Western Avenue Reconstruction
Advisory Committee meeting #3

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Environmental &
Transportation Planning

Welcome

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Agenda

- Debrief 3/31 community meeting & community walks
- Presentation: parking study; crash data; review key points on existing conditions
- Street Design 101
- *Committee input session*
- Public comment period
- Wrap-up, next steps

Existing Conditions (continued)

- **Parking study**
- **Crash information**

Vehicle (18 crashes per year)

Vehicle Crash Data
MassDOT Crash Database, 2005-2007

	Western @ Mem Drive	Western @ Putnam Ave	Western @ Howard Street	Western @ Mass Ave
Average crashes per year	8.7	5	2	2
Property damage only	58%	73%	50%	83%
Personal injury	42%	27%	50%	17%
Fatality	-	-	-	-
Cross movement or angle	15%	53%	33%	33%
Rear end collision	50%	13%	50%	-
sideswipe	19%	13%	-	50%
Head on	4%	-	-	-
Fixed object	-	7%	-	17%
Other	12%	13%	-	-

Bicycle (1.6 crashes per year)

Bicycle Crash Data
City of Cambridge, 2004-2009

	@ Memorial Drive	@ 321 Western	@ 322 Western	@ Howard Street	@ Kinnaird Street	@ Pleasant Street	@ Franklin Street	@ S Western
Month	July 28	June 4	July 25	Sept. 20	Aug 26	Dec. 5	Aug. 2	Aug 17
Time	8:15 AM	5:20 PM	11:06 PM	9:00 PM	7:00 PM	4:30 PM	2:55 PM	11:18 PM
Description	Bicyclist collided with stopped car	Driver opened door into bicyclist	Bicyclist avoided pothole, was hit by car	Driver turning onto Western hit bicyclist	N/A	Driver turning onto Western hit bicyclist	Driver turning onto Western hit bicyclist	Driver turning onto Western hit bicyclist

Existing Conditions Summary

- Roadway and sidewalk in poor condition
- Pedestrian safety a main concern
- Significant transit hub at Central Square
- Lots of peds, >500 during peak hour
- 1 cyclist per minute during peak hour
- Afternoon peak worst time for traffic, travel time 6 to 8 minutes (3 min usually)
- Parking: upper and lower have high resident parking demand but not exceeding supply; metered parking is inadequate

Street Design 101

1. Experience objectives
2. Design goals
3. What's in our toolbox

Experience objectives

- Safe
- Efficient
- Pleasant

Design goals

- Safe
- Efficient
- Pleasant

Mobility on Western Avenue

- Transit riders
- People on foot
- Bicyclists
- Drivers
- Truckers

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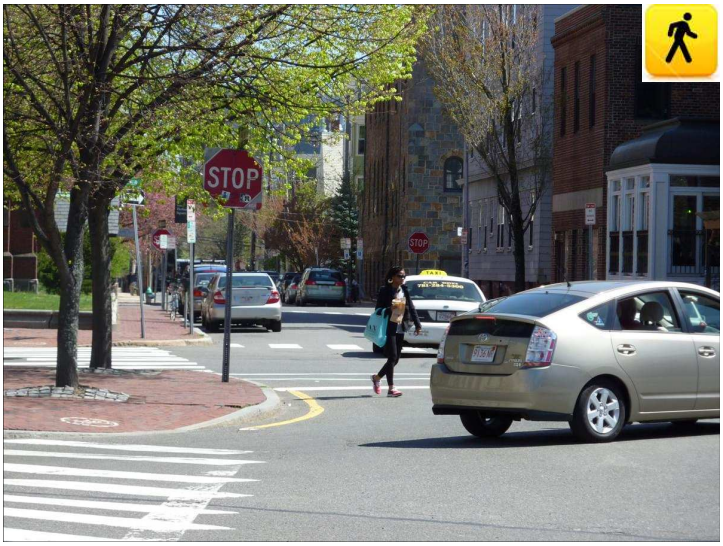

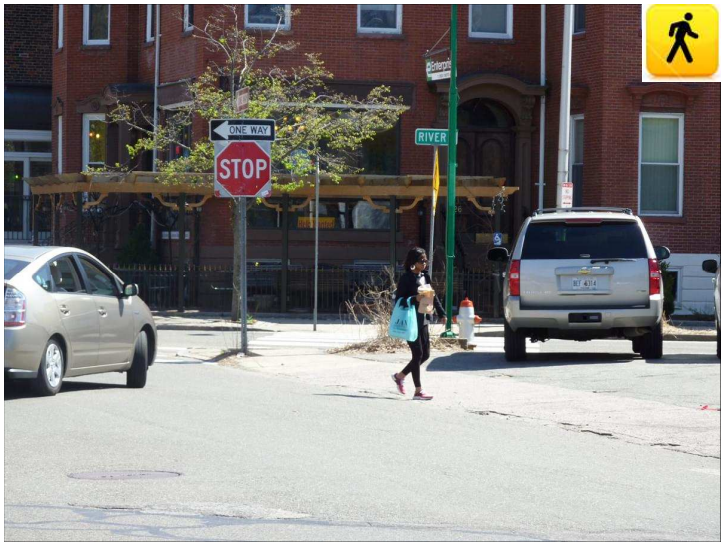

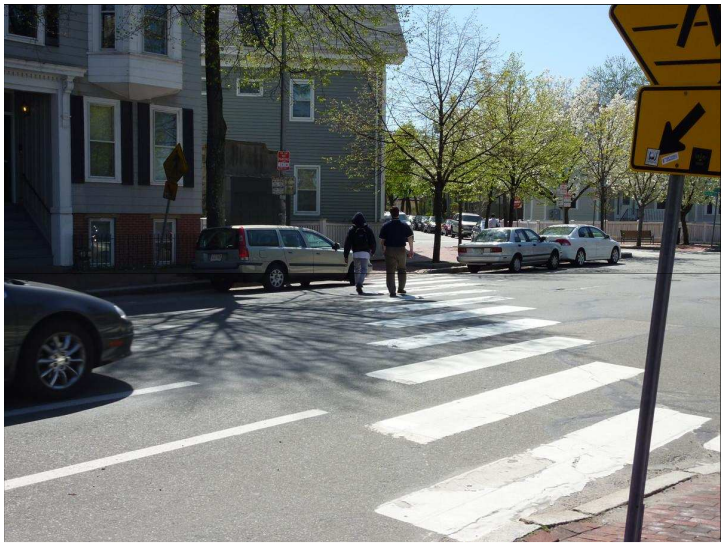

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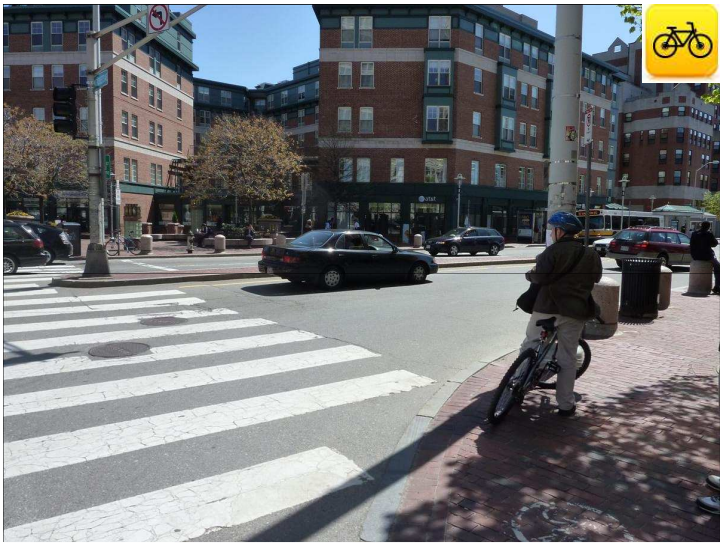

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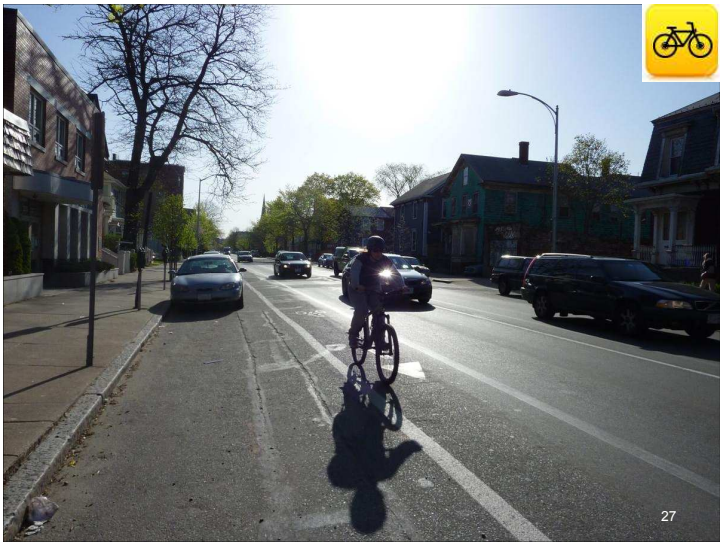
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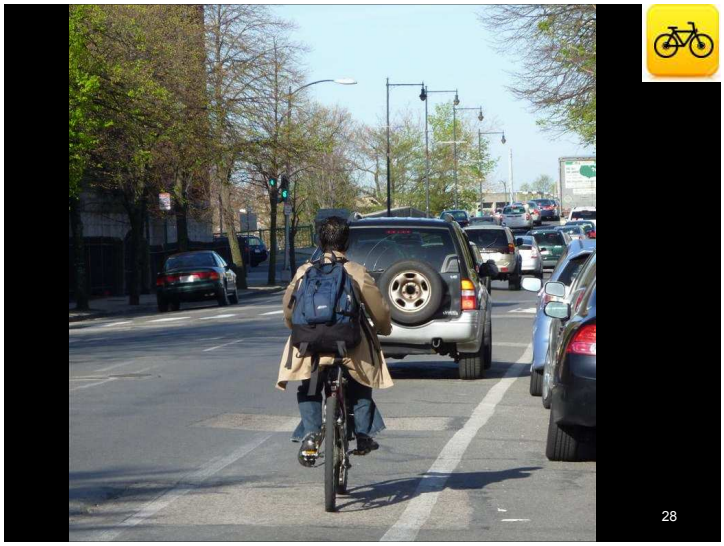
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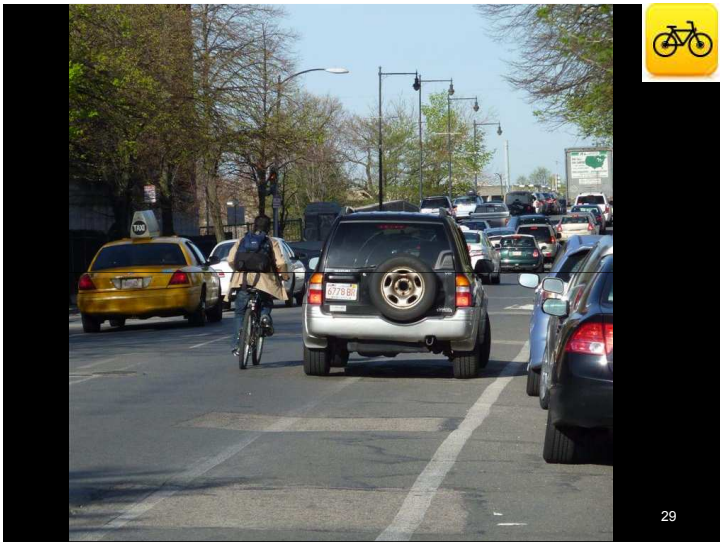
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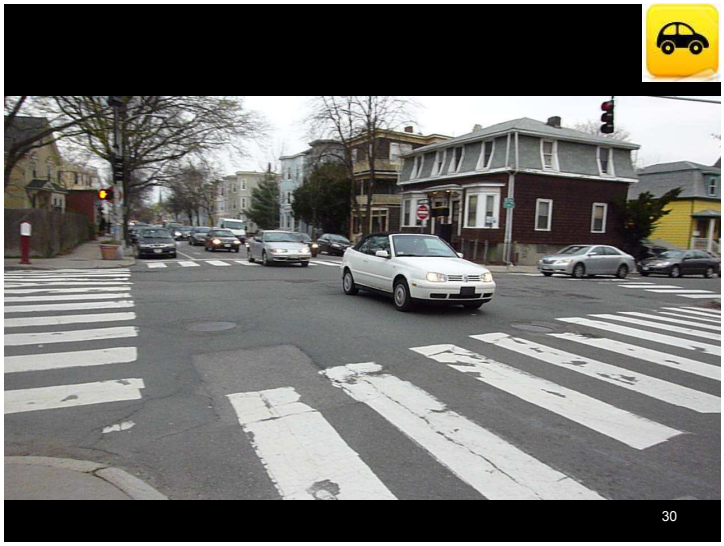
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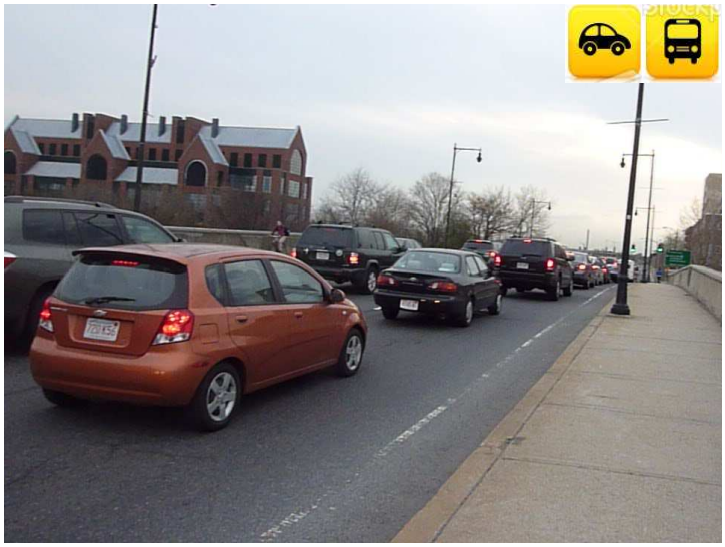
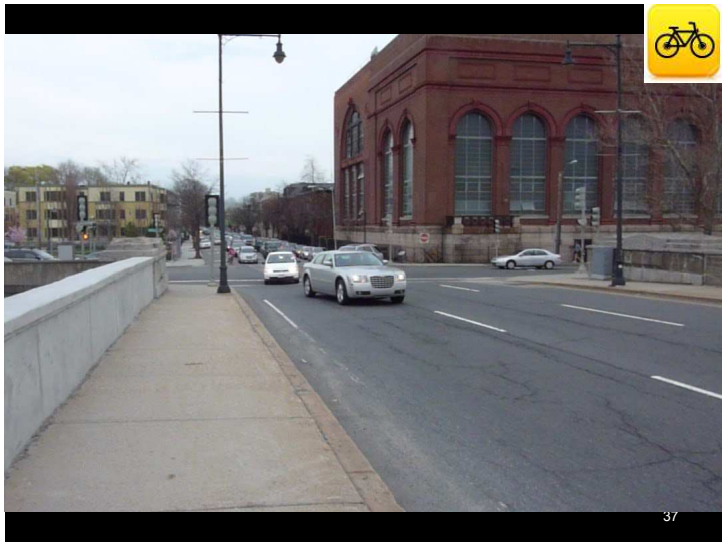
Design goals

- Safe
- Efficient
- Pleasant





Design goals

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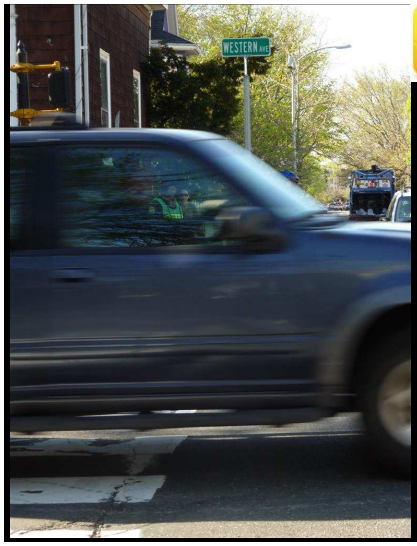
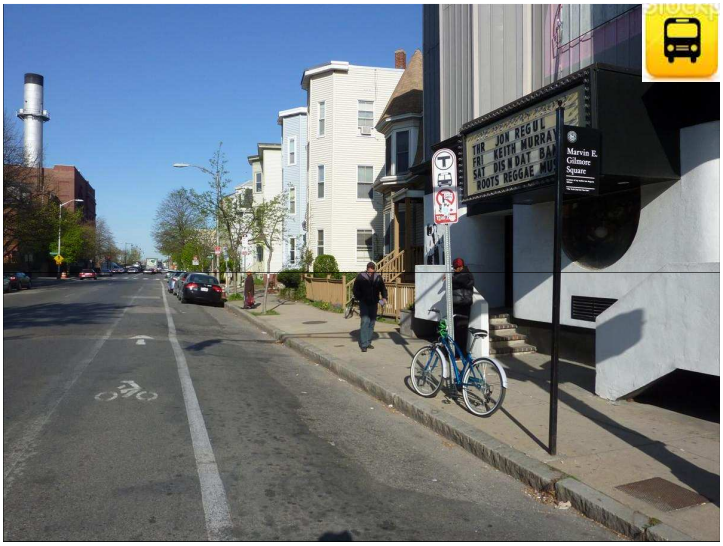
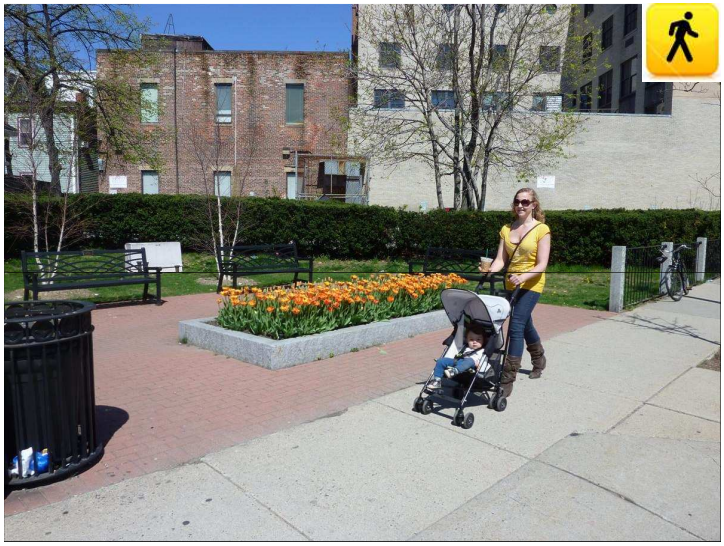


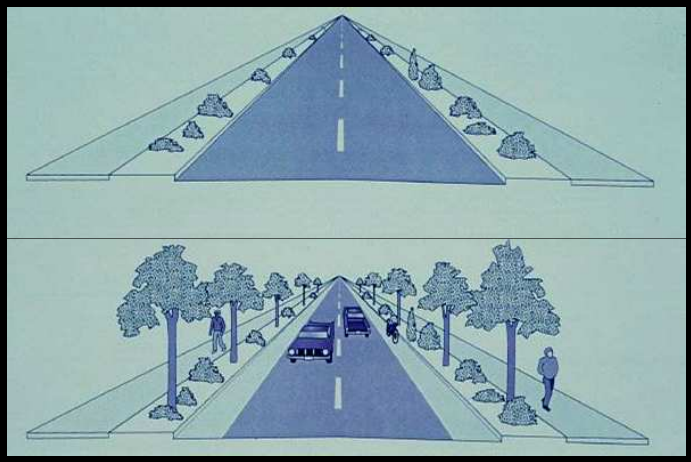




Focus for today

- Focus on Advisory Committee goals with major effects on conceptual design
  - Appropriate vehicle speed
  - Improve pedestrian safety when crossing
  - Improve bicycle accommodation
  - Improve transit experience
  - Address parking needs
  - Reduce impact on water quality

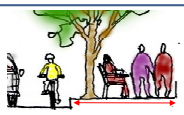
The toolbox



Brookline Street Reconstruction Project

Final Plan Highlights

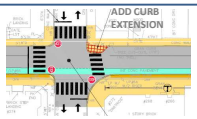
Street trees will be added.



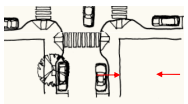
East sidewalk will be widened, brick accent strip will be added.

Bicycle lane will be added from Henry Street to Green Street; resident and metered parking will be moved to the left side of the street.

Raised intersection to be added at Erie Street.



Safety improvements at Putnam: traffic signal will be replaced with all-way stop.

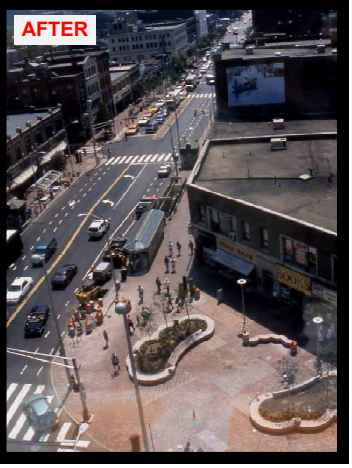


Curb extensions and new crosswalks will be added at many locations.

Mass. Ave. 1996

BEFORE

AFTER



Lafayette Square, 2008

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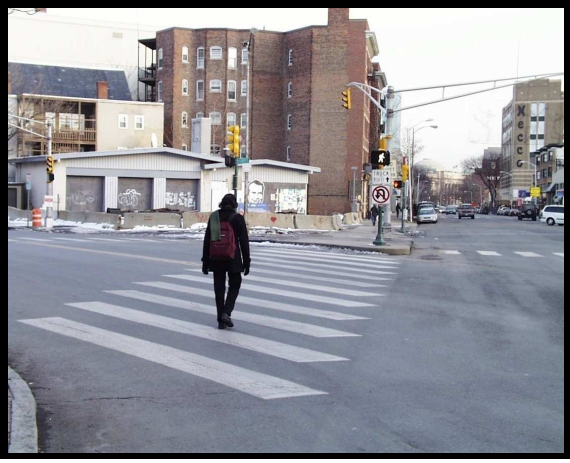

Lafayette Square, 2008

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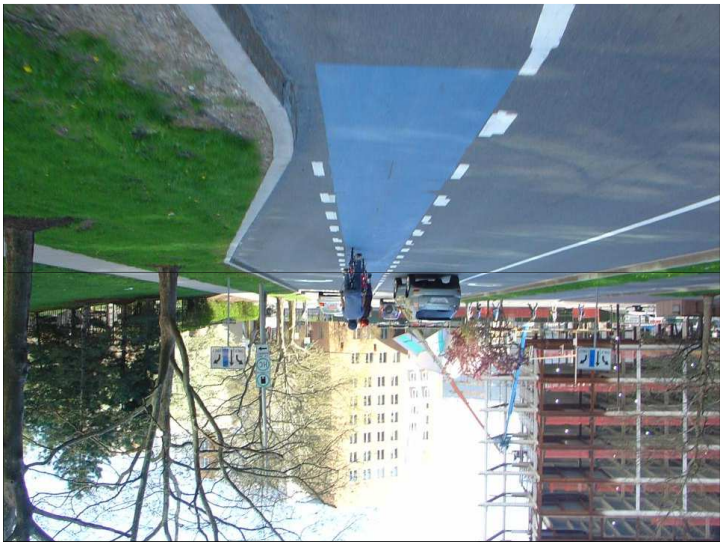

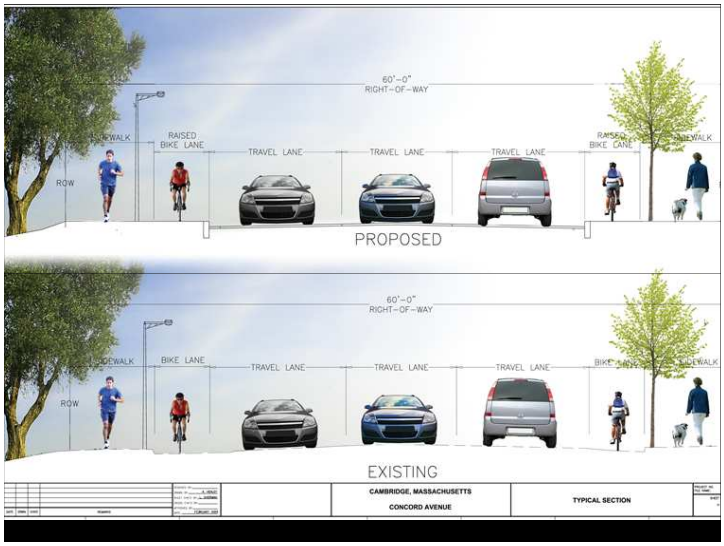

Water quality

- Reduce paved surface
- Permeable surface
- Rain gardens

Working Session

Feedback session

Next meetings

Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Meeting #4: Tuesday April 27 (6-8 pm)
- Meeting #5:
- Meeting #6:

(All meetings at the Citywide Senior Center)

Neighborhood walk:

- Monday April 26 @ 6pm (Meet @ Andala)

Adjourn

Website: http://westernavenue.info