

Pearl Street Reconstruction Project

Open House

November 20, 2014, 5:30-8:00 PM
Central Square Library
45 Pearl Street, Cambridge, MA

Description:

As part of the City's Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction program, Pearl Street is scheduled to be reconstructed between Granite Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The project will include sidewalk and pedestrian ramp reconstruction, and provides a unique opportunity to add surface enhancements such as pavement markings for bicycles, traffic calming, and greenscaping, to improve safety for all modes and increase enjoyment of the street as a public space.

The City is anticipating that this work will begin in the Summer/Fall 2016. Due to the large scope of work, the roadway and sidewalk reconstruction will be divided into two phases. One phase will consist of work on Pearl Street between Granite Street and Erie Street, and the other between Erie Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

Timeline and Community Process:

February 26, 2014 – First Community Meeting

The Community Development Department (CDD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) hosted a community meeting to begin the design process for the project and listen to the concerns of neighborhood residents.

May 2014 – Parking Study

An on-street parking study surveyed parking use in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

June 9, 2014 – Second Community Meeting

At the second community meeting regarding the design of Pearl Street, participants reviewed traffic calming strategies and tools that could be used for Pearl Street.

October/November, 2014 – Online Survey

An online survey was conducted to help the City better understand how the street is used and viewed. Over 300 people took the survey. Along with other public input, this will help inform a final concept.

November 20, 2014 – Open House

Tonight CDD and DPW open house is to solicit feedback from residents and business owners regarding design proposals for the project. The initial design options are the result of the two prior community meetings and the on-line survey.

Next Steps:

The City will be evaluating input from the Pearl Street Open House to design a final concept. Please sign in to give your contact information so you may be informed about next steps.

For More Information: Visit the project webpage at www.cambridgema.gov/PearlStreet to view the concepts, survey results, and to sign up for the Pearl Street Reconstruction mailing list. All materials displayed at the open house will be posted to the project website by 5pm on Friday, November 21, 2014.



PEARL STREET OPTIONS

Based on input received throughout the Pearl Street Reconstruction Project process, two options for the future design of Pearl Street are proposed. Which of the options below is the most effective at addressing the issues that were raised? Please indicate your choice on the Community Input handout.

Base Plan

New crosswalks, curb extensions (“bump-outs”), and raised intersections are added to Pearl Street to provide basic pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements.



Complete Streets

Complete Streets are designed to support all users. This option improves the street for cyclists and buses, modes that face safety and access concerns according to community input, by creating space via a daytime (8am-6pm) parking restriction on the north-west (odd) side. A quality day-time bike lane is provided against the curb, which is substantially safer for cyclists than sharing a narrow lane. Bus operations are enhanced with bus stops that are generous and clear, and buses have enough room to travel through the narrow street. At the same time, this option offers parking at night on both sides when parking demand is greatest. It includes all base plan improvements.

