# Western Avenue Reconstruction
## Advisory Committee meeting #1

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Environmental &
Transportation Planning

# Welcome

**Susanne Rasmussen, Director**
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department



## Team

**Department of Public Works**
Owen O'Riorden, James Wilcox, Wendy Robinson, Kelly Dunn

**Community Development Department**
Susanne Rasmussen, Bill Deignan, Jeff Rosenblum

**Traffic, Parking, & Transportation**
Sue Clippinger, Jeff Parenti

**Consultants**
John Struzziery (SEA), Jerry Friedman (HDR),
Cynthia Smith (Halvorson), Chris Hart (IHCD)



## Agenda

- Introductions
- Advisory Committee process
- Overview of City policies
- Scope and schedule for the project
- *Group input session: positives and negatives about Western Ave.*
- Public comment period
- Wrap-up, next steps

## Advisory Committee

Lawrence Adkins
Bill August
Mertin Betts
Velmer Brooks
Kathy Cannon
Abdullah Daoud
Reuben Dottin
Caitlin Gallagher
David Gibbs
Marvin Gilmore
Erin Gullage
Megan Krey
Marc Leuchner
Bob Nesson
Brad Nissenbaum
Eran Segev
Anne Shuhler
Artis Spears
Pastor Lawrence Ward



## Advisory Committee process

- Committee selection process
- Role of the committee
- Consensus approach
- Meeting schedule



## Other outreach activities

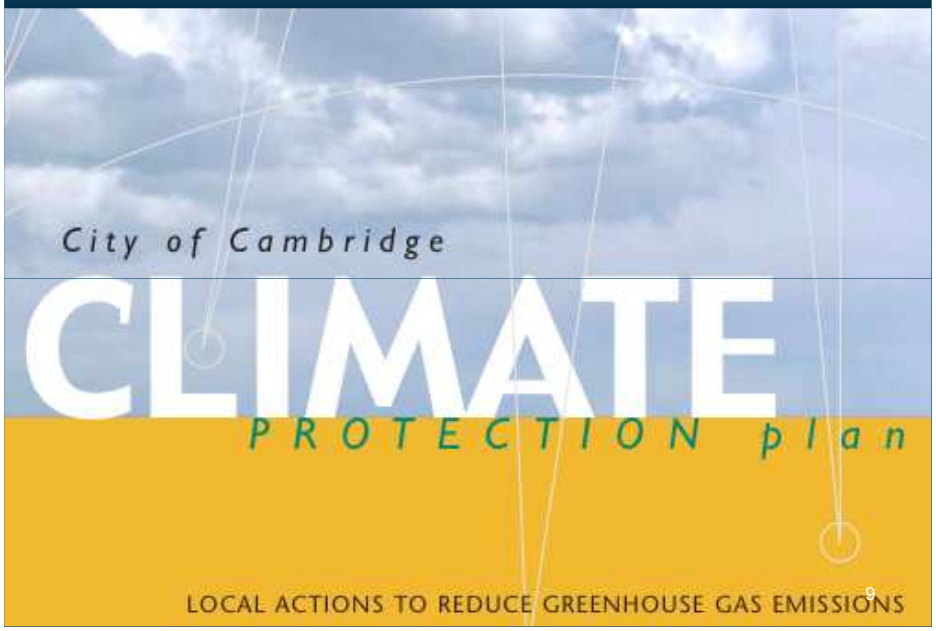
- Presentations to Neighborhood Assoc.
- Workshop at Camb. Community Center
- Youth Center outreach programs
- Central Square Business Association
- Community-wide public meetings
- Informal walks of Western Ave.
- Website: http://westernavenue.info



## Western Avenue is a…

- Regional roadway *and*
- Neighborhood street *and*
- Retail district *and*
- Front yard.

## GHG emissions: reduction by 20% by 2010






## Growth Policy Document (1993, 2007)

**Policy #22**

- Undertake reasonable measures to improve the functioning of the city's street network, without increasing through capacity, to reduce congestion and noise and facilitate bus and other non-automobile circulation.



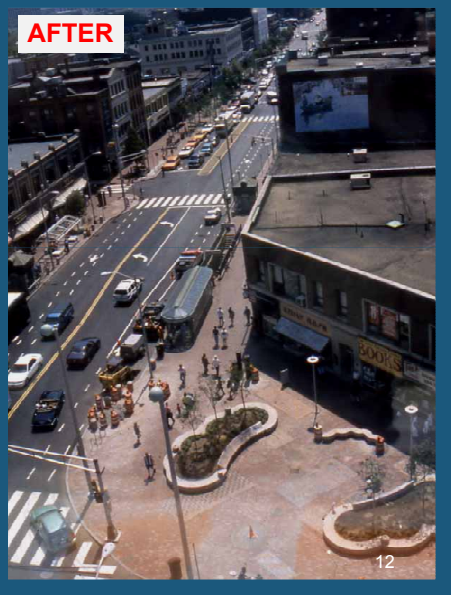
## Growth Policy Document (1993, 2007)

**Policy #23**

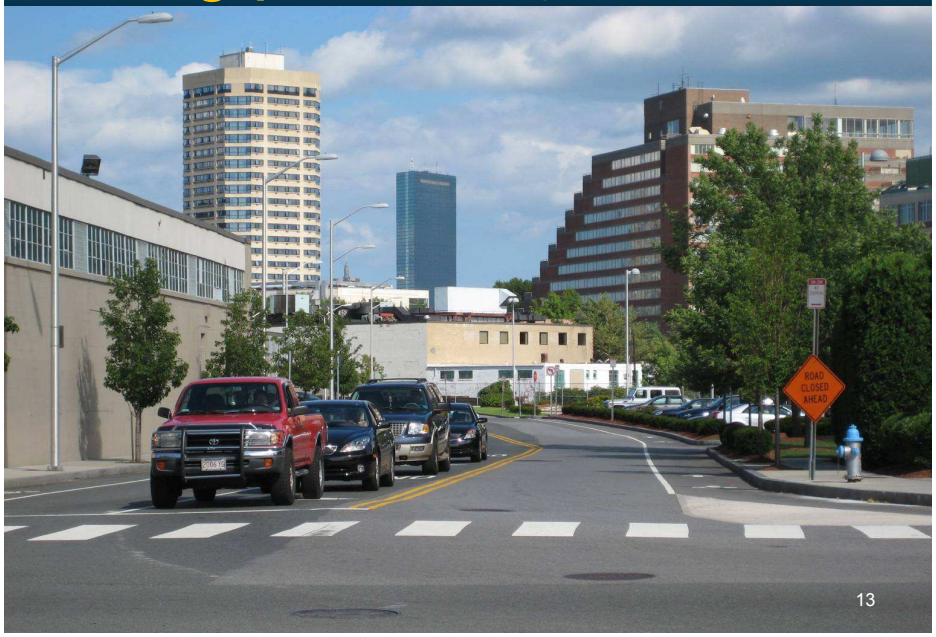
- Encourage all reasonable forms of nonautomotive travel including, for example, making improvements to the city's infrastructure to support bicycling and walking.



## Massachusetts Avenue, 1996



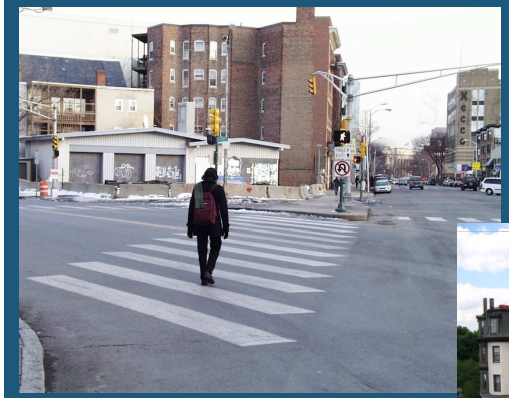
## Cambridgeport Roadways





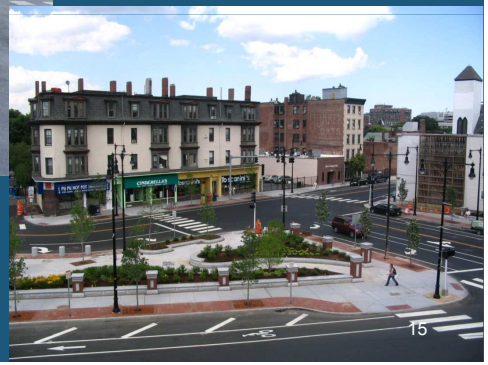

## Brookline Street

## Lafayette Square, 2008



BEFORE

AFTER





## Surface design: Preliminary project goals

- Ensure corridor is safe for all users
- Maintain adequate traffic flow
- Reinforce residential character
- Appropriate traffic speed
- Improve conditions for walking, bicycling, and transit riders
- Provide disability access
- Improve access to businesses
- Help meet stormwater environmental goals through “low impact designs”

# Questions

**Susanne Rasmussen, Director**
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department



# Schedule & Scope

**Jeff Rosenblum, Transportation Planner**
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department



## Project schedule

2010

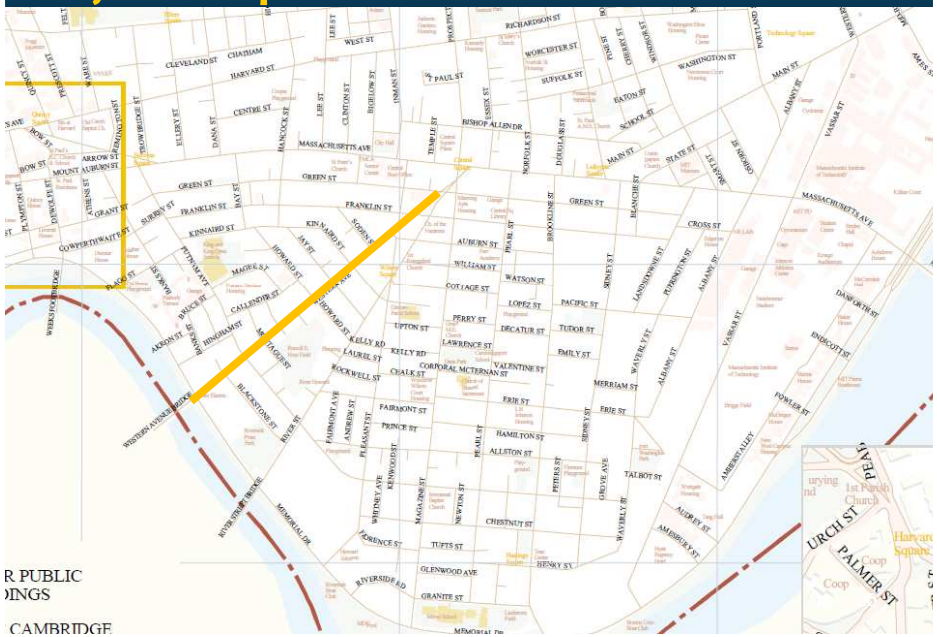
| | |
|---|---|
| February | Begin community process |
| June | Complete conceptual design |
| July | 25% design complete |
| November | 75% design complete |

2011

| | |
|---|---|
| April | Project is advertized |
| July | Construction begins |



## Project scope



# Scope of the project

**Subsurface**

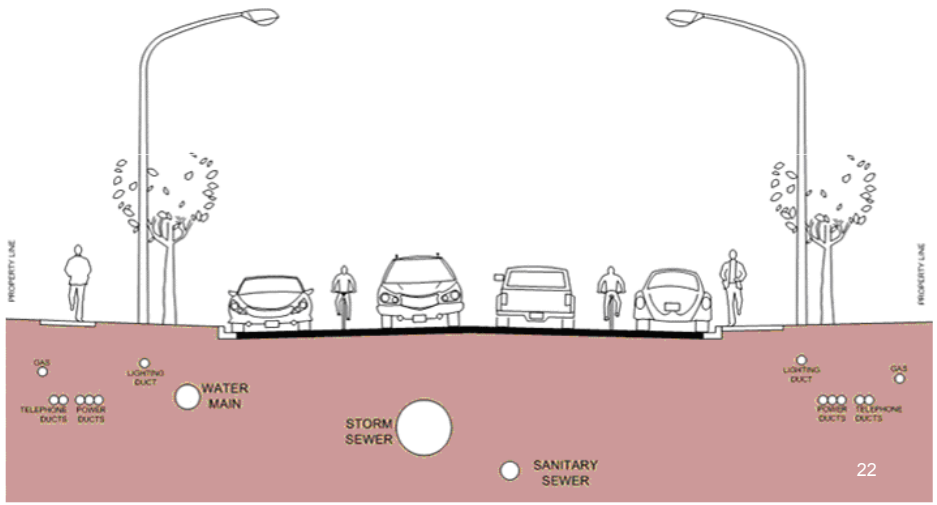
- City: sewer, water, electrical for street lighting
- Companies: gas, electric, telephone, cable as needed

**Surface**

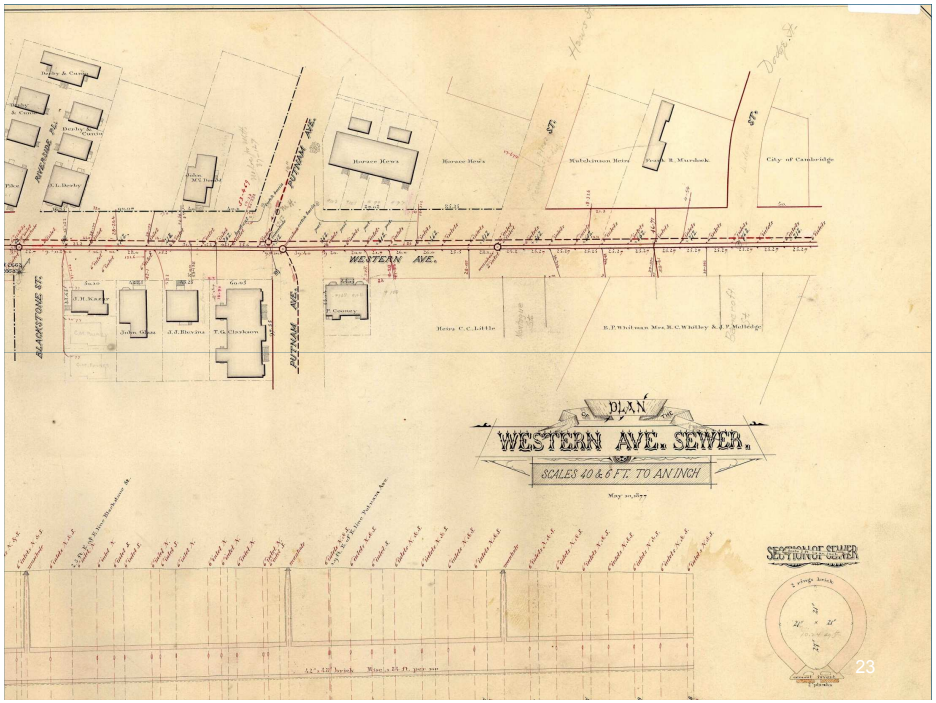
- City: roadway, sidewalks, street furniture, trees, lighting
- Available funding for surface restoration depends on final cost of doing subsurface



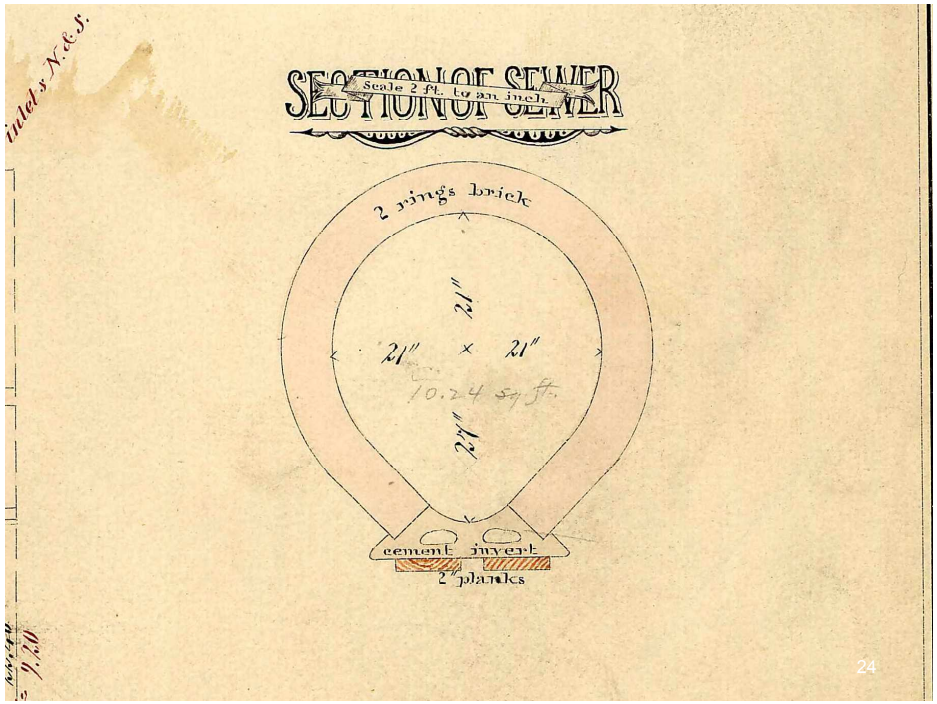
# Subsurface and surface







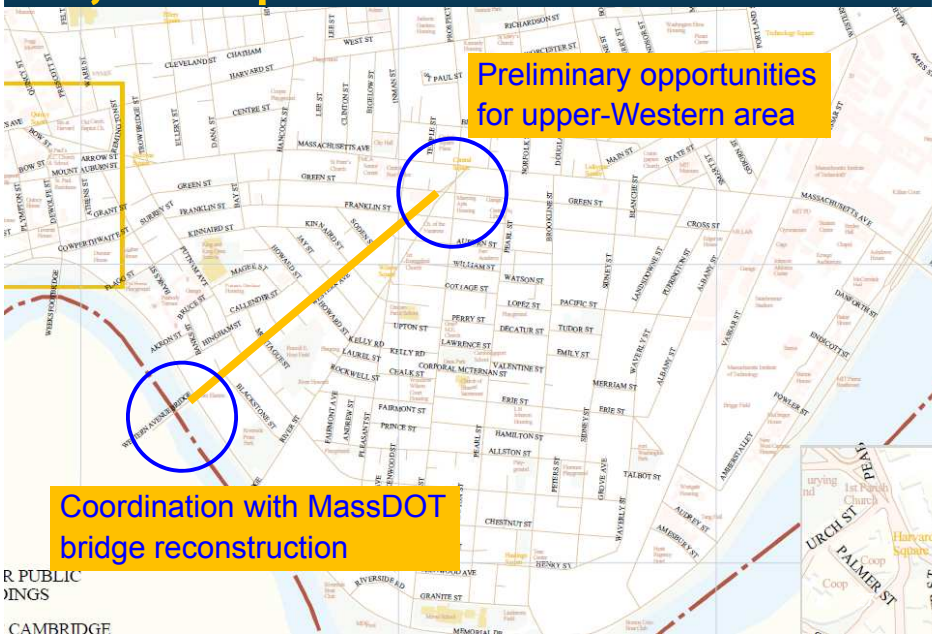
# Preliminary survey and inspections

# Surface restoration

- Overall design of roadway and sidewalk
  - Traffic volumes
  - Parking
  - Intersections and pedestrian crossings
  - Bicycle accommodation
  - Lighting
  - Surface material
  - Plantings
  - Open-space
  - Green design elements



# Project scope




# Upper Western Avenue

# Working Session

**What do you like about Western Avenue?**
**What don't you like?**



# Next Steps

- Upcoming Schedule
- Review materials in your binder
- Website: http://westernavenue.info



## Next meetings

Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Meeting #2: Tuesday March 16
- Meeting #3: Thursday April 15
- Meeting #4: Tuesday April 27

Community-wide Meeting

- Wednesday March 31 (7-9 pm)

All meetings held at the Citywide Senior Center



## Advisory Committee meeting #2

Tentative Agenda (Tue. March 16)

- Discussion of community goals
- Sewer project presentation
- Presentation/ slide show by Charlie Sullivan, Historical Commission
- Presentation and discussion of Existing Conditions Study
- Participatory session from the committee on possible conceptual design directions