

Final Design & Construction
January 2012

Please see these previous booklets:

Community Design Process, June 2010
and
Conceptual Design Selection, Oct. 2010

All available online:
westernavenue.info

Western Avenue Reconstruction

construction



Begins: summer 2012
Ends: autumn 2014

We expect a contractor to be on board in the spring, with construction starting this summer. Work hours for the project will be 7AM to 4PM. During construction, crews will maintain at least one travel lane on Western Avenue, with occasional detours. Every effort will be made to maintain as much parking as possible, and pedestrian, bicycle, and MBTA access will be maintained. The contractor and police details will coordinate access to neighbors' private property if needed.

Public Works will hold a community meeting in the spring to introduce the contractor, present the phasing of the project, discuss construction details, and address resident questions and concerns. The underground stormwater and sewer system, water main, roadway, and sidewalks on Western Avenue will all be replaced from Green Street to Memorial Drive. NSTAR Gas will resume upgrades in the roadway early this spring.

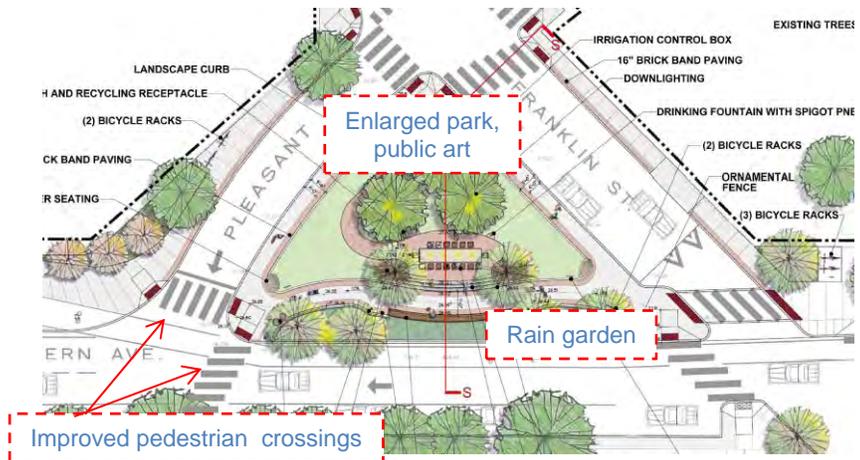
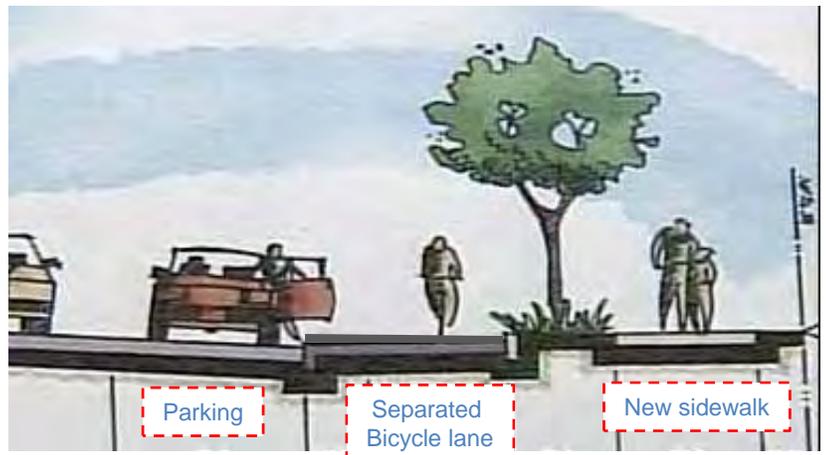
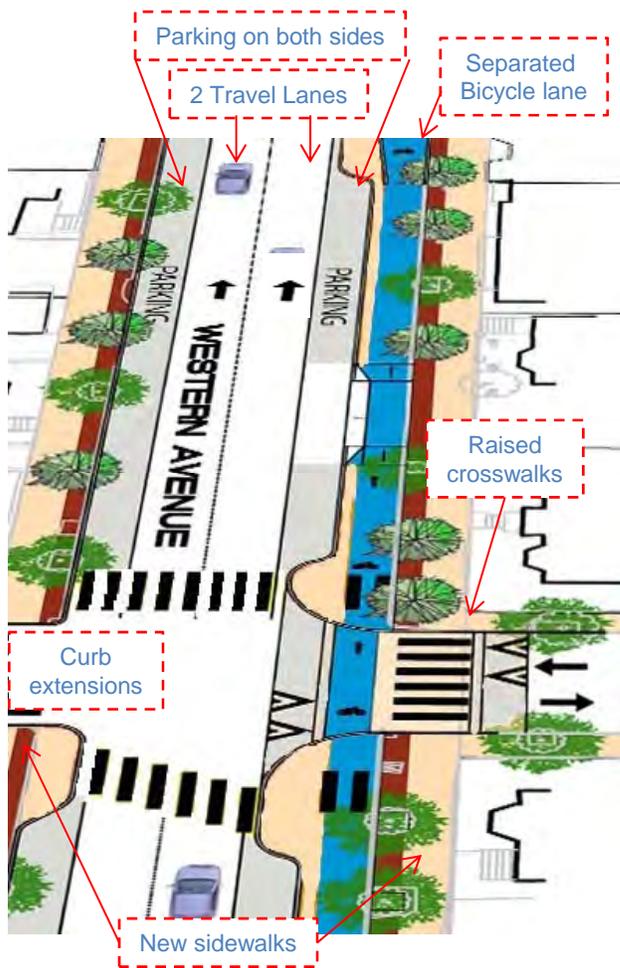
contact

Sign up for regular construction updates

<http://www.westernavenue.info>

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surface redesign

Public input process for the surface redesign ran from January 2010 through June 2011 and included eight Advisory Committee meetings, five neighborhood walks, and six public meetings. Five concept alternatives were developed to identify the full range of potential options for Western Avenue, and extensive community feedback was taken into consideration.

Evaluation criteria was developed by city staff and the advisory committee to guide the design process:

- Traffic calming effect / vehicle speed reduction
- Pedestrian crossing safety
- Expanded sidewalk space
- Bicycle facility safety and comfort
- Bus operations and efficiency
- Rush hour vehicle capacity
- Parking availability
- Snow clearance and street cleaning
- Emergency vehicle access
- Construction cost
- Community support

Final design: Pleasant St. to Blackstone St. will have two vehicle travel lanes, parking on both sides, and a separated bicycle lane (raised cycle track). Pedestrian safety will be improved with raised crosswalks on (unsignalized) sidestreets, curb extensions, and new crosswalks. New trees, planting beds, trash/recycling containers, and energy efficient streetlights will be installed. The new design will improve pedestrian crossings at Pleasant / Western / Franklin and at Blackstone. Cronin Park will be enlarged, landscaped, and include a rain garden and permanent public art installation "Breaking Bread."