

Western Avenue Construction Starts Next Week

The City of Cambridge has awarded a contract for the reconstruction of Western Avenue to the D’Alessandro Corp, who will begin to mobilize on Western Avenue during the first week in September.

Project Scope

The reconstruction of Western Avenue between Green Street and Memorial Drive will include:

- A new storm water outfall to the Charles River;
- New sewer and drain lines and catch basins;
- New water main and services;
- Newly constructed sidewalks and pedestrian ramps;
- Full depth reconstruction of the roadway;
- A separated bicycle lane;
- New street trees, landscaping and irrigation; and,
- Enlarged Cronin Park.

Construction Schedule

Construction on this project will take approximately two years to complete. General work hours will be 7AM to 4 PM, Monday-Friday. “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of construction; please be sure to check posted signs for exact dates and times. When work occurs directly in front of driveways or entryways, the contractor will coordinate access directly with residents and businesses.

For Information and Assistance During Construction

A project website has been set up at www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/westernave, which will have project information and updates. We will also tweet updates to #WesternAve.

Please contact Rebecca Fuentes, Assistant Commissioner for Administration, at rfuentes@cambridgema.gov or at 617.349.6948 to:

- ✓ **Sign up to receive e-mail updates** as the project moves forward.
- ✓ **Arrange an accommodation or continuation of special services** for anyone with a *disability* or *special need*.
- ✓ **Learn how you can help street trees along the street**, either by “adopting” a recently planted tree on your block (especially watering during dry weather), or by signing up for the “back-of-sidewalk” tree planting program, through which a tree can be planted on private property within 20 feet of the public sidewalk at *no cost to the owner*.
- ✓ **Volunteer to become a “Block Captain” for the Western Avenue Project**. Block Captains will be asked to attend monthly meetings with project staff to make the City and contractor aware of concerns in the neighborhood and to become a resource for neighbors who want information or assistance during this project.

In case of an emergency after hours or on weekends, please call the 24-Hour line at 617-349-4800.

Open House – Construction Kick-Off

Stop by to learn more, ask questions & meet project staff:

Tues, Sept 11th, 5pm to 7:30 pm

McElroy Park (next to former Police Station)

-or-

Sat, Sept 15th, 9 am to 11 am

New Riverside Neighborhood Park (Western Ave at Memorial Drive)

[In the event of inclement weather on either of these days, we have also set up a rain date for Sat, 9/22 from 9 am to 11 am, at New Riverside Neighborhood Park. Please call 617.349.6948 if weather seems questionable on either of these days.]

About the Western Avenue Design

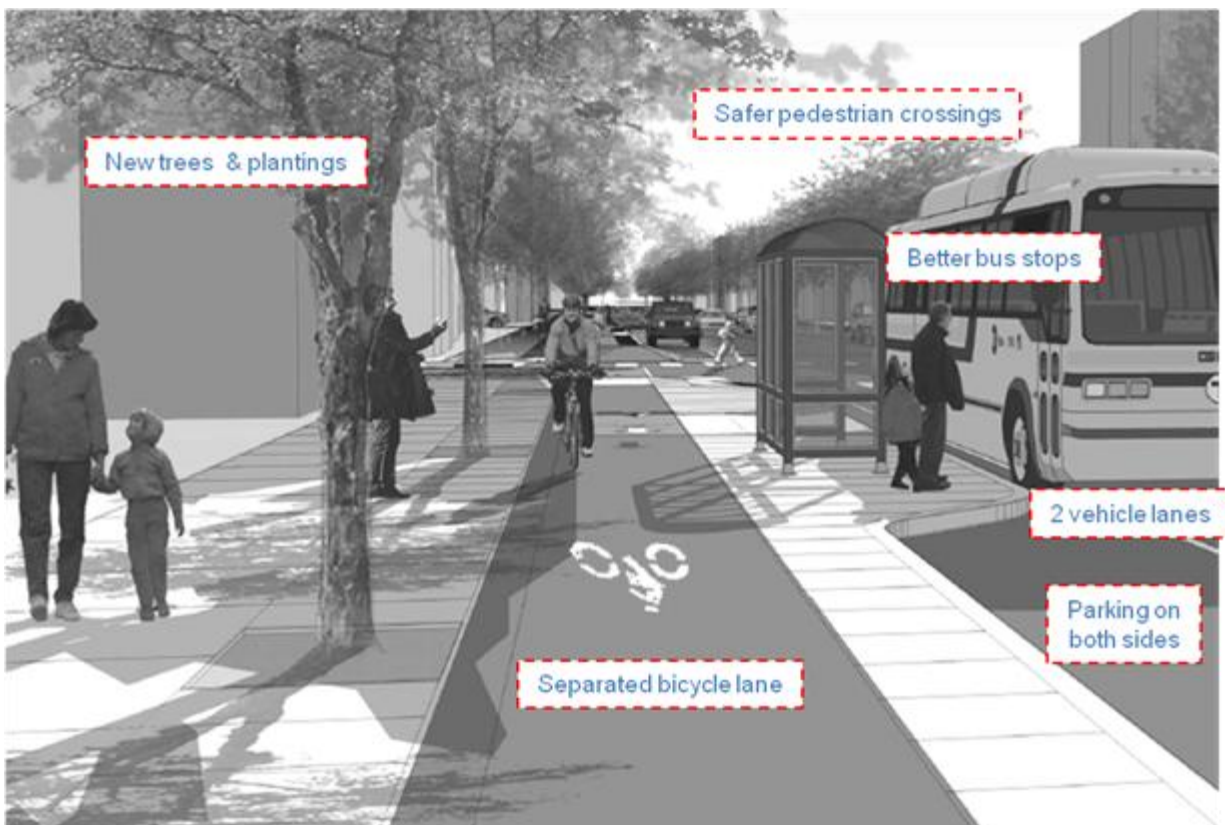
The design process for the surface redesign of Western Avenue ran from January 2010 through 2011 and included eight Advisory Committee meetings, five neighborhood walks, and six public meetings. Five concept alternatives were developed to identify the full range of potential options for Western Avenue and extensive community feedback was taken into consideration. <http://www.westernavenue.info> City staff will host additional discussions regarding the final design of the public art component. Please make sure to sign up for our email updates to receive notices for meetings.

Evaluation criteria was developed by city staff and the advisory committee to guide the design process:

- Traffic calming effect / vehicle speed reduction
- Pedestrian crossing safety
- Expanded sidewalk space
- Bicycle facility safety and comfort
- Bus operations and efficiency
- Rush hour vehicle capacity
- Parking availability
- Snow clearance and street cleaning
- Emergency vehicle access
- Construction cost
- Community support

Final Design Elements:

- Pleasant St to Blackstone St will have two vehicles travel lanes, parking on both sides, and a separated bicycle lane (raised cycle track).
- Pedestrian safety will be improved with raised crosswalks on (unsignalized) side streets, curb extensions, and new crosswalks.
- New trees, planting beds, trash / recycling containers, and energy efficient streetlights will be installed.
- Pedestrian crossings will be improved at Pleasant / Western / Franklin and at Blackstone.
- Cronin Park will be enlarged, landscaped, and include a rain garden.



We thank you for your patience during this construction, and hope that you enjoy these improvements once they are completed.