



Welcome to the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of
Transportation

May 28, 6:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Today's Agenda

6:00 PM

Welcome

6:05

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and
project updates

6:25

New member orientation and onboarding

7:55

Public comment

Q&A: Meetings, Announcements, and Project Updates

6:05-6:25 PM

Announcements

- Thank you for joining the Pedestrian Committee!
- Your term started April 13, 2026, and ends April 12, 2028
- Please complete these tasks as soon as possible:
 - **Be sworn in at the City Clerk's office.** You must schedule this with the City Clerk!
 - **Review required materials and complete any training** relating to:
 - Conflict of Interest Law (*check your email for your training*)
 - Communications Agreement (*you will receive the paper copy tonight*)

You must complete these tasks to become an official member!

You must schedule your appointment with the City Clerk's office! Please email
BTaylor@cambridgema.gov to schedule your appointment!

Conflict of interest training will become available after being sworn in!

Announcements

- Transportation Monthly
 - Monthly newsletter from the Cambridge Department of Transportation ([Click here to sign up](#))

Upcoming Committee Meetings (by date)

- Transit Advisory Committee – June 4
- Bicycle Committee – June 10
- Joint Meeting of Transportation Committees – June 17
- Pedestrian Committee – **No June Meeting (next meeting July 30)**

Upcoming Public Meetings (by date)

- [Bluebikes Introduction Spring Workshop](#) (CamDOT)
 - June 11, 6:00 - 7:00 PM (15 Springfield Street at Bluebikes station in Municipal Lot #14)

Street Management Division Projects

1. **Broadway (Columbia St to Quincy St)**

- Sidewalk repairs underway in Section B
- Section B [design survey](#) open through May 22

2. **Cambridge St (Prospect St to Second St)**

- [Slides](#) from 4/29 virtual information session

3. **Main St (Tech Sq to Albany St)**

- Median removal, Eversource work, then installation
- Presented at May 20 Joint Meeting
- First Open House planned for early June

4. **Quincy St / Western Kirkland St**

- Sign and meter work to start soon
- Installation to follow in late spring

5. **Outer Huron Ave**

- Next public engagement virtual, likely early summer 2026
- Summer 2026 installation, depending on paving schedule

6. **Mass Ave (Central Square)**

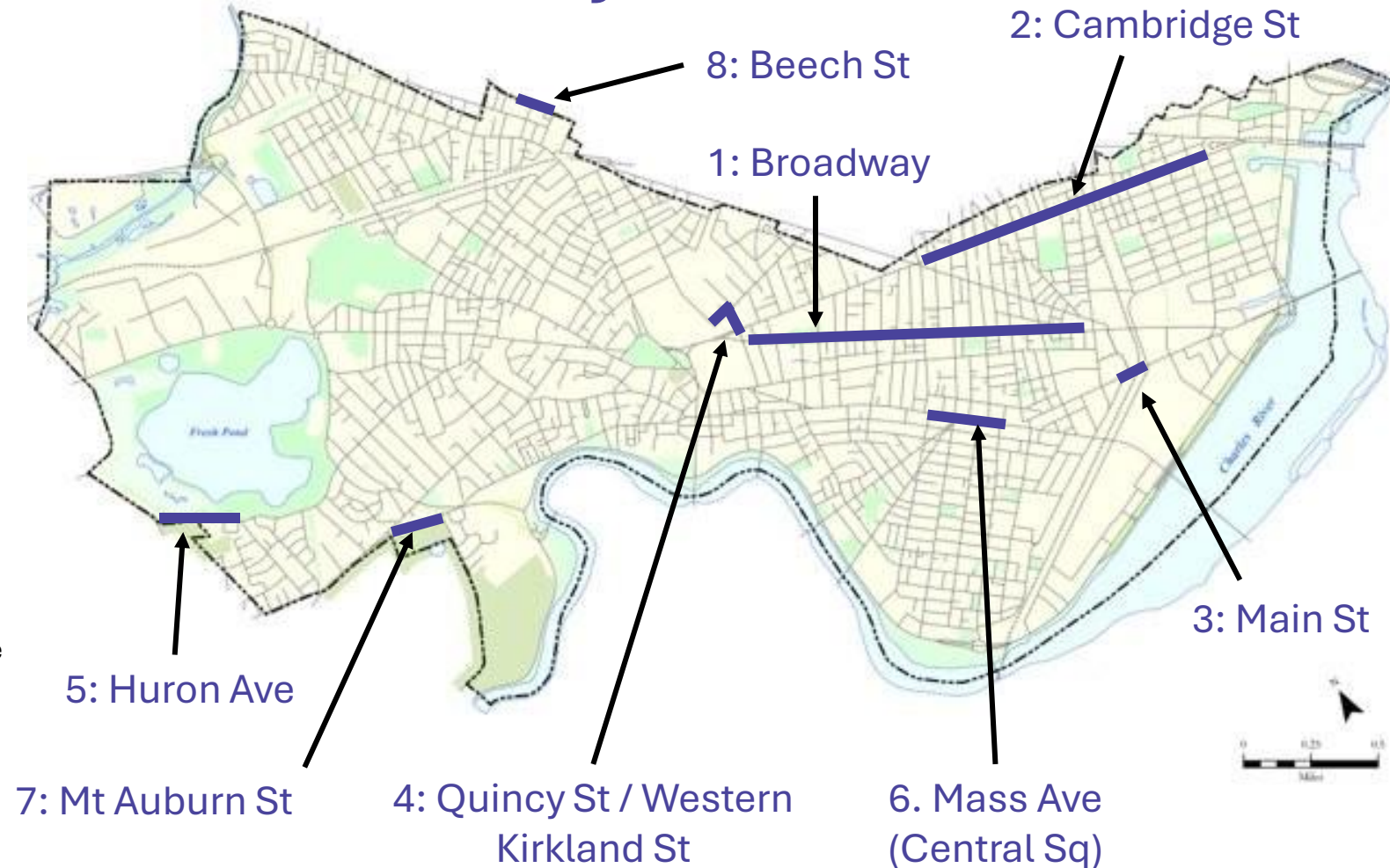
- Design underway
- Public engagement to kickoff fall 2026

7. **Mt Auburn St**

- Update coming at future meeting

8. **Beech St at Elm St Pedestrian Safety Project**

- Pop-up community meeting held May 21



Map of all upcoming Cycling Safety Ordinance projects at
www.cambridgema.gov/cyclingsafetyordinance

Public Works Projects

1. Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza

- Kiosk completed
- Continued construction on the plaza

2. River St (Memorial Dr to Mass Ave)

- Continue with construction of sidewalk and separated bike lane
- Top paving between Mass Ave and Kinnaird St in summer 2026
- Full roadway reconstruction from Kinnaird St to Blackstone St this season

3. Mass Ave Partial Construction

- Continued utility work between Waterhouse St and Linnaean St
- Resurfacing project between Waterhouse St and Roseland St projected to bid late summer/early fall 2026



Public Works Projects (cont.)

4. Chapter 90 Contracts 24 & 25 (links on next slide)

- Contract 24 – Punch list items only
- Contract 25 –
 - Sciarappa St: utility work and construction of sidewalks
 - Dana St: construction of sidewalks

5. Chapter 90 Contract 26 (links on next slide)

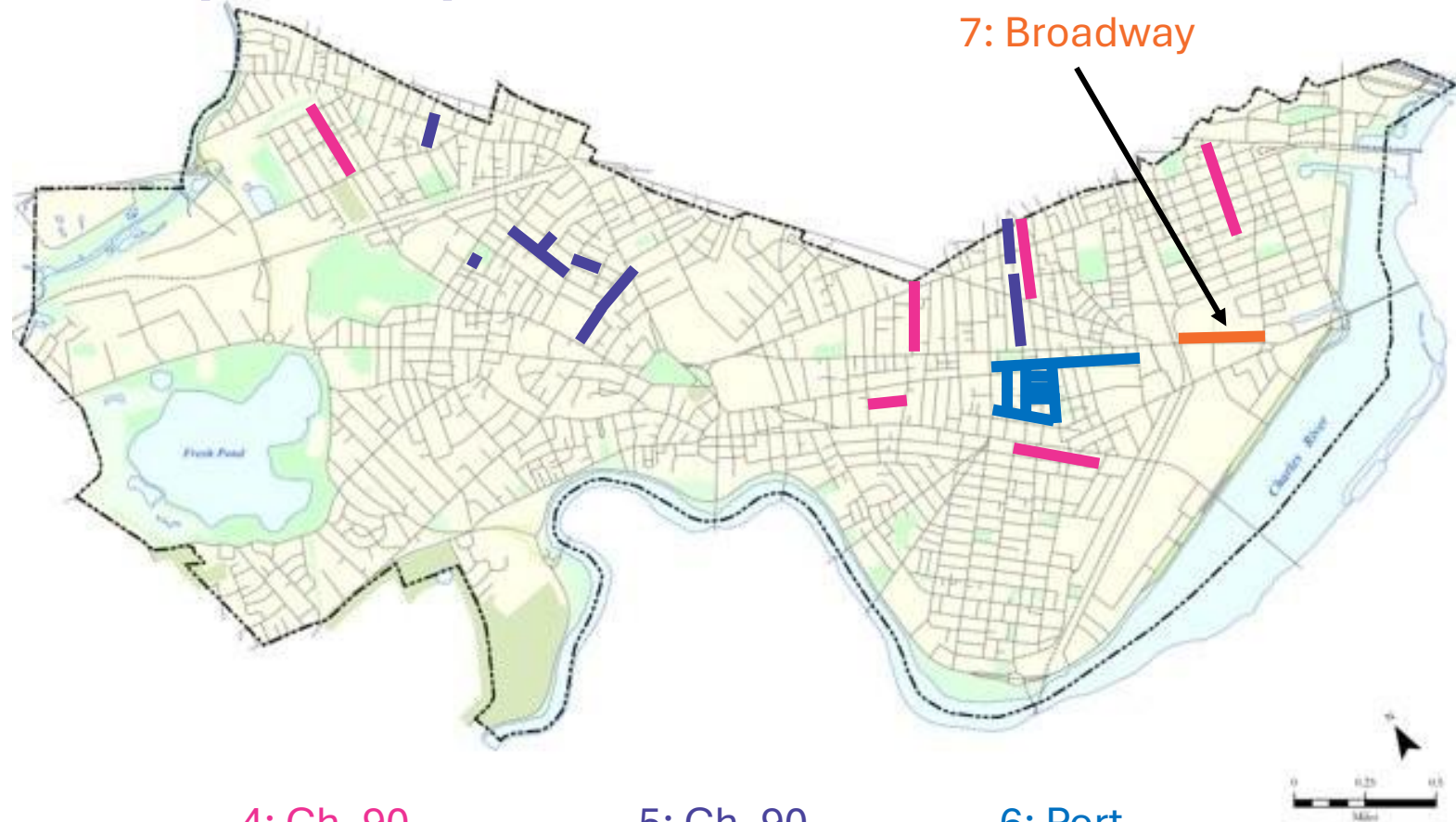
- Bids opened April 23

6. Port Infrastructure Improvements

- Streets Phase 1 – Bids opened February 5
- Test pits to start in May

7. **Broadway (Galileo Galilei to Third St)**

- No major update



4: Ch. 90
Contracts 24/25
(magenta streets)

5: Ch. 90
Contract 26
(purple streets)

6: Port
Infrastructure
– Phase 1
(blue streets)

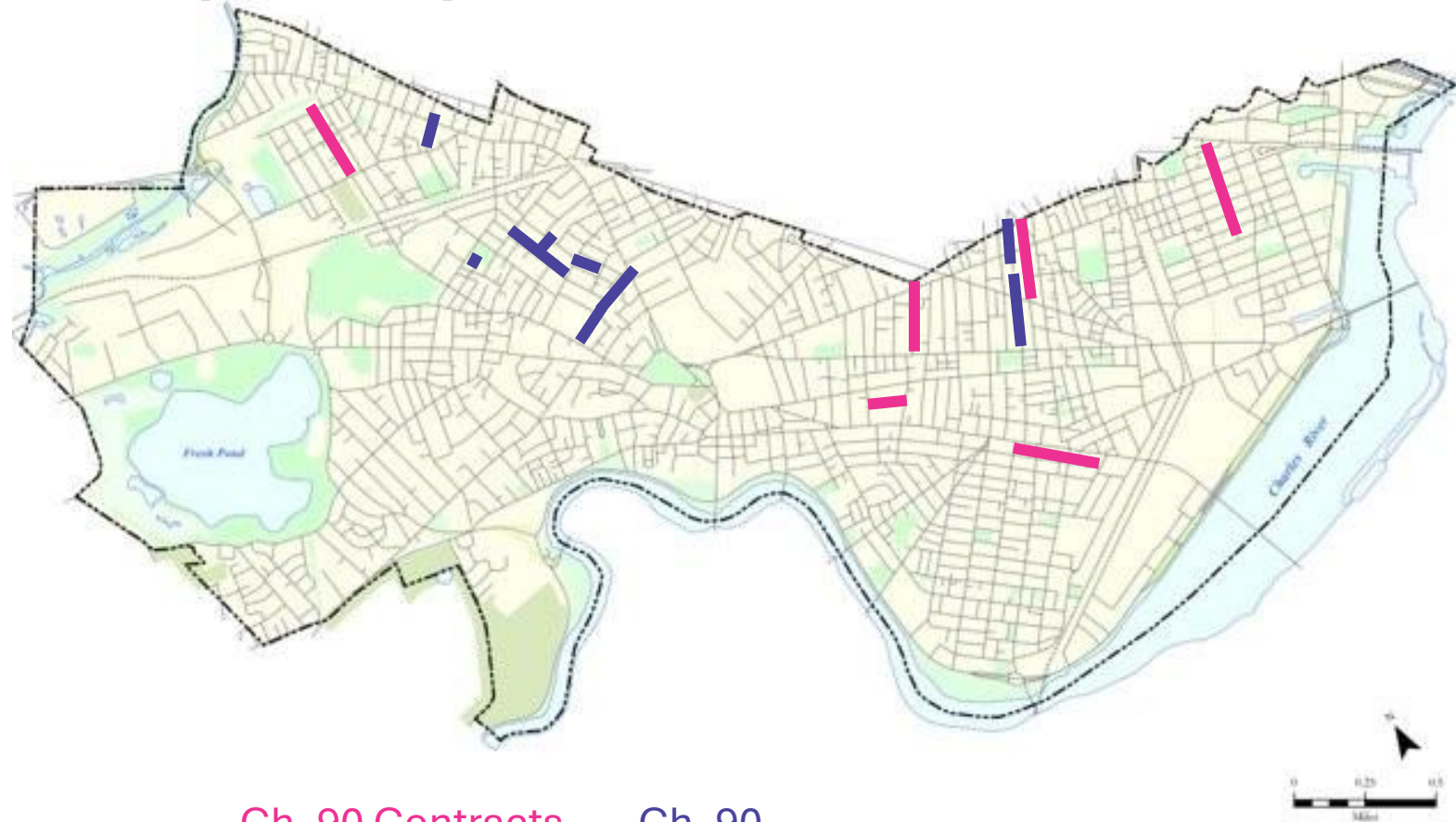
Public Works Projects (cont.)

Chapter 90 Contracts 24 & 25

- [Chestnut Street](#)
- [Dodge Street](#)
- [Huron Avenue/Cushing Plaza](#)
- [Webster Avenue](#)
- [Park Avenue](#)
- [Centre Street and Dana Street](#)
- [Maple Avenue](#)
- [Montgomery Street](#)
- [Sciarappa Street](#)

Chapter 90 Contract 26 A

- [Chetwynd Road](#)
- [Gray Street](#)
- [Norfolk Street](#)
- [Kirkland Road](#)
- [Haskell Street](#)



Ch. 90 Contracts
24/25
(magenta streets)

Ch. 90
Contract 26
(purple streets)

New member orientation and onboarding

6:25-7:55 PM

**Committee background and
supporting policies and plans**

Pedestrian Committee background

- Established in 1995 by Robert Healy, City Manager
- Open to people who live or work in Cambridge
- Includes representatives from City departments
- Works to improve conditions for pedestrians in the city and promote walking as a means of transportation.
- Activities of the Committee include:
 - Reviewing City plans for road construction
 - Commenting on pending walking-related ordinances
 - Organizing and participating in public events
 - Creating materials to encourage walking in the city
 - Working with other organizations at the local, state, and national level

Supporting City policies and plans

- **Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance:**
 - Cambridge commits to increasing the use of commuting alternatives and reducing trips in single-occupancy vehicles
- **Climate Protection:**
 - Promote energy efficiency, Cambridge Energy Alliance, goal of 80% emissions reduction by 2050
- **Vision Zero:**
 - City Policy (also a national and international initiative) focused on strategies to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries
- **Complete Streets:**
 - Streets that provide safe and accessible options for all modes – walking, biking, transit, personal vehicles, etc.
 - City Policy that guides projects in Cambridge

Supporting City policies and plans

- Envision Cambridge:
 - Current citywide plan
 - Published after three-year planning and public engagement process
 - Provides a blueprint for the city's growth and change through 2030
- 2000 Pedestrian Plan:
 - Provides policies and guidelines for improved walking facilities
 - Provides design standards for physical improvements
 - Outlines steps to encourage walking
 - Provides an action plan to create an economical and efficient non-automobile transportation network
- Urban Design Guidelines (2025)
- Accessibility requirements (Federal, State)

Committee actions and work plan

How does the Committee get work done?

- Interactions with City staff and projects
- Interactions with State agencies
- Advancing recommendations and proposals
- Pedestrian Committee Work Plan

Interacting with the City

- Request presentations or discussion on City projects:
 - Street reconstruction
 - Quick-build
 - Plan updates
 - New or modified programs
- Review materials presented to City bodies (i.e., Planning Board)
- Write a letter to the Planning Board with comments and suggestions

Interacting with State agencies

- Request presentations or discussion on State agency projects (MassDOT, MBTA, DCR)
- Review materials presented during public meetings
- Send a comment letter to State agencies (i.e., project managers or relevant oversight bodies)

Advancing recommendations and proposals

- Form a subcommittee on the topic (e.g., community walks, etc.)
- Pedestrian Committee recommendations/proposals are heard and responded to. Responses are communicated in various ways:
 - City staff report back at Committee meetings through presentations/discussion
 - City staff report back through Nick Schmidt as City staff representative
 - State agencies report back

Work plan

- Work plan should be updated every year
- As simple as a basic Excel table or one page document

Committee officer roles

Committee officer roles

- Officers help with administrative committee tasks and keep projects/work moving. **Officers are required in the bylaws.**
- **Chair:**
 - Facilitates the meeting
 - Discusses agenda with City staff and keeps track of agendas and subcommittees
 - Signs any letter from the Committee
- **Vice Chair:**
 - Discusses agenda with City staff and keeps track of agendas and subcommittees
- **Secretary:**
 - Takes meeting notes

Let's take a moment for folks to self-nominate or "friend-nominate"

Officer elections will take place at the July 30 meeting

Committee rules and requirements

Committee rules and requirements

- Open Meeting Law
 - Quorum
 - Subcommittees
 - Email discussion
- Conflict of Interest Law
 - **Complete an online training.** Look to your inbox after being sworn in.
- Communication Agreement
 - For any group managed by City staff
 - **Take home and review.** Please sign and return by July 30 Pedestrian Committee meeting.
- Participating in Other City Events
- Codes of Conduct
 - We will draft this today with an activity

Open Meeting Law

- Committee member questions and discussion can only happen during meetings that are scheduled and have appropriate notification to the public
 - Meeting agendas must be posted at least 48 hours in advance
- The Committee can authorize a committee to do further work; subcommittee meetings must also be advertised and scheduled.
- Six or fewer members on a subcommittee ensures there's no quorum
- Outside of official meetings, Committee members must limit their communications to one-on-one dialogue.

Conflict of Interest

- Massachusetts requires that all municipal employees, including volunteer committee members, take a training on conflict of interests
 - **You will receive your training email after being sworn in!**
- A conflict of interest is when a personal, private interest may be in conflict with public duty or service

Communication Agreement

Signed agreement for all members of the Pedestrian Committee

We as members of this community hold the Pedestrian Committee as important to progress and change in the city. The beauty of our group lies in the diversity of opinion, beliefs, and backgrounds that contribute to the democratic process.

Therefore, just as important as being in the group as concerned citizens is the respect and humanity that we show our fellow members. We agree that the Pedestrian Committee will be dedicated to respect and civility and will not allow hatred and division to separate us from making our city a better place for all.

Communication Agreement

- As a Committee, we agree to follow these communication norms:
 - Show respect to all that participate
 - Embrace diverse points of view
 - Everyone gets a chance to share their views
 - Avoid debates and interruptions
 - Listen to understand, not to respond
 - Strong forms of reaction are limited/not allowed
 - Do not engage in personal attacks
 - Take a break when necessary
 - All stereotyping and hateful comments are not tolerated

Participating in other City events

By participating as a Pedestrian Committee, your participation does not end at the conclusion of each meeting:

- When speaking at public meetings, clarify that you are not representing the Pedestrian Committee, unless you are authorized to do so.
- Follow the Communications Agreement even when participating in other City events. The Communications Agreement applies to you and your membership, not just when you're in a Committee meeting.

Code of conduct activity

About 30 minutes

Code of conduct activity

- **What is this?** Code of Conduct defines the rules that the group wants to use to express the intention of the communication agreements.
- **Everyone will think and chat** about what group agreements:
 - Do you need to feel like this space is civil?
 - Do you need to make it so that you want to come back to each meeting?
 - Would make the meeting interesting, conducive to group participation, and an important experience for you?

Group Drafting Process

Individual
brainstorm
(2-3 minutes)

Small group
share out
(7 minutes)

Collect &
combine ideas
(10 minutes)

Refining rules
(10 minutes)

Example Code of Conduct statements

- Giving people space to speak up
 - Step up/ step back / Take space make space / Share the air
- Active listening
 - Conscious listening, listen for understanding, listen to each other with compassion and curiosity
- Learn together and support each other
 - “Ouch” and “Educate” rule - express what made you uncomfortable and the reason why
- Confidentiality
 - What we learn – leaves here, what we say – stays here
- Together we know a lot (alone we don't know it all)
 - Everyone is a teacher and a learner or mentor and mentored
- Bring your authentic self
- Speak for yourself – use “I” statements rather than “we” or “you”

Codes of conduct round robin

- Keep the space open for everyone
- Make sure we aren't speaking over each other, maybe conversation facilitator/acknowledgement before speaking
 - Crosswalk method: time you would take to make sure it is safe to cross the street is amount of time you should take to make sure people are done speaking
- Practice curiosity and ask to clarify jargon
- Together we know a lot!
- Nice to know who is speaking every time and where they are coming from (share what you are comfortable sharing)
- Separating ideas from the person
- Be bold while speaking, ask clarifying questions
- Aiming for action – action items!

Codes of conduct round robin

- Know when to step away, be aware of when you need to remove yourself from the conversation
- Follow through on commitments
- Try to find constructive differences
- Don't falsely misrepresent someone else/speak for someone incorrectly
 - Give each other the benefit of the doubt and let people speak for themselves
- Create interpersonal connections – use each other's names when addressing each other
- Have fun!
- People process things differently, make space for that

Code of conduct – refining the rules

- We will go over our draft Code of Conduct again
- Indicate your stance on a rule by:
 - Moving to the designated corner of the room
 - Typing your answer into the Zoom chat
 - Changing stance is welcome!
- There will be time to discuss thoughts on each rule and edit them as we go
- Result is final version of the Pedestrian Committee Code of Conduct

Strongly
Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Code of conduct – second draft

- Keep the space open for everyone
- Make sure we aren't speaking over each other
 - Possibly conversation facilitator? Possibly crosswalk method? (revisit this piece)
- Practice curiosity and ask the clarify jargon
- Together we know a lot; try to find constructive differences
- Get to know each other as people; share what you're comfortable sharing
- Disagree with the idea, not the person but also take accountability for harm
 - Trust intent but name impact? Revisit this (quinn has more notes)
 - Give each other the benefit of the doubt and let people speak for themselves
- Be bold while speaking

Code of conduct – second draft

- Aim for action! Use action items!
 - Action items help use achieve goals; potentially have facilitator help ensure people have next steps at the end of the meeting
- Know when to step away and be aware of when you need to remove yourself from the conversations
- Follow through on commitments and communicate when you can't (find someone to help)
- Use I statements
- Create community – use people's names when addressing them, have fun!
- People process things differently; make space for that
 - Make sure people have adequate time to read stuff – potentially a gesture to indicate you need more time or need a pause, make sure info is presented in multiple formats if possible

Other stuff

- Track dietary restrictions 😊 have gluten free food!

Next steps

Next steps

- What to look forward to in future meetings:
 - Elect officers (**July 30**)
 - Update the Pedestrian Committee work plan
- In the meantime, please make sure you have completed the following actions:
 - Swearing in ceremony (**email BTaylor@cambridgema.gov to schedule your appointment**)
 - Conflict of interest training (**check your inbox for online training**)
 - Communications agreement (**review and sign sheet**)
 - **Send updated contact info** to Nick if you have not already done so (nschmidt@cambridgema.gov)
 - **Nominate yourself or a friend for an officer role** by no later than **July 17**. **Send Nick an email!**