

City of Cambridge  
Community Development Department

# Joint Meeting of Transportation Committees

March 19, 2025





# Welcome

## **Purpose**

Get feedback from appointed members of the committees, the City's "community experts" on pedestrian, bicycle, and transit issues

## **Objective**

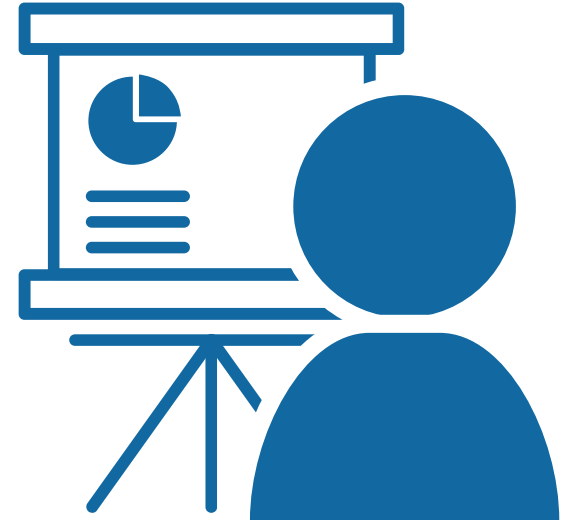
City staff to understand the committees' consensus on priorities and reactions to city projects and development proposals

## **Process**

Presentation from City staff followed by discussion – questions from committee members, public to type in questions in Zoom Q&A, comments during public comment period

# Meeting Agenda

1. **Agenda Review, Zoom Protocol, Minutes** (5 minutes)
2. **Project Updates** (10 minutes) (Nick Schmidt, CDD)
  1. Traffic, Parking & Transportation
  2. Public Works
  3. Community Development
3. **Citywide Urban Design Guidelines** (60 minutes) (Suzannah Bigolin, CDD)
4. **Public Comment** (5 minutes)
  1. Public comments on topics on the Agenda





**Volunteer Notetaker Needed**



# TP&T, DPW, & CDD Updates



# Announcements

- Cambridge Department of Transportation beginning April 1:
  - Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department expands to become Cambridge Department of Transportation (DOT)
  - The Transportation Planning Division at Community Development will move to the Department of Transportation (DOT) as a division alongside the existing Street Management and Parking Management Divisions
  - Transportation committees will move over, too. More information will be sent soon to the transportation committees.
- Shared-use Path Projects:
  - Linear Park Redesign bids anticipated in April
  - Grand Junction Path to Community Path Design Study starting this spring



# Upcoming Community Meetings

- Urban Design Guidelines
  - March 25, 5:00 p.m. (In Person, Main Library) – Open House
  - March 25 through April 9 (In Person, Main Library) – Exhibition
- Planning Board Meeting
  - March 25, 6:30 p.m. (Hybrid) – MXD District Infill Development Concept Plan Amendment
- Mass Ave Partial Construction
  - March 26, 5:30 p.m. (In Person, Lesley University Atrium) – Median Removal Open House
- McGrath Boulevard (MassDOT)
  - March 26, 6:30 p.m. (Virtual) – Design update
- Haskell St Reconstruction Project
  - March 27, 4:00 p.m. (On Site, Rindge / Haskell) – Draft plan review



# Upcoming CSO Community Meetings

- Broadway
  - April 1, 5:30-7:30 PM – Working Group Meeting #2 (City Hall Annex)
  - April 29, 5:00-7:00 PM – Community Meeting (Virtual)
- Main Street
  - April 15, 5:30-6:30 PM – Informational Meeting (Virtual)
  - April 17, 5:30-6:00 PM – Open House #1 (Location TBD)
  - April 22, 4:30-6:00 PM – Open House #2 (Location TBD)





# Upcoming Committee Meetings

- Pedestrian Committee – March 27
- Transit Advisory Committee – April 3
- Bicycle Committee – April 9
- Tentative Joint Meeting of Committees – April 16 (Zoning 101)



# Citywide Urban Design Guidelines

# Draft Citywide Urban Design Guidelines

Joint Meeting of Transportation Committees

March 2025



OverUnder

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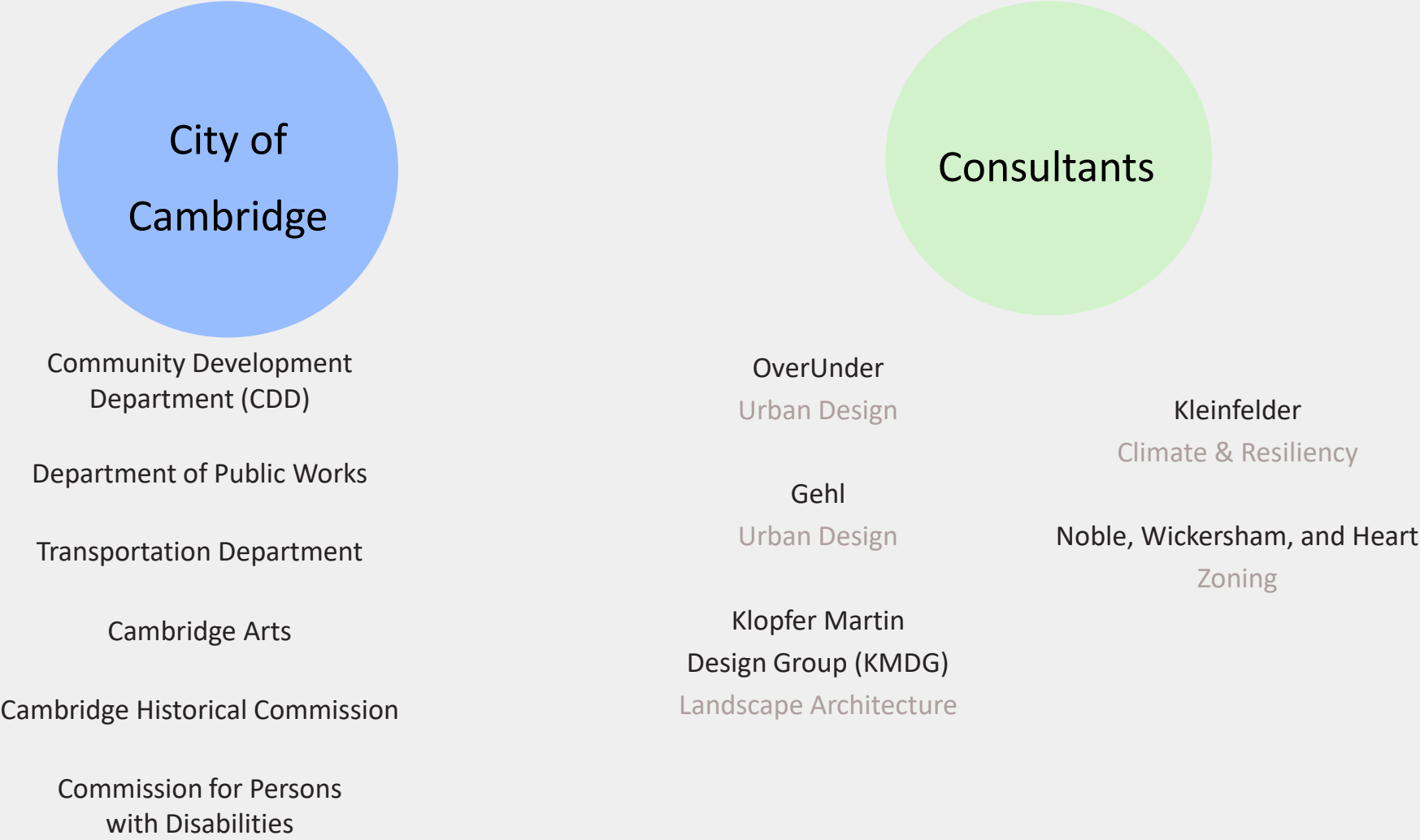
kmdg

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NOBLE, WICKERSHAM  
& HEART LLP

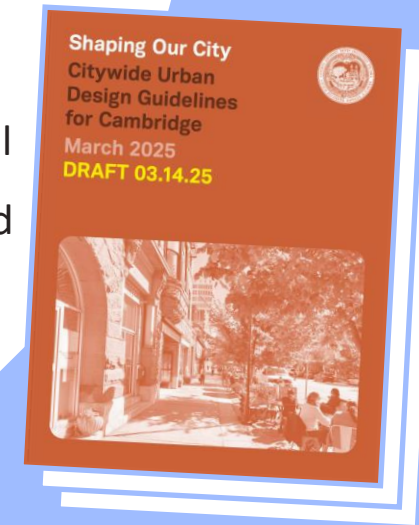
# Agenda

- What are urban design guidelines?
- How did we make these guidelines?
- Goals and Core Values
- Document overview



Urban design guidelines are a series of design statements and recommendations that assist developers, architects, landscape architects, property and business owners as they develop new projects.

City staff and the Planning Board members will use them to review the design of buildings and public spaces.



Design guidelines *can*

- reflect the values of the community
- set expectations for future form and character of buildings, open spaces, and streetscapes
- encourage better quality design of buildings, open spaces, and streetscapes

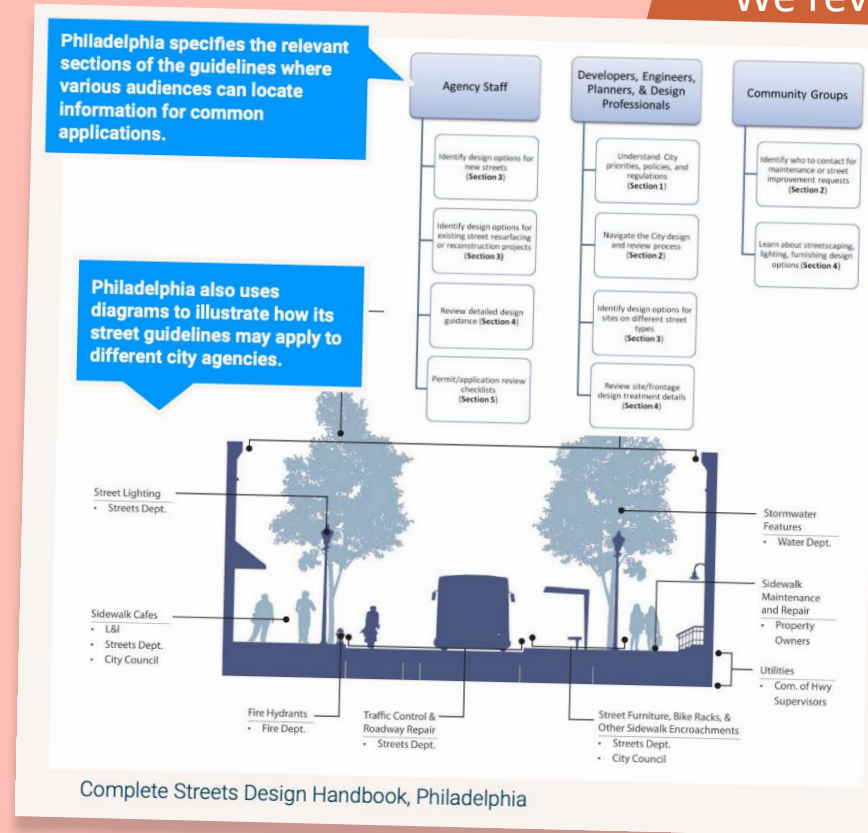
Design guidelines *cannot*

- change zoning land uses
- change dimensional requirements (e.g. building heights, etc.)
- impose strict limitations on building form or style
- force better design

How did we make  
these guidelines?



# We conducted a best practice review of other guidelines

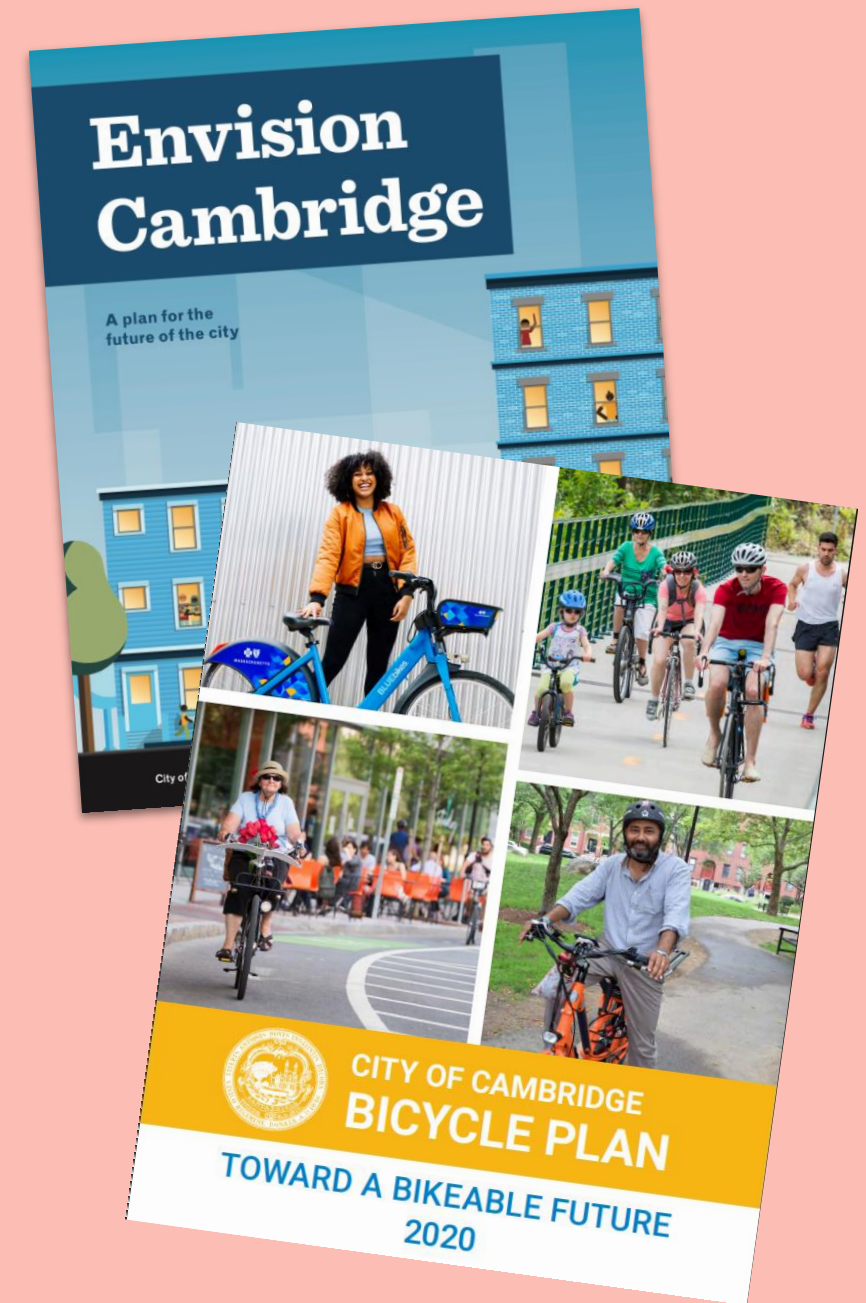


We reviewed  
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We reviewed existing city plans, policies and guidelines

| <b>GAPS</b>              | <b>Historic<br/>Development<br/>Context</b> | <b>Built Form</b> | <b>Open Space</b> | <b>Streets &amp;<br/>Sidewalks</b> | <b>Mobility</b> | <b>Sustainability</b> | <b>Equity</b> | <b>Review<br/>Process</b> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| East Cambridge 1985      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| North Mass Ave 1986      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| University Park 1987     |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Central Square 1989      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| South Cambridgeport 1992 |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Eastern Cambridge 2001   |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Harvard Square 2002      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Concord-Alewife 2006     |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Prospect Street 2007     |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Central Square 2012      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Kendall Square 2013      |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Volpe Site 2017          |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Alewife Draft 2018       |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |
| Affordable Housing 2020  |   |                   |                   |                                    |                 |                       |               |                           |

format, audience, and adaptability of existing guidelines.



We met with members of the public and key stakeholders to hear their ideas

Workshop in  
July 2022

Public meeting in  
November 2022

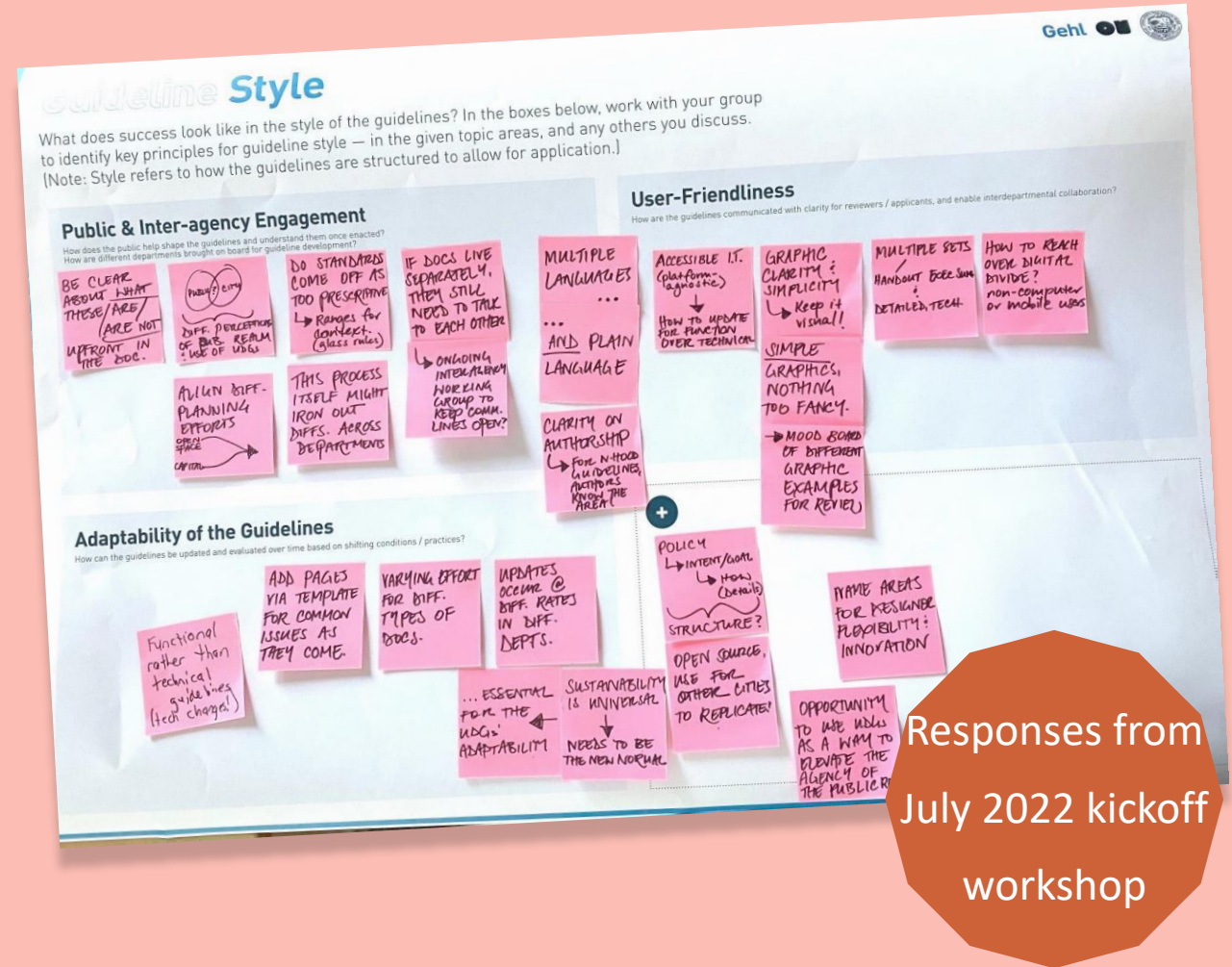
Focus Group  
meetings in  
Summer 2023

**Discussion**  
What does success look like in this area of the guidelines?



# We met regularly with staff

From 2022 - 2024  
we held biweekly  
meetings with staff



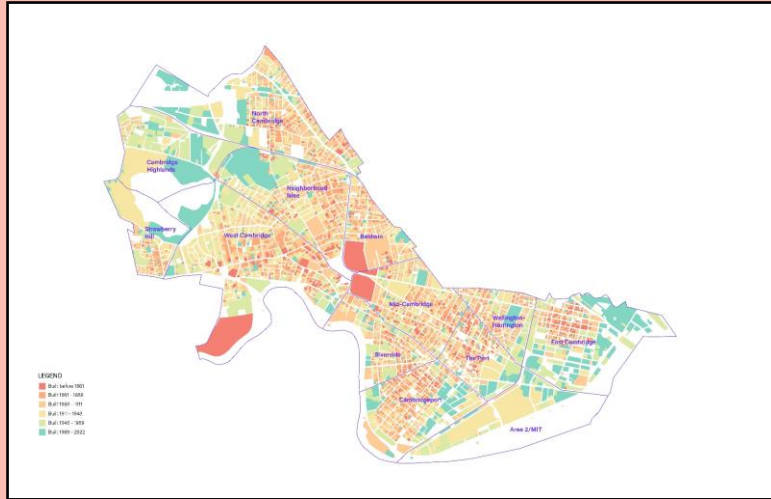
Responses from  
July 2022 kickoff  
workshop

# We analyzed current urban conditions at various scales

City

Street

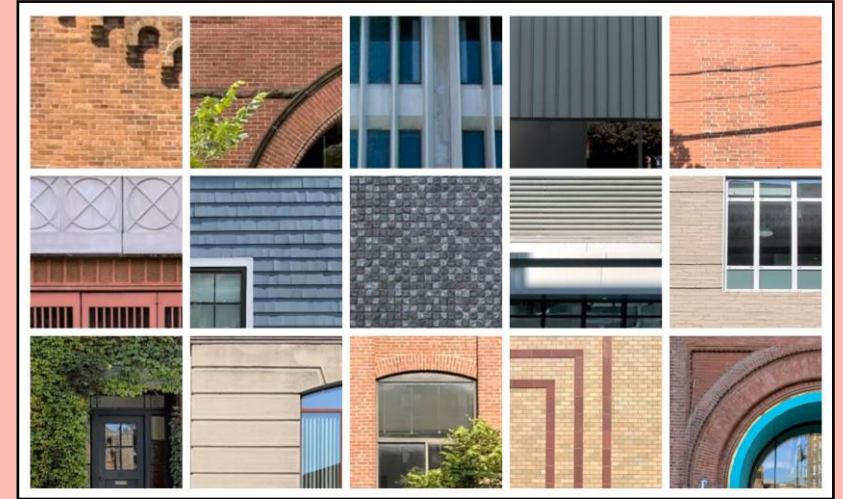
Building



Cambridge's historical development



Typical street in East Cambridge



Façade materials in East Cambridge

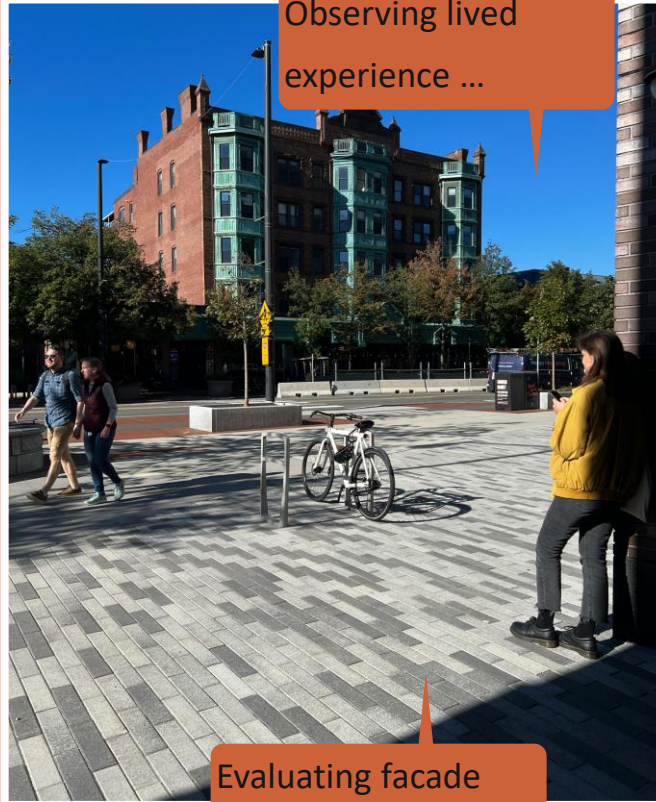


# We observed how people used different spaces in Cambridge

The team was out in the field in late September 2022



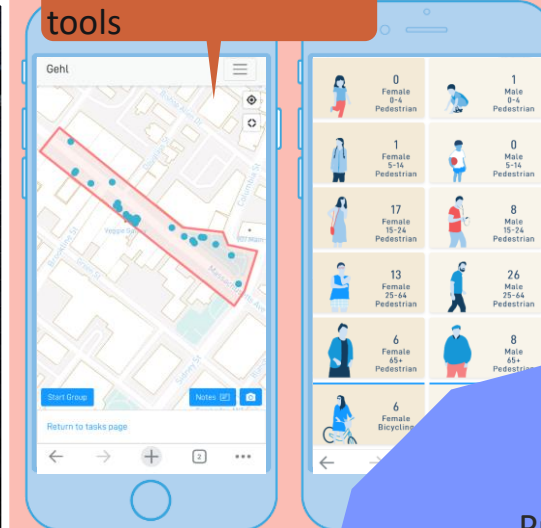
Taking inventory of public space features



Evaluating facade quality

Observing lived experience ...

... through digital tools



Purpose:  
Reveal opportunities to update the guidelines based on people's lived experience of the built environment

# Three overarching goals

1

## Design Excellence

Combining pragmatic utility, aesthetic richness, and contextual sensitivity to support community well-being and improve quality of life for the city's residents, workers, and visitors.

2

## Equity

Creating an inclusive and welcoming built environment that is safe, accessible, and enjoyed by all.

3

## Sustainability

Minimizing Cambridge's impacts on natural resources and systems, and maximizing resilience to climate change

# A well-designed, equitable, and sustainable Cambridge should be:

## INVITING

Draws people in  
and makes them  
want to stay

## ECLECTIC

Diverse in character  
and aesthetic

## CONTEXTUAL

Responds to its  
surroundings

## CONNECTED

Forms a network of  
people and places

## ADAPTABLE

Can change  
over time

## HEALTHY

Improves individual  
and collective well-  
being



1

## DESIGN EXCELLENCE

2

## EQUITY

3

## SUSTAINABILITY

## INVITING

Ensure quality, comfort, and human-scale to invite activity and use

Make the public realm a space that is approachable and welcoming to all

Ensure quality, comfort, and human-scale to invite activity and use

## ECLECTIC

Make space for variety in built form to add to the mosaic of styles and typologies

Make the public realm a platform to reflect the diversity of people who make up Cambridge

Design for biodiversity. Design for variety in types and scales of natural areas

## CONTEXTUAL

Create a sense of place by integrating design and art that reflect local character

Make the public realm a space to serve local communities and cultures

Respond to hyperlocal ecology and conditions

## CONNECTED

Make mobility a delightful experience—creating intuitive connections to multiple modes

Make all modes easy to adopt, for all ages and abilities. Create a network of open spaces for a connected human experience

Create a network of open spaces for ecological benefits. Support sustainable modes of transport

## ADAPTABLE

Ensure material and design can endure and adjust to changing conditions

Design spaces that adapt to the lived experience and perceptions of the public realm among different groups

Design for a changing climate by integrating new adaptation techniques

## HEALTHY

Ensure landscape and building design; promote safety

Distribute health and safety benefits equitably across neighborhoods

Design for clear air and water. Design for a built environment that encourages active mobility

# Document Overview





# Different groups of people use the guidelines for different purposes:



## Planning Board and City departments...

Use it for reference in their review of development projects and improvements to streetscapes and public open spaces.



## Property owners, business owners, developers, and designers...

are asked to use the guidelines when they design projects that are subject to review under zoning.



## The public...

can use these guidelines to understand how the city is prioritizing elements that make Cambridge, Cambridge.

# The guidelines are broken into four chapters:

## Context & Site



## Building



## Open Space



## Streetscape



# How to use these guidelines

## Example spread

2.7 SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SITE DESIGN

INTENT      **Design sites that are resilient and mitigate climate change impacts.**

CORE VALUES      INVITING      ECLECTIC      CONTEXTUAL      CONNECTED      **ADAPTABLE**      HEALTHY

Sites should be resilient to the effects of climate change, including frequent flooding due to precipitation and sea level rise/storm surge, and increasing heat. The design and layout of sites should mitigate stormwater runoff and minimize the urban heat island effect.

Cambridge has developed several initiatives to help new developments prepare for the long term impacts of increased flooding and heat from climate change, including:

Resilient Cambridge Plan: a plan to reduce the risks of climate change by addressing increasing temperatures, precipitation, and sea level rise.

Climate Resiliency Zoning:

- Flood Resilience Standards in Section 22.80 that require new development to protect vulnerable spaces that are likely to flooding based on future climate projections.
- Green Factor Standards in Section 22.90 that encourage heat mitigation through site and landscape designs that have a cooling benefit. Sites will need to achieve a "Cool Score" by including features like trees, shrubs and other plantings, green roofs, shade canopies, and cool pavements.

→ The following guidelines are based on the Climate Resiliency Zoning provisions as referenced in the existing Citywide Urban Design Objectives (Section 19.24 and 19.38 of the Zoning Ordinance).

GUIDELINES

- a. Meet or exceed the Green Factor Standards in Section 22.90 of the Zoning Ordinance that encourages site and landscape design features to mitigate urban heat island impacts.
- b. Assess the current and projected risks and vulnerabilities of the project site and neighborhood.



FIG. 17 Vegetation and permeable surfaces located in the public space beside a mixed-use development.

- c. Based on the identified risks and vulnerabilities, integrate a range of resilient site design strategies. Examples include:
  - Protecting existing significant trees.
  - Incorporating light-colored pavement and high-reflectivity surface materials where effective.
  - Maximizing permeable area and vegetated area (FIG. 17).
  - Minimizing impermeable pavement and maximize permeable surfaces.



FIG. 18 Permeable planted areas and light colored paving are used in combination with trees at the Union Square development in Somerville.

→ Consult with the Department of Public Works and Community Development Department during the design process for specific guidance on resilience planning and sustainable site design.

→ The Sustainable SITES Initiative is a rating system that guides, evaluates, and certifies a project's sustainability in the planning, design, construction and management of landscapes and other outdoor spaces. It complements the LEED rating system and focuses on site design. SITES' nature-based solutions and strategies promote biodiversity, conserve water and other resources, mitigate climate change, improve public health, and provide economic benefits in development projects.

- d. Use Stormwater Best Management Practices and other measures to minimize runoff and improve water quality. Examples include:
  - Detain stormwater on site to slow the rate of stormwater runoff.
  - Integrate Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure practices, structural and/or non-structural, to capture and retain (i.e. infiltrate, evapotranspire, or collect/capture and reuse) stormwater, such as bioswales, rain gardens with native or adapted plants, wet meadows, or dry ponds, into landscape plans (FIG. 18).
  - Incorporate underground storage tanks to slow the release of stormwater. For development greater than 50,000 square feet, on-site stormwater storage requirements should be consistent with the Cambridge Department of Public Works "25:2" stormwater runoff detention requirement.
  - Where possible, incorporate LID and green infrastructure elements as attractive and accessible features of the site.

- e. Provide vegetative and structural shading for sidewalks and other public spaces, with particular attention to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular corridors. For example:
  - Canopy trees can shade sidewalks and streets.
  - Trellises and similar structures can support vegetation to shade walkways and plazas.

A. INTRODUCTION

B. CONTEXT & SITE

C. BUILDING

D. OPEN SPACE

E. STREETSCAPE



# How to use these guidelines, part 2

## Overall intent

Guideline intent

### 2.7 SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SITE DESIGN

#### INTENT

Design sites that are resilient and mitigate climate change impacts.

#### CORE VALUES

INVITING ECLECTIC CONTEXTUAL CONNECTED ADAPTABLE HEALTHY

Core values that apply this intent

Introductory text

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# How to use these guidelines, part 3

## 2.7 SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SITE DESIGN

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**CORE VALUES** INVITING SELECTED CONTEXTUAL CONNECTED ADAPTABLE HEALTHY

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**Individual guidelines**

**Example image/illustration of guideline**

**Individual guideline with bulleted list**

**Sidebars support guidelines with extra information and references.**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

**B. CONTEXT & SITE**

**C. BUILDING**

**D. OPEN SPACE**

**E. STREETS**

40

SHAPING THE PUBLIC REALM

41

CONTEXT & SITE GUIDELINES

# Context & Site

The layout of new streets and blocks, and the relationship between buildings and open spaces



New developments should create walkable urban blocks, define streetwalls, and be shaped based on their relationship to adjoining buildings and open spaces.



## 1. Context & Site Principles

### 1.1 Walkable and Coherent Neighborhoods

### 1.2 Inclusive Neighborhoods

### 1.3 Sustainable Development

### 2. Context & Site Guidelines

#### 2.1 Context and Identity

#### 2.2 Shape the Public Realm

#### 2.3 Frame the Public Realm

#### 2.4 Articulate the Public Realm

#### 2.5 Enhance the Public Realm

#### 2.6 Mix of Uses

#### 2.7 Sustainable & Resilient Site Design

#### 2.8 Access and Circulation

#### 2.9 Environmental Comfort

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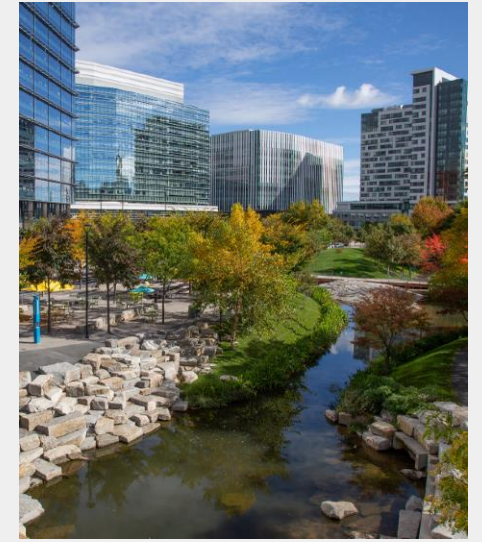
## Walkable and Coherent Neighborhoods

Cambridge should continue to be a walkable city. New developments should harmonize with their surroundings by collaborating with neighboring buildings and open spaces to provide an even more rewarding pedestrian environment as Cambridge grows and develops.



## Inclusive Neighborhoods

New developments should enhance Cambridge's neighborhoods by creating an active and welcoming public realm to enrich and celebrate public life.



## Sustainable Development

Developments can help encourage people to walk, bicycle, or take public transit through well-designed buildings,, a mix of uses, and convenient and safe circulation. Site design should also protect, restore and enhance existing natural systems, while adopting strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change

## 1. Context & Site Principles

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## Context & Identity

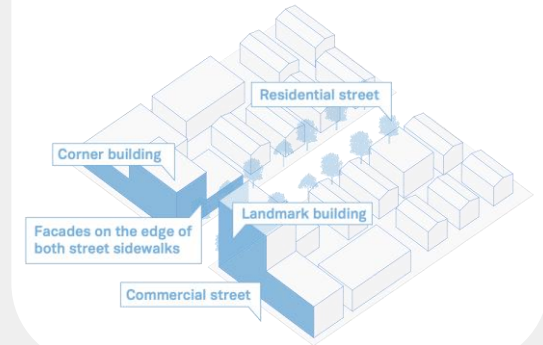
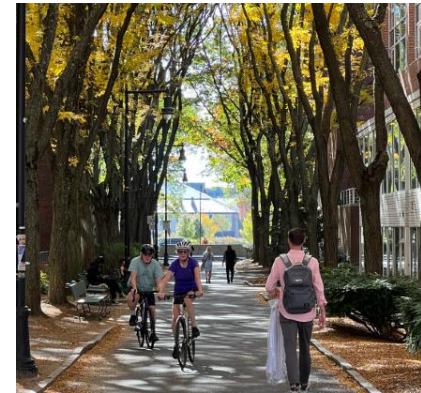
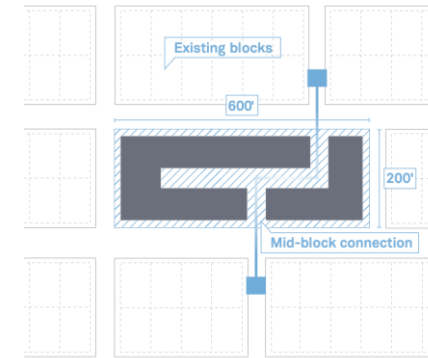
Integrate site, context, building form, and building program as elements of a whole. Thoughtfully designed buildings should consider relationships with existing development patterns, as well as those anticipated by applicable plans, policies, and studies.

- Design projects to relate to neighborhood context and respond to local environmental conditions.



## Shape the Public Realm

- Create coherent, permeable, and walkable blocks that frame Cambridge's streets, parks, squares and other open spaces.



1. Context & Site Principles

1.1 Walkable and Coherent  
Neighborhoods

1.2 Inclusive Neighborhoods

1.3 Sustainable Development

2. Context & Site Guidelines

2.1 Context and Identity

2.2 Shape the Public Realm

2.3 Frame the Public Realm

2.4 Articulate the Public Realm

2.5 Enhance the Public Realm

2.6 Mix of Uses

2.7 Sustainable and Resilient

Site Design

2.8 Access, Circulation, Connectivity

2.9 Environmental Comfort

## 2.8 Access, Circulation, and Connectivity – People walking

Create a safe, convenient, and comfortable environment for people walking & encourage public transit use.

→ Link a wide variety of pedestrian-priority spaces

→ Incorporate pedestrian pathways that provide direct access and connections

→ Provide variety and interest for pedestrians with design and amenities

→ Integrate universal design best practices

→ Orient pedestrian entrances to front streets.

→ Provide frequent entrances to buildings & storefronts

→ Site pedestrian entrances in locations easily accessible from crosswalks, and transit stops.

→ Provide facilities to support public transit use and enjoyment, e.g. benches, bus shelters, etc.

## 1. Context &amp; Site Principles

1.1 Walkable and Coherent  
Neighborhoods

## 1.2 Inclusive Neighborhoods

## 1.3 Sustainable Development

## 2. Context &amp; Site Guidelines

## 2.1 Context and Identity

## 2.2 Shape the Public Realm

## 2.3 Frame the Public Realm

## 2.4 Articulate the Public Realm

## 2.5 Enhance the Public Realm

## 2.6 Mix of Uses

## 2.7 Sustainable and Resilient

## Site Design

## 2.8 Access, Circulation, Connectivity

## 2.9 Environmental Comfort

## 2.8 Access, Circulation, and Connectivity – People biking

Provide safe, comfortable, and convenient bicycle access for people of all ages and abilities.

→ Provide bicycle facilities, such as separate bicycle lanes and multi-use paths, in locations identified in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan, and connect to the broader city network.

→ Provide people biking with secure long-term weatherproof storage facilities conveniently located on-site.

→ Provide people biking with short-term bicycle parking in locations that are visible and convenient to main building entrance

→ Provide bike share station facilities where recommended by staff.

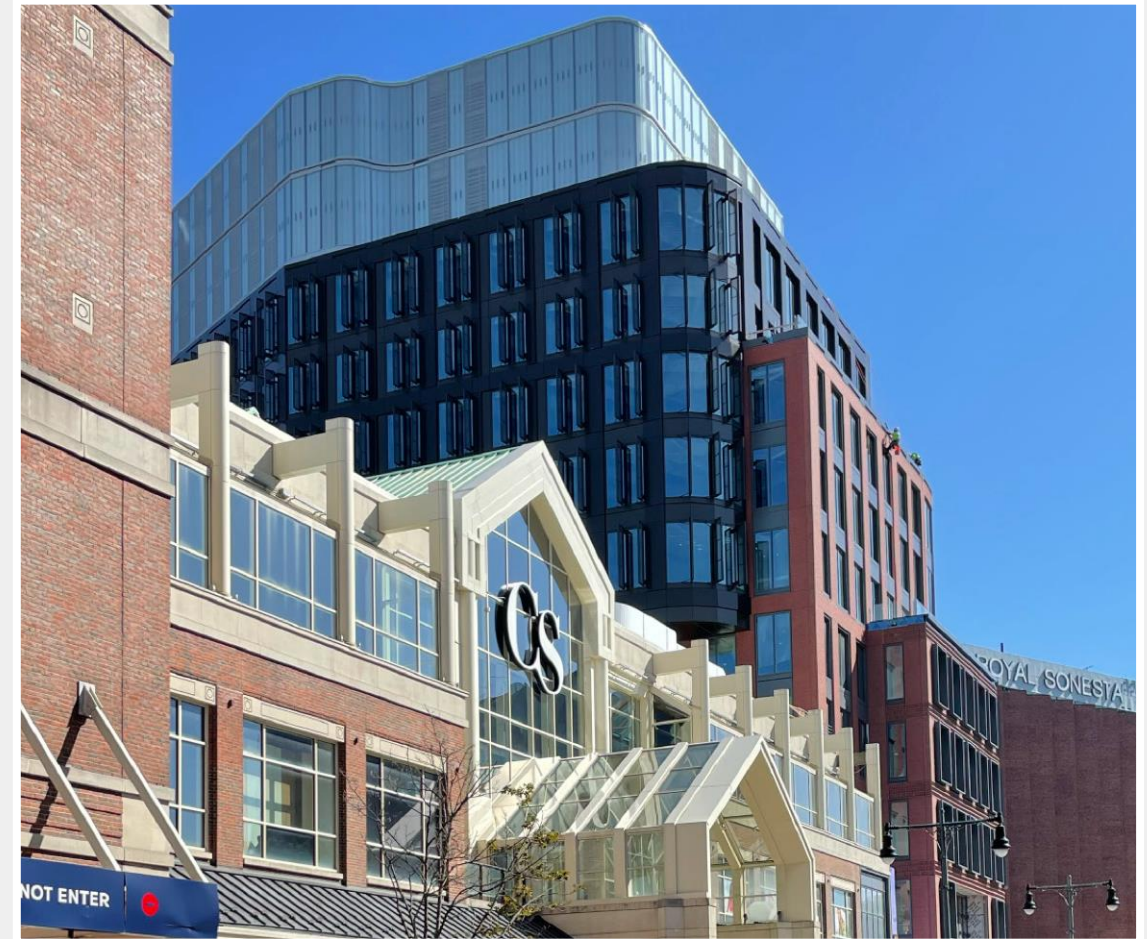
→ Identify bicycle parking and bike share locations early in the design process





# Building

Together, buildings form the city's blocks, which in turn define open spaces and contribute to Cambridge's sense of place. They form the walls of the city's outdoor rooms.



Cambridge's built form is richly varied, a testament to its many layers of history. New buildings should demonstrate an understanding of that history, by reinforcing the eclectic form and character of Cambridge's neighborhoods, while creating new and memorable places.

## 1. Building Principles

- 1.1 Well-Designed Buildings
- 1.2 Welcoming Buildings
- 1.3 Sustainable Buildings

## 2. Building Guidelines

- 2.1 Context & Identity
- 2.2 Massing
- 2.3 Pedestrian Zone
- 2.4 Streetwall
- 2.5 Tower
- 2.6 Top
- 2.7 Roofs & Terraces
- 2.8 Pedestrian Connectors and Bridges
- 2.9 Façade Design & Articulation
- 2.10 Materials
- 2.11 Historic Buildings and Adaptive Use
- 2.12 Sustainable Building Design
- 2.13 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency
- 2.14 Flood Resilience
- 2.15 Lighting
- 2.16 Services, Utilities, and Functional Elements

## 3. Building Types



### Well-Designed Buildings

Enhance the public realm through aesthetically rich facades, active ground-level spaces, and design approaches that either blend with or stand out from their surroundings, depending on site and program.



### Welcoming Buildings

Foster inclusivity through diverse uses, engaging facades, and accessible design to create a welcoming public realm. They should also reflect the city's cultural vitality by integrating arts and community activities.



### Sustainable Buildings

Prioritize environmental sustainability and climate resilience, minimizing energy use and adapting to extreme weather. Preservation of historic buildings is also crucial not just to maintain cultural and historical values, but to conserve resources.



# Open Space

Open spaces that encourage social interaction and play, contribute to the city's resilience, and are welcoming to all members of our diverse community



Open spaces come in a variety of types. They are the city's public "living rooms", shaped and enriched by landscape design, the activities that take place in them, and by the buildings that frame them.

## 1. Open Space Principles

- 1.1 Open Spaces for Inspiration and Delight
- 1.2 Open Spaces for All
- 1.3 Resilient Open Spaces

## 2. Open Space Experience

- 2.1 Context and Identity
- 2.2 Open Space Network
- 2.3 Design Quality
- 2.4 Creativity and Play
- 2.5 Open Space Resilience

## 3. Open Space Elements

- 3.1 Green Open Spaces
- 3.2 Materials
- 3.3 Pedestrian-Scaled Lighting
- 3.4 Comfortable and Welcoming Furnishings

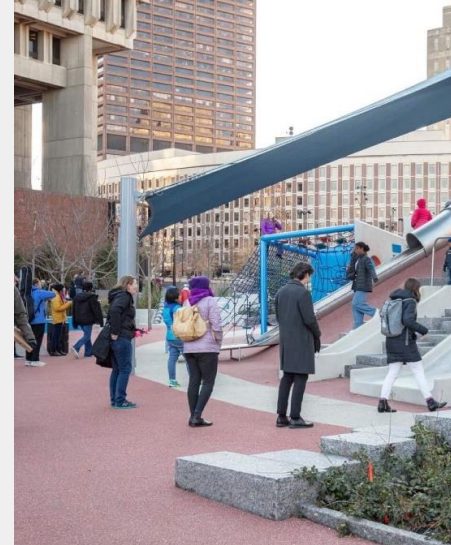
## 4. Open Space Types

- 4.1 Parks
- 4.2 Squares and Plazas
- 4.3 Play Spaces
- 4.4 Mid-Block Pedestrian Passages
- 4.5 Academic Campuses
- 4.6 Rooftop Gardens
- 4.7 Private Open Spaces



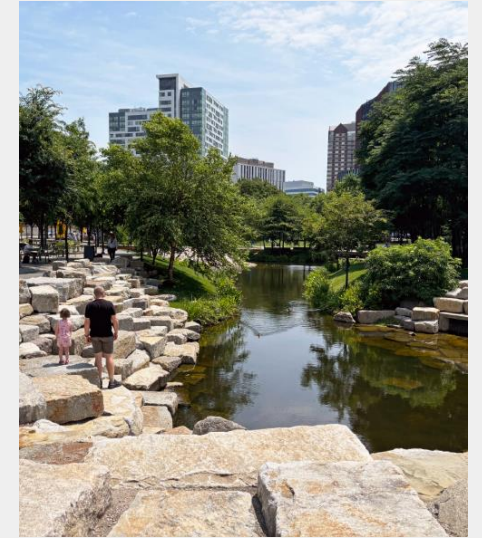
### Open Spaces for Inspiration and Delight

Design to create a sense of safety, comfort, and delight for all. Participatory processes, temporary and experimental interventions, integration of play, discovery, learning and art, and elements where these intersect, should be considered in the design and programming of all open spaces.



### Open Spaces for all

New open spaces should be planned to distribute open space benefits across neighborhoods, and as the city grows, POPS will become increasingly important for meeting the community's open space needs. Open spaces should be designed for all to enjoy and according to universal design best practices.



### Resilient Open Spaces

Contribute to the goals outlined in Resilient Cambridge, the City's Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan. They should be designed to minimize impervious surfaces, expand urban greenery, enhance public access to nature and clean air, withstand climate change impacts, and maximize the ecological and resilience benefits of all landscape elements.



# Streetscape

Streets are more than just arteries for movement and infrastructure, they are places in their own right: meaningful and memorable elements of the city



Over half of Cambridge's public open space is made up of streets and paths. They provide space for lingering and gathering, dining, and for social interaction and play. They also provide opportunities to expand the city's tree canopy, manage stormwater, and reduce urban heat island effects.

## 1. Streetscape Principles

### 1.1 Streetscapes as Places for People & Public Life

### 1.2 Streetscapes for All

### 1.3 Resilient Streetscapes

## 2. Streetscape Experience

### 2.1 Streetscape Character Types

### 2.2 People First Sidewalks

### 2.3 Creative Design And Programming

## 3. Streetscape Elements

### 3.1 Green Streetscapes

### 3.2 Sidewalk Paving Materials

### 3.3 Pedestrian-Scaled Lighting

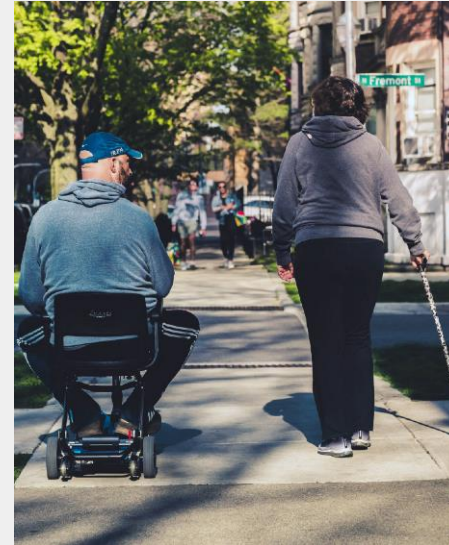
### 3.4 Comfortable & Welcoming Furnishings

### 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding



## Streetscapes as Places for People and Public Life

Prioritize public life in all its forms, including movement through and enjoyment of the city.



## Streetscapes for all

Be accessible, comfortable, safe and enjoyed by all. Sidewalks should be wide, clear, safe, and social space, with durable surfaces, accessible seating, and engaging street features.



## Resilient Streetscapes

Provide ecological connectivity and contribute to the city's environmental performance and climate goals



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# 2.1 Streetscape Experience – Streetscape Character Types



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## 2.2 Streetscape Experience – People First Sidewalks



Design sidewalks to make mobility an easy, safe, comfortable, and delightful experience for people of all ages and abilities.

→Continuous and well-connected.

→Widths that relate to the anticipated level of pedestrian activity for that specific street

→Clear, unobstructed Pedestrian Zone. Align curb ramps and crosswalks with pedestrian zones.

→Where space permits, provide for a Planting/Furnishing zone.

→On Corridor and Neighborhood Main Streets, provide a Frontage Zone where space permits.

## 2.2 People First Sidewalks – Corridor Streets

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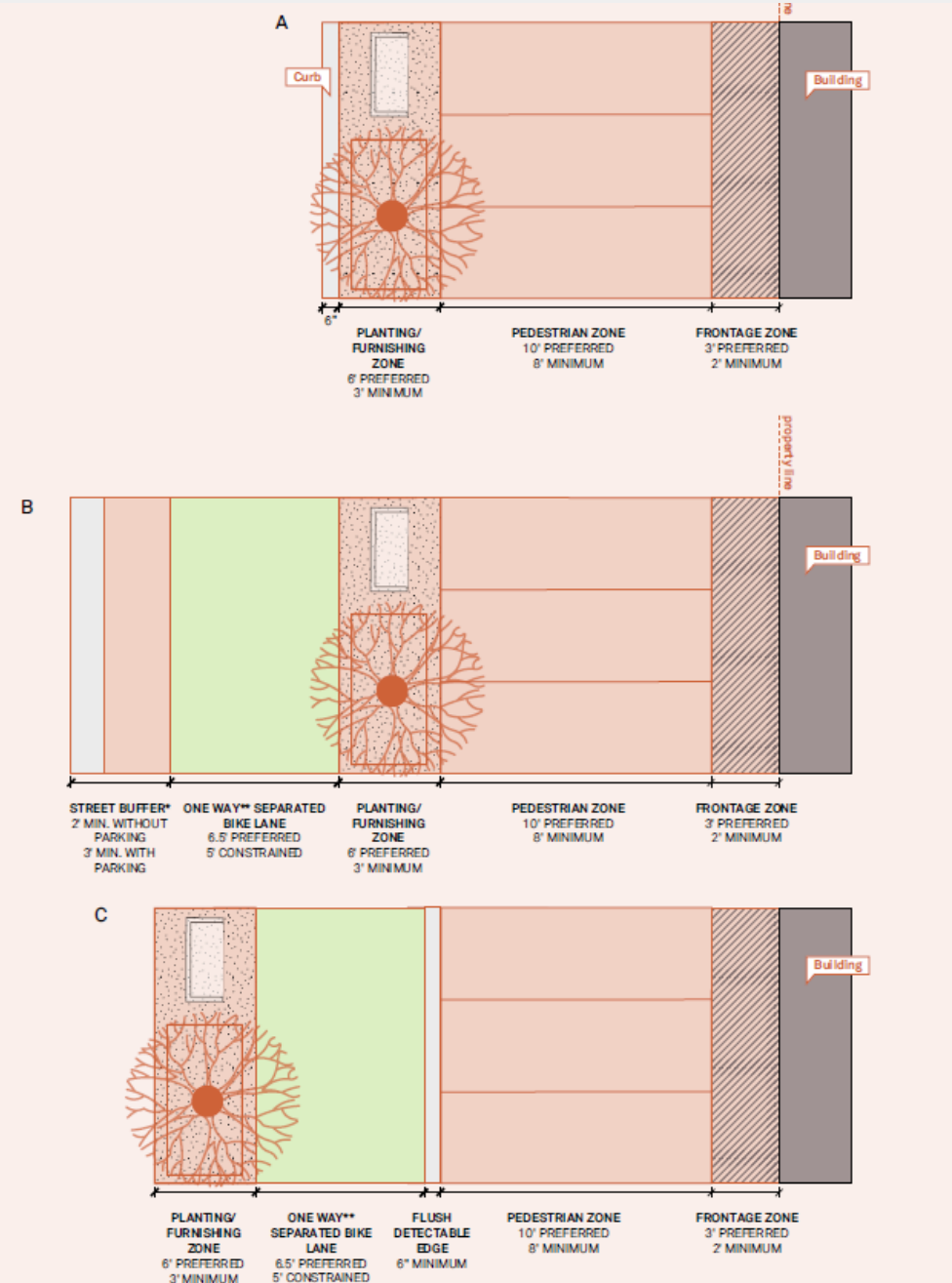
#### 3.2 Sidewalk Paving Materials

#### 3.3 Pedestrian-Scaled Lighting

#### 3.4 Comfortable & Welcoming Furnishings

#### 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding

→ Consider the three sidewalk zones and their minimum and preferred widths by street character type.



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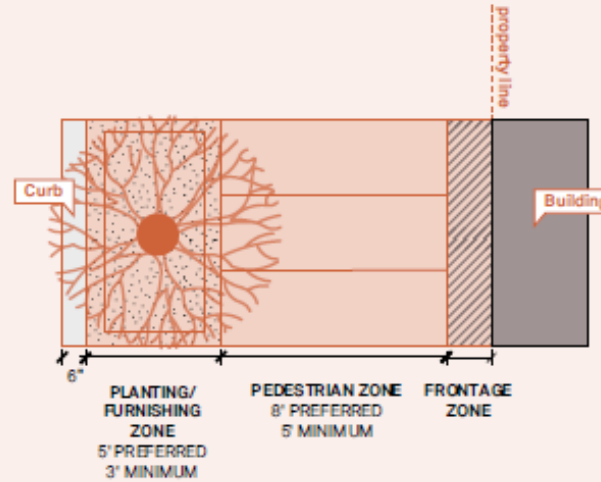
## 3.4 Comfortable &amp; Welcoming Furnishings

## 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding

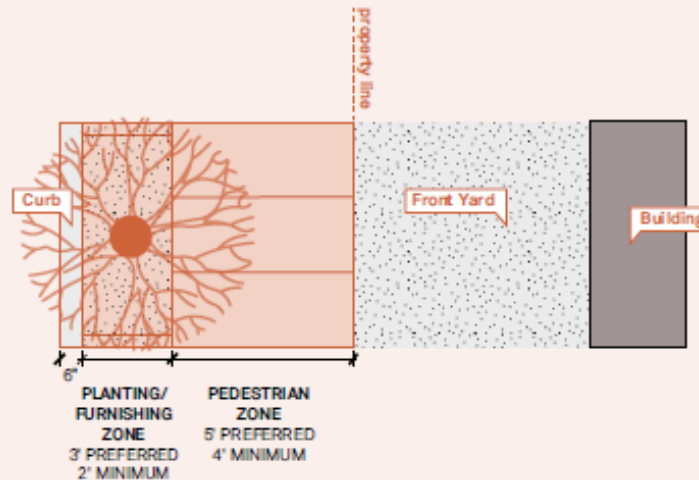
## 2.2 People First Sidewalks – Neighborhood Main &amp; Residential

## Streets

→ Consider the three sidewalk zones and their minimum and preferred widths by street character type.



Neighborhood Main Street



Residential Street



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### 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding

# 3.1 Streetscape Elements – Green Streetscapes

Incorporate street trees and other plantings to provide visual interest, comfort, and human scale, while providing ecological benefits.

→ Protect and preserve healthy existing street trees

→ Design sidewalks to support growth of large canopy trees.

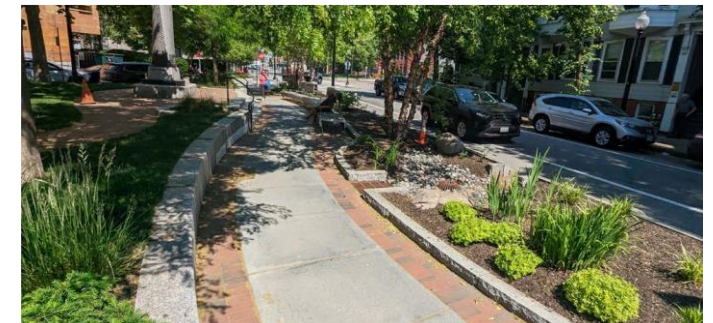
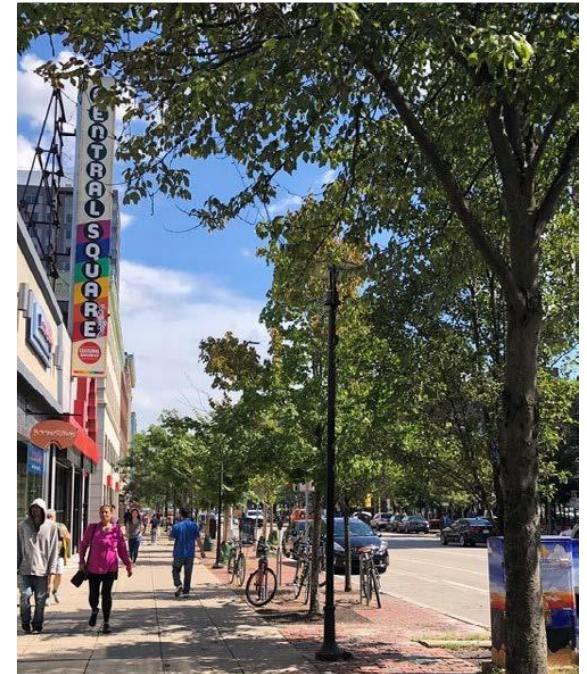
→ Plant street trees and other plantings within the Planting/Furnishing Zone and/or along the curbside edge

→ Plant new street trees, at 20- to 30-foot spacing along streets that have adequate sidewalk widths.

→ Ensure trees and plants do not impede sightlines at intersections and driveways.

→ Use DPW's planting standards, species, etc,

→ Provide green infrastructure in the Planting/Furnishing Zone.



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## 3.4 Comfortable &amp; Welcoming Furnishings

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## 3.2 Streetscape Elements – Sidewalk Paving Materials

Design and select high-quality, durable, easy to maintain, sustainable sidewalk paving materials that are accessible

→ Use durable, low maintenance, and readily available paving materials.

→ Use high contrast materials and tactile paving to highlight hazard areas and differentiate between different sidewalk zones.

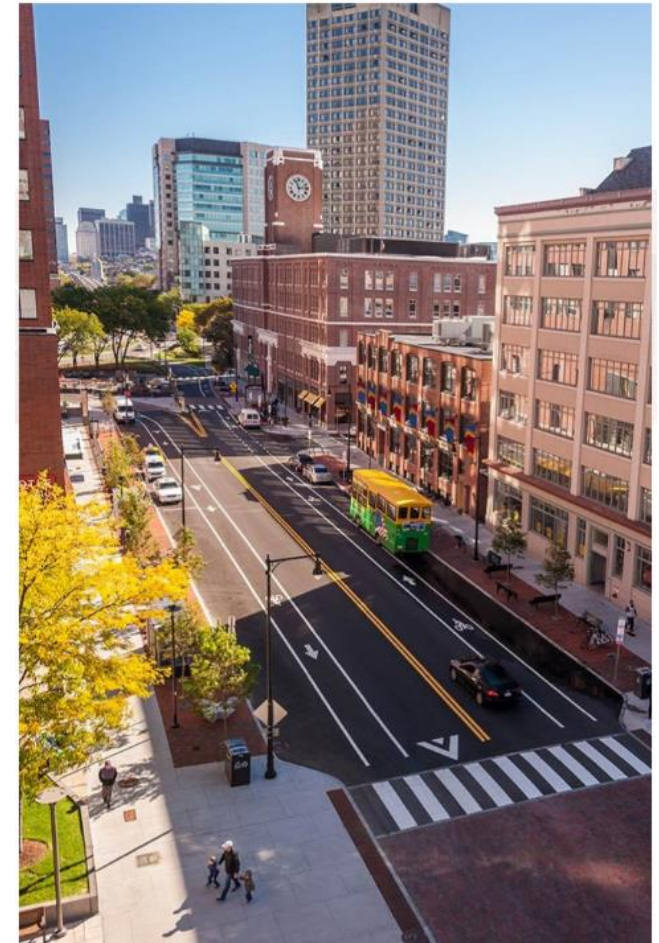
→ Select paving materials based on the context and character of the streetscape.

- Meet relevant City standards

- Ability to vary from City standards for unique areas

→ Provide a consistent sidewalk paving material, color, surface finish, and paving or scoring pattern

→ Consider opportunities to integrate art, learning, and playful elements in streetscapes.





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## 3.3 Streetscape Elements – Pedestrian-Scaled Lighting

Design street lighting to ensure everyone can safely and comfortably enjoy the City and enhance the pedestrian experience.

→ Provide pedestrian-scaled lighting, especially on Corridor Streets and in commercial districts.

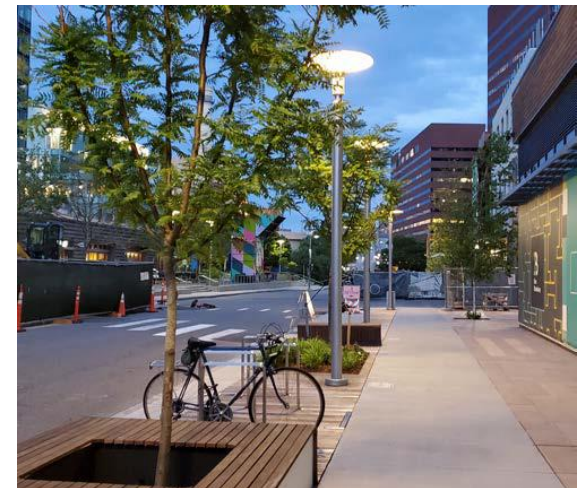
→ Locate light fixtures at regular intervals along the sidewalk

→ Coordinate planting with light source placement.

→ Select light fixtures based on the context and character of the streetscape.

- Use City standard light fixtures
- Ability to vary from City standards for decorative lighting effects in unique locations, e.g. squares

→ Coordinate pole and fixture design with other street furniture



## 1. Streetscape Principles

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## 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding

## 3.4 Streetscape Elements – Comfortable and Welcoming Furnishings

Provide streetscape furnishings that are functional, durable, and easy to maintain, while enhancing pedestrian comfort

- Prioritize street furnishings on busy walking streets.
- Locate along the curbside edge of the sidewalk, within the Planting/Furnishing Zone
- Arrange street furnishings in coordination with street trees and street lighting.
- Keep the location of street furniture predictable
- Study specific site conditions
- Reflect the site-specific context when selecting furnishings
  - Use City standard streetscape furniture.
  - Ability to vary from City standards as part of a holistic design process for an entire street or district.
- Maintain a consistent design palette.



## 1. Streetscape Principles

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## 3.5 Signage and Wayfinding

## 3.4 Streetscape Elements – Bicycle Parking

Provide bicycle parking and bicycle share stations in convenient locations for daily use

→ Meet City Standards and regulations.

→ Provide adequate bicycle parking along corridors, particularly in commercial areas.

→ Install bicycle racks within the Planting/Furnishing Zone

→ Ensure that parked bicycles do not block access

→ Coordinate bicycle racks with other furnishings.

→ In appropriate locations, consider opportunities to use creative and artistic bicycle racks

→ Provide bike share stations as needed - in the Planting/Furniture Zone, on curb extensions, or at the back of sidewalk in the Frontage Zone.

- Consider spacing of street trees and continuity of vegetation





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## 3.4 Streetscape Elements – Bus Shelters

Provide bus shelters at busy transit stops and near community service destinations like senior housing facilities, hospitals, and city facilities.

→ Coordinate with city staff on bus shelter needs, future plans, and preferred locations.

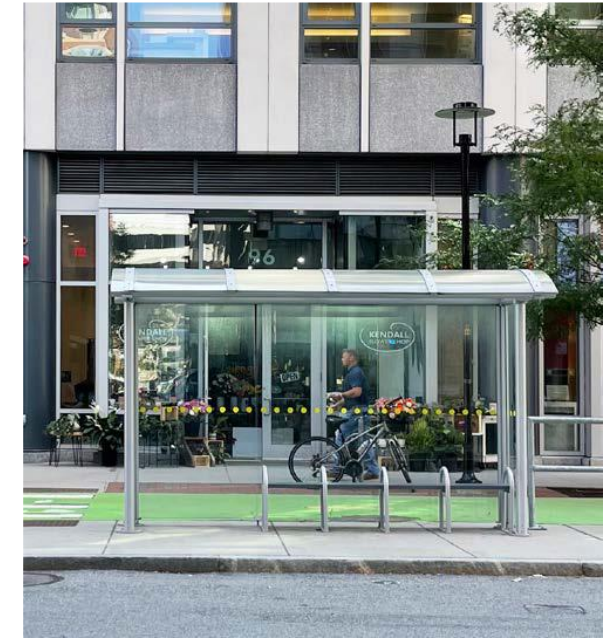
→ Prioritize safety, visibility, and accessibility when siting bus shelters.

→ Where possible, co-locate with other street furniture elements.

→ Complement the character of the area.

→ Consider opportunities for creative and unique shelter designs.

See CDDs Transportation Division website for further details. For Further stop location, boarding, and alignment considerations, see the MBTA Bus Stop Design Guide





# Next Steps

March 25 -  
April 9

## Public exhibition

A moment to share the guidelines  
and receive public feedback

Open House

March 25, 5:00 - 7:30 pm,  
Main Branch Library

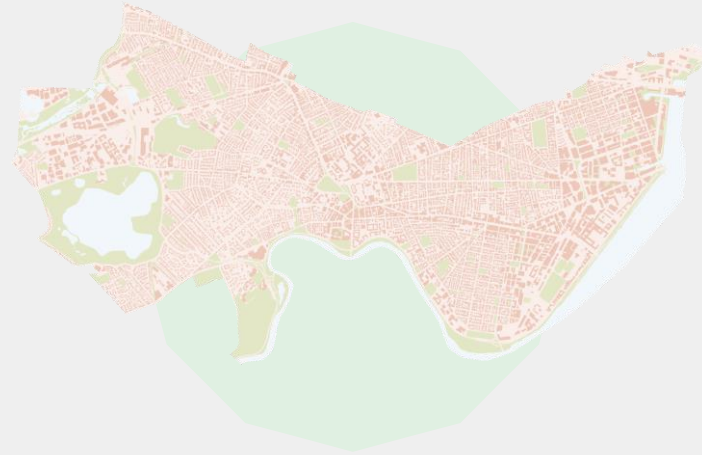
Exhibition

March 26 - April 9

mid- late-  
April

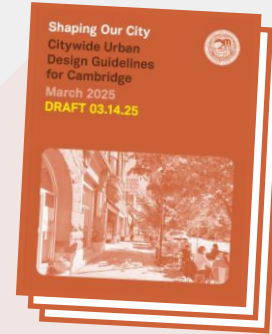
## Document Completion

Guidelines complete



## Possible zoning updates

Review and update to better  
reflect the Citywide Urban  
Design Guidelines



## An evolving document

As technology, materials,  
codes and Cambridge  
changes, so too will the  
Citywide Urban Design  
Guidelines

[LINK TO PROJECT WEBSITE](#)

# Questions and Comments

Is the document  
clear?

What is most interesting  
or most important?

Do you have any  
suggestions for images?



Thank you!



[LINK TO PROJECT WEBSITE](#)



# Public Comment





**Thank You**