

PEARL STREET Roadway and Sidewalk Reconstruction Community Meeting Notes

(Second Pearl Street Meeting)

Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 6:30 PM

Amigos School Cafeteria, 15 Upton Street, Cambridge, MA

The meeting opened with an update on the schedule for Pearl Street and a presentation on the potential tools that could be used as part of a plan for Pearl Street that would meet the project goals as discussed at the first neighborhood meeting.

** Indicates a comment was made multiple times; matching comments are sub-bullets*

Community Input - Project Related Issues:

- When making street accessible, what happens to trees with bumpy roots?
- Can homeowners choose between cement and brick sidewalks?
- Buses don't run south of Pearl Street
- Keep curb extensions on west side, not bus side
- Can overhead wires be buried underground?
- Are sidewalks being reconstructed?
- Why are street trees being removed?
- Smaller trees that are compatible with overhead utilities wires are too small to provide shade
- It's been very disappointing to see historic trees being cut down
- Have you been working with the MBTA on the 47 bus?
- Look into a strip of brick next to concrete like the sidewalk on Brookline Street – cohesive look

Comments on Map 1, Granite St. to Erie St.:

- School buses idle on Granite Street near Pearl Street, which makes [poor air quality?]
- At Granite Street and Pearl Street, trucks have issues with the turning radius
- Do not remove parking on Pearl Street
- Does the tree marked on Pearl Street across from Tufts Street exist?
- At Putnam Ave and Pearl Street, signal prioritization needed. Also remove "No Turn on Red."
- At Putnam Ave and Pearl Street, move stop line further back*

Comments on Map 2, Granite St. to Erie St.:

General Comments:

- Parking – different opinions:*

- Remove parking on bus side of the street in order to help it move down the street
- Need parking close to home
- Snow impedes parking and bus further
- Do not remove parking on Pearl Street
- I'm here to make sure that there's minimal impact on parking. Difficult to park during restrictions/ bans, and new development is going in nearby. Many properties do not have off-street parking
- Make this area safer for kids; there are a lot of kids, schools
- Make Pearl Street safer for cyclists. When biking on Pearl Street, I need to weave in and out of parked cars in order to let faster cars by. Slow cars down, add more stop signs and speed bumps. A designated bicycle facility such as bicycle advisory lanes is desirable if the street is suitable.
- One-way streets all go the same way, making it difficult to go the other way, especially in traffic
- Is there room for swales, other stormwater remediation? In some cities, these are constructed in bump outs. Could porous pavement be used? Water collection under tree pits?

Location-Specific Comments:

- At the raised intersection of Granite Street and Pearl Street:
 - Trucks get stuck here. Why are they allowed on Pearl Street?*
 - Kids used to run through the raised intersection here – problem! [Seemed to the kids like extension of the sidewalk/pedestrian area.]
- Improve Henry Street:*
- Along Henry Street, curb cuts are not at the corners, where you want them to be
- Add crosswalk across Pearl Street near Henry Street; but I don't want parking removed
- At Henry Street and Pearl Street, add a bump out near 322 Pearl Street to discourage people from making illegal turns onto Henry Street when they see backed up cars
- At the park adjacent to Henry Street, Hastings Square, and Brookline Street, a crosswalk is needed going across Henry Street at the corner of the park closest to Hastings Square
- Add a bump out at the corner of Tufts Street near 309 Pearl Street (with swale?)
- There are no trees on Pearl Street in one area between Chestnut Street and Tufts Street – add trees!
- Safer crossings needed at Chestnut street across Pearl Street:*
- Add crosswalk to make it safer, or will this give pedestrians a false sense of safety while cars continue to speed through?
- Add slightly raised crosswalks on both sides of Chestnut Street
- The intersection at Putnam Ave and Pearl Street needs improvements:*
- Context: buses turn right off of Pearl Street onto Putnam Ave heading toward Newton Street, and trucks turn right onto Putnam Ave towards Acorn Street
- People speed to make the light at this intersection
- Raised intersection suggested here*
 - Or, add slightly raised crosswalks on all four ways in order to slow down people going 40 mph
- Remove signal and turn into a four-way stop*
 - Do this even if the intersection is not raised

- This will help with noise issues here with loud idling and music while vehicles are stuck at light
- Improve Pearl Street from Putnam Ave towards Erie Street for buses and pedestrians:*
 - Restrict parking on bus side? The bus has a hard time even when it's not snowing.
 - Is parking needed [on both sides]?
 - It's not hard to park on this stretch of Pearl Street
 - This section is a bus route with lots of pedestrians; need four-way crosswalks at the intersections (no buses continue past Putnam Ave towards Granite Street)
 - Buses can't get through Pearl Street near 251 Pearl Street, due to parking on both sides
- There are no trees on Pearl Street between Putnam Ave and Allston Street – add lots of trees!
- Four-way crosswalks suggested at Allston Street and Pearl Street
- Four-way crosswalks suggested at Hamilton Street and Pearl Street
- It is difficult to find parking on Hamilton Street when people return home from commutes
- Four-way crosswalks suggested at Erie Street and Pearl Street

Comments on Map 3, Erie St. to Mass. Ave.:

- Add crosswalk across Pearl Street near Speridakis Terrace
- Raise the crosswalk across Pearl Street near Lawrence Street
- Remove bus stop near 141 Pearl Street
- Don't restrict parking
- Add curb extension on Pearl Street in front of 132 Pearl Street between Decatur Street and Perry Street, with a crosswalk across Pearl Street
- Add a curb extension in front of 104 Pearl Street near Cottage Street on the other side of Pearl, with a crosswalk across Pearl Street
- Add four-way crosswalks at Auburn Street and Pearl Street
- Crashes are a concern at Auburn Street and Magazine Street
- Add four-way crosswalks at Franklin Street and Pearl Street, with a curb extension in front of 52 Pearl Street
- Move stop line closer to intersection at Franklin Street and Magazine Street?
- Add four-way crosswalks at Green Street and Pearl Street