

# Western Avenue Reconstruction Community-wide Meeting 3/31/10



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Environmental &  
Transportation Planning

<http://westernavenue.info>

# Welcome

Susanne Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental & Transportation Planning  
Community Development Department

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## Team

### Department of Public Works

Owen O'Riordan, James Wilcox, Wendy Robinson, Kelly Dunn

### Community Development Department

Susanne Rasmussen, Bill Deignan, Jeff Rosenblum

### Traffic, Parking, & Transportation

Sue Clippinger, Jeff Parenti, Wayne Amaral

### Consultants

John Struzziery (SEA), Jerry Friedman (HDR), Rod Emery (Jacobs), Cynthia Smith (Halvorson), Chris Hart (IHCD)

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## Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the project
- The community input process
- City policies and project goals
- Surface redesign
- Questions
- Community input: positives and negatives about Western Ave.
  - Break-out session
  - Report back

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# The Project

Owen O’Riordan, City Engineer  
Assistant Commissioner of Engineering  
Department of Public Works

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## Project schedule

Dec. 2009	Initial survey work complete
Feb. 2010	Begin community process
Jun. 2010	Complete conceptual design
Apr. 2011	100% design complete
Jul. 2011	Construction begins
Nov. 2012	Construction is completed

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## Project scope



## Project scope

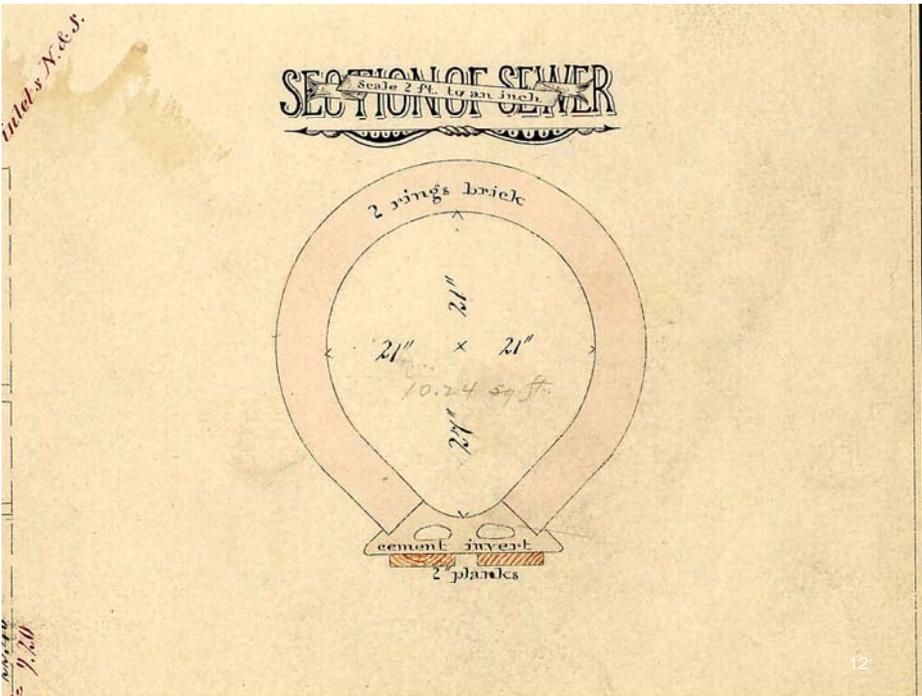
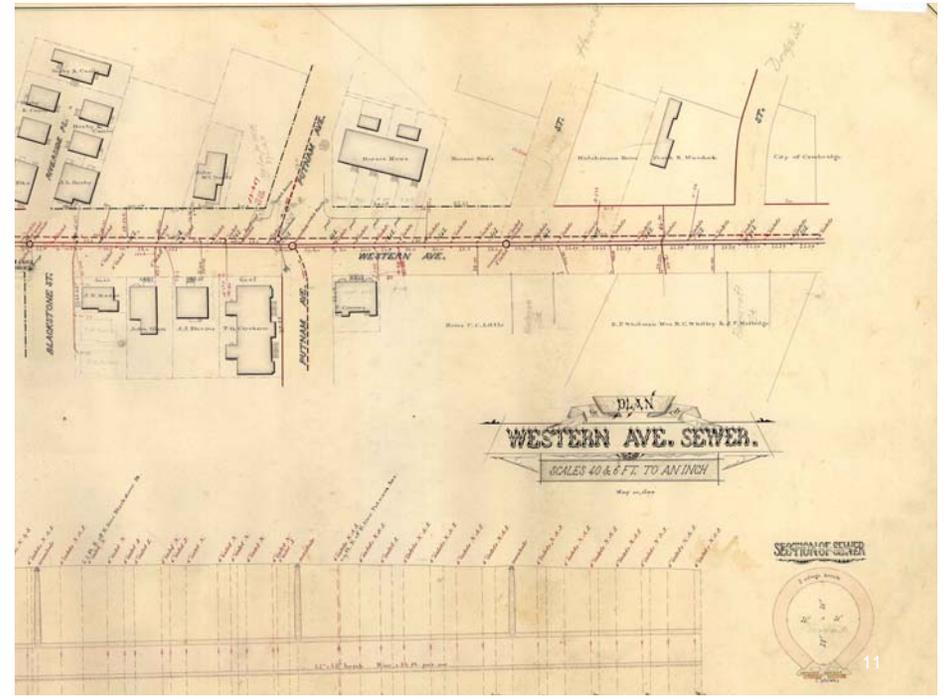
### Subsurface

- 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

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## Outreach

- Advisory committee
- Community-wide public meetings
- Neighborhood presentations
- Survey
- Informal walks of Western Ave.
  - See postcard
- Website: <http://westernavenue.info>

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# City Policies

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

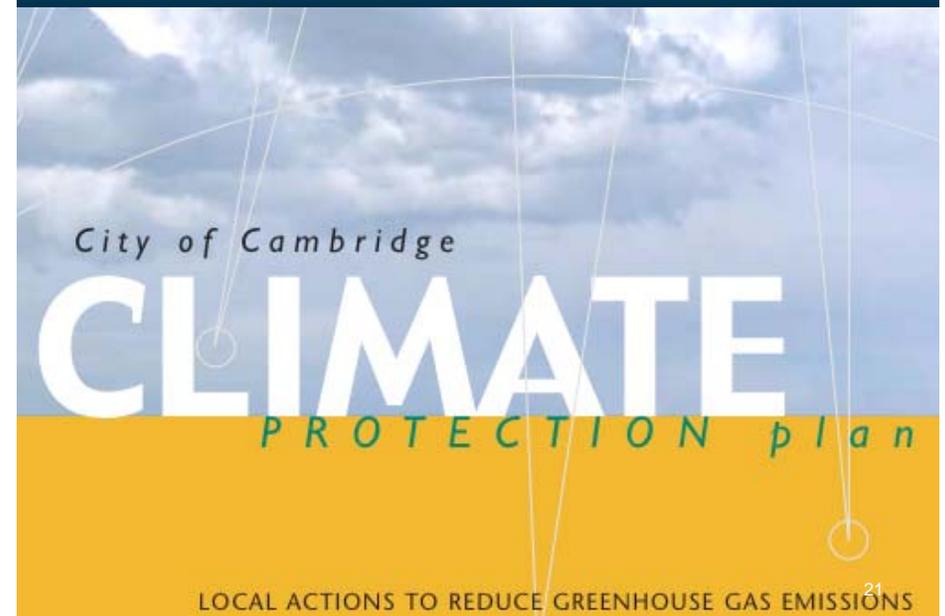
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## Western Avenue is a...

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

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## GHG emissions: reduction by 20% by 2010



LOCAL ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 21

## 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.

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## 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.

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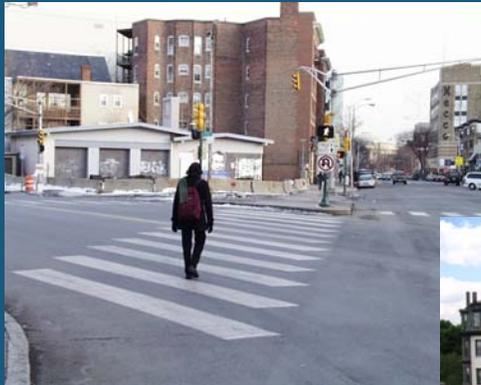
## Massachusetts Avenue, 1996



## Brookline Street



## Lafayette Square, 2008



AFTER



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# Project Goals

Susanne Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental & Transportation Planning  
Community Development Department

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## 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"
- Provide adequate parking
- Environmental sustainability
- Improve landscaping

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## Mobility on Western Avenue



Transit riders



People on foot



Bicyclists



Cars



Trucks

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# Surface Redesign

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

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## Overall design of roadway and sidewalk

- Vehicle travel lanes
- Intersections and pedestrian crossings
- Bicycle accommodation
- Parking
- Lighting
- Surface material for sidewalk
- Trees, plantings
- Open-space
- Green design elements

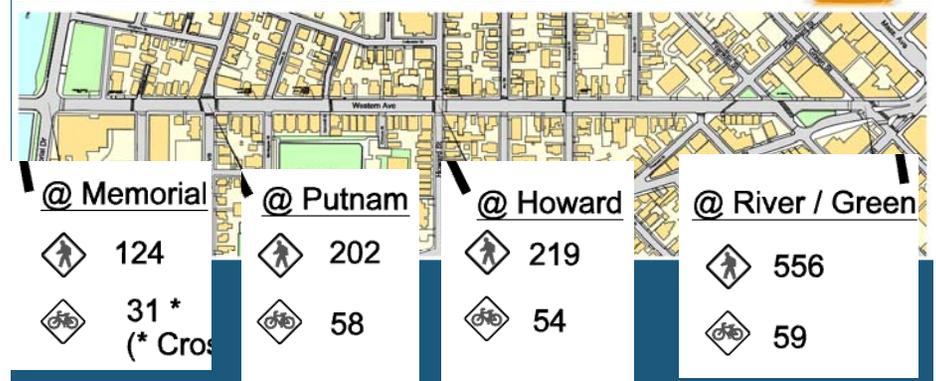
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## Existing conditions survey

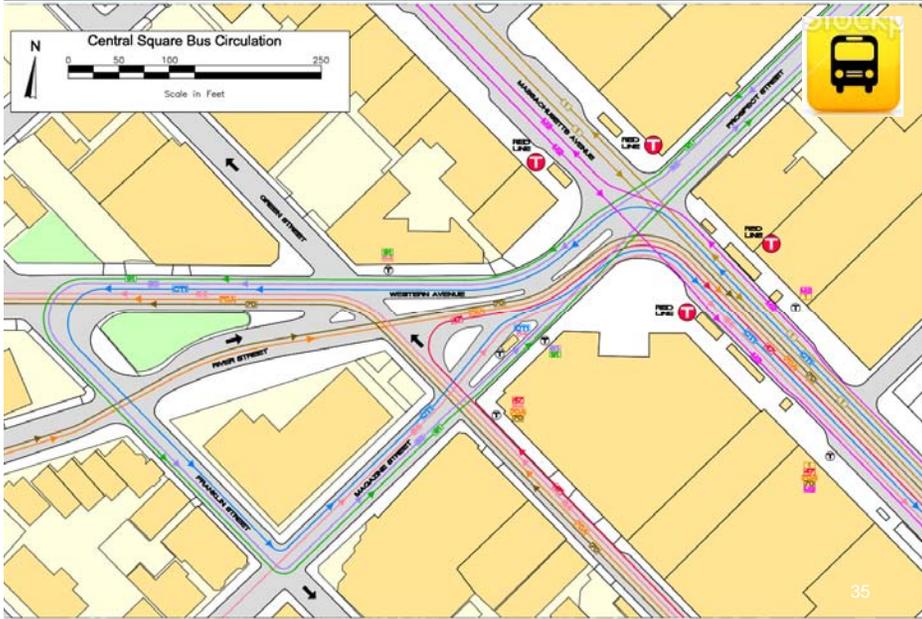
- Sidewalk/roadway conditions
- Accessibility
- Vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian volumes
- Peak traffic, queues, travel times
- Turning movements
- Transit circulation study
- Safety history
- Parking utilization study
- Tree inventory

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## Peak-hour bicycle & pedestrian volumes



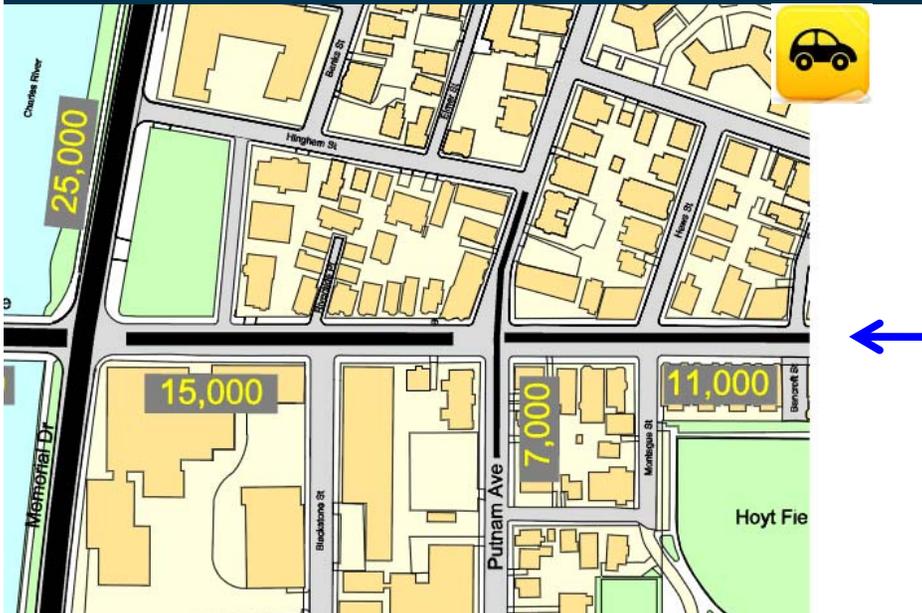
## Transit (bus, subway)



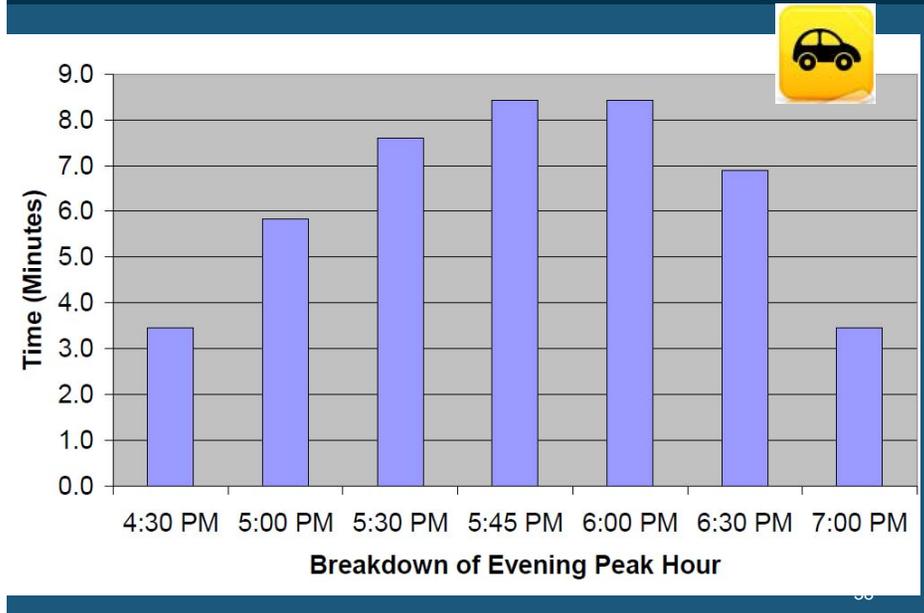
## Daily traffic volumes



## Daily traffic volumes



## Travel times: Green St. to the bridge



# Questions

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

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# Community Input

## Break out session (30 minutes)

1. Fill out questionnaire
2. What do you like about Western Avenue?  
What don't you like?
3. Observations, write on map
4. Summarize group

## Report back (30 minutes)

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## INTERNAL PROCESS

### Break-out session (30 min)

- Participants will break out into groups of about 8-12 depending on the audience size
- There will be one facilitator per group (city staff + maybe some selected committee members if needed)
- Each participant will be given 5 minute to sit quietly and fill out the survey (same survey as we have online)
- Facilitator will have group go through “likes and don't likes” of western avenue, and areas of concern
- Each group will have a 12x36 map, which can be marked up.
- One member of each group will be selected to present

### Report Back (30 min)

- about 5 min per group for 6 groups)

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# Transit (bus, subway)

