Today’s Agenda

- Welcome and logistics 10 min.
- Issues and Opportunities Wrap-Up 50 min.
- Emerging Design Goals 15 min.
- Introducing the River Street Design Toolbox 10 min.
- Introducing Design Challenge Areas 10 min.
- Carl Barron Plaza Process Preview 10 min.
- Public Comments 10 min.
- Next Steps 5 min.
Welcome and Logistics
Expected Timeline

- **Project Team Established**
- **Issues & Opportunities, Existing Conditions**
- **Conceptual Design**
- **25% Design**
- **75% Design**

**2018**
- Project Team Established

**2019**
- Issues & Opportunities, Existing Conditions
- Conceptual Design
- 25% Design
- 75% Design

**2020**
- Project Team Established

**Public Walks**
- Today

**Working Group Meetings**
- Carl Barron Plaza Design Charrette
- Public Meeting #1
- Public Meeting #2
- Public Meeting #3
- Public Meeting #4

Working Group #3, April 23, 2019 – Slide 5
**Summer Schedule**

### Former WG Schedule
- Working Group #5 Tues., 5/28
- Working Group #6 Tues., 6/25
- Working Group #7 Tues., 7/23
- Working Group #8 Tues., 8/27

### Other Summer Activities
- Mobility/Safety Walk: Tues., 5/14
- Carl Barron Open House: Thurs., 5/16 and Sat., 5/18
- Outreach at Riverfest in Central Square 6/1
- Urban Design Public Walk: Tues., 6/11
- Carl Barron Design Charrettes: Thurs., 6/20 and Sat., 6/22
Summer Schedule

New WG Schedule

• Working Group #5 Tues., 5/28

• Working Group #6 Wed., 7/17

• Working Group #8 Tues., 8/27

Other Summer Activities

• Mobility/Safety Walk: Tues., 5/14

• Carl Barron Open House: Thurs., 5/16 and Sat., 5/18

• Outreach at Riverfest in Central Square 6/1

• Urban Design Public Walk: Tues., 6/11

• Carl Barron Design Charrettes: Thurs., 6/20 and Sat., 6/22
Working Group Meeting Agendas

• Working Group #5 Tues., 5/28
  • Urban Design 101
  • Mobility 101

• Working Group #6 Wed., 7/17
  • Charrettes for:
    • Memorial Drive to Putnam
    • Tubman Square
    • Typical Cross-Section

• Working Group #8 Tues., 8/27
  • TBD
Other Items

• Working Group substitutions
• Check-in on Working Group and Public Meeting locations
• Ground rules reminder – phones off!
  • 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
  • Public comments during public comment periods
• Anything else?
## The Design Process

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

### Establish Vision
- Review 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
Issues & Opportunities
Wrap-Up
Venues for Public Input

• Working Group meetings #1 and #2
• Online comments
• Emails/calls
• Stakeholder interviews and focus groups for Carl Barron Plaza (Ongoing)
• Public meeting on 3/26
• Days of Engagement (Carl Barron Plaza) (still to come)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Broad, corridor-wide comments</th>
<th>Location-specific details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contributes to Themes/Goals</td>
<td>Summarized on a map</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Broad, corridor-wide comments</th>
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- Help us process public input!
- Check our work.
- Make sure we all understand the big picture, and the small details.
Broad Issue Example – Bus Delay

Provide a stop before Central Sq., so people can get off sooner and walk quicker to the subway. Can take 40 mins to travel 3 blocks.
Location-Specific Issue Example – Sight Line and Visibility Issues
Broad Opportunity Example – Dedicated Bus/Bike Lane
Location-Specific Opportunity
Example – Add Crosswalk Here
Issues and Opportunities Become One Set of Goals and One Map

**Broad = Goals**

"People are speeding"

becomes:

"Calm Traffic"

or more simply:

"Improve Safety"

**Location-Specific are Mapped**

"People Speed around this corner"

becomes

"Request for slower turning speeds here" *(on our location-specific public input summary map)*
## Goals are Broad and Memorable, Map all the Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Location Specific Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad and far reaching, not specific</td>
<td>Specific details are important to capture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to keep in mind and remember</td>
<td>Must be relevant to design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No more than 8 goals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep it brief (2-3 words at most)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next up:
Building the goals

- Work together
- Read public input
- Explore agreements & disagreements
- Share what you’ve heard
- Listen
What is not covered by existing themes?

- Improve safety / lower speeds
- Improve accessibility
- Enhance public space
- Support businesses
- Make transportation / movement of people more efficient

Place dots on key location-specific comments!
Emerging Design Goals
Moving Toward a Shared Vision

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

ESTABLISH VISION
What are our goals, in the context of existing planning & policies?

ITERATIVE DESIGN
Discuss and evaluate concept alternatives
Develop the final concept

IMPLEMENTATION
## Goals are the Outcomes We Want to See

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Group Themes</th>
<th>Goals/Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Improve safety / lower speeds</td>
<td>• Safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improve accessibility</td>
<td>• Accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enhance public space</td>
<td>• Enjoyable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support businesses</td>
<td>• Thriving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make transportation / movement of people more efficient</td>
<td>• Multimodal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Working Group #3, April 23, 2019 – Slide 24
More Themes from the Public

- Fix potholes
- Improve bus stops with amenities and to alleviate crowding
- Reduce bus delay
- Add separated bikeways
- Create shorter, safer, and more visible crossings
- Improve visibility on turns
- Expand and activate open space
- Retail would benefit from this being a nice street

- Create long lasting, smooth surfaces
- Reduce noise by slowing traffic
- Regulate parking, meet business needs
- Add electric vehicle charging stations
- Add more greenery
- Create spaces that encourage people to stay and spend money
- Reduce sidewalk crowding
- Do more for the homeless community
- Reduce speeding
City Policies and Prior Planning

- Update aging infrastructure
- Reduce vehicle trips
- Employ universal design/accessibility
- Create mobility hubs
- Incorporate play elements
- Introduce green infrastructure for improved stormwater management
- Add interest and open up edges

- Balance the use of curbside space
- Install Energy-efficient lighting
- Understand the micro-climate
- A consistent look & feel
- Design a street that is reflective of or fits the community it is in
- Integrate public art
- Design for the future we want
Do they fit?

Safe
Accessible
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal

• Create shorter, safer, and more visible crossings
• Improve visibility on turns
• Create smooth surfaces for walking
• Reduce speeding
• Add separated bikeways
Do they fit?

Safe
Accessible
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal

• Employ universal design/accessibility
• Be reflective of the community
• Create smooth surfaces
• Do more for the homeless community
• Incorporate play elements
• Balance the use of curbside space
Do they fit?

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal

• Employ universal design/accessibility
• Be reflective of the community
• Create smooth surfaces
• Do more for the homeless community
• Incorporate play elements
• Balance the use of curbside space
Do they fit?

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal

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Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
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Do they fit?

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- Reduce sidewalk crowding
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Safe
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- Update aging infrastructure
- Add green infrastructure
- Improve stormwater management
Do they fit?

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal
Lasting

• Fix potholes
• Create long-lasting surfaces
• Add electric vehicle charging stations
• Install energy-efficient lighting
• Update aging infrastructure
• Add green infrastructure
• Improve stormwater management
Draft Design Goals

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal
Lasting
Building the Design Toolbox with Public Input
The River Street Design Toolbox

- A place to collect elements and techniques that could be useful in meeting our design goals
- A living document
- Builds on past successes
- Contain multiple possible ways to address issues/opportunities
- Reference guide for Working Group members
Moving Toward a Shared Vision

IDENTIFY ISSUES

Define and analyze challenges and opportunities through perceptions and data

ESTABLISH VISION

What are our goals, in the context of existing planning & policies?

ITERATIVE DESIGN

Discuss and evaluate concept alternatives
Develop the final concept

IMPLEMENTATION
Design Goals (Draft)

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal
Lasting
Traffic Calming

- Pinch Point
- Speed Humps & Raised Crossings
- Chicanes
- Lane Shift
- Dense Building Lines (Constrained sight lines)
- On-Street Parking
- Signal Progression (Signals timed to match the target speed)
- Street Trees
Design Goals (Draft)

Safe
Inclusive
Enjoyable
Thriving
Multimodal
Lasting
Trees and Landscaping

Streetscape Tree Canopy

Accent Planting
Trees and Landscaping

Pocket Parks

Landscape Space Definition
Trees and Landscaping

Landscape Buffers

Gateway Treatments
The toolbox is a living document. More coming soon!

Be ready to review before our next Working Group meeting
Identifying Design Challenge Areas
Identifying Design Challenge Areas

Keeping in mind our goals and the public input, define design challenges areas:

• Where do issues and opportunities present a challenge for balancing needs within the space?

Examples of multiple needs for a limited cross-section:

• Adding, changing, and/or expanding public space
• Improving safety for vulnerable users (pedestrians, cyclists)
• Reducing bus delay and promoting public transit
• Organizing bus, vehicle, truck, shuttle, pedestrian, and bike traffic
• Balancing curbside uses for all users
• Integrating surface and sub-surface elements
• Ongoing maintenance
Comment: The block between Blackstone and Putnam is always jammed with cars and with no protected bike lane or cycle track you end up weaving through stopped cars or riding on the sidewalk. The sidewalk next to the rite-aid is constrained by a fence and then feels exposed due to the parking lot. The sidewalk opposite rite-aid is better because it is protected by parked cars and has some tree cover.
"Gateway"

Can you please block all traffic every Sunday on River Street
- Similar to remoral drive
- During the summer is fine enough

* No stop (safe) transition for bikes from page to River St.
* No stop (safe) transition for bikes from page to River St.

Bus stop

Alston Landing is the Big Problem. Adds lot of

RIVER ST BRIDGE

GATEWAY

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE

RIVER ST BRIDGE
Tubman Square

Comment: Close this section of Kinnaird street and expand the small park. There are no driveways along this small stretch of road. Having it two way allows cars to attempt to cross River street onto the other side of Kinnaird street. The simple solution is to require cars to use Pleasant street and close this small span of road between River and Pleasant.
Comment: This sidewalk is so narrow given the foot traffic from the bus dropoff and train station! With the bus shelter, people standing and waiting, the benches outside the convenience store where people congregate and smoke, it is difficult to navigate just on foot. With a stroller, wheelchair, or rolling a cart it is near impossible.
Carl Barron Plaza & Green Street
## Many tools needed at Green and River Streets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MBTA</th>
<th>Cyclists</th>
<th>Pedestrians</th>
<th>Motor Vehicles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Current and future bus capacity needs</td>
<td>- Requests for separated bike lanes</td>
<td>- Complaints of crowding and public safety near busway</td>
<td>- Heavy congestion on both River and Green Streets at peak hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Significant delays on Green Street and River Street due to competing traffic</td>
<td>- Requests to connect to Massachusetts Avenue bicycle facilities</td>
<td>- Confusing crossings at Green, Magazine, and River Streets</td>
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</table>
Discussion: Was there anything you saw on the public input map that identified a challenge area we haven’t identified yet?

• "Gateway": Mem Drive to Putnam
• Tubman Square
• Carl Barron Plaza, the Bus Terminal Area, and Green Sreet
• Cross Section from Putnam to Green (balancing curbside uses)
**Expected Timeline**

- **Project Team Established**
- **Issues & Opportunities, Existing Conditions**
- **Conceptual Design**
- **25% Design**
- **75% Design**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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- **Public Meeting #1**
- **Public Meeting #2**
- **Public Meeting #3**
- **Public Meeting #4**

- **Carl Barron Plaza Design Charrette**

**Working Group Meetings**
- Green circle: Public Walks
- Red star: Today
Event Dates, Times, Locales

• Phase 1 - Carl Barron Existing Conditions Open House
  Interactive exhibit with existing conditions information and activities to gather input
  • Indoor version: Thurs., May 16 (or June 6), 6pm-9pm at Manning Apartments
  • Outdoor version: Sat., May 18 (or June 8), 4pm-7pm at Carl Barron Plaza

• Phase 2 - Carl Barron Design Charrettes
  Multi-day charrette to generate design ideas. Longer workshop plus outdoor engagement to facilitate quicker interactions.
  • Indoor version: Thurs., June 20 (or 27), 6pm-9pm at location TBA
  • Indoor/Outdoor version: Sat., June 22 (or 29), 1pm-4pm at Carl Barron Plaza and location TBA
Elements from the Carl Barron Existing Conditions Open House

- Activity Heatmap(s)
- Movement Tracking Map
- Interactive Exercises
- Public Input Map for Carl Barron Plaza
- Public Feeling Map (dots to put where you feel good/bad/happy/sad)

- Urban Design Conditions Board for Carl Barron
- Social Services Map
- Place Comparisons (other similar sized plazas and parks)
Public Comments
Next Steps
Next Steps

• Add all summer meeting dates in your calendars (email to follow)
• Prior to next meeting: review draft toolbox and other available materials
• Next Working Group Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 6pm at Manning Apartments
  • Agenda: Education ("101") on Traffic and Urban Design Issues and Tools
THANK YOU!

riverstreet@cambridgema.gov