Purpose of this Presentation

• See the primary and alternate design concepts: Sculptural Ribbon and Complementary Structures
• Ask your questions or clarify design concepts
• Tell us your comments on the Carl Barron Plaza design concept
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
Design Givens for Concepts

- Provide **direct pedestrian routes** through and around plaza (8-foot minimum width)
- Maximize **tree plantings** and green space
- Provide **flexible plaza areas** for a variety of activities
- Site **transit shelters** at all 3 bus stop areas
- Identify a place for **MBTA operators booth** with visibility to all three bus stops and layover area
- Establish **bus boarding areas** (8-foot minimum widths)
- Create a **separated bicycle facility** (6-foot-6-inch minimum width)
- Relocated **Carl Barron Memorial** within the plaza
Site Constrained by Utilities + Subway

- Major public and private utilities
- Shallow utilities (electric, telecommunications)
- Sewer lines
- Red Line subway under Massachusetts Avenue
- Sanitary and drainage lines
Urban Design Guidance

Developed with City's Design staff, Central Sq. Business Improvement District (BID) & Stakeholders Over the Past Six Months:

• Establish Carl Barron plaza 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
• Apply lighting effects and color to enhance vibrancy
• Represent the diversity and artistic culture of the Central Square Community
Design Inspiration
Design Inspiration
Fundamental Elements
Two Refined Concepts

Sculptural Ribbon

Complementary Structures
Sculptural Ribbon

PROPOSED TREE QTY = 24
EXISTING TREE QTY = 8
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Tell us what you think!

What plaza characteristics do you want to see in Carl Barron Plaza?

What seating features are most important?

What informational features are most important?

Love the design!

Thank you for adding more trees!
Next Steps
River Street Reconstruction

Take our survey and tell us how River Street works for you today!

The River Street Reconstruction project will upgrade the sanitary sewers, 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 concurrent design of 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.

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

Click here to provide general comments and feedback.

The Public Input Map is now closed, but you can still access it through the link to see what input was provided on issues and opportunities along River Street and in Carl Barron Plaza. Soon we will be posting a survey to understand how you use River Street today so that we can use that input in our design and also compare to a similar survey after the construction is complete.
Video Presentation

Click here to visit video presentation

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2vJcLngaWs
THANK YOU!

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Additional Slides
Design Inspiration
Design Inspiration
Design Inspiration
Activation
Activation
Activation
Culture
Transit Wayfinding

• Orient people taking buses or the subway to find bus stops and Red Line station entrances

• Work with the MBTA to identify key locations to install transit wayfinding signs

• Broader Central Square wayfinding system done separately
Public Information Kiosk

• Kiosk could display community news and events, cultural destinations, transit and social service information

• Project team is evaluating potential location and feasibility

• Requires continuous programing, operating and maintenance responsibilities
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Sculptural Ribbon
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Complementary Structures
Design Summary

• A robust tree canopy
• Repetitive lighting and/or sculptural elements to unify the design
• Richly textured ground plain to enhance plaza unification
• Combination of fixed and flexible furnishings to accommodate event programming
• Simple, elegant bus shelters that complement the overall plaza design
• Captured the spirit and vibrancy of the Central Square community with a bold expression