

Belmont Avenue

Milwaukee to Kimball

Arterial Resurfacing & Complete Streets Project

May 16, 2024

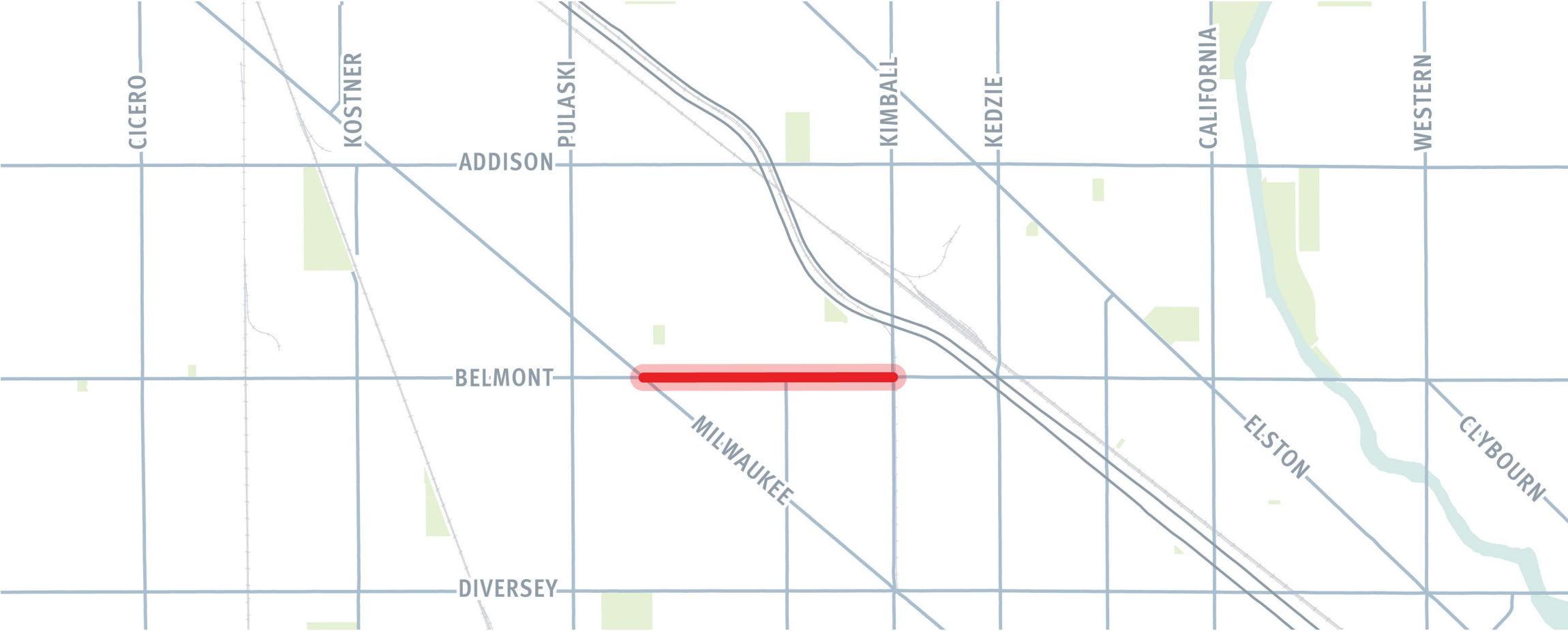
30th Ward Alderwoman Cruz
35th Ward Alderman Rosa



Agenda

- ▶ Opening remarks from Alderman Rosa & Alderwoman Cruz
- ▶ Presentation
- ▶ Q&A – We will answer as many questions as possible before the end of the meeting
- ▶ Materials will be posted online at [Chicago.gov/completestreets](https://chicago.gov/completestreets)
- ▶ Additional questions can be emailed to completestreets@cityofchicago.org

Belmont – Milwaukee to Kimball



Complete Streets...

balance and accommodate the safety and accessibility of all users regardless of your age, ability, or mode of transportation



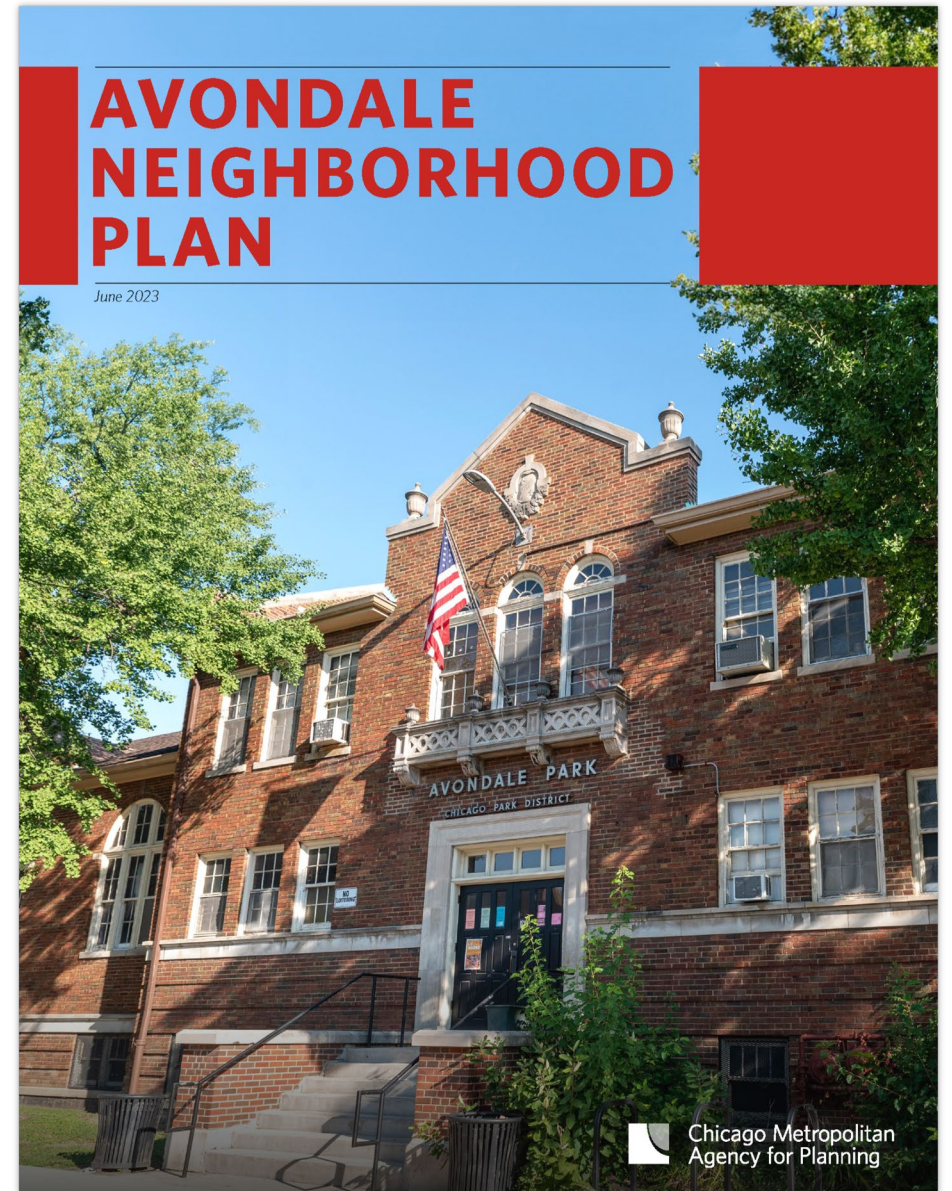
Chicago Cycling Strategy

Making everyday cycling safe and convenient by providing **more low-stress options** for getting around by bike, including protected bike lanes and neighborhood greenways



Avondale Neighborhood Plan

A vision for Avondale to become a more livable, walkable, and resilient community.



Traffic Safety Impacts Every Neighborhood in Chicago

In the last five years in Avondale...

12,700 crashes

1,370 people injured

3 people killed

Belmont is a High Crash Corridor.

The existing configuration does not reflect all the ways in which people get around. People walking and biking are disproportionately injured in traffic crashes.

Complete Streets projects...

reduce dangerous speeding, increase safety, and better accommodate people walking, biking, and riding transit.

Belmont will be resurfaced...

which provides the opportunity to make changes to the configuration of the street.

Belmont will become...

a street that prioritizes & balances
the needs of people walking, biking,
and riding the bus throughout the day.

Belmont will include...

- ▶ **Right-sized travel lanes** with full-time parking to encourage safer vehicle speeds
- ▶ **Curb extensions** to shorten pedestrian crossings & improve visibility
- ▶ **New crosswalks** at Hamlin, Ridgeway, and St Louis with ADA curb ramps
- ▶ **Protected bike lanes** providing the Avondale, Belmont Cragin, and Portage Park neighborhoods with a comfortable connection over the Chicago River & to the Lake
- ▶ **Bus bulbs and in-lane stops** to reduce dwell times and improve bus operations
- ▶ **Bus priority** approaching Milwaukee and Kimball to improve bus speed & reliability
- ▶ **Improved connection to the Belmont Blue Line Station** benefitting people walking, biking, and riding the bus throughout the day

This section of Belmont is a High Crash Corridor

Over the last five years...

423 total crashes

72% higher crash rate than all of Belmont

26% higher crash rate than
Kimball to Western

People Walking and Biking are Disproportionately Harmed in Crashes

On this stretch of Belmont, people walking and biking make up:

8% of all crashes

38% of all injury crashes

57% of all serious injury crashes

People are Driving too fast on Belmont

590

Per day driving faster than
the 30 MPH speed limit



Top speed **60 MPH**

These are FATAL SPEEDS

The Likelihood of a Person Being Killed Increases as Vehicle Speeds Go Up



20 MPH



10% Risk of Death or Severe Injury



30 MPH



40% Risk of Death or Severe Injury



40 MPH



80% Risk of Death or Severe Injury

Challenges Crossing the Street for People Walking Along Belmont

10 Intersections on Corridor

- ▶ 3 crossings at traffic signals
- ▶ 3 crossings marked but uncontrolled
- ▶ 4 crossings unmarked & uncontrolled



AVONDALE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

GOAL 4

Improve transportation for all in Avondale

Guiding principle: Road design, crashes, construction, weather, and other incidents impact traffic flow and public safety. The community can use different strategies to reduce crashes, make streets more comfortable for all users, and support Avondale's transit-rich environment.

RECOMMENDATION 1

More frequent and reliable transit service

Strategy

Encourage sufficient staffing
for transit

Collaborate with transportation partners to
address bus capacity

Improve bus speeds through dedicated
bus infrastructure

Coordinate transit improvements
across political boundaries and
governmental jurisdictions

Bus Boarding Islands & In-Lane Stops

Bus Priority approaching Milwaukee and Kimball

Create safe and connected sidewalks and bike networks

Strategy

Connect important Avondale destinations to citywide networks



Extend protected bike lanes to Milwaukee

Implement measures that can reduce traffic speeds

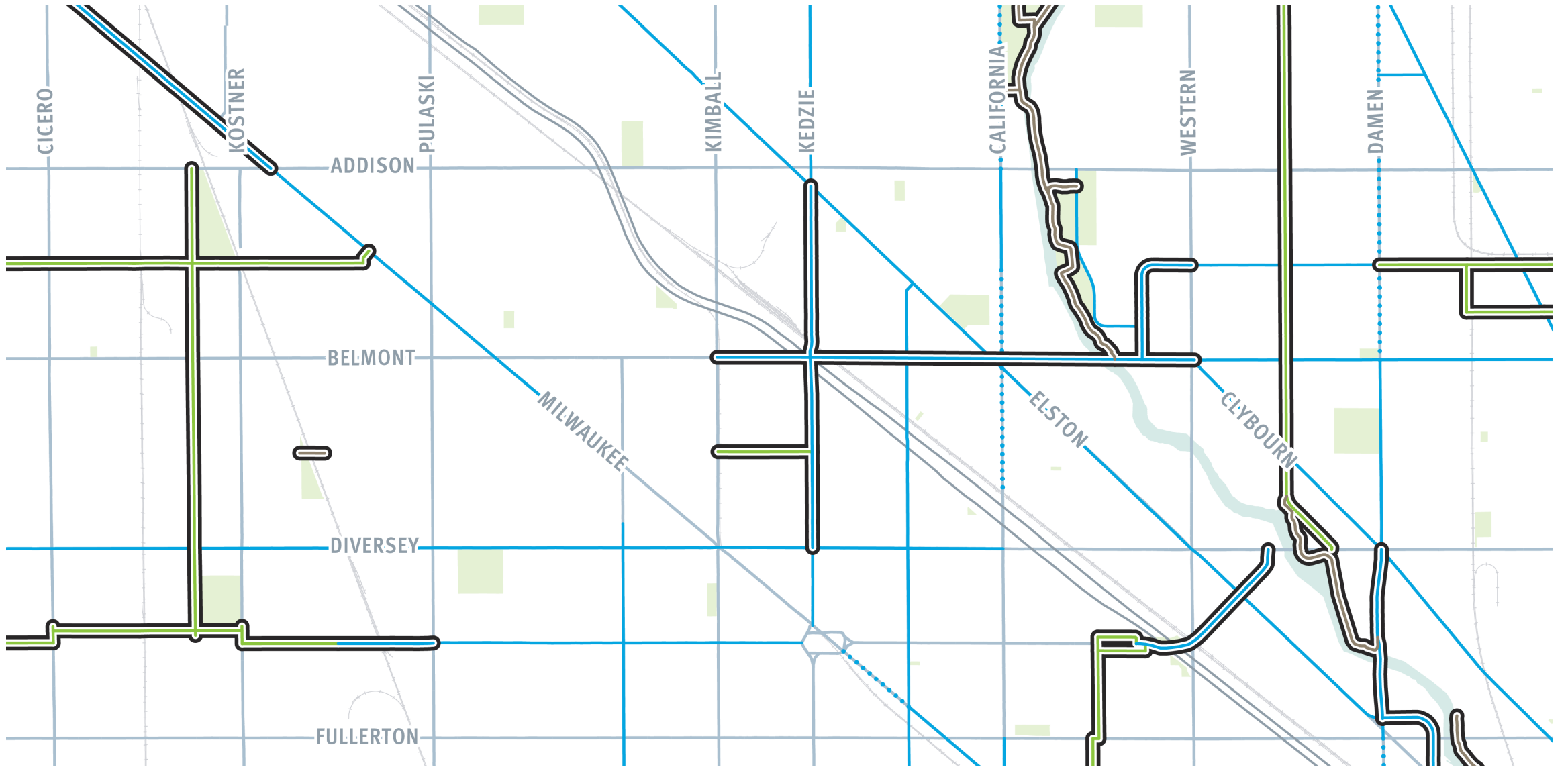


Curb extensions & right-sized travel lanes

Increase transportation access for users of all ages and abilities



Shorter pedestrian crossings & new crosswalks

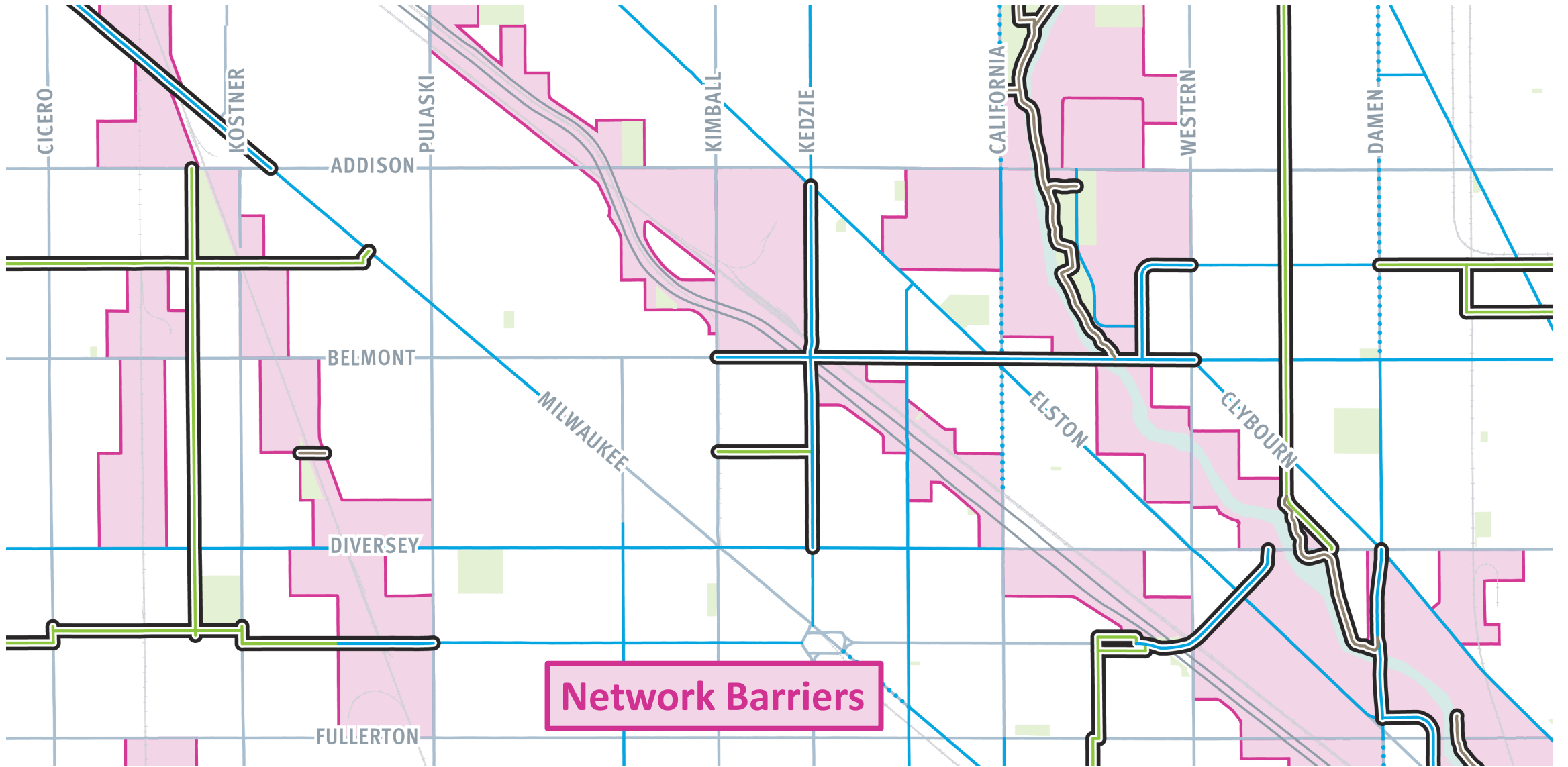


Protected Bike Lane

Neighborhood Greenway

Off-Street Trail

Other Bikeway



Network Barriers

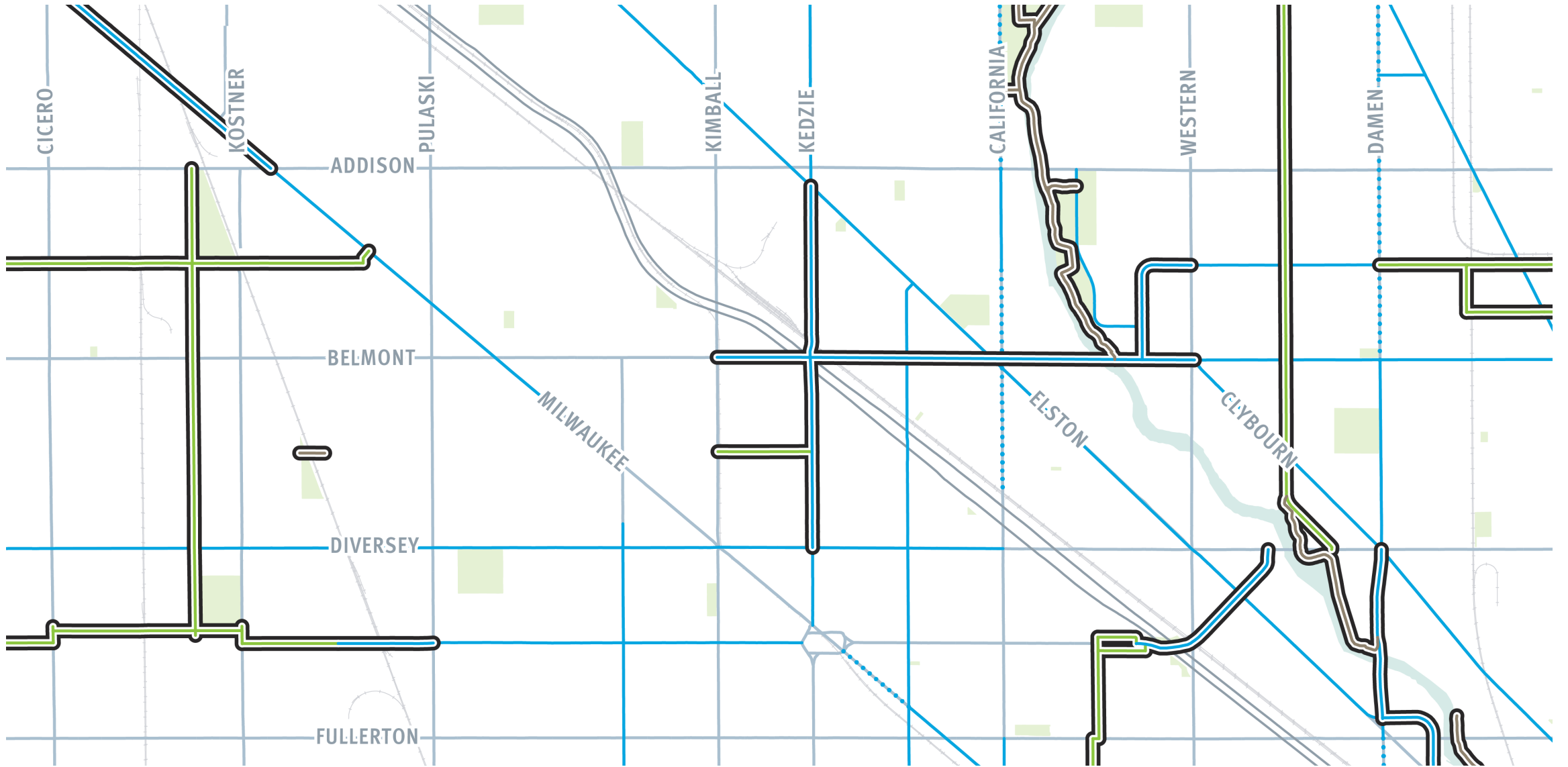


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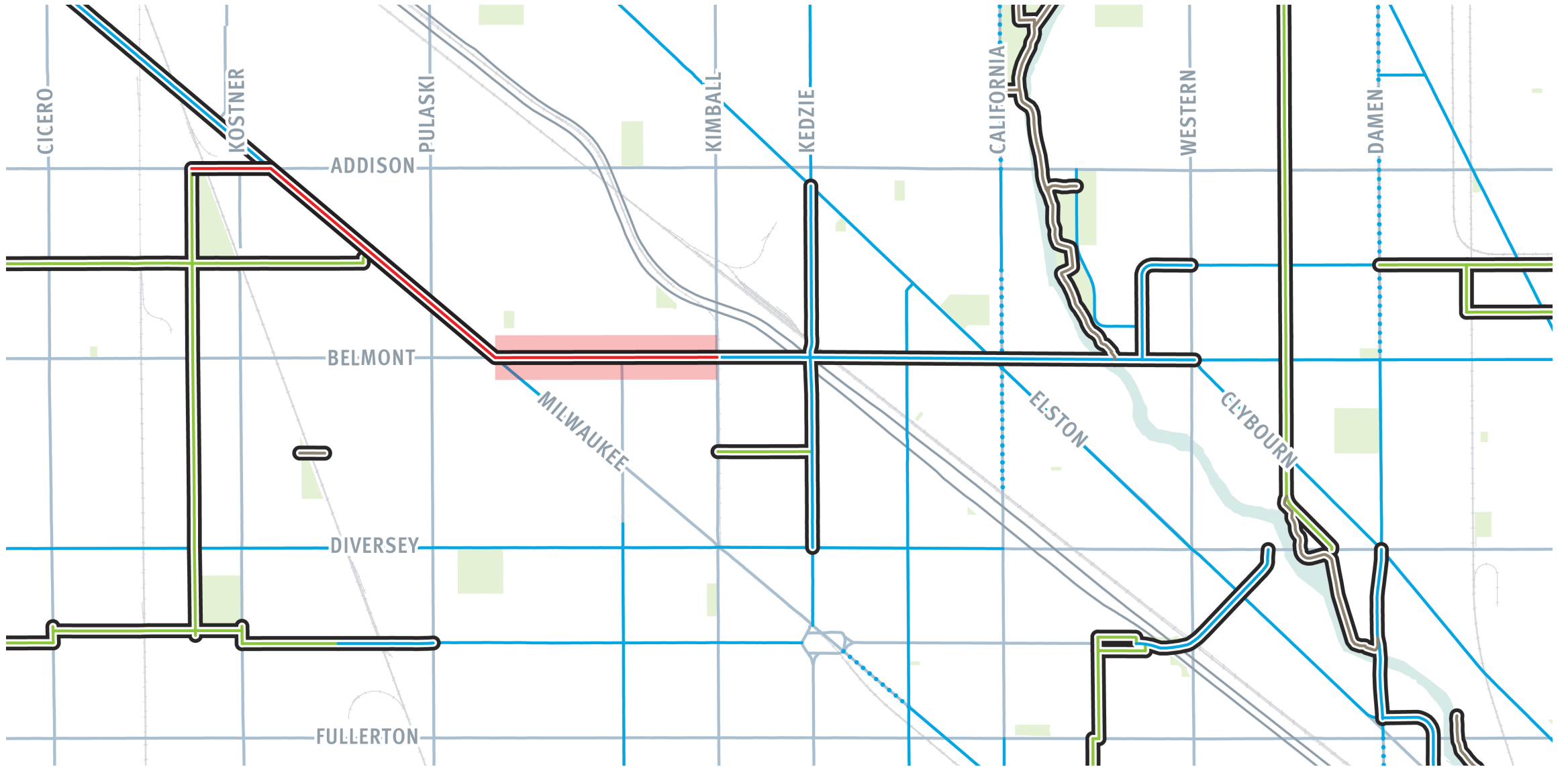


Protected Bike Lane

Neighborhood Greenway

Off-Street Trail

Other Bikeway

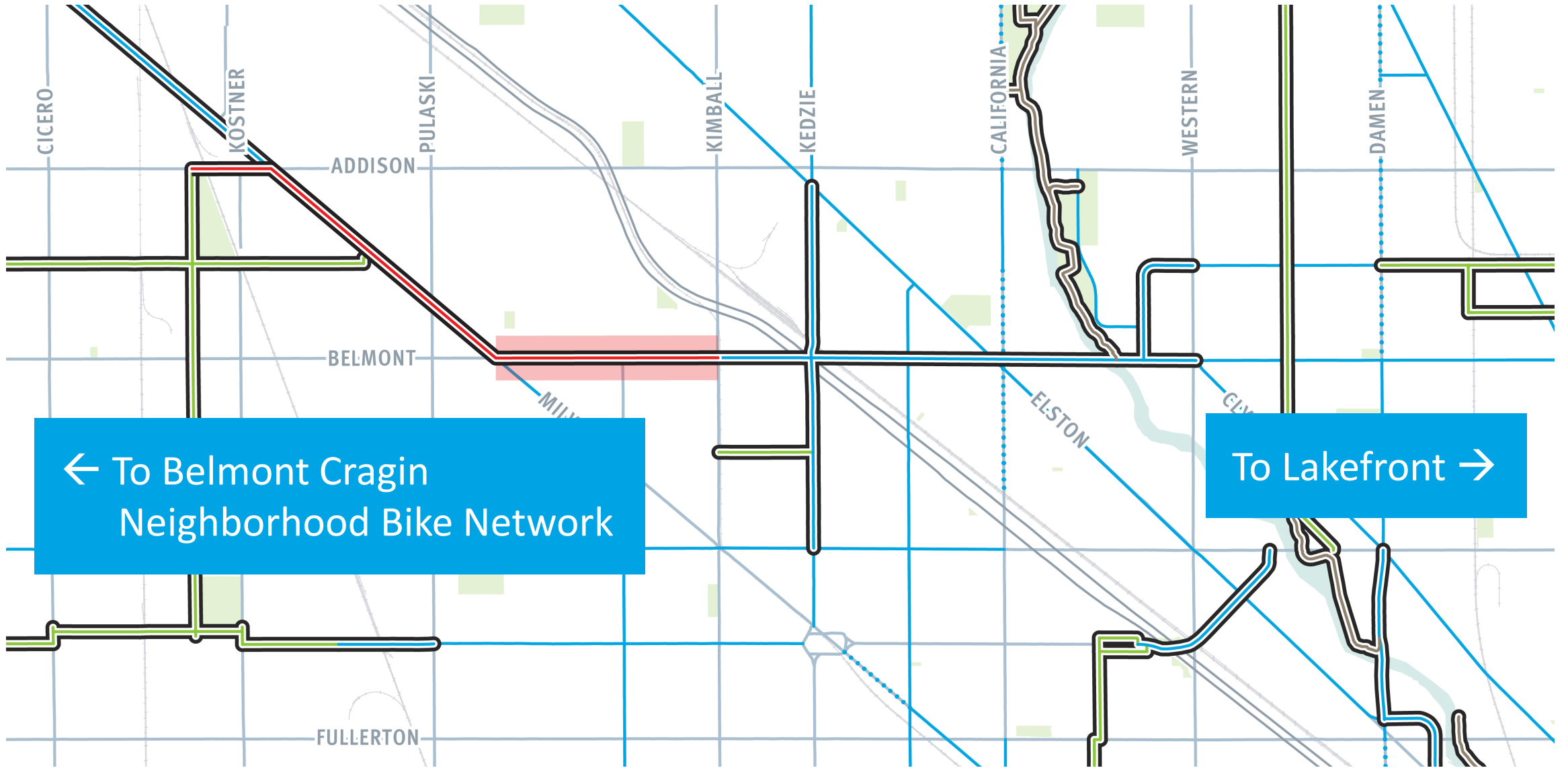


Protected Bike Lane

Neighborhood Greenway

Off-Street Trail

Other Bikeway



← To Belmont Cragin
Neighborhood Bike Network

To Lakefront →



Protected Bike Lane

Neighborhood Greenway

Off-Street Trail

Other Bikeway

Thousands Travel to the Belmont Blue Line Station Each Day

People get to the Blue Line by...

Walking

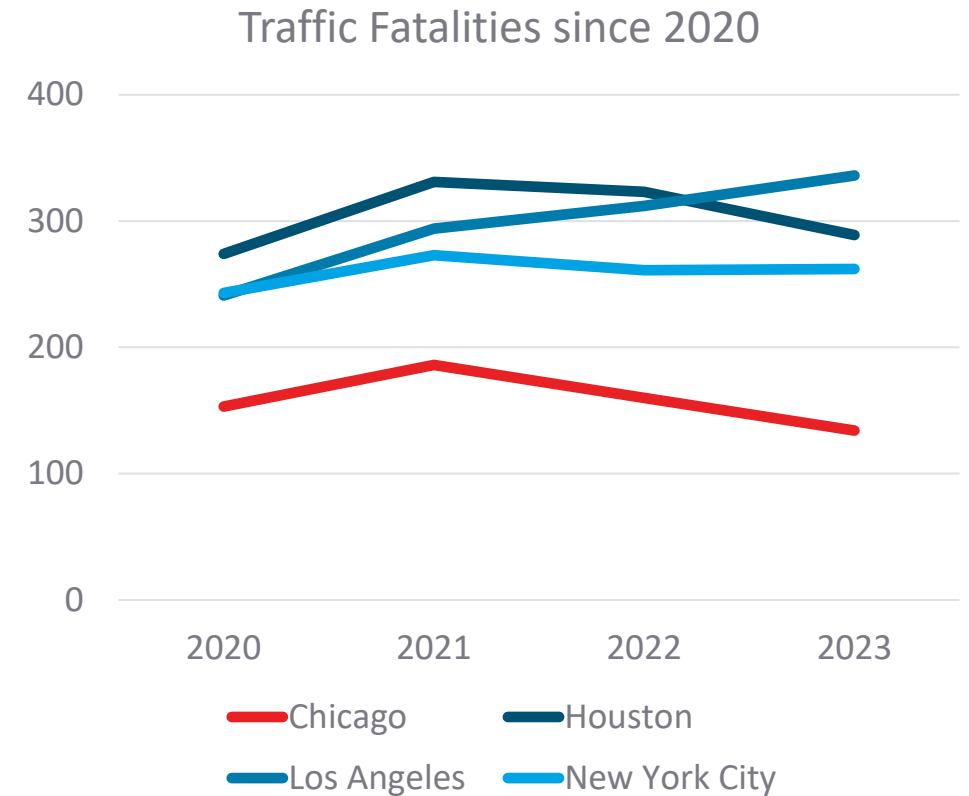
Biking

Riding the Bus



Complete Streets Projects Make Our Streets Safer and Can Save Lives

- ▶ Traffic injuries and fatalities rose after Covid-19, matching with nationwide trends
- ▶ Chicago saw a 30% decrease in traffic fatalities in from 2021 to 2023
- ▶ Corresponds to the implementation of more complete streets improvements than ever before



Complete Streets Project on Milwaukee Cut Injury Crashes in Half



Protected Bike Lanes on Kedzie Reduced Speeding by 90%



Improvements on Belmont to the East Reduced Speeding and Injury Crashes

Initial results since last fall...

- ▶ **12% decrease** in all injuries
- ▶ **69% decrease** in serious injuries

Crash data comparing the 5-year average of crashes from Sept to April to Sept '23 to April '24



Improvements on Belmont to the East Reduced Speeding and Injury Crashes



Improvements on Belmont to the East Reduced Speeding and Injury Crashes





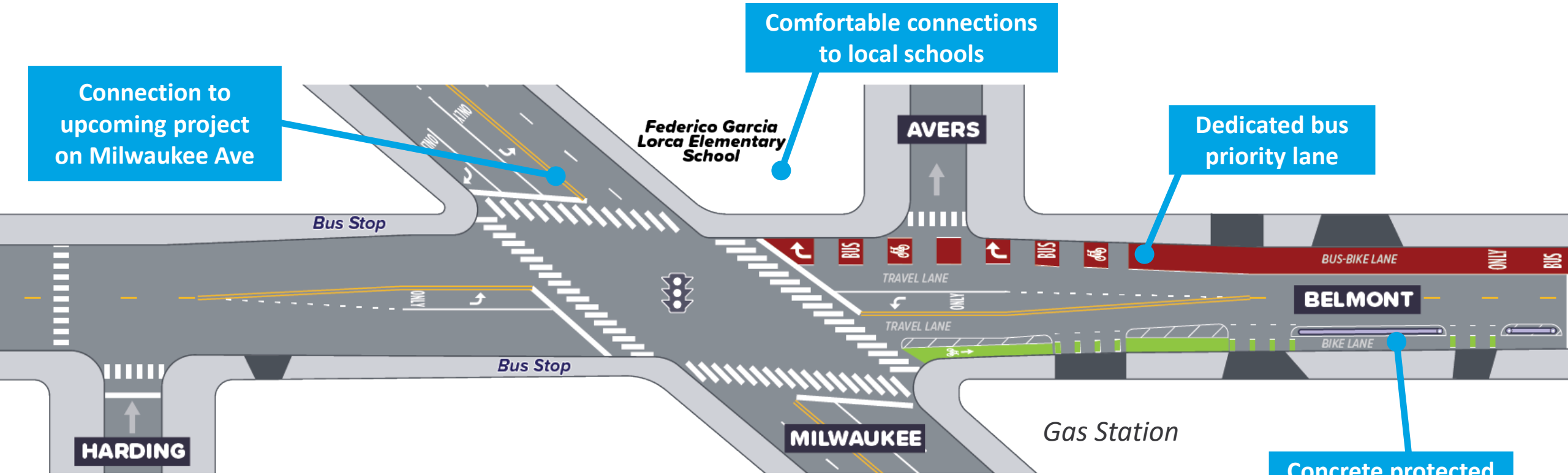
Belmont at Milwaukee

Connection to upcoming project on Milwaukee Ave

Comfortable connections to local schools

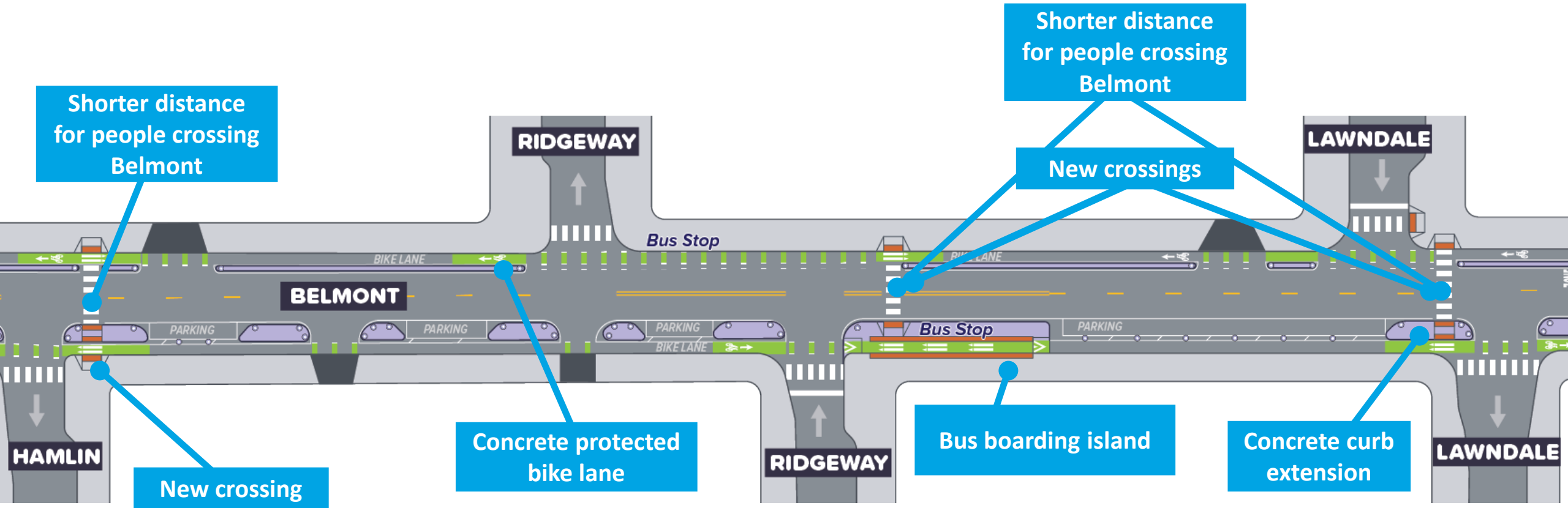
Dedicated bus priority lane

Concrete protected bike lane





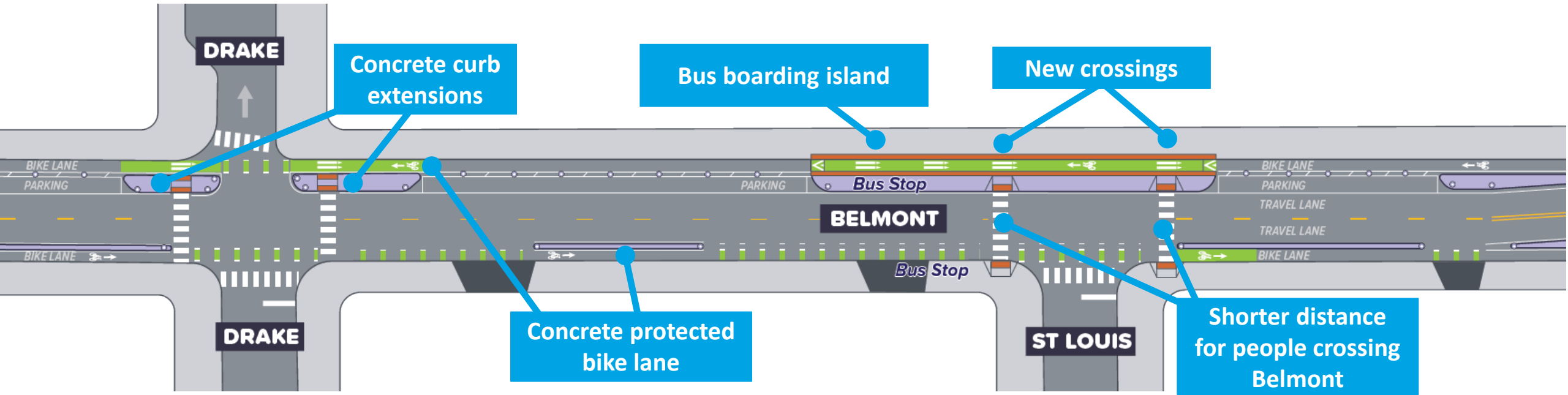
Belmont at Ridgeway



Parking consolidated to the south side of Belmont

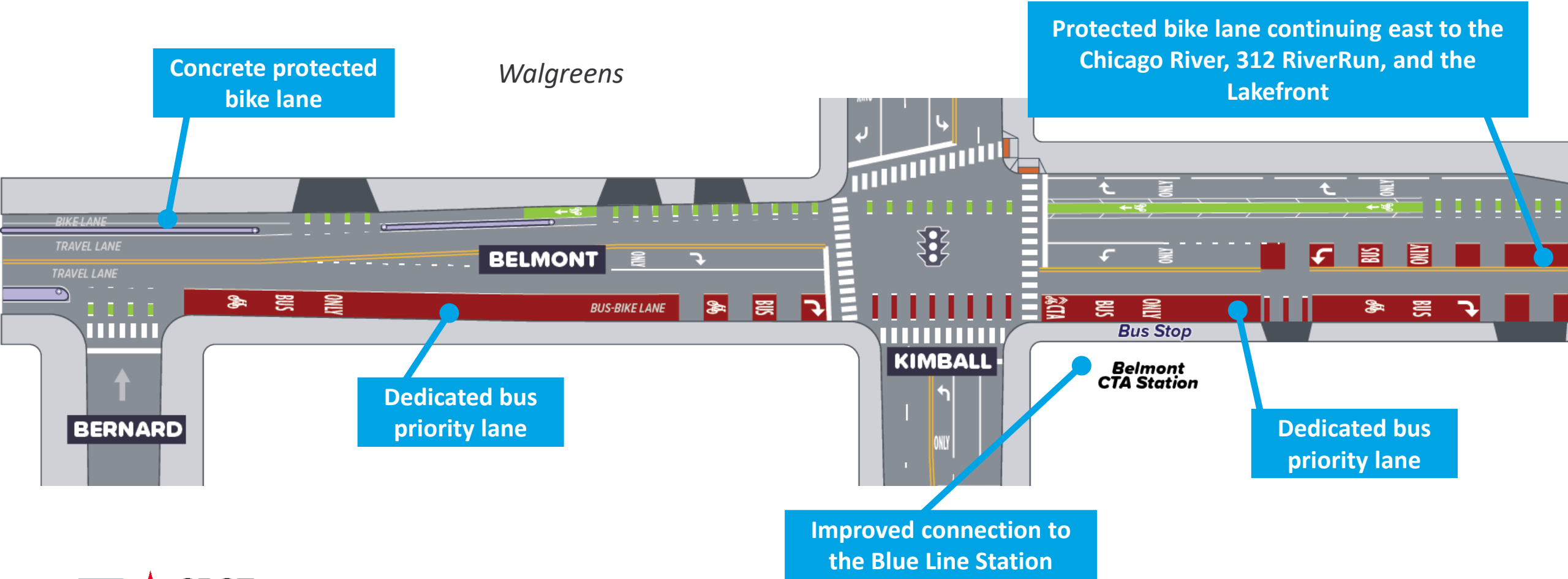


Belmont at St Louis



Parking consolidated to the north side of Belmont

Belmont at Kimball



These Changes...

- ▶ Directly respond to traffic safety issues
- ▶ Support recommendations from the Avondale Neighborhood Plan
- ▶ Focus on slowing traffic to safe speeds and ensuring the safety of everyone using the street
- ▶ Prioritize the safety of the most vulnerable users of the street, people walking and biking, especially children and families
- ▶ Improve access to the Belmont Blue Line Station

Project Timeline

Project will begin by early summer

- ▶ Start date still being determined
- ▶ Construction will be coordinated with other work in the area

Thank You!

Meeting materials will be posted online at:
chicago.gov/completestreets

Additional questions can be emailed to:
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