

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
PEDESTRIAN- BICYCLE-TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

Date, Time & Place:
September 19, 2016, 5:30-7:30
MIT Stata Center, room 124

Attendance

Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit Committee Members

John Attanucci, Elizabeth Bierer, Charlie Fineman, Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Ari Ofsevit, Katherine Rafferty, Robert Ricchi, Helen Rose, Melissa Shakro, Simon Shapiro, Arthur Strang, Saul Tannenbaum, and Andrea Williams

City of Cambridge

Juan Avendano, Greg Hanafin, Cara Seiderman, and Cleo Stoughton (Community Development); Kara Falise, Kathy Watkins, and Catherine Woodbury (Public Works); Patrick Baxter and Dana Benjamin (Traffic, Parking, and Transportation)

Project Overviews

City staff gave overviews of key infrastructure projects currently under construction or recently completed, followed by discussion of each, summarized below.

Pearl Street:

- Pearl Street from Massachusetts Avenue to Granite Street is in the process of being reconstructed. See [project website](#) for details.
- The Committees and City staff discussed community support for and opposition to design elements proposed throughout the design phase of the project, such as removal of daytime parking to accommodate bike lanes. Members asked whether some of the features that were not included in the final design (e.g., bike lanes) could be implemented at a later date if community support for them is demonstrated.
- The impacts of proposed design features on vehicle speed were discussed.
- In keeping with current design standards, members suggested that a future bike lane be a protected bike lane.

Main Street:

- Main Street in Kendall Square was recently reconstructed. A description of the design features included in this project can be found on the [project website](#) and in this [special story](#).
- The Committees and City staff discussed constraints on the design of the Third Street Connector.
- A signal for cyclists heading north on Third Street will be added in early October.

Concord Avenue area:

- This project is part of the Alewife Sewer Separation Project. See [project website](#) for details.
- *Fern Street:*
 - Fern Street is an important link between Danehy Park and the Tobin School. The design for Fern Street includes parking on one side of the street and an artistic, multi-use path, paved with colored materials, on the other side of the street. (Learn more about the Percent-for-Art Program [here](#).) A copy of the streetscape plan can be found on the Concord Avenue [project website](#).
 - The Committees and City staff discussed signals and crossing islands at intersections with nearby streets.
- *Garden Street:*
 - Garden Street is intended to be a shared street for cyclists and vehicles. The exact markings and signage are still to be determined by City staff in coordination with the Bicycle Committee.

Lakeview Avenue:

- Advisory bike lanes were implemented on Lakeview Avenue about a year ago. The Committees and City staff discussed public outreach regarding and community response to the new lane markings.
- The Committees and City staff discussed designs appropriate for streets with different volumes of traffic (e.g., advisory bike lanes on low versus high volume streets). Street designs are selected in part based on the findings from a large body of research. The City plans to do an evaluation of the project.

Scott/Irving:

- Scott and Irving Streets were recently reconstructed. See [project website](#) for details. The design includes advisory bike lanes and parking on both sides of the street.

Huron Avenue:

- The final design for Huron Avenue and adjacent streets was completed in 2013 and construction is now underway. See [project website](#) for details.
- The Committees and City staff discussed the reasons (e.g., on-street parking impacts, constrained widths) for not constructing protected bike lanes on Huron Avenue.
- The Committees and City staff discussed an idea to reroute the Route 75 bus down Huron Avenue (instead of Concord Avenue), as well as the possibility of implementing a queue jump lane on Huron Avenue at Fresh Pond Parkway.

General:

- The Committees proposed a future joint Committee meeting to discuss the tradeoff between on-street parking and other street design features.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm