Virtual Meeting Instructions

- Working group members may speak and show webcam video
  - Use "Raise Hand" button during discussion
- Members of the public are muted and cannot show webcam video
- Public can write in questions or ask for assistance in Q&A Window
  - Questions may be submitted at any time and will be addressed, as time allows, during discussion/comment periods
- Participants will be removed for inappropriate behavior
- Technical support / Charlie Creagh (ccreagh@cambridgema.gov)
Welcome!

- Project Schedule & Updates
- Design Updates:
  - Landscape and Planting Plan
  - Cambridge Street Pocket Park
  - Linden Park Neighborhood Connections
  - Wayfinding Plan
  - Mass Ave Path Crossing
- Overall design status and schedule update
- Working Group Discussion
- Public Comment
- Next Steps
Meeting Agenda

SCHEDULE

Conceptual Design (Summer 2020)

Working Group Meeting #5 (August 2020)

Public Meeting #2 (December 2020)

Design Progress (Winter 2020 to Spring 2022)

Working Group Meeting #6 (March 2021)

75% Design Complete (Spring 2022)

Working Group Meeting #7 (Nov 2021)

TODAY

Working Group Meeting #8 (June 2022)

Final Design to Construction (2023)

On-going Agency Coordination
GRAND JUNCTION multi-use path

DESIGN UPDATES
Considerations

- **Path Buffer** – 2’ grass buffer (opposite side from tracks)
- **Narrow Corridor** – minimal room between edge of buffer and property line (width varies)
- **Utilities** – significant utilities overlap with open space
- **Ownership** – Abutter approval required for certain planting opportunities
- **Stormwater** – Promote GI
- **UFMP** – Cool Corridor
- **Vegetation Management**
Urban Context Case Studies

Burlington Greenway
Burlington, VT

Midtown Greenway
Minneapolis, MN
Goals

- Maximize Canopy
  - UFMP – Cool Corridor (Heat Island Reduction)
- Maximize Ecosystem Function
  - Native Species/ Plant Communities
  - Prioritize Pollinator Species
- Support Green Infrastructure
  - Bioretention Systems/Porous Paving
- Create Recognizable Character
  - Multi-Season Interest
- Maintenance and Vegetation Management

Eastern Grassland Community: Meadow Habitat
Approach

- Identify trees to remain (and those to be removed)
- Locate landscape opportunities for green infrastructure
  - Bioretention basins, bioswales, etc
- Locate new tree opportunities
  - Identify opportunities within and adjacent to the corridor
- Identify shrub massing opportunities
- Delineate ground plane
  - Lawn and perennial wildflowers and grasses
LANDSCAPE & PLANTING PLAN

Design Updates

PHOTO 1 – LOOKING NORTHEAST

Working Group Meeting #8 - June 22, 2022
Design Updates

LANDSCAPE & PLANTING PLAN

- Deciduous Trees to remain
- Evergreen to remain
- Deciduous tree
- Evergreen tree
- Bioretention basin plantings
- Perennial seed mix
- Turf - sod (path shoulder)
- Shrub planting
- Bit. concrete paving (by others)
- Porous Bituminous Concrete Paving

Working Group Meeting #8 - June 22, 2022

PHOTO 1 – LOOKING NORTHEAST
Design Updates

LANDSCAPE & PLANTING PLAN

- DECIDUOUS TREES TO REMAIN
- EVERGREEN TO REMAIN
- DECIDUOUS TREE
- EVERGREEN TREE
- PERENNIAL SEED MIX
- TURF - SOD (PATH SHOULDER)
- SHRUB PLANTING
- BIORETENTION BASIN PLANTINGS
- BIT. CONCRETE PAVING (BY OTHERS)
- POROUS BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVING

- BINARY LIGHT FIXTURE ON CONCRETE BASE INTEGRATED INTO SEPARATION FENCE MODULE, SEE SERIES DRAWINGS
- CASTING UPS
- PROPERTY LINE, TYP
- EXISTING CURB
- TURF SOD SHOULDER
- SEASON CURB
- SELECT LIGHT FIXTURE ON LENTICULAR FIN FENCE
- PROPOSED CONCRETE BASE INTEGRATED INTO PRECAST CONCRETE SEPARATION FENCE MODULE, SEE SERIES DRAWINGS

- BIORE TenITION BASIN PLANTINGS
- BIT. CONCRETE PAVING (BY OTHERS)
- POROUS BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVING

- DECIDUOUS TREE
- EVERGREEN TREE
- PERENNIAL SEED MIX
- TURF - SOD (PATH SHOULDER)
- SHRUB PLANTING
- BIORETENTION BASIN PLANTINGS
- BIT. CONCRETE PAVING (BY OTHERS)
- POROUS BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVING

- PHOTO 1 – LOOKING NORTH

Working Group Meeting #8 - June 22, 2022
Design Concept Goals

- Neighborhood-scale open space for all ages that supports community
- Heat mitigation via shade trees, plantings, and possible mist element
- Safe space with open site lines

Design Direction from City & Working Group

- Curvilinear planters with benches
- Planters delineate edges at Cambridge Street and along MUP
- Low masonry wall along church yard at Cambridge Street wraps west edge of park
- Include rectangular arbor to provide shade with seating along south wall
Existing Site Constraints

- Church Bell Tower
- Existing Elm Tree
- 6' Composite Fence on Church Property
- Existing Street Tree
- Commercial Restaurant Space
- Masonry Wall on Church Property

Design Updates
CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

Working Group Meeting #8 - June 22, 2022
CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

Park Features

Planting, seating, shade

- Shade trees for heat mitigation
- Perennial planting beds with an emphasis on pollinator-friendly species
- Vines planted along wall at the back of the arbor at south edge
- Planters and bench seating
- Trellis for shade
Park Features

Possible Mist Element

- Could provide opportunity for additional heat mitigation in a warming climate
- Cambridge St corridor has been identified as particularly hot
Proposed Conditions:

- Arbor along south wall with vines
- Three shade trees
- Planting beds for perennials and vines
- Benches, movable chairs and café tables
- Low wall to match the church's existing masonry wall height on west side (City is contacting church to coordinate)
Design Updates

CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

Facing West
Design Updates

CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

From Cambridge Street
Design Updates

CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

Facing East
CAMBRIDGE ST. POCKET PARK

Aerial View
Areas for Continued Design Development

- Trellis design – materiality, height/relationship to wall, structural design, relationship to existing tree
- Mist station – include or not? Research supporting infrastructure, diameter of influence of mist
- Ground plane / paving materials
- Additional amenities at park – drinking fountain, lighting, charging station, trash/recycling
LINDEN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS
Linden Park and areas west of Cardinal Medeiros can use access points at Cornelius Way and/or James Way.
Linden Park Neighborhood Connection

View 1: Primary Path Connection (Existing Conditions)
Design Updates

PATH CONNECTIVITY

Linden Park Neighborhood Connection

View 1: Primary Path @ Cornelius Way Connection (Proposed)
- includes new fence
- includes planting
- includes signage
Linden Park Neighborhood Connection

View 2: Secondary Path Connection @ James Way

- includes new fence
- includes planting
Wayfinding

Approach

- Principles
- Functional signage
- Gateway
Design Updates

WAYFINDING

Principles

- Keep it simple
  - Consider trail characteristics and space
- Be consistent
  - Establish common trail branding such as colors, logos, fonts, materials, placement
- Wayfinding supports placemaking
- Keep people in motion
- Design for the inexperienced user
Functional

- Trail Orientation
- Route decisions
- Route monitoring/confirming
- Destination recognition
- Safety
Functional Sign Family

- Trail confirmation signs
- Trail turn signs
- Destination/decision signs
- Street/trail name signs
- Jurisdictional boundary
- Etiquette/trail rules
- MIT Emergency/locator system
Functional Sign Placement
Destination/Decision Signs

- East Cambridge
- Union Square (T)
- Central Square (T)
- Kendall Square (T)
- Charles River Path
- BU Bridge
- Mass Ave Bridge
- Fort Washington Park
- Vassar Street
- Community Path
Gateway Markers
JUNCTION multi-use path

DISCUSSION
Mass Ave Crossing

- Mass Ave Design
  - MBTA Bus lane
  - Two general vehicle lanes
  - Left-Turn lanes
  - Separated Bicycle Lanes
- Bus Stop Locations to be determined
Design Updates

PATH CROSSINGS

PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK
SIDEWALK BUFFER ZONE
BICYCLE LANE
MIXING ZONE
BUS LANE
ROADWAY
DETECTABLE WARNING PAD
MBTA BUS STOP

Working Group Meeting #8 - June 22, 2022
Design Status and Schedule Update

- 75% Design Package was submitted to Cambridge, MIT, and MassDOT in May 2022 – currently under review
- Additional feedback from agency review and Working Group
- Advancing to 100% design – public meeting Fall 2022
WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION
"Raise hand" to speak

- If you wish to speak, click on "Raise Hand" in the Zoom application
  - On the telephone, enter * 9 on the dial pad
- Staff will call your name or phone number to acknowledge
- Before starting, please state your name and staff will confirm that we can hear you
- You will have **two minutes** to make your comment
PUBLIC COMMENT
"Raise hand" to speak

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  - On the telephone, enter * 9 on the dial pad
- Staff will call your name or phone number to acknowledge
- Before starting, please state your name and staff will confirm that we can hear you
- You will have **two minutes** to make your comment
The Grand Junction Multi-use Path is proposed to be a multi-use path running alongside the existing tracks in the Grand Junction corridor from the Boston University Bridge to Somerville. The desired width of the path is 14’ with 2’ buffers (a total of 18’). It will provide a continuous pathway for residents, school children, workers and visitors to stroll, jog, or bike along a linear path connecting several neighborhoods with each other, with commercial areas, and with regional resources such as the Charles River. The intent is to provide an important regional link, connecting to the Somerville Community Path being constructed as part of the Green line Extension and to pathways proposed in the Allston I-90 Interchange project. Within a half-mile of the Grand Junction corridor are 42% (49,000) of the jobs and 31% (33,000) of the residents in Cambridge. It is believed that the path can be created while maintaining current rail operations and accommodating potential future use of the corridor for passenger service.
THANK YOU

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