



March 22, 2011

Dear Myrtle/Magnolia Avenue Neighbors:

The City of Cambridge is in the final stages of designing a project in the Myrtle/Magnolia neighborhood which includes the following improvements:

- A stormwater storage tank on Hovey Ave.
- New sewer and water mains on Myrtle Ave, Magnolia Ave, and a section of Hovey Ave.
- Associated surface restoration to include new roadway, sidewalk, and street trees.
- Sidewalk improvements to accommodate pedestrian access at several of the existing large street trees.
- Potential improvements to the Myrtle / Magnolia crosswalk.

The City has set up a community meeting to discuss the project:

**Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 PM**

**Cambridge Hospital, 1493 Cambridge St**

- Enter through Main Entrance
- Head left towards the Ambulatory Wing
- Meeting will be held in the Learning Center Conference Room A&B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (Room 3309)

**Why is this project important?**

Mid-Cambridge has a history of flooding and sewer backups during heavy rain. The stormwater storage tank on Hovey St will provide storage capacity for stormwater during periods of heavy rain. This project will enable further sewer and stormwater separation to go forward in the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood.

**What is the schedule?**

NSTAR Gas will mobilize in the area and begin repair work the week of March 28. The City's contractor will start in late June/ early July, and will take 12 to 18 months to complete the project. We will continue to provide updates as the project moves forward.

**What impacts will construction have on the neighborhood?**

- *Traffic and Parking:* contractor will have to occupy parking spaces and put periodic detours in place. They will be required to provide abutters access to their properties at all times, which means they will be coordinating closely with neighbors as each phase of construction moves forward.
- *Municipal and other services:* Mail delivery, trash and recycling collection, and access for people with disabilities will continue throughout construction.
- *Water shutdowns:* Because a new water main is included in this project, some water shutdowns will be necessary to transfer service from the old to new main. Residents will be given notice well in advance of any water shutdown.

**Sidewalk Materials**

It is the City's policy to replace existing sidewalks with the same material (concrete with concrete, brick with brick). However, during this project, homeowners will have the option of changing their sidewalk material. Sidewalk material forms will be sent out prior to construction. Please note, it is City policy to reconstruct all curb ramps and their landings in concrete, even if the surrounding sidewalks are brick.

**How can I get information and assistance during construction?**

The City will have a representative on site to assist neighbors throughout construction. You may also contact Kelly Dunn, Community Relations Manager, at 617-349-4870/ [kdunn@cambridgema.gov](mailto:kdunn@cambridgema.gov) if you have a *disability* or *special need* that requires an accommodation during construction, or if you would like to receive updates via email.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dunn, Community Relations Manager  
Cambridge Department of Public Works



**MYRTLE / MAGNOLIA  
PROJECT AREA**

