

Walnut Street Reconstruction

Four Corners Intersection (Walnut Street and Beacon Street)

Problems with the current configuration (“The Antiquated Intersection”)

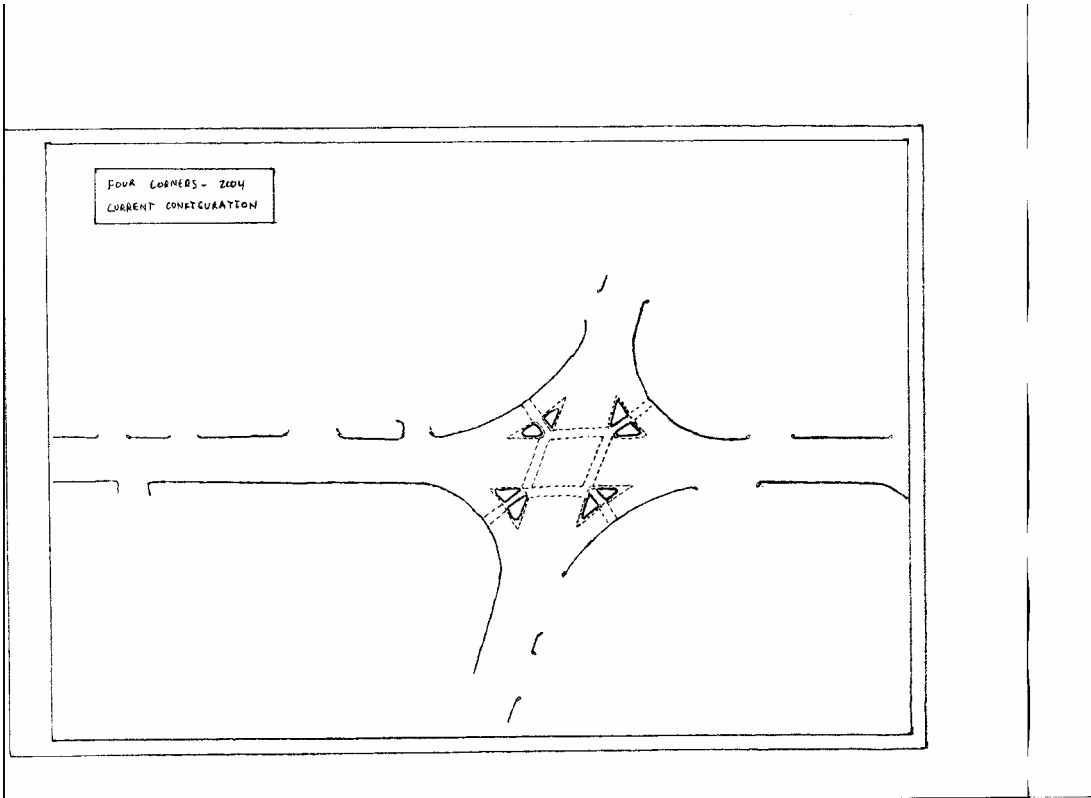
- Automobiles:
 - Poorly defined turning lanes
 - Suboptimal left turn capacity, causing back ups and traffic jams
 - Multiple potential conflicts
 - Curb cuts placed too closely to major intersection
 - Visual disharmony and poor aesthetics
- Pedestrians and bicycles
 - Ill-defined pedestrian environment
 - Inconsistent sidewalks
 - Multiple curb cuts
 - Difficult to navigate intersection
 - Visual disharmony
 - Aesthetically inferior

EarthTech – MassHighway proposal (“Intersection on Steroids!”)

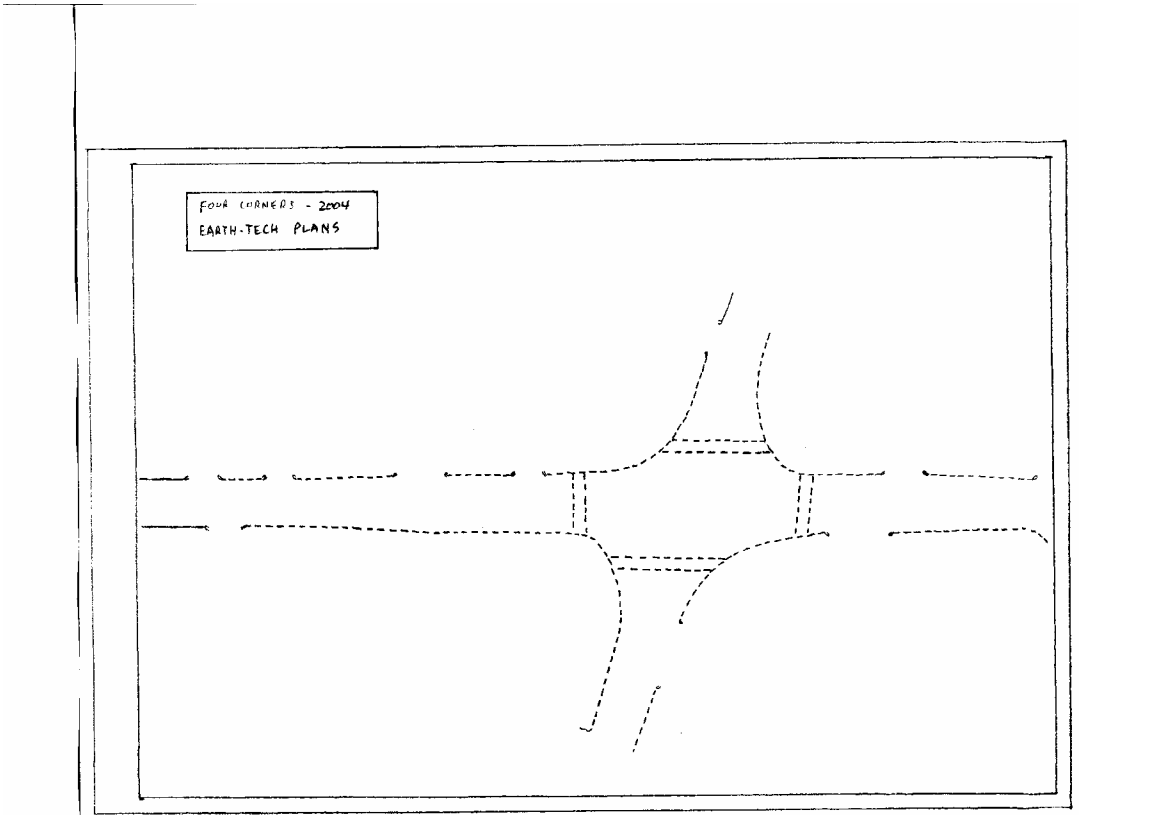
- Automobiles:
 - Widened intersection creates more danger, conflicts, accidents
 - Open expanse of asphalt (13,500 sq. ft. of asphalt)
 - Widened roadways and extended turn lanes allow for induced traffic
 - Visually inferior and aesthetically repulsive
- Pedestrians and bicycles:
 - Crosswalks too long and dangerous (doubled in length, to 72 ft.)
 - No pedestrian refuge
 - No plantings or street trees
 - Oriented mainly to automobiles

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Council recommendation (“A Kinder, Gentler Four Corners”)

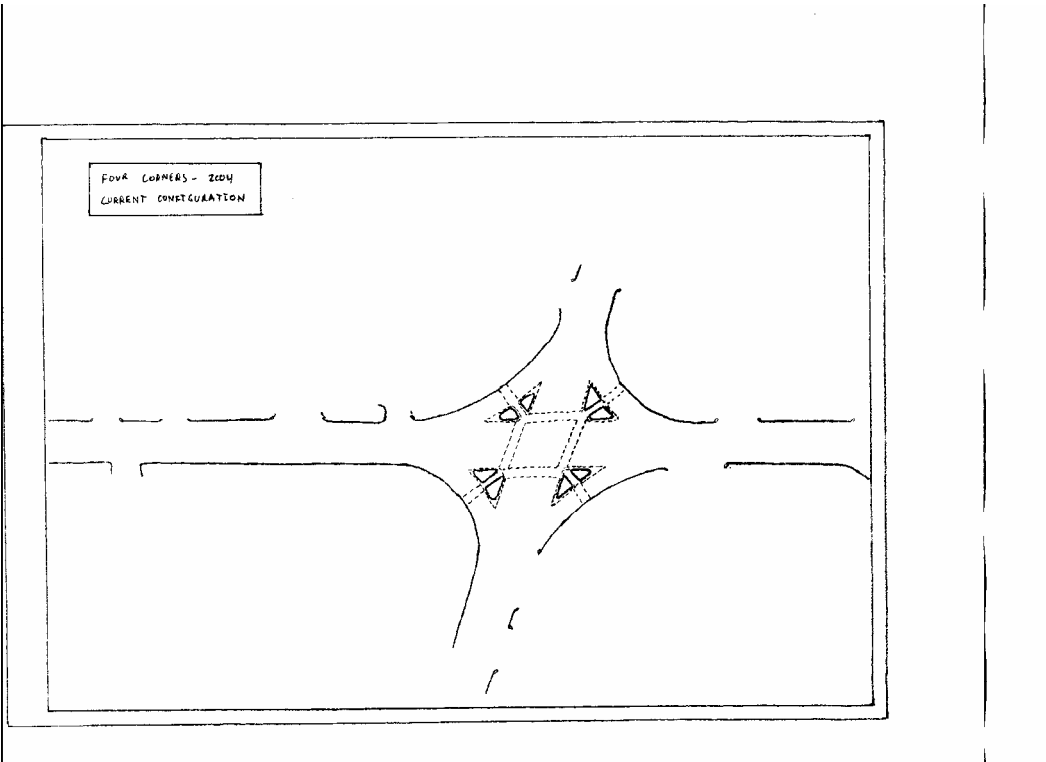
- Make intersection better for automobiles, pedestrians, disabled, and bicyclists
- For automobiles: maintain extended turning lanes as per EarthTech, improve capacity
- For pedestrians: decrease turning radius to match Walnut/Commonwealth, Walnut/Lincoln, and Walnut/Centre intersections (match historic fabric of area)
- Decrease crosswalk distance to current 36 feet, place crosswalks more logically
- Better delineate pedestrian realm and automobile lanes and minimize conflict
- Improve safety for cars and pedestrians, disabled, strollers (asphalt = 6750 sq. ft.)
- Decrease potential for “induced traffic” (more like “Newton” and not “Houston”)
- Visually pleasing, street trees, plantings, wide sidewalks, “garden-like”



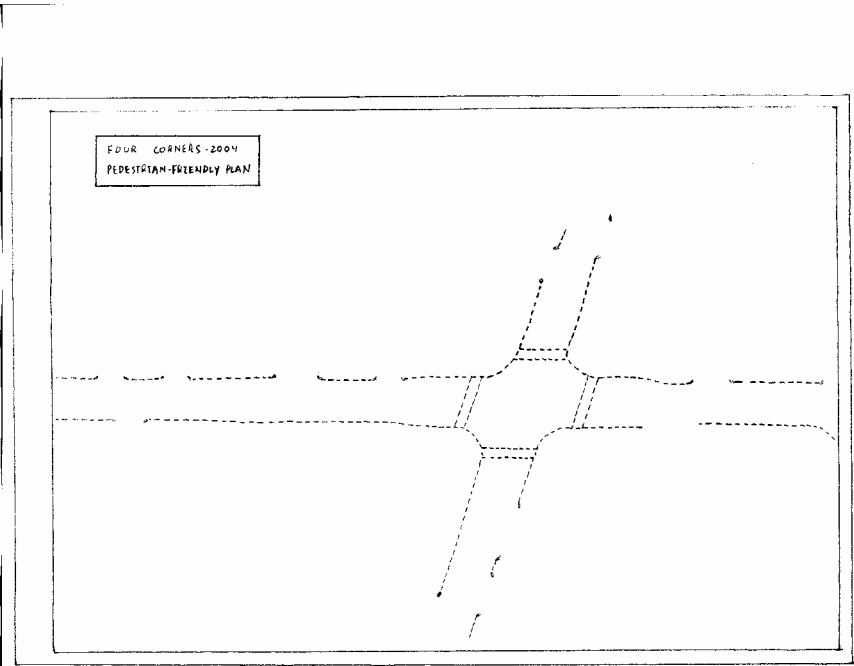
Four Corners: Present-day Intersection



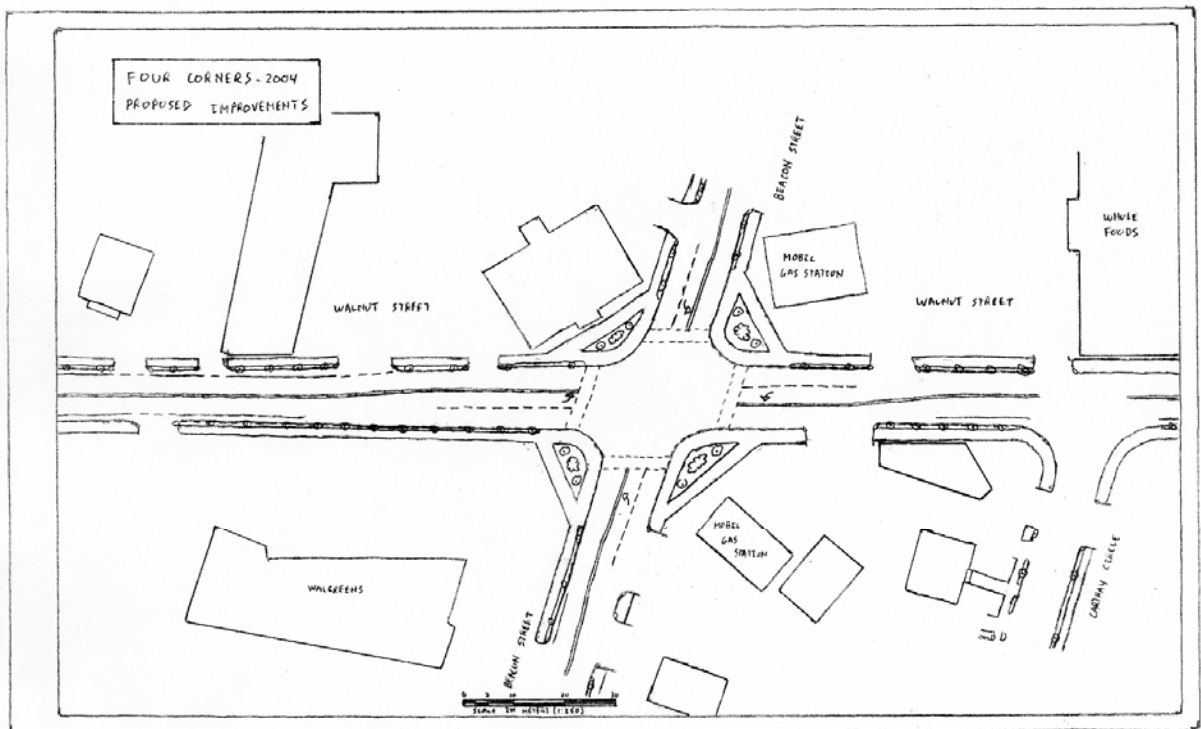
Four Corners: EarthTech Design



Four Corners: Present-day Intersection



Four Corners: Proposed Pedestrian-Friendly Design



**Four Corners: Proposed
Pedestrian-Friendly Design**

**A pedestrian-oriented design
which accommodates automobiles**

**This figure is the same as the one on
the previous page, except it has the
adjacent buildings drawn, as well as
sidewalks and landscaping.**