

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Community Meeting Ames Street Land Disposition

Wednesday, October 23 6:00pm

Robert W. Healy Public Safety Facility 125 Sixth Street - 4th Floor

Background The City has proposed selling an approximately 20-foot wide strip of public land along the eastern edge of Ames Street (see map on reverse side) to a private owner with the condition that it would be combined with other land to enable the construction of a residential building with ground floor retail. The developer would also be responsible for the reconstruction of Ames Street.

In the course of the Kendall Square Study, the City created a concept plan for Ames Street between Broadway and Main Street to create a more pedestrian-scale street and enhance the environment by narrowing the street. Ames Street is currently wider than is typical for city streets and very autodominated. In addition to enhancing the streetscape environment, the redesign would allow for the possibility of developing new housing on the eastern side of the street. Developing new housing in Kendall Square was an important community goal expressed in the Kendall Square Study.

Process The City's Municipal Ordinance, Section 2.110.010, requires that a public process be conducted before public land may be sold ("land disposition"). Following this community meeting and a planned follow-up community meeting, public hearings would be conducted at the Planning Board and City Council. A City Council vote will be required in order to approve a land disposition agreement.

State laws (Chapter 30B) also require that when land is disposed, proposals must be solicited from all interested buyers prior to selecting a buyer. The City has issued a Request for Proposals, which will be discussed in more detail at the meeting. Information is available from the City's Purchasing Department.

For More Information

Contact Jeff Roberts, Community Development Department, at 617-349-4639 (TTY 617-349-4621) or jroberts@cambridgema.gov.

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