Working Group Instructions

• Working group members may speak and show webcam video
  • Click on "Participants" or "Reactions" then "Raise hand" (A) button
  • "Raise Hand" may be a button (B) or found under "…" (More Options) (C)

• Members of the public are muted and cannot show webcam video

• Public can write questions or to ask for assistance in Q&A window
  • Questions may be submitted at any time and project staff will address them, as time allows, after working group member discussion

• Technical support – Andy Reker – areker@cambridgema.gov
Remote Participation Instructions

• Working group members may speak and show webcam video
  • Working Group Members: use "raise hand" to facilitate discussion

• Members of the public are muted and cannot show webcam video

• Public can write questions or to ask for assistance in Q&A window
  • Questions may be submitted at any time, as time allows, project team will address questions in Q&A during public comment

• Technical support – Andy Reker – areker@cambridgema.gov
Welcome and Overview
Objectives for Today’s Meeting

1. Share Project Update
2. Present Carl Barron Plaza Final Design
3. Working Group Wrap-up
Today’s Agenda

• Welcome and Overview 5 minutes
• Project Status 5 minutes
• Engagement & Design Review 7 minutes
• Carl Barron Plaza Final Design 35 minutes
• Working Group Discussion 15 minutes
• Public Comment 10 minutes
• Wrap-up and Next Steps 5 minutes
Community & Stakeholder Engagement
Who We Talked To

- 17 In-person interviews
- Walking tours
- Two in-person Carl Barron Plaza engagement events
- 4 Public meetings
- 12 Working Group meetings
- Stakeholder Design meetings
  - City’s Urban Design & Human Services teams
  - Central Sq. Business Improvement District (BID)
  - Holmes Building management & resident representatives
  - Baptist Church leaders
  - Central Square Advisory Committee
Design Process

- Vehicles trying to make the turn
- Lots of kids going in the morning to MLK School
- Safety issues and sight lines
- Pleasant too open, close off
- Provide bus stop before Central Sq
- So people can get off sooner and walk quicker to the subway

Intersection
Public Meeting #4 Takeaways

• Meeting on June 22 from 5:30-7:30

• Type of Comments
  • Ensuring the plaza serves the unhoused community, and others in a safe and beautiful space
  • Bus shelter design should keep rider comfort and convenience in mind
  • Plaza should capture spirit of art and culture of Central Square
  • Keep separate space for moving through plaza and resting/events
Shared Design Goals Review

Inclusive  Attract a wide range of users while preserving usability for the existing regulars
Activated  Create a vibrant space through everyday activities and special programming
Safe  Create a feeling of safety for everyone
Flexible  Allow for a wide range of uses and activities that can evolve over time
Attractive  Improve the perception of the space
Comfortable  Provide seating, lighting and amenities that promote short- and long-term lingering
Multimodal  Ensure pedestrian and bicyclist flow, and coordinate with transit users’ needs
Functional  Provide materials and amenities that are functional and easily maintained
All-Season  Provide comfortable year-round use and reduce microclimate influence
Site Analysis & Constraints

• Underground Utilities/Subway
  • Major public and private utilities
  • Shallow utilities (electric, comms)
  • Sewer lines
  • Red Line Subway - Mass Ave.
  • Sanitary and drainage Lines

• Eight (8) Existing Trees

• Solar Orientation
  • Green St. edge: Sunny
  • Mass Ave: Shady
Urban Design Guidance

Developed Through Meetings with City's Urban Design Team, BID, Holmes Building, Church:

- Establish Carl Barron as a focal point
- Be bold, creative, playful and whimsical
- Provide enough height to be visible from a distance, but also a pedestrian scale
- Use repetition to strengthen the visual unity of the plaza
- Build in capacity for placemaking, functionality and programming where possible
- Apply lighting effects
- Reflects Central Square as a center of arts and culture
Previous Design Options

Option A: Sculptural Ribbon

Option B: Complementary Structures

Option A: Sculptural Ribbon

Option B: Complementary Structures
Working Group and Community Feedback Summary

- General preference for the ribbon option
- Accommodating and safe space for everyone
- Ability to maintain ribbon structure
- Maximize tree planting
- Lighting incorporation into ribbon
- Address accessibility concerns
- Balanced Seating between fixed and moveable
- Weather considerations
- Wayfinding / Information suggestions
- Embrace local character/identity
- Timeless design
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
- Dynamic space to draw visitors on a daily basis

Maintenance

Trees

Lighting

Accessibility

Weather

Wayfinding

Local Identity

Timeless

- Activate the space with programmed events
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space

Maintenance

Trees

Lighting

Accessibility

Weather

Wayfinding

Local Identity

Timeless

• Ribbon - add graffiti coating for easy cleaning

• Add art/design to hide imperfections

• Other surfaces are high quality and durable
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

- Maximize tree planting to offer shaded gathering opportunities
- Proposed 24 new trees when previously there were 8 trees
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

• Bright, vibrant atmosphere to maintain activation into the evening hours

• Lighting in the ribbon brings whimsy and energy to the space
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

- Accessible plaza with equal opportunity
- Benches have some arm rests and bench backs
- Balance of fixed and flexible seating options
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

• Wind/rain/shade protection by bus shelters and trees
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

• Real time bus information on shelters, signs in plaza
• Location held and equipped for community kiosk
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity
Timeless

• Bold, dynamic design representative of the local culture

• Art on the ribbon can also reflect local character or current events
Feedback Implementation

Safe Space
Maintenance
Trees
Lighting
Accessibility
Weather
Wayfinding
Local Identity

Timeless

• Allow the ribbon art to be re-envisioned periodically to evolve over time
Ribbon Direction Based on Feedback

- RIBBON DIRECTION BASED ON FEEDBACK:
  - The ribbon itself is a bold artistic statement that ties the overall site together from one end to the other
  - Introducing graphic or painterly art to the surface of the ribbon can reflect local character
  - Adding pattern/color/art will deter vandalism
  - Artists respect other artists’ work
  - Allow the art to be re-envisioned periodically as community evolves.
Artist Selection Process - Ribbon

- **ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS - RIBBON**

- Cambridge Arts Council will develop an artist selection process in collaboration with the BID, community members, and city staff. Arts Council invites anyone interested to participate in the process.

- Outreach: Call-to Artists, promotion, and Cambridge Arts artist registry.

- Small Jury of art professionals will select 3-4 finalists.

- Finalists will be compensated to develop proposals.

- Committee of stakeholders representing diverse perspectives will select a design for the ribbon.
SPORTS is the award-winning art and design studio of Molly Hunker and Greg Corso, based in Syracuse, NY

They develop compelling public art structures and public spaces that:

• Leverage the possibility for simple, powerful design gestures to have significant urban impacts
• Support communities and catalyze social activities
Carl Barron Plaza – SPORTS Design Assessment

Assessment of Design & Proposed Developments

A. Extend Ribbon
B. Make Curve Radius Consistent
C. Simplify Geometry in Small Areas
D. Systematize Seating Design
Carl Barron Plaza – Overview

LEGEND
1. Pedestrian scale lighting
2. Drinking water bottle fill stations
3. Bus shelters w/ real-time information digital displays
4. Seating - fixed and flexible
5. Architectural ribbon element
6. Separated bicycle lane
7. Trees and planting areas
8. Concrete sidewalk
9. “Flexible” plaza space
10. Space for possible information kiosk
11. Sharps container
12. Bike Racks

PROPOSED TREE QTY = 24
EXISTING TREE QTY = 8
A bold, sculptural feature serves as a ribbon of continuity throughout the space.

Maximize tree planting, providing shaded gathering areas.
A bold, sculptural ribbon draws visitors into the plaza.

Simple bus shelters frame the gateway.
Carl Barron Plaza – Proposed Condition

The Green street plaza offers additional outdoor gathering opportunities.

The ribbon color in perspective renderings is a placeholder and will not be the final design.
A combination of flexible and fixed seating offer numerous gathering opportunities and can accommodate larger programmed events.

Platform seating has been introduced for placemaking/performance opportunities.
Color has been added to flexible furnishings to more align with the vibrant artistic community.

The ribbon color in perspective renderings is a placeholder and will not be the final design.
Perforated metal with backlighting has been introduced to accentuate the ribbon structure. Underlighting touch down points provides the illusion the sculpture is floating.
Perforated metal with backlighting has been introduced to accentuate the ribbon structure. Underlighting touch down points provides the illusion the sculpture is floating.
The ribbon alignment was adjusted to create a powerful gateway facing Massachusetts Ave sidewalk, while increasing seating opportunities.

The ribbon color in perspective renderings is a placeholder and will not be the final design.
Ribbon Design - Structural Core

Ribbon with Seating Isometric View

Structural Core with Outer Skin Detail

Structural Core with Outer Skin Section

Lighting Panel Perforated Pattern Elevation
Ribbon Design – Seating Detail

USB and Electrical outlets are under consideration for final design.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Plaza</th>
<th>Current Green Street Plaza area</th>
<th>Total Current</th>
<th>Proposed Plaza</th>
<th>Proposed Green Street Plaza area</th>
<th>Total Proposed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed seats</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brick, steel, stone, wood benches</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td><strong>Movable, flexible seats</strong></td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bus stop seating (benches in shelters)</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>14 or more</td>
<td>14+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>79-83</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>119+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Carl Barron Plaza – Safe, Cabled Seating

21 CHAIR AND PARK CENTRE TABLE - LANDSCAPE FORMS

(2) D-RINGS WELDED FOR SECURITY CABLES
Transit Wayfinding

LEGEND
- Decision Making Point
- Red Line Headhouse
- Red Line Stairs/Elevator
- Proposed Headhouse
- Transit Wayfinding Sign (Shelter)
- Transit Wayfinding Sign (Pole)

Bus Routes
- Route 1
- Route 47
- Route 64
- Route 70
- Route 83/91

Sample wayfinding sign:
Transit Shelters serve bus routes 47, 64, 70 (inbound) & 70, 83, 91 (outbound)
Transit Shelter serves bus routes 64, 70 (inbound) & 83, 91 (outbound)
Transit Shelter serves bus route 70 (outbound)
Working Group Discussion
Public Comment
Next Steps
Thank You, Working Group!
River Street Reconstruction

The scope of the River Street Reconstruction project includes River Street, the bus terminal area at River and Magazine Streets, and Carl Barron Plaza (the public plaza space in front of the Amazon, Cambridge Savings Bank, and Holmes building entrance). The primary objectives of the project are to create a street design on River Street that meets the needs of everybody, address the utility and surface infrastructure needs of River Street, and develop and implement a new design for Carl Barron Plaza.

Project goals

- Provide, to the extent necessary, new sanitary sewer, stormwater and water infrastructure to ensure adequate utility levels of service. Portions of these systems are more than 100 years old and have fallen into a deteriorated condition over time.
- Provide new surface infrastructure that meets the needs of all the various users and does so 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 project aims to create a streetscape design that enables people to travel safely and comfortably by various transportation modes while enhancing the neighborhood context and supporting local businesses.
- Reconstruct Carl Barron Plaza, the significant open space at the heart of Central Square. The Plaza design will include consideration of public art, fixed and movable seating, circulation, accessibility, plantings, and landscaping. The project team is also making sure that public plaza design meets transportation and mobility needs of bus riders and people passing through the plaza.
- Undertake a robust public process that engages all the various stakeholders along the corridor including neighbors, neighborhood groups, businesses and business groups, city standing committees, and other advisory committees.

The project team is doing community outreach and design through 2021. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2021.

The City has budgeted approximately $35 million for construction of the River Street project.

Stay up to date
Click here to sign up for email updates on this project.

Tell us your thoughts
Click here to send the project team a general comment.
THANK YOU!

riverstreet@cambridgema.gov