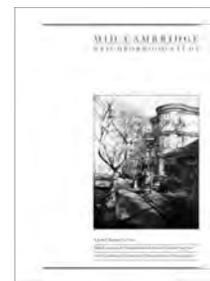


Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update

City of Cambridge
Community Development Department
February 5, 2011



Neighborhood Studies

- Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study (1998)
- Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update (2005)



Study Update Process

- Series of 2-3 community meetings
- Online questionnaire
- Discuss planning in the neighborhood
- Develop recommendations for future planning
- Report: Summary, recommendations and future action steps

Why Are We Here?

- Learn about planning in Cambridge
- Hear your thoughts, concerns, vision for the future
- Dialogue about long-term planning issues –
How will the neighborhood change over 10 years or more?

Today's Meeting

- Introduction to Neighborhood Planning (~30 mins)
- Conversation on Topic Areas (~90 mins, small groups)
- Review and Summarize Main Points (~30 mins, large group)
- Open Discussion, Next Steps (~30 mins)

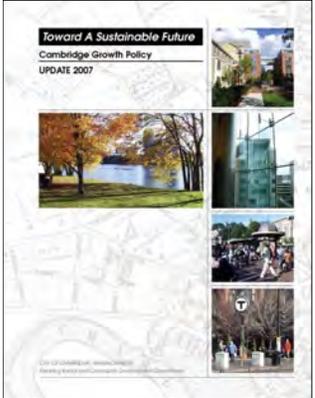
What is City Planning?

- Providing a vision for the city's future
- Managing city growth over time
- Creating a more **sustainable** city

Planning Tools

- City ordinances, policies (Zoning and others)
- Public investment in transportation, open space
- Programs and services

What Guides Cambridge's Planning Today?



- Growth Policy (1993, 2007)
- "Citywide Rezoning" (2001)
- Climate Protection Plan (2002)
- Topic-Specific Studies:
 - Green Ribbon Open Space (2000)
 - Green Zoning Task Force (2009)
- Area-Specific Studies:
 - Eastern Cambridge (2001)
 - Concord-Alewife (2006)
- **Neighborhood Studies and Updates (1989-present)**

Mid-Cambridge: At a Glance



- Of the neighborhood's 13,000+ residents ...
 - ~ 8% are under 18 (13% citywide)
 - ~ 24% are 18-24 years old (21% citywide)
 - ~ 30% attend college or graduate school (26% citywide)
 - ~ 17% live in group quarters (dorms, hospitals)
 - ~ 70% of households are "non-family"
 - ~ Average 1.76 persons per household (2.03 citywide)

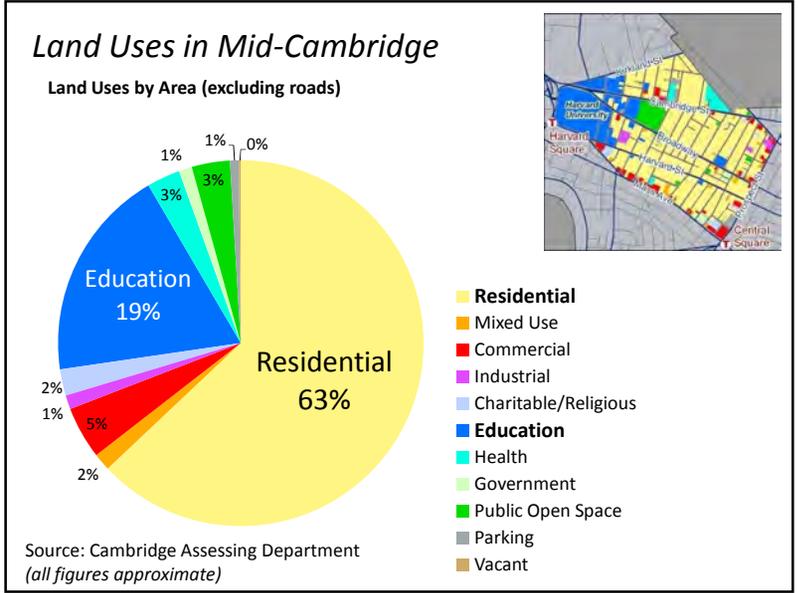
Source: US Census, 2000

Overall City Goals

- Serve a diverse population
- Good housing, neighborhoods
- Sustainability
- Beautiful parklands and pathways
- Healthy economic base – jobs, retail
- High-quality city services
- Public process to address growth

Neighborhood Planning Topics

- Land Use and Zoning
- Energy and Environment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Open Space



Residential Neighborhoods

- Maintain pattern of development
- Rehabilitate existing housing stock
- New housing at existing height and scale

Land Use and Zoning Goals

- Support a healthy mix of uses
- Preserve existing character where appropriate
- Support housing, economic growth
- Address impacts of development

Retail and Office Districts

- Support new retail where it exists
- Allow new housing

Institutions



- Harvard, Youville
- Limited growth in residential districts
- Economic and cultural activity near campus

Energy and Buildings



Thermal Scan of Building



Before insulation

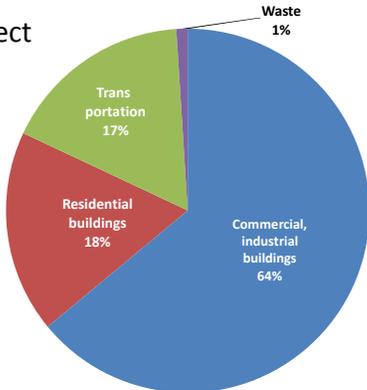


After insulation

- Improved energy efficiency for existing buildings (Insulation, efficient appliances and mechanicals)
- “Green Zoning” for new construction
- Renewable Energy – solar, wind

Energy and Environment Goals

- Energy efficiency, renewable energy
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Moderating heat island effect
- Stormwater management
- Reducing waste, increasing recycling

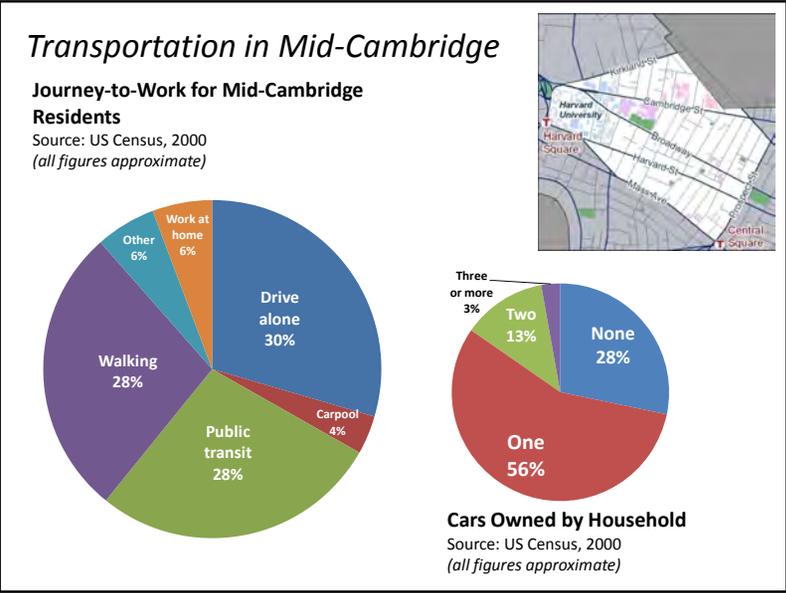


Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cambridge
Source: Community Development Department
(all figures approximate)

Stormwater and Urban Heat Island



- Vegetation, trees, rain gardens
- Green roofs
- White roofs



Transportation Projects/Programs

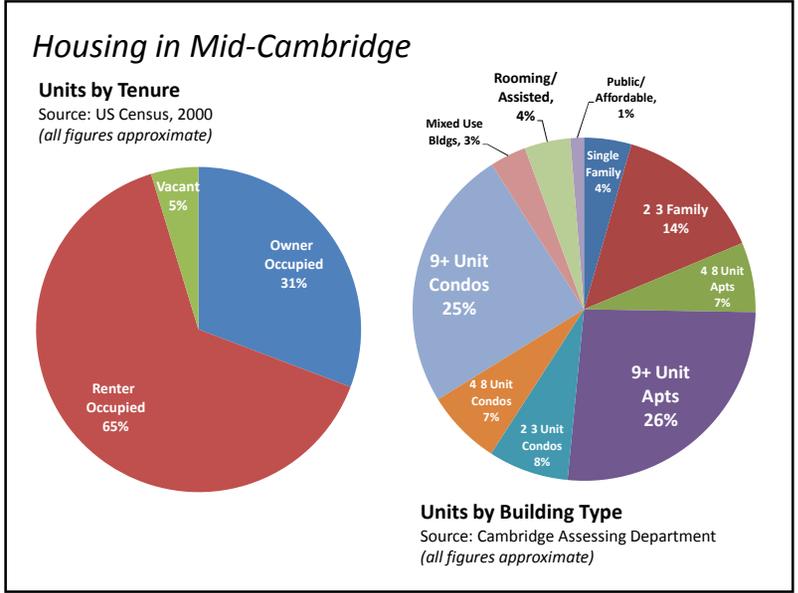
- Roadway, sidewalk improvements
- Bicycle facilities (lanes, paths, parking)
- Parking and transportation requirements for new development

Transportation Goals

- Reduce auto use
- Support walking, bicycling, public transportation (livability, sustainability)
- Make roads safer – slow speeds on residential streets

Outreach Programs

- Transportation choices
- Reducing energy use
- Recycling programs
- Recognizing community efforts



Businesses in Mid-Cambridge

- Mostly small independent businesses
- Some retail or office “mini-districts”
- Several “non-conforming” businesses

Affordable Housing Programs

- Inclusionary Zoning
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Home Improvement Programs
- Homebuyer and Renter Assistance

Small Business Support Programs

- Grant programs (façade designs, store renovations)
- Workshops
- SiteFinder service, one-on-one consulting

Open Space in Mid-Cambridge



- About 4 acres total
- Joan Lorentz Park (at Library) is largest space
- Many smaller playgrounds and “pocket parks”

Open Space Improvement



- Making better use of public space
- Encouraging new types of activity
- Giving places a unique character

Open Space Goals

- Maintain and improve what exists
- Provide variety of open space uses
- Expand supply and improve access as appropriate (Green Ribbon Study)
- Support “play” for community health and well-being (not just for kids!)



Neighborhood Planning Questions

- What do you like about the character of the neighborhood?
- What concerns do you have about the neighborhood?
- What do you see as opportunities for change and improvement over time?