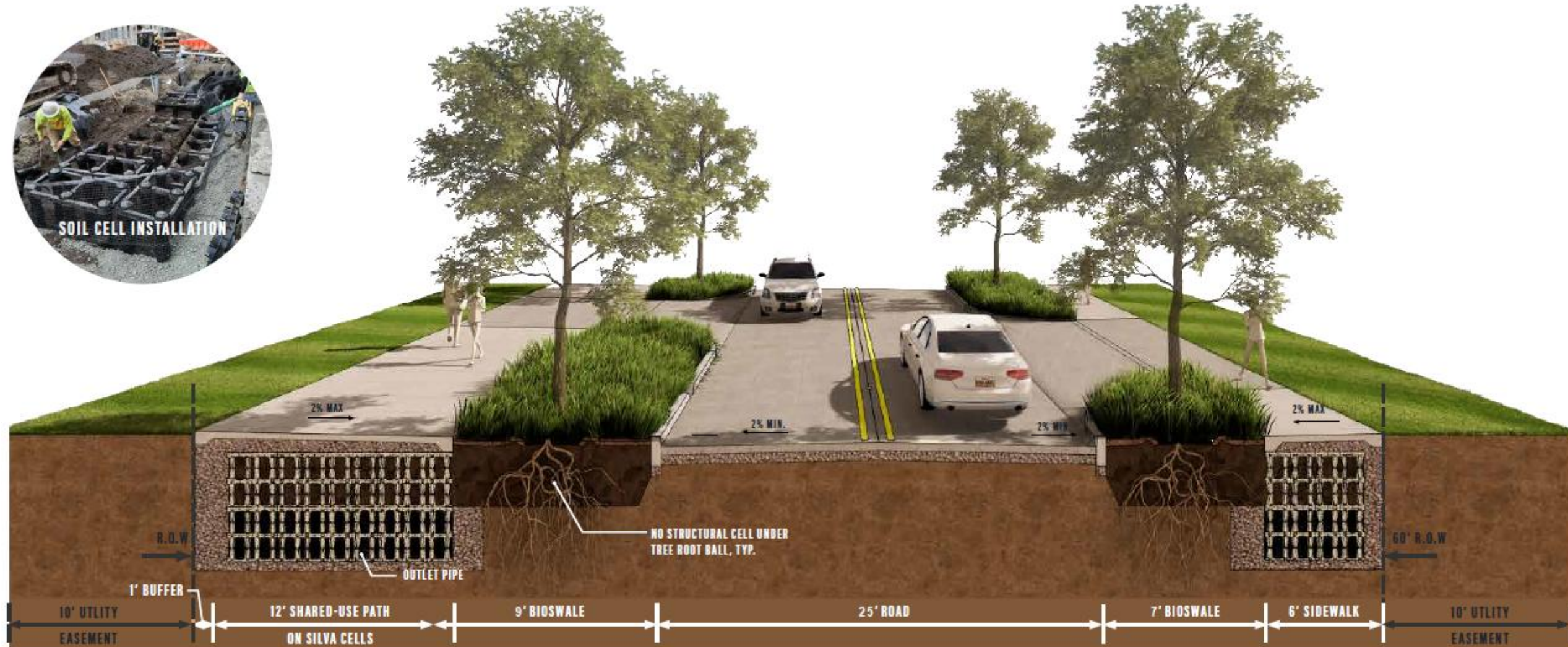
Design As of June 2026



Current Design – 60% Preliminary Plans

Presented April 2026

SECTION AT TREE LOCATION



Bertrand Proposed Enhancements



Construction Timeframe

- Q1 2026 Bertrand Drive Ribbon Cutting
- Q2 2026 Subsurface Communications active contract and construction to be completed within 6 months.
- Q4 2026 Finalize Bid Specifications and Plans
- Q3 2027 Roadway Construction Begins
- Q4 2028 Proposed Construction Complete

Two-Year Construction Timeframe with Intermittent Road Work

During construction business access remains a priority



COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES

Subsurface Communications:

- Construction begins Summer 2026
- Construction complete December 2026

Right Of Way Acquisition:

- Active Appraisal of 47-50 properties
- Utility Servitudes for utility relocation
- Temporary construction servitudes for roadway improvements
- Home Bank and Winnwood land purchases

LCG remains committed to negotiating all property acquisition

Proposed Improvements

- Replace wood poles for resilient steel poles
- Move pole locations away from vehicles and pedestrians
- Increase electric height to avoid conflicts
- Consolidate electric crossings
- Improves pole accident at Johnston St intersection



TRAFFIC STUDY

Traffic counts drive roadway configurations

- DOTD indicates Bertrand Dr. has an average annual daily traffic count of **8,300 vehicles**. Local traffic study indicates **9,915 to 10,441 near the intersections**.
- **18-Wheeler Access** accommodated for businesses who expressed the need based on their current operation.
- Comparison of other 2-Lane Roadways:
 - Doucet Rd. which has **12,100** vehicles per day
 - St. Mary Blvd. with **11,600** vehicles per day
 - Heyman Blvd. with **7,000** vehicles per day.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

When retrofitting roadways, it is LCG's standard practice to bring drainage up to modern-day standards. This is done by adding drainage inlets, improving roadway gutter slopes, and improving subsurface pipe sizing.

OVERLAY DISTRICT

Overlay District currently Pulled From Consideration

**Removed from Planning Commission Meeting
held on 6/15/2026**

Overlay District currently Pulled From Consideration

- Adult Businesses
- Convenience Stores with Fuel Sales
- Car Wash
- Gasoline or Diesel Fuel Sales
- Pawnshops
- Bail Bond Services
- Auto and Truck Repair
- Manufactured Home Dealers
- Cemeteries/Mausoleums/Columbarium
- Self-Storage Facility
- Bars by Conditional Use Permit Only

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM MAYOR-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON URBAN DESIGN

Issued on 6/2/2026

RESET APPROACHES “reset on how the Lafayette Consolidated Government administration approaches the planning and design of urban roadways.”

RE-ESTABLISHING URBAN DESIGN STANDARDS

- “LCG roadway design trends have emphasized narrow travel lanes—sometimes as small as nine feet wide—as an effort to calm traffic.”
- Issued a directive on 5/5/26 – requiring all roadways that are less than 11 ft lane to obtain additional approval from the Administration
- Re-evaluate and revise the Lafayette Development Code - specifically Type A development standards, this is actively happening.
- “we can revitalize older parts of town, build safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities and build roadways that accommodate vehicles. In addition, we can do it without an unreasonable burden on our businesses. It is our responsibility to find that balance investing in older parts of the City while protecting small business and commercial activity.”

Other Infrastructure Projects:

- Johnston Street
- Louisiana Avenue
- Jefferson Blvd
- Surrey Street
- E Broussard Rd Widening
- Congress Street
- I-49 Connector
- E Verot School Rd Widening

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