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TOWN OF DEDHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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ADRIENNE ALBANI  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

October 20, 2015

Ms. Loretta DeBlasio  
390 Highland Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

**RE: Traffic Calming Request Form #2013-003 – Highland Street**

Ms. DeBlasio,

Based upon the data presented in the Initial Traffic Evaluation dated 10/3/14 and the public meetings held to discuss this request with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the TAC is informing you that your Traffic Calming Request for Highland Street is not being recommended for traffic calming measures for the following reasons:

1. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was determined to be 3 miles per hour (mph) above the prima facie speed limit of 30 mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of vehicles travel and is the national standard utilized to determine if the speed on a given roadway is in excess, at or below the speed limit. Eligibility requirements, as stated in the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, require a residential street to exhibit an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed in excess of 5 mph over the speed limit to be considered for extraordinary traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and the like.
2. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) was determined to be 2,198 vehicles. This ADT is higher than typical residential streets in Town due to the two Private Schools that are primarily commuter based coupled with the fact that there are limited access ways into this area of Town.
3. The crash data analyzed from 2004 – 2013 indicate that there were 11 crashes (1.1 crashes per year) over a 10 year period. Of those 11 accidents, 6 of them were related to inclement weather conditions (snow, ice, rain). This low number of crashes indicates there are no overriding roadway geometric safety issues in this area. There were also no accidents within the timeframe used for this study that involved a pedestrian or bicyclist.

Although Highland Street is not recommended for traffic calming measures, the Engineering Department has recommended to the TAC that advanced warning signs

consisting of advisory horizontal alignment signs and advisory speed plaques along with associated pavement markings be installed on Highland Street, as discussed in the initial evaluation, for the 3 curves that have insufficient stopping sight distances to safely negotiate the curves near #181, #228 and #314 Highland Street as a means to mitigate potential future accidents. The placement and type of signs recommended to be installed are shown on the Proposed Advanced Warning Signs Plans attached as part of this decision. The recommended advanced warning signs are utilized to make motorists aware that their speeds should be lowered to safely negotiate the curve ahead. Based upon the support provided by you and other concerned neighbors regarding this recommendation, the TAC has requested that the Town proceed with the recommendation. The Department of Public Works is hopeful to install the signs and markings before the winter sets in, but if they cannot, it will be handled in the Spring of next year.

At the public meetings you and your neighbors attended, the subject of constructing sidewalks came up. It was brought to your attention that the Town has requested funding since 2011 for sidewalks along the easterly side of Highland Street to fill in the gaps where no sidewalks currently exist from Washington Street to #282 Highland Street and from #210 to #226 Highland Street. The TAC will work with the Town to bring more attention to the importance of funding the construction of sidewalks in these areas during next year's capital budget hearings.

Also, at the public meetings you and your neighbors attended, the subject of Dedham Country Day (DCD) vehicles parking along the side of the road adjacent to the DCD playing field was creating a safety issue for those walking and driving in that area due to the parked vehicles narrowing the road. The TAC has instructed the Town Planner to reach out to DCD to remind them that as a condition of their Site Plan approval, they were to self-police that location with DCD staff to keep DCD visitors from parking there. We would appreciate you reaching out to the Town Planner should that situation not improve over the next several months so the Town Planner could recommend to the Planning Board to have DCD come in front of the them to discuss the situation.

The TAC would also like to recommend the following low-cost traffic calming measures that could be utilized and/or taken on by the concerned residents and neighbors of the Highland Street area.

- Purchasing a Step2 Kid Alert Visual Warning System – These can be purchased at Toys R' Us, Wal-Mart, Amazon.com and other similar retail and online stores for about \$25 to \$35. The Step2 Kid should be placed at the end of your driveway so it is visible to motorists. This should only be placed out during times when kids are actually outside playing. By having it out all the time, it will reduce its effectiveness. Studies have shown that when used properly, it usually aids in the reduction of vehicle speeds.



*Photo of Step 2 Kid Alert*

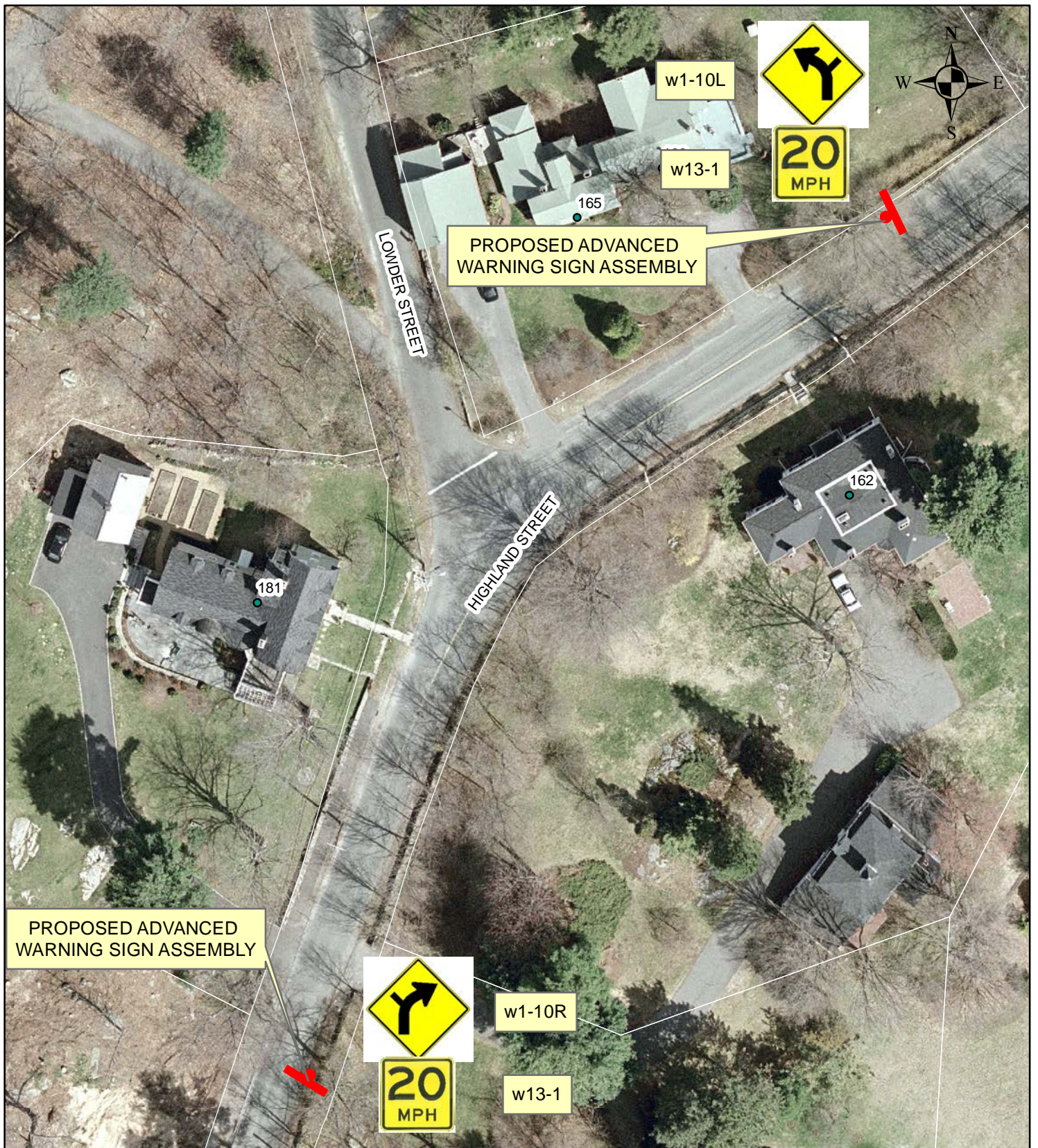
- Establish a neighborhood group that could create pamphlets or flyers that can be passed out in the neighborhood that discusses the concerns of speeding vehicles on Highland Street making people aware that they should drive cautiously. You or the group may even consider working with Dedham Country Day and Ursuline Academy to hand out flyers to the parents who drop off and pick up their children so they can become aware of the neighborhood's concerns for fast traveling vehicles.

If you believe that the speeds and/or conditions on Highland Street have become worse, you are eligible to submit another Traffic Calming Request one year from the date of this letter. Please feel free to contact the Director of Engineering, Jason Mammone, P.E., at 781-751-9352 should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

John Bethoney, Chairman

Cc: Board of Selectman  
James Kern, Town Manager  
Michael D'Entremont, Chief of Police  
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works  
Richard McCarthy, Town Planner  
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering

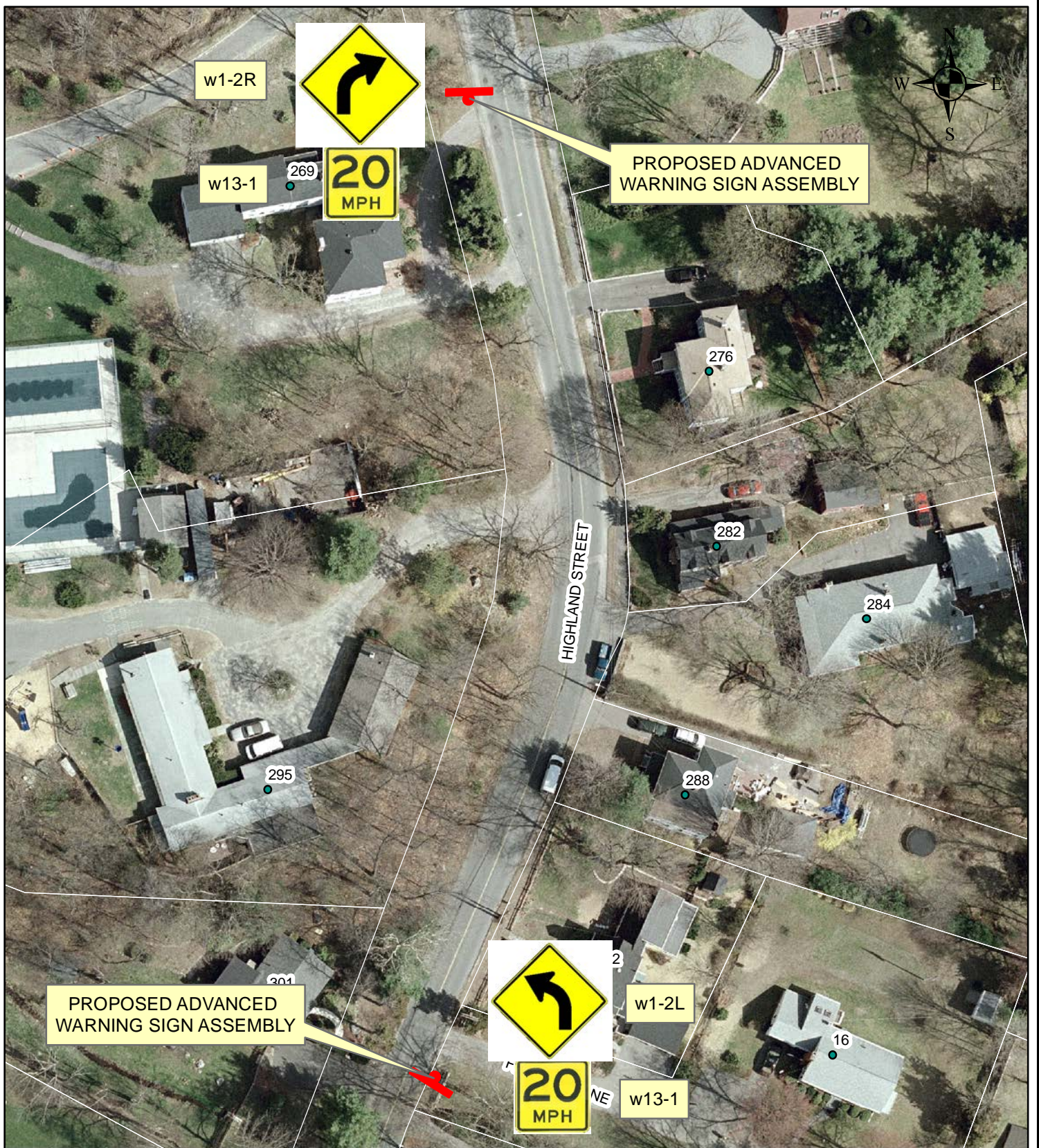


**PROPOSED ADVANCED  
WARBING SIGNS & MARKINGS  
#181 HIGHLAND STREET**

1 inch = 50 feet



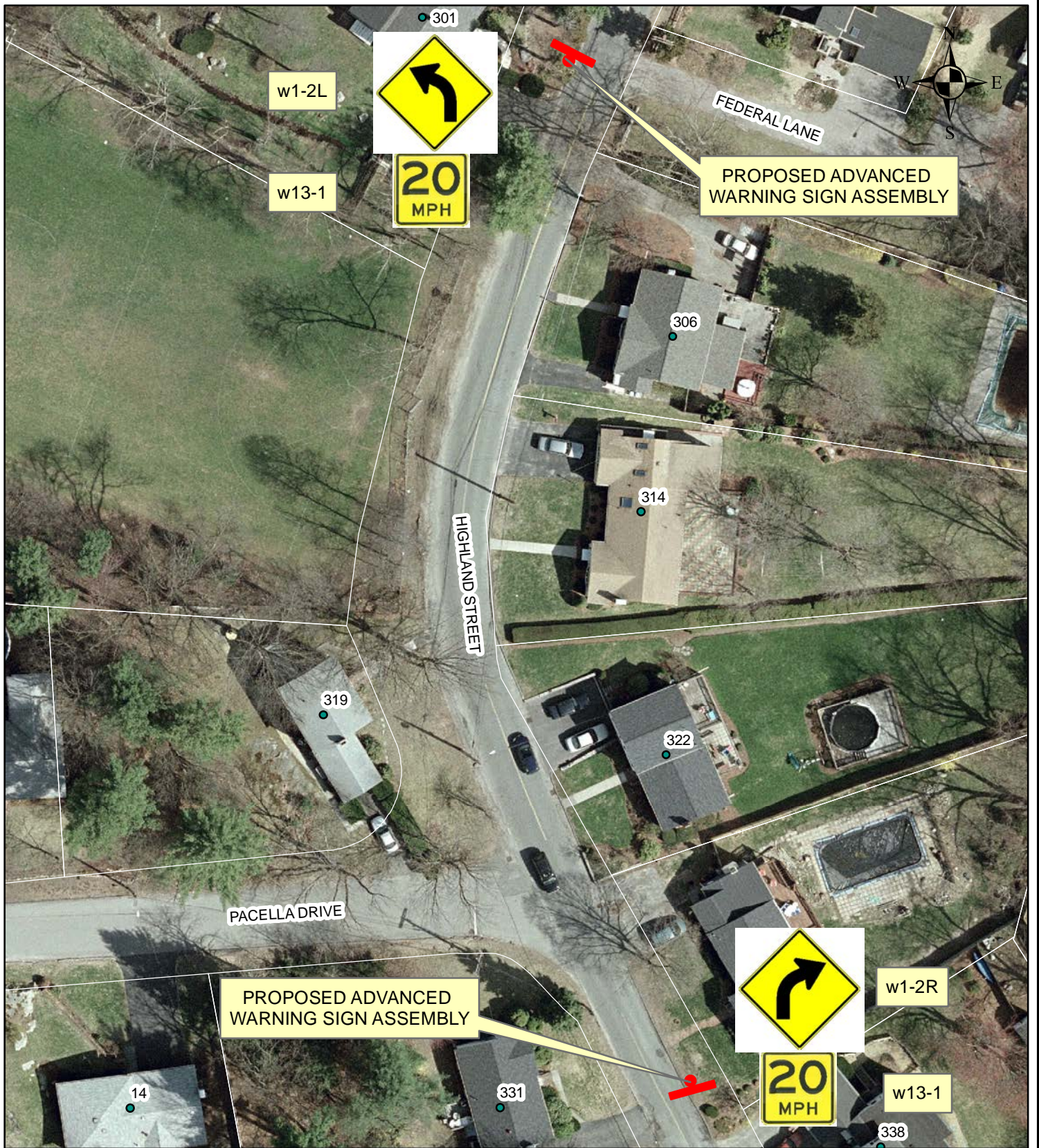
**TOWN OF DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**



**PROPOSED ADVANCED  
WARNING SIGNS & MARKINGS  
#282 HIGHLAND STREET**

1 inch = 60 feet





**PROPOSED ADVANCED  
WARNING SIGNS  
#314 HIGHLAND STREET**

1 inch = 50 feet

