

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2023

May minutes were approved

Galaxy Park and Streetscape Design
Cecilia Cobb (Cambridge Redevelopment Authority)

- Project overview
 - Intersection of Bway/Main/3rd
 - Park design and street design (includes small sections of the streets around Galaxy Park)
 - Approx. one year project
- Goals
 - High quality public space
 - Connectivity/safety
 - Reflect City sustainability goals
- Objectives
 - Separated bike facilities
 - Accommodate access to new/existing developments (ex. Volpe)
 - Improve ped/bike access at intersections
 - Preserve tree canopy
- Ped mobility
 - Enhance ped access to Wadsworth St (waterfront connection)
- Bike mobility
 - Variety of current movements
 - Project is not impacting signal timing (but Volpe redevelopment will)
- Park design 1, "Seating at the point"
 - Seating nook @ eastern point
 - Remove several trees (will be replaced), add retaining wall
- Park design 2, "The grove"
 - Lowest impact change, keep all trees
 - Can add nature-based sculptures, interactive stepping stones
- Park design 3, "The canyon"
 - Focus on enhancing pedestrian connections; new direct line thru existing tree space
 - Add crosswalk at Main/Wadsworth into new path
- Street design 1, at-grade separated bike lane
 - Flex posts along bike lane on Broadway
 - Replace one car lane w/ PBL (wider, 8' + buffer)
 - Lowest impact, not impacting sidewalk width
- Street design 2, raised cycle track
 - New curbs to guide cyclists
 - Expand sidewalk along entire park
 - Mountable/beveled curb bike lane replaces one car lane (6' wide, buffer on road for emergency vehicle access)

- Committee feedback
 - Several members state that the grove (park option 2) is preferred; the point is not a great place to sit, and no need for a cut-through path; also, wayfinding is needed
 - Concerns w/ crossing Main St: Cecilia says raised crosswalk is an option
 - One member states that raised bike lanes are generally better, but width might take precedence; prefers option 1 with wider at-grade PBL

Kendall Square Annual Transportation Report

Cecilia Cobb (Cambridge Redevelopment Authority)

- Going through KSURP (see interactive website)
- Transportation mode
 - 2018 to 2022: increase in driving alone, decrease in transit
 - 2018 to 2022: small increases to walking and biking
- Bicycling
 - EcoTotem: counts in 2022 similar to 2019
 - Bluebikes: more people using on weekends in 2022 compared to 2019
- Automobiles
 - Decline in garage occupancy compared to pre-pandemic (esp. Mon & Fri)
- Reviewed transit ridership numbers
- Committee feedback
 - Cara: Bway under construction for past ~3 yrs, impacts travel patterns and bike counts
 - Cecilia responds that different intersections have different numbers/trends, some show zeroes for years without counts

Linear Park Updates

Charlie Creagh (Community Development Department)

- Side paths – naturally occurring, project aims to formalize; will also reduce soil compaction
- Path amenities
 - New lighting (install CREE, new standard)
 - Other path furniture (seating, trash, water, call boxes)
- Advanced design plans
 - See [plan](#)
 - Fence is coming down at Harvey St, allowing access to IQHQ service roads
 - Not pursuing access pt at Westley Ave, strong resident opposition; near Cedar St entrance
- 6 trees to be removed (all replaced with new trees)
- Community event will be held in Nov/Dec
- Committee feedback
 - Question about current widths at pinch points; Charlie responds that it varies, and that clear zones will be added (2' shoulders along entire path)
- Danehy Park Connector – looking at opportunity for [crossing over Fitchburg Line](#)
 - Waiting for funding authorization
 - Will be a ped/bike connection somewhere between Sherman St and Alewife Brook Pkwy