Today’s Agenda

- Introductions 15 min.
- Scope & Schedule 20 min.
- Working Group Overview 15 min.
- City Policies and Past Planning 15 min.
- Icebreaker 30 min.
- Questions & Comments 10 min.
- Next Steps 5 min.

Please note: Doors open at 5:45pm, meeting starts at 6pm on the dot!
Introductions
Project Team

City Team

- Jerry Friedman
  Public Works
- Tegin Teich
  Community Development
- Patrick Baxter
  Traffic, Parking & Transportation

Consultant Team

- HDR Engineering
- Halvorson Design Partnership
- McMahon Associates
- Project for Public Spaces
- GEI Consultants
- BSI Engineering
- Feldman Land Surveyors
The Working Group

• Dan Beaulieu
• Seanna Berry
• Sai Boddupali
• Valerie Bonds
• Matthew Ciborowski
• Gabriel Cira
• Abby Duker
• Samuel Gebru
• Melissa Greene
• Kai Long
• Neil Rodriguez
• Randy Stern
• Andrew Tarsy
• Christopher Tassone
• Annie Tuan
• Olivia Turner
Scope & Schedule
Project Limits
Project Limits – Carl Barron Plaza
Project Limits – Tubman Square
Project Purpose: Infrastructure Renewal
Consider planning for greater electricity, natural gas, and telecom needs?

Upgrade soil conditions for trees and plantings

Coordinate with private utility upgrades

Update and separate portions of sewer & drainage and mitigate flooding risks with improved stormwater management

Replace and upsize water main

Subsurface Scope
Improve tree canopy

Improve sidewalks and crosswalks

Provide separated bicycle facility

Optimize bus stops, improve amenities, and address bus reliability and delay

Consider opportunities to support local businesses with “flex space”

Reduce speeding & maintain appropriate vehicle operations

Surface Scope
Urban Design Opportunities

- Maintain an inclusive space
- Consider public art
- Update & reconfigure street furniture and landscaping
- Consider “edge quality” and circulation

Urban Design includes:
- Carl Barron Plaza
- Tubman Square
- All of River Street’s edges
The Design Process

Collect Data & Issues
- Survey
- Counts (all users)
- Level of service, level of comfort (multi-modal)
- Vehicle Storage
- MBTA bus data
- Sewer & drain
- Utility connections
- Flow-metering
- Soil & tree
- Urban design
- Identified by Public

Establish Vision
- Gather existing planning & policies, adapt to local context
- Gather community goals, ideas, and aspirations through a broad and inclusive process

Complete Design
- Develop design alternatives
- Analyze alternatives
- Select alternative
- 25%, 75%, and 100% design
- Construction documents & permitting
Expected Timeline

100% Design

Construction Bids

2020

Construction Process (2020-2022)
Working Group
Overview
The Working Group

- Dan Beaulieu
- Seanna Berry
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- Olivia Turner
Working Group Logistics

Working Group or Public Meeting will generally happen every 4th Tuesday (*Alternate date)

Meeting Notification: 2 weeks


2019 Proposed Public Meetings: March, September, December

Note: there will also be public walks, street teams, and information tables at other community events throughout this design effort.
Working Group Composition

Ways you use River Street

Working Group

Community Connections

Backgrounds, Perspectives
Working Group Role

Public (noun)
All the people, esp. all those in one place or country.

Working Group helps illuminate public sentiment and preferences

Project Team weighs public sentiment with data and other factors to determine direction
Balancing Diverse Needs

When conversing with this group and the broader community, needs or goals need to be balanced to lead to good outcomes. Considerations:

• Many needs, limited space
• Respect all needs
• Solutions must reach beyond individual preferences
• Count people (regardless of the way they choose to travel)
A Few Working Group Guidelines

• Keep an open mind and respect other opinions
• Speak, and let others be heard
• Read agenda and materials before the meeting
• Request agenda changes prior to meeting
• Help us stay on schedule

Any other good-meeting guidelines to add?

NOTE: Members of the public are welcome to listen and comment. To focus on facilitating the input of the working group, we will hold public comment to a set period and ask that they be related to the topics discussed.
Steps in the Design Process

IDENTIFY ISSUES
ESTABLISH VISION
COMPLETE DESIGN
IMPLEMENTATION
Steps in the Design Process

- IDENTIFY ISSUES
  Define and analyze challenges and opportunities through perceptions and data

- ESTABLISH VISION
  Where are we headed, in the context of existing planning & policies?

- COMPLETE DESIGN
  Discuss and evaluate concept alternatives
  Develop the final concept

IMPLEMENTATION
City Policies and Past Planning
River Street is a:

- Infrastructure spine and
- Regional roadway and
- Neighborhood street and
- Retail district and
- Place to be and
- Front yard.
Existing City Policies

Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance (1992) prioritizes alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel.

Cambridge Growth Policy (1993/2007) emphasize walking, biking, transit, and low emission vehicles and establishes urban design and open space objectives.

Complete Streets (2016) emphasizes designing city streets for users of all ages, abilities, or modes of transportation.

Climate and Environment

Ongoing
Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience

2002
Climate

Ongoing
Urban Forest Master Plan
Open Space and Health

2000 and 2010
Open Space

2014
Playing in the Public Realm

2015
Health
Transportation

2000
Walking

2015
Cycling

2015
Transit

Future of Mobility Plan
Living documents
Incorporate several city policies and plans

River Street is one of many projects planned
Other Ongoing Planning

MBTA: Better Bus Project

MassDOT I-90 Interchange

Envision Cambridge

Interchange Envision

Cambridge

Working Group 1, January 29, 2019 - Slide 34
Sample Envision Cambridge Goals

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

• **Climate Change Preparedness:** Protect the lives and livelihoods of the Cambridge community from the impacts of climate change

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

• **Sense of Belonging:** Strengthen our social connections and provide a safe and welcoming community

URBAN FORM

• **Open Space:** Create a connected network of high-quality open spaces that links all residents to local and regional natural assets, provides a range of activities and experiences, is inclusive of all people, and encourages social connections

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• **Great Commercial Districts:** Preserve and enhance the distinctive character of Cambridge’s commercial districts, especially its major squares and mixed use corridors

MOBILITY

• **Reliability and Efficiency:** Ensure people and goods can reliably move within Cambridge and around the region, and encourage space-efficient transportation choices like walking, biking, transit, and carpooling.

• **Safe and Active Transportation:** Eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries while encouraging active living and improving comfort for people of all ages and abilities
Carl Barron Plaza and MBTA Busway
Central Square Planning

1987
Central Square Action Plan

1995
Central Square Master Plan Report

2011
Central, Squared Red Ribbon Commission

2013
K2C2 Central Square Report

2015
Central Square Access and Circulation Study
Carl Barron Plaza Evolution

1920s 1970s 1990s 2010s
Icebreaker: 
Getting to know the corridor
Draw your issues & opportunities on the map!
Where else can we take the map?
Project Wikimap (Draft)

Click **Add points** to add to the map.

ADD AS MANY POINTS AS YOU WOULD LIKE

- Greenery
- Social Space
- Commerce
- Mobility
- Access to Mobility
- Safety
- Other

About & Help - Add Points

Map Satellite

Coming Soon
Questions and Comments?
Next Steps
Next Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, February 26

- A brief history of River Street
- Adapting goals to project context
- Existing conditions
- Preview of Carl Barron Plaza design charrette
River Street Infrastructure and Streetscape Design

The River Street Infrastructure and Streetscape Design Project will upgrade the sanitary sewer, stormwater and water subsurface infrastructure while developing a new surface design for River Street, the bus terminal area at River and Magazine Streets near Central Square, and Carl Barron Plaza. The project aims to create a streetscape design that meets the needs of all the various users and in a way that engages the local community, contributes to overall enhancement of the neighborhood, and meets the City’s goals related to infrastructure, transportation, and urban design.

The concurrence of design at Carl Barron Plaza, the significant open space at the heart of Central Square will include consideration of public art, fixed and/or unfixed furniture, access, plantings, and landscaping. The design must also consider the complexity of transportation needs related to the bus bays adjacent to the Plaza and people moving through the plaza.

The community outreach and design processes will occur throughout 2019 and into early 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020.

To be included on the email list for this project, sign up here.

Cambridgema.gov/riverstreet