



Overview

Work will begin in May, 2009 on the reconstruction of Brookline Street from Henry Street to Pacific Street. The project includes sidewalk replacement, repaving, and replacement of the water and sewer lines. Design improvements include traffic calming, safer pedestrian crossings, bicycle lanes and the addition of many more street trees. The Cambridge Arts Council has commissioned artist Mike Mandel to create a series of mosaics that will be imbedded within the sidewalk at various locations. The City will be piloting several innovative techniques for reducing the negative impacts of stormwater runoff on the Charles River's water quality.

Primary traffic calming elements include: addition of many new curb extensions at crosswalks, a widened sidewalk on the east side, a bicycle lane along the entire stretch, narrower vehicle lanes, a raised intersection at Erie Street, the installation of an all-way stop at Putnam instead of the existing traffic signal, and the addition of 70 new street trees. In addition, all of the wheelchair ramps will be reconstructed, and a sidewalk will be added next to Hastings Square where one does not exist today.

This project includes two pilot "low impact design" environmental components that aim to improve the quality of the stormwater that runs off the street and into the Charles River. When it rains, oil, antifreeze, detergents, pesticides and other pollutants get washed from driveways, parking lots, construction sites and streets into storm drains and then directly to the Charles River. A new sidewalk in front of Hastings Square will be constructed of "pervious concrete" material which will allow rainwater runoff to seep into the ground rather than run into the Charles. The second feature is a "rain garden" bioretention installation at one location. A bioretention system is a tank placed underground that collects the rain runoff from the street. The system contains natural biomaterial that removes pollutants and bacteria. On the sidewalk surface above the system, planted trees, grasses, and shrubs enhance pollutant removal, and add value to the urban landscape.

The final design resulted from a community process that began in early 2006, with over 150 Cambridge residents participating in one or more of several events. The project is anticipated to be completed by late fall 2009.

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Website

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/infra/brookline>



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

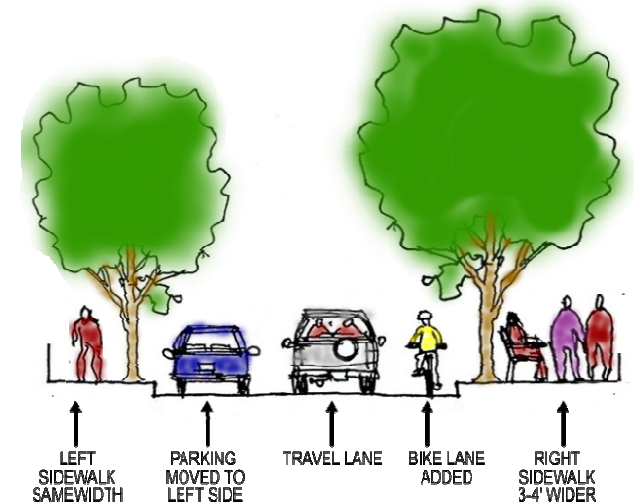
Design overview

Brookline Street Reconstruction

Goals

The focus of the reconstruction of Brookline Street is to emphasize the residential nature of the street and to reduce the speed of traffic while also providing a safe space for walking and bicycling.

In addition to paving, sidewalk replacement and utility work, improvements are proposed to include traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, bike lanes and street trees.



Brookline Street Reconstruction Project

Final Plan Highlights

Project goals

- Emphasize residential nature of Brookline street
- Reduce traffic speed and provide a safe space for walking and bicycling
- Enhance the street with more trees
- Maintain enough residential parking to meet the existing demand



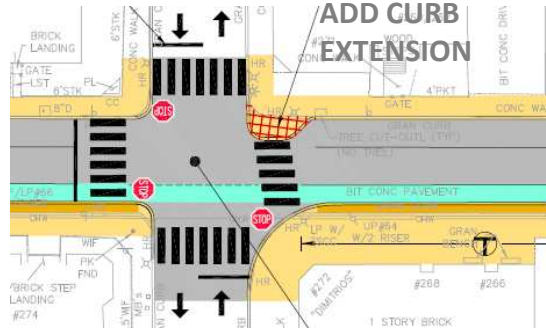
East sidewalk will be widened, brick accent strip will be added.



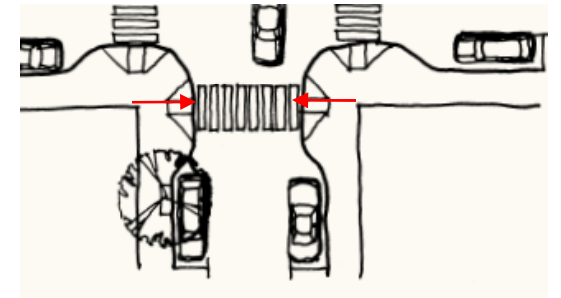
Bicycle lane will be added from Henry Street to Green Street; resident and metered parking will be moved to the left side of the street.



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.



Mike Mandel has been commissioned to develop public art as part of this project.



Street trees will be added.



Ten new residential parking spaces will be added on Tudor Street.