June 30, 2026

Planning Board
Utility Infrastructure Planning

Public Works

James Wilcox, City Engineer
jwilcox@camridgema.gov

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DPW
Public Works

Five Year Sidewalk & Street Reconstruction Plan

JULY 2026

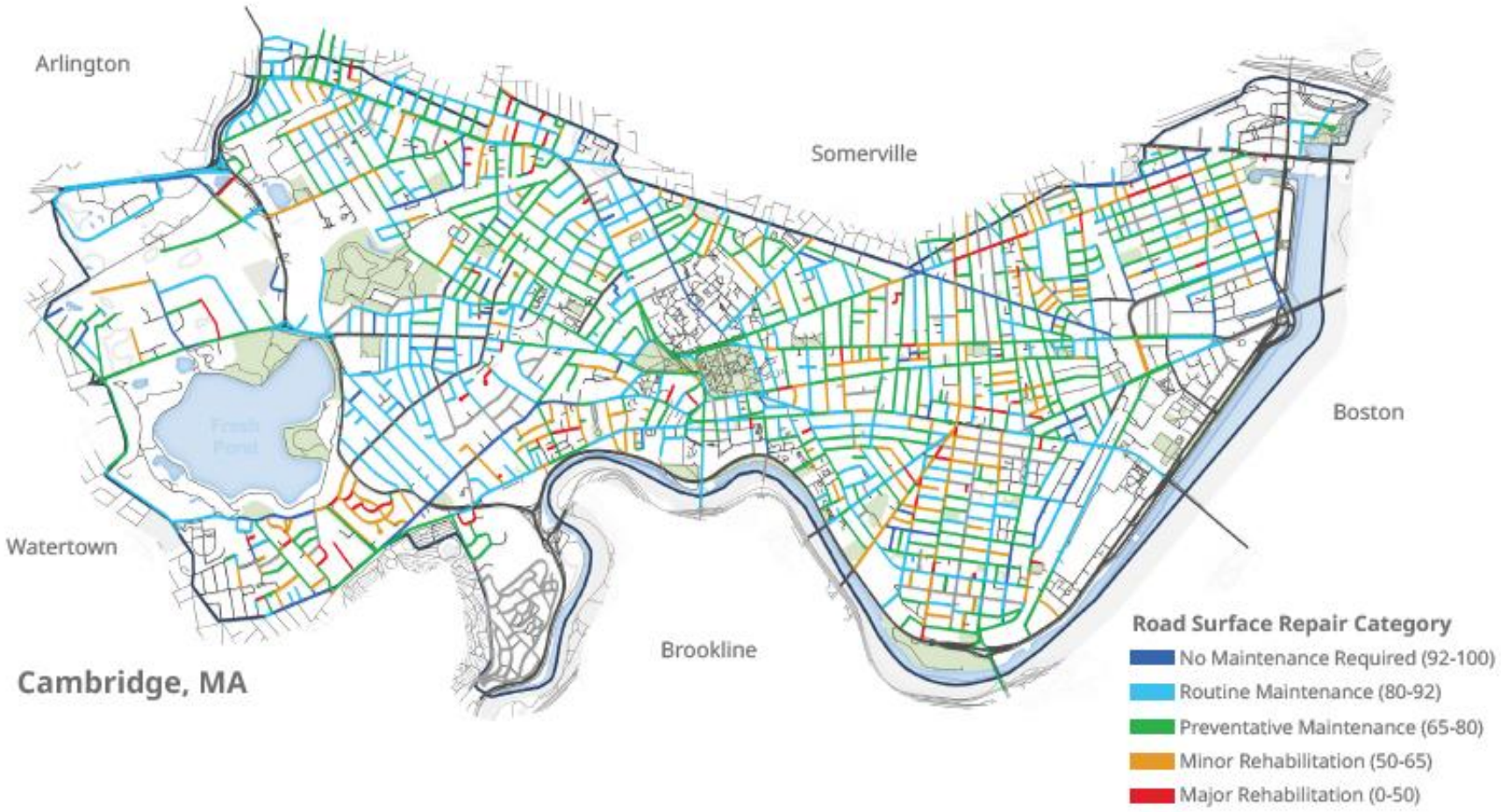
INTRODUCTION | COMPLETE STREETS

Complete Streets are **streets for everyone**. They are designed and operated to enable **safe access for all users**. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation (transit) users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a Complete Street. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They help buses run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

More sidewalks and bicycle facilities are included in Complete Streets, which provide **increased accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists**.

During design and construction of Complete Streets, the City's goal is to communicate projects with neighborhoods, facilitate an integrated design process, minimize disruption to community life, and provide reasonable access for all users during reconstruction.

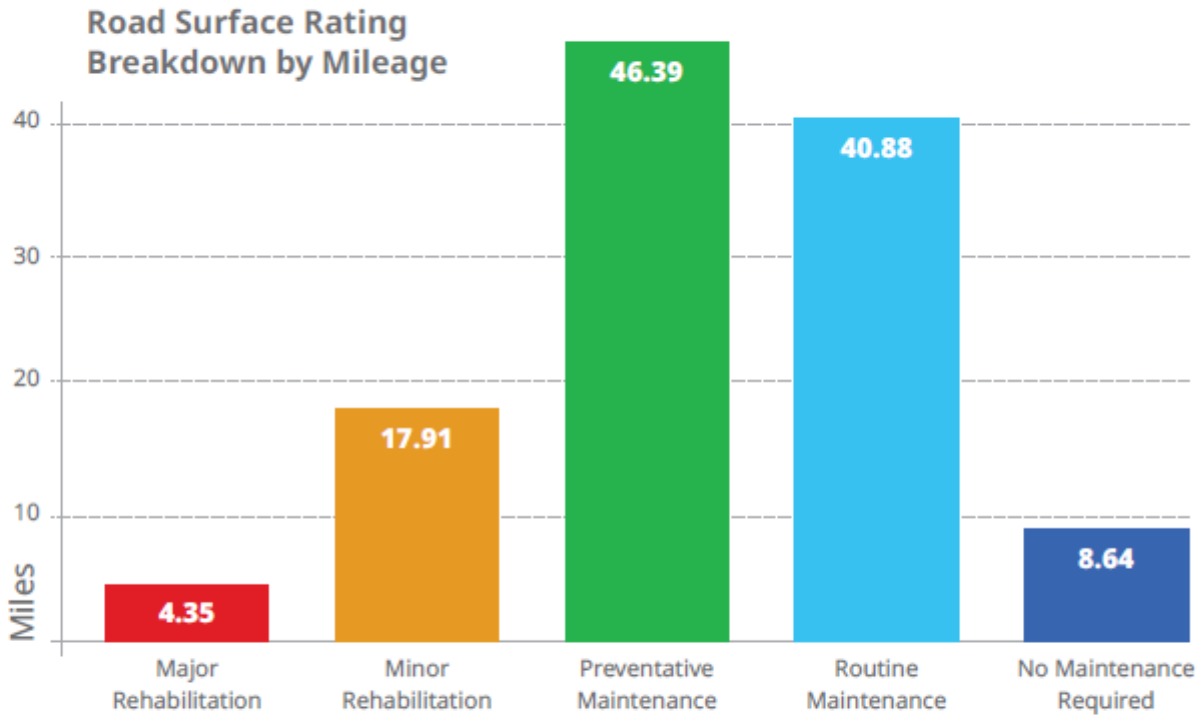
PRIORITIES | PAVEMENT CONDITIONS



During the spring of 2024, a city-wide survey was conducted on a total of 119 miles of roadway. A Road Surface Rating (RSR) was calculated to document the pavement condition of each street.

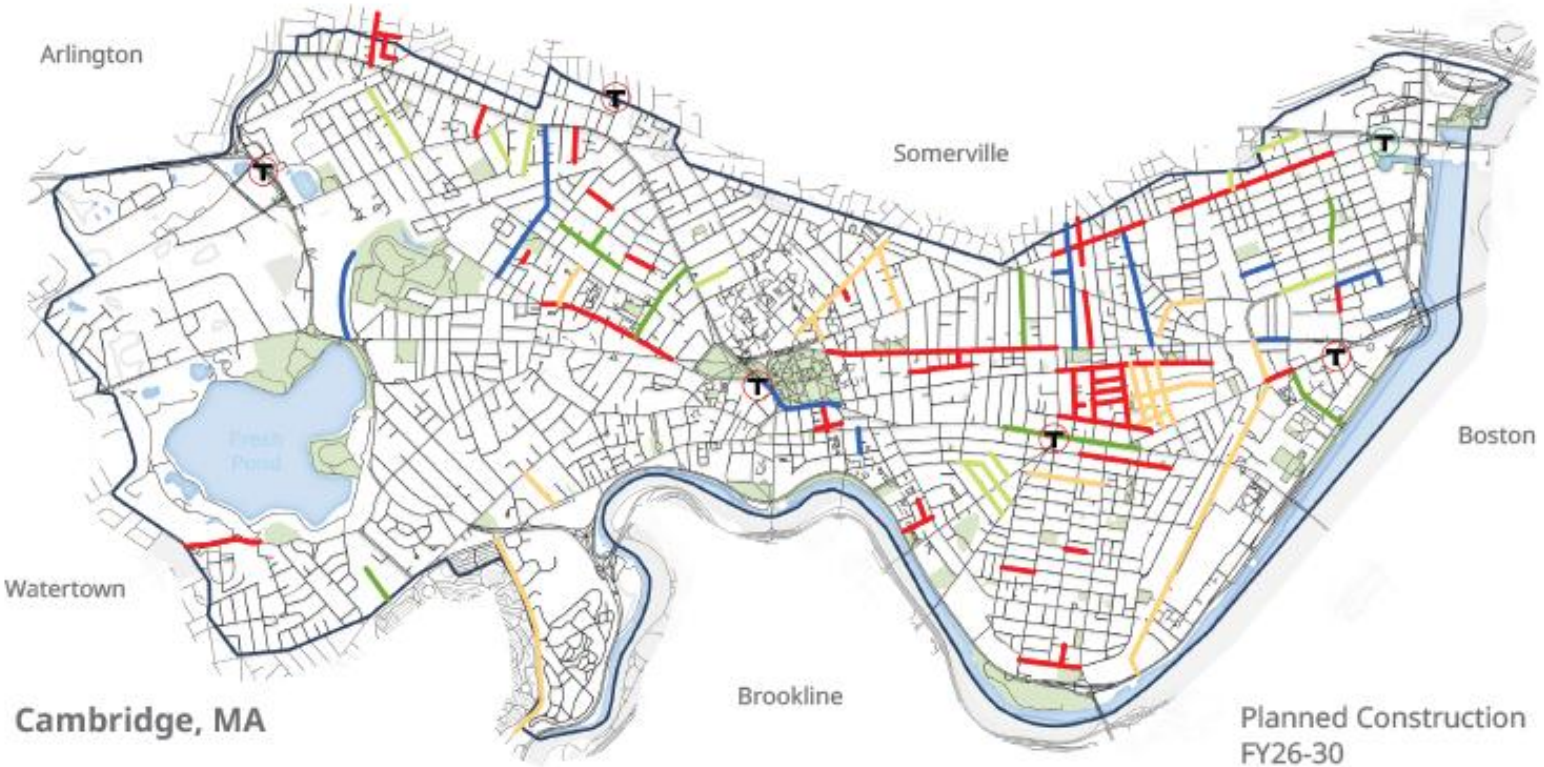
PRIORITIES | PAVEMENT CONDITIONS

76.4
City Network Road Surface Rating (July 2024)



Based on the most recent Road Surface Rating of 118 centerline miles, the City's overall rating is 76.4. The average is holding steady year to year.

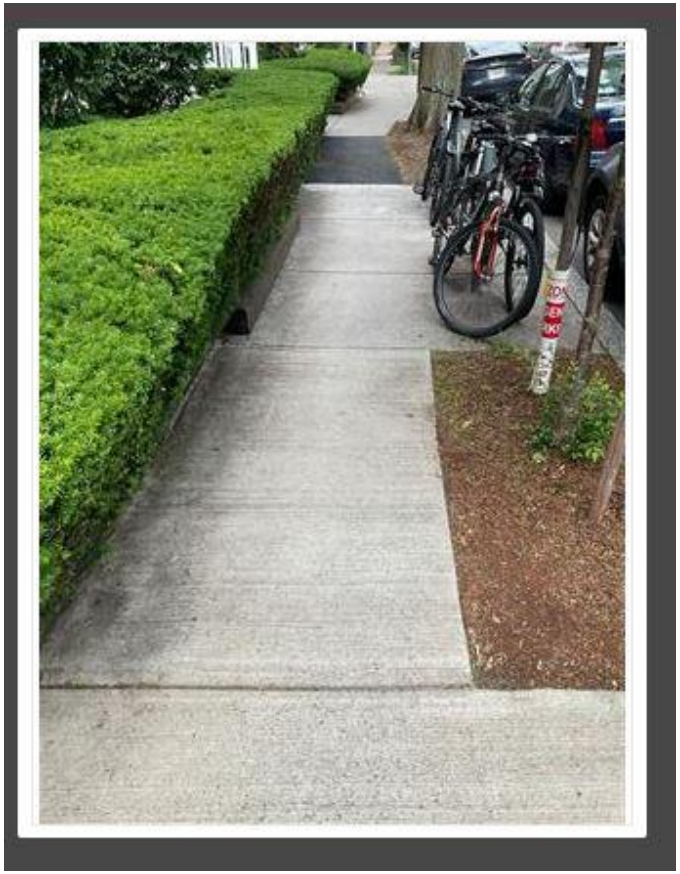
5 YEAR PLAN | PLANNED CONSTRUCTION



For an interactive construction map, visit:
www.cambridgema.gov/departments/publicworks/cityprojects/map

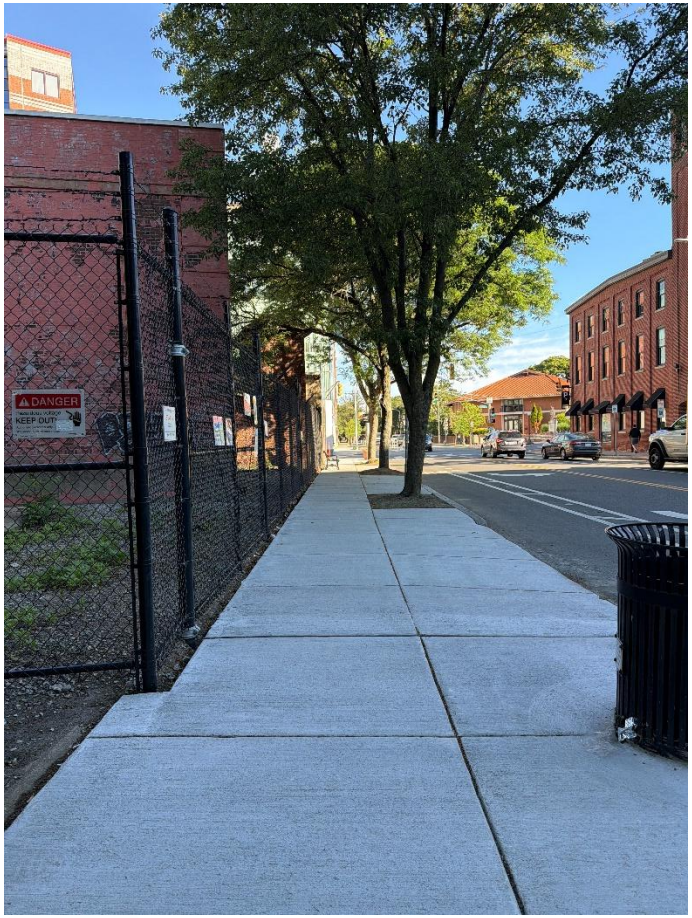
Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

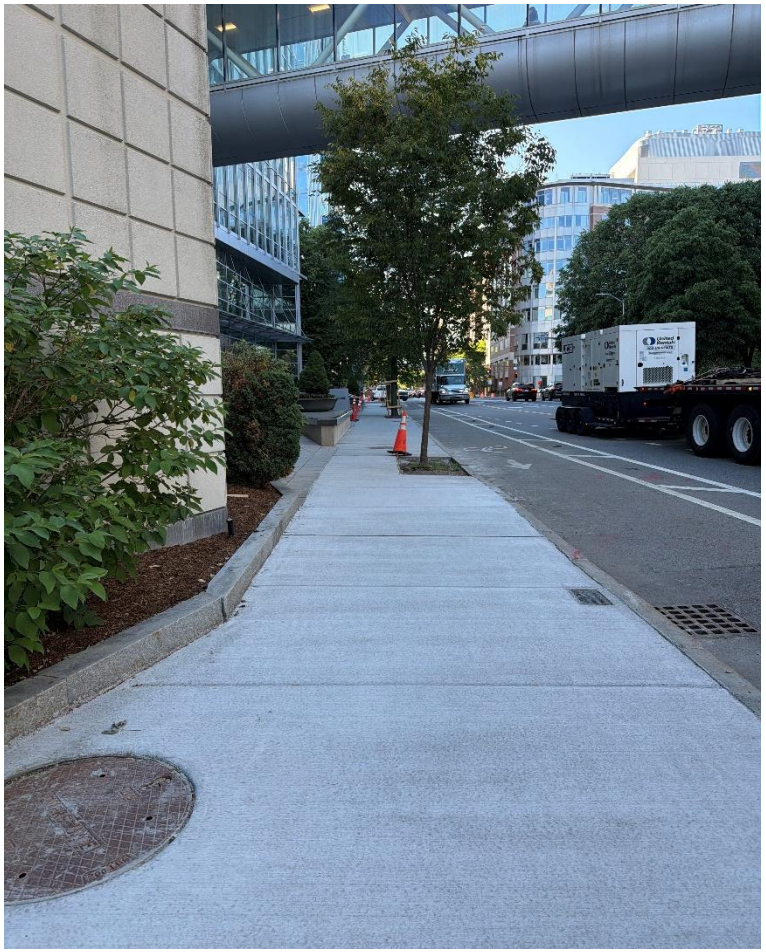
- City-wide inventory of City owned public right of ways
- All sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks
- Assessed condition based on PROWAG criteria
- Work completed during the Summer of 2024
- Did not include State right of ways and private ways



CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC THE WORKS

Sidewalk maintenance work at Hampshire St and Broadway





CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC THE WORKS

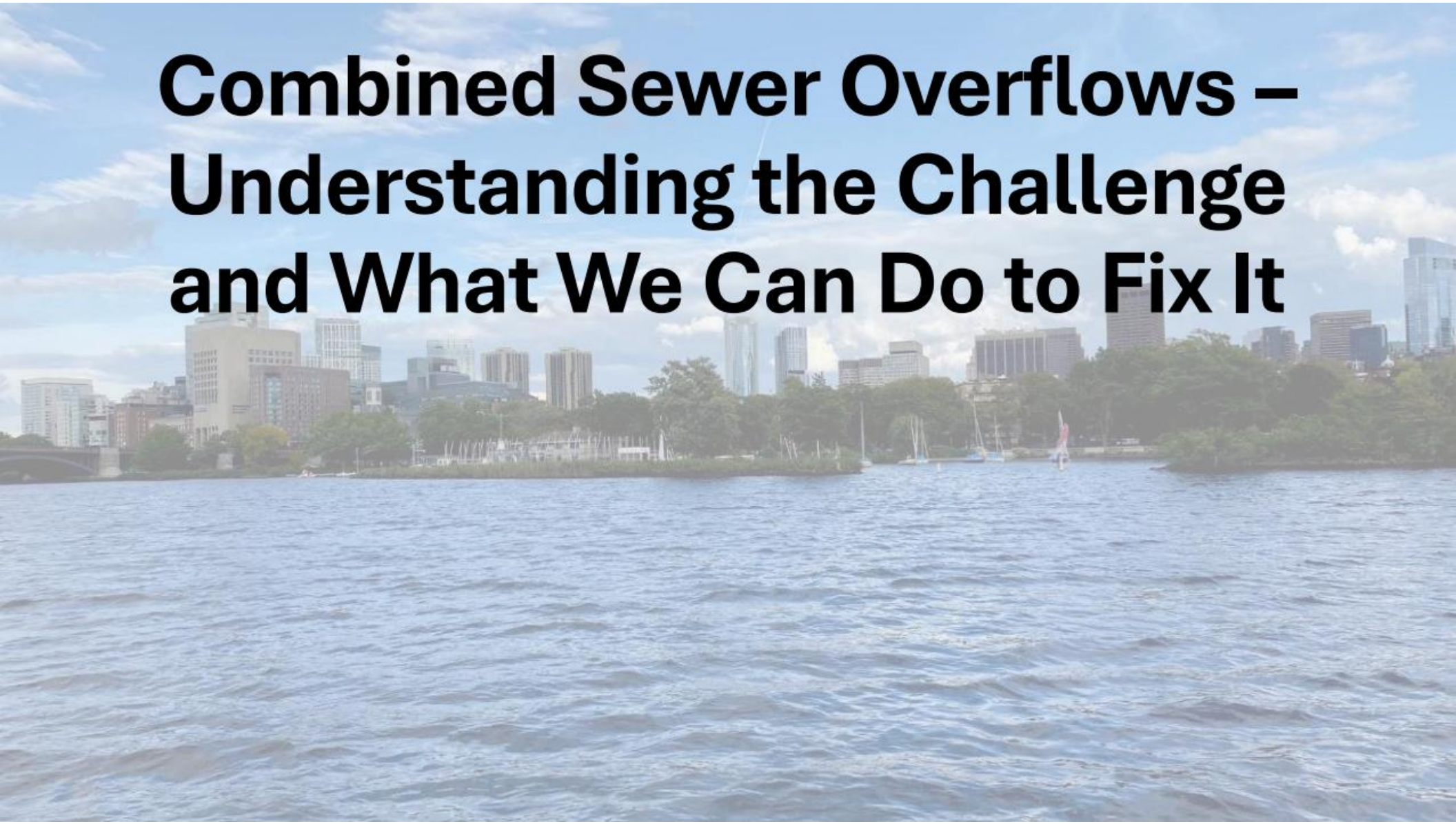
Fairmont Avenue – Shared Street

- Constructed as part of the River St. Project
- Existing conditions did not allow for compliant sidewalks on either side of street
- All users share the right of way space

- Provides accessible path for pedestrians
- Asphalt coating to reflect heat and indicate this space is different
- Provides some on-street parking
- 10 mph speed limit
- Enhanced green space and preservation of existing trees

Ten Year Sewer and Drain Infrastructure Plan

City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works


Combined Sewer Overflows –
Understanding the Challenge
and What We Can Do to Fix It

Project Partners

City of Somerville

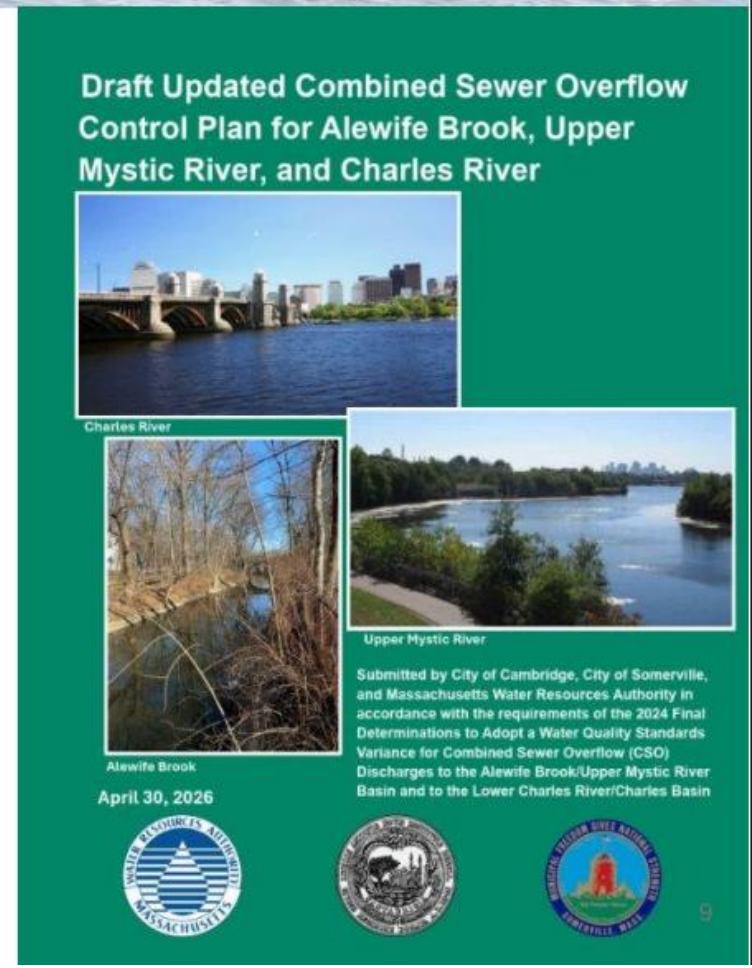
City of Cambridge

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)

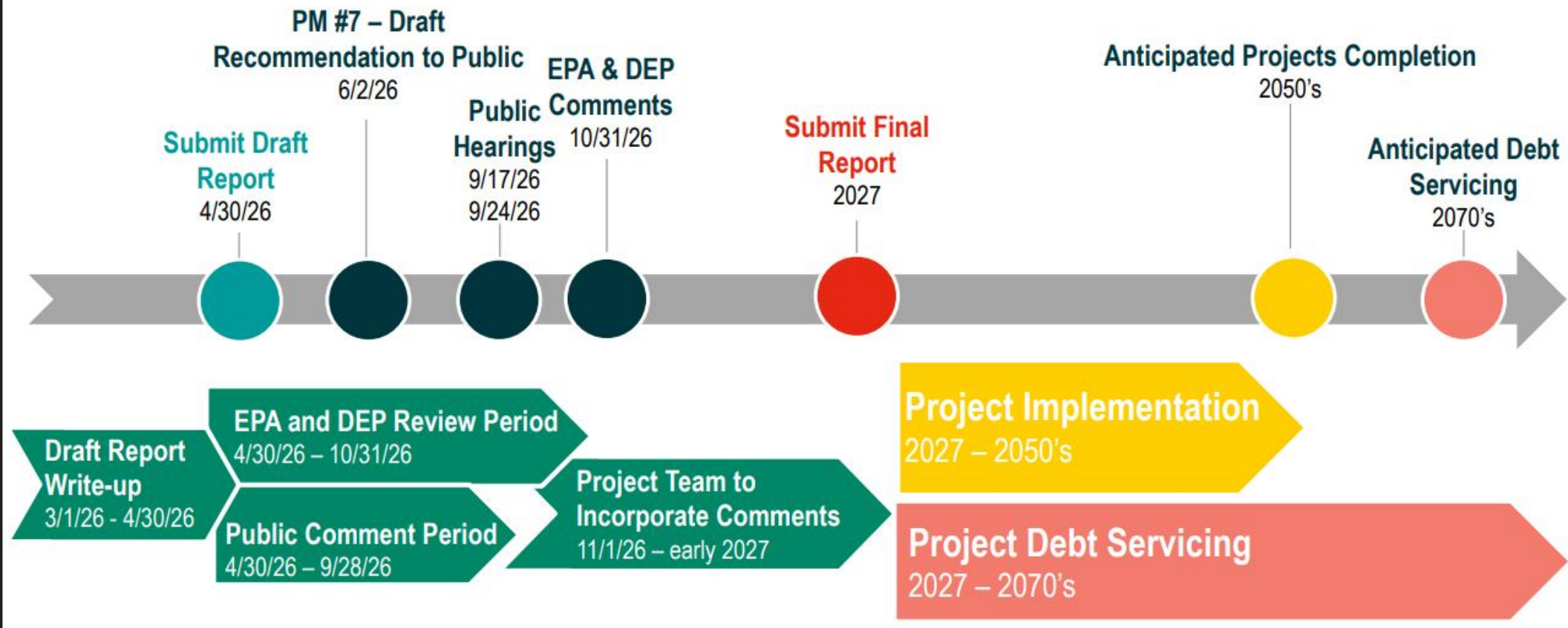
https://voice.somervillema.gov/joint-cso-planning

The Draft Plan at a Glance

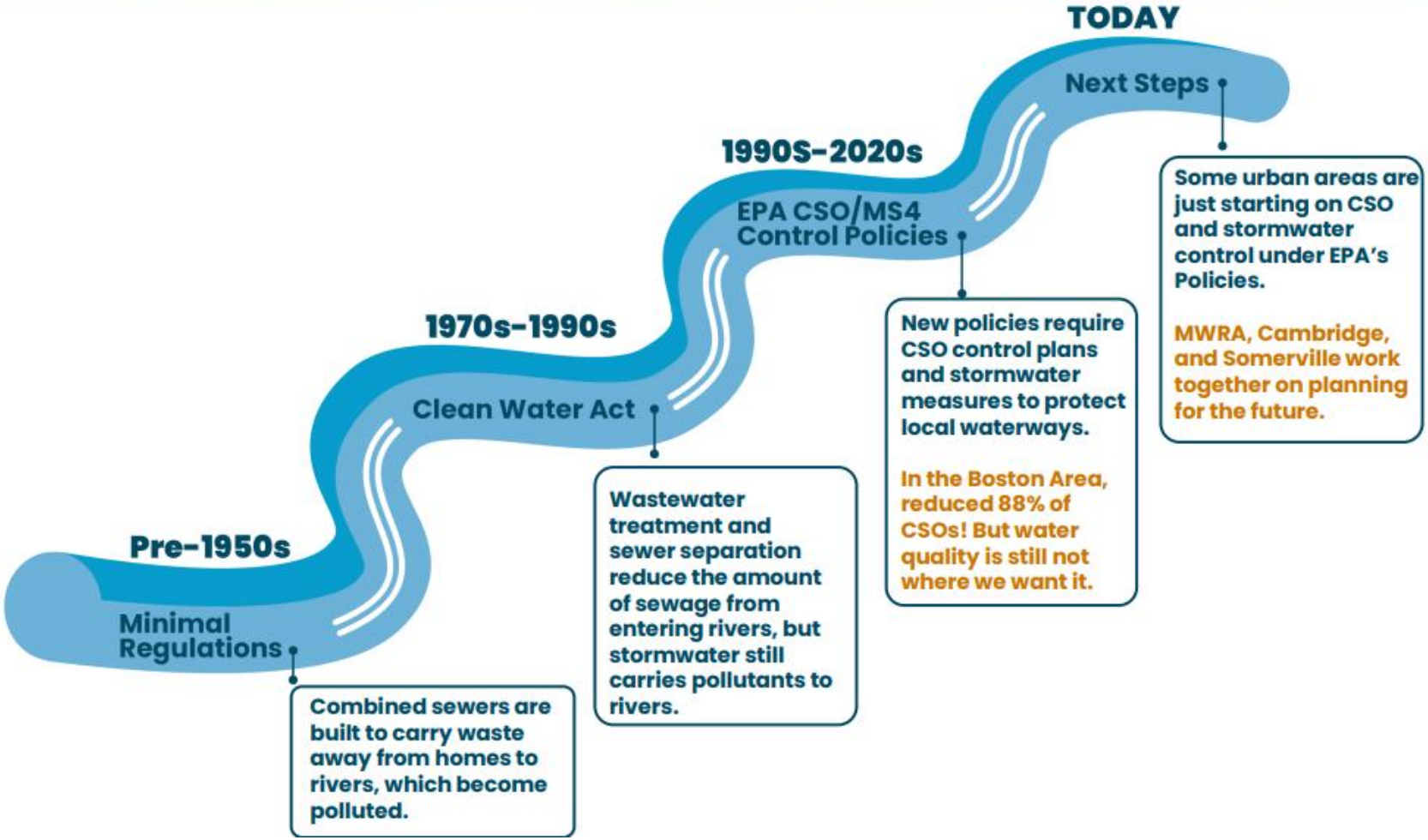
- Accounts for increased precipitation due to climate change
- Eliminates CSOs in 2050 Typical Year
- Substantially reduces CSOs in larger storms
- Incorporates green stormwater infrastructure
- Recognizes impacts of potential projects, including affordability



Introduction to the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan



The History of Stormwater and Sewage Control



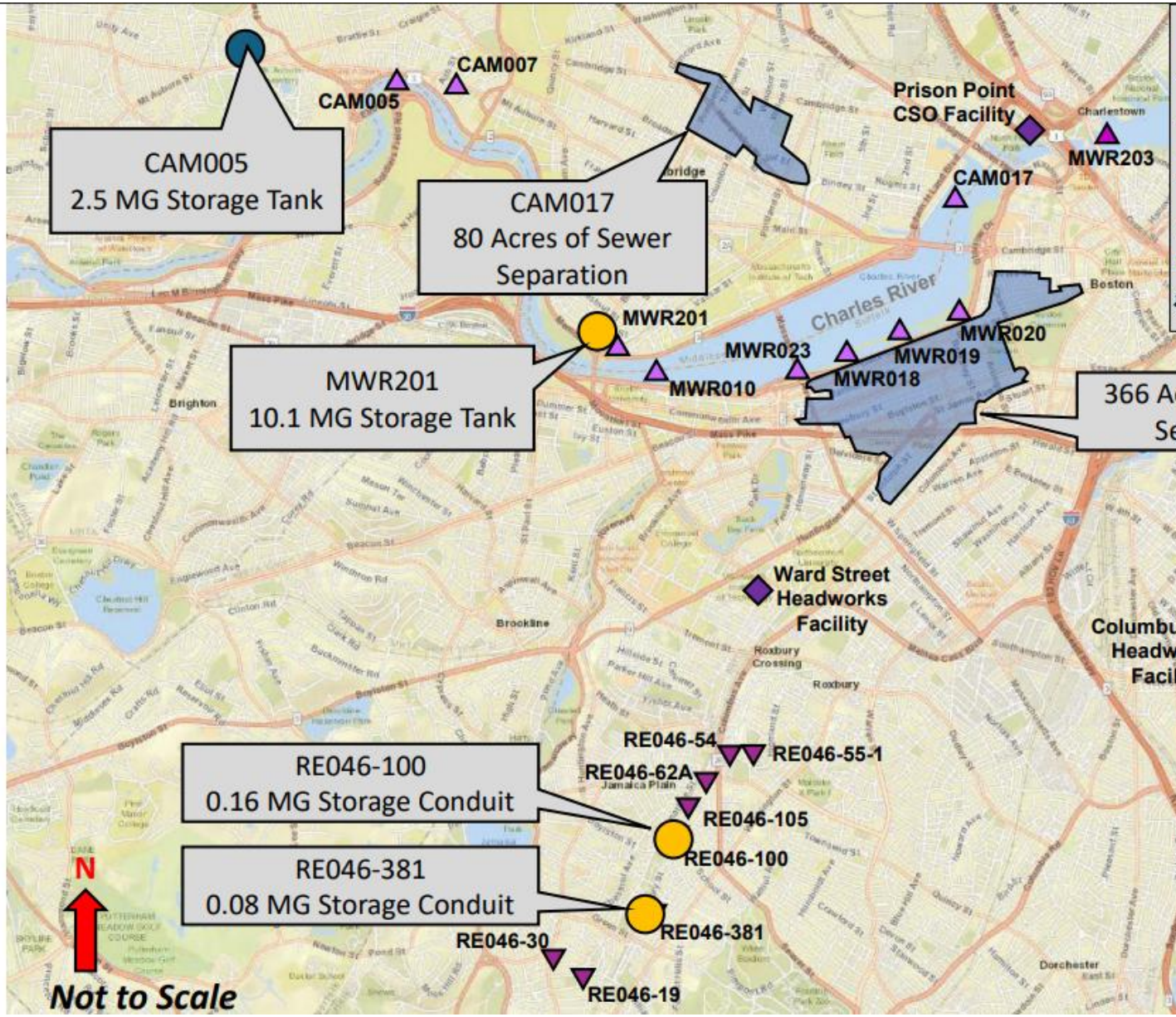
There are Multiple Sources of Pollution

Pollutants affect water quality, environmental health, and public health. **CSOs are one source** of those pollutants.

Dry weather (perpetual)	**Stormwater** (every time it rains)	**CSOs** (large, intense storms)
• Illicit sewer connections • Leaky sewer pipes • Wildlife and dog excrement • Decomposing leaves	• Pathogens (bacteria, viruses) • Oil and grease • Nutrients (Phosphorus, Nitrogen) • Trash • Others	• Pathogens (bacteria, viruses) • Oil and grease • Trash • Nutrients (Phosphorus, Nitrogen) • Pharmaceuticals • Industrial waste • Others

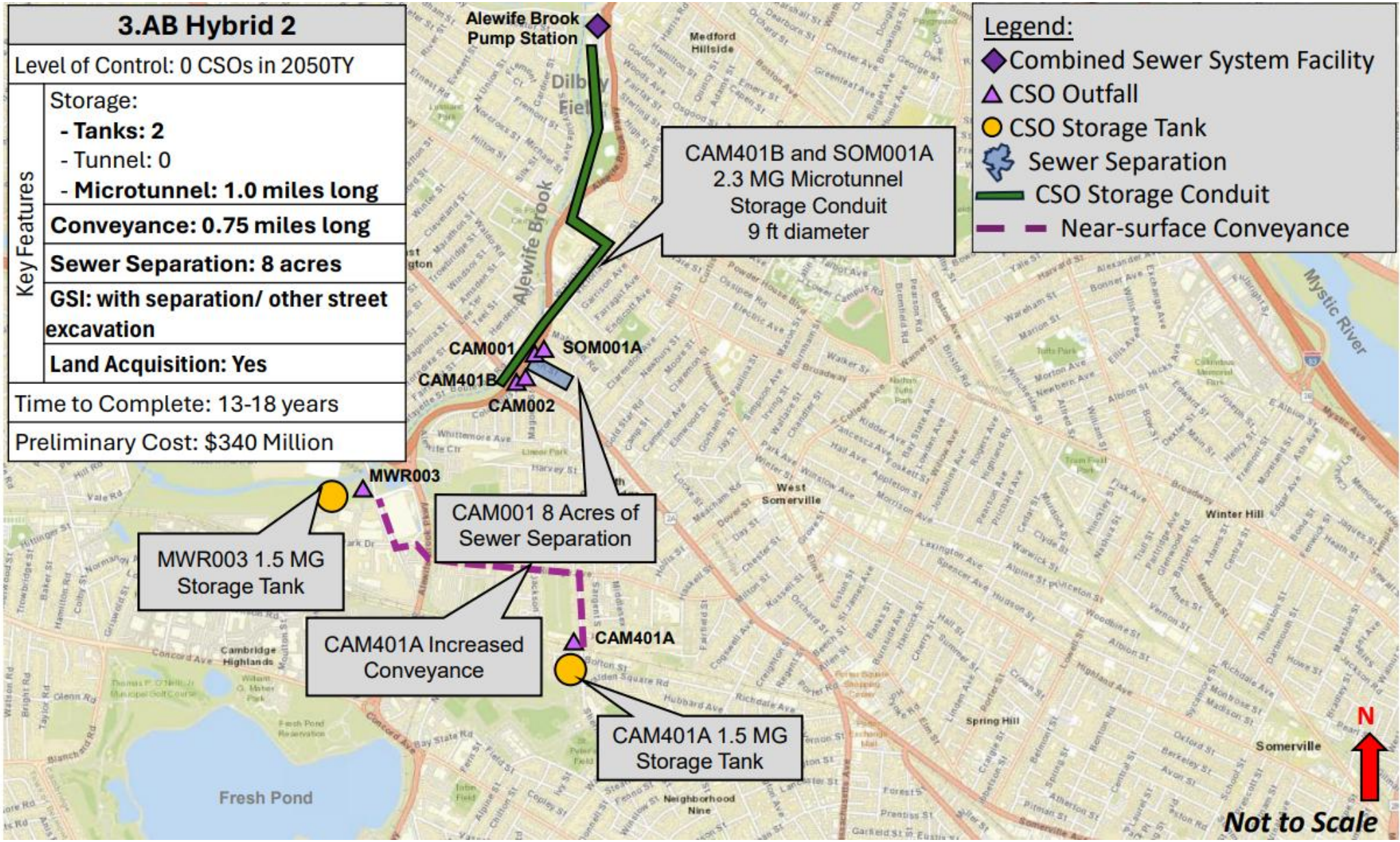
Data shows **eliminating CSO would not** make waterbodies fully swimmable or fishable.


Charles River
Draft Recommend Alternative



4.CR Hybrid 3	
Level of Control: 0 CSOs in 2050TY	
Key Features	Storage: **- Tanks: 2** - Tunnel: 0 - Microtunnel: 0 **- Conduits: 2**
	Sewer Separation: 446 acres
	GSI: with separation/ other street excavation
	Land Acquisition: Yes
Time to Complete: 28-33 years	
Preliminary Cost: $690 Million	


Alewife Brook
Draft Recommended Alternative


3.AB Hybrid 2
Level of Control: 0 CSOs in 2050TY
Key Features
Storage:
- Tanks: 2
- Tunnel: 0
- Microtunnel: 1.0 miles long
Conveyance: 0.75 miles long
Sewer Separation: 8 acres
GSI: with separation/ other street excavation
Land Acquisition: Yes
Time to Complete: 13-18 years
Preliminary Cost: $340 Million
Alewife Brook Pump Station
CAM401B and SOM001A 2.3 MG Microtunnel Storage Conduit 9 ft diameter
CAM001
SOM001A
CAM401B
CAM002
MWR003
MWR003 1.5 MG Storage Tank
CAM001 8 Acres of Sewer Separation
CAM401A Increased Conveyance
CAM401A
CAM401A 1.5 MG Storage Tank
Legend:
Combined Sewer System Facility
CSO Outfall
CSO Storage Tank
Sewer Separation
CSO Storage Conduit
Near-surface Conveyance
Alewife Brook
Mystic River
Fresh Pond
Somerville
West Somerville
Winter Hill
Spring Hill
Cambridge Highlands
Neighborhood Nine
N
Not to Scale

Summary of Draft Recommendations

Receiving Waterbody	Alternative Name	Level of Control	Cost	Duration
Alewife Brook	3.AB Hybrid 2	0 CSOs in 2050 TY	$340M	13-18 years
Upper Mystic	2.MR Hybrid 1	0 CSOs in 2050 TY	$260M	5-7 years
Charles River	4.CR Hybrid 3	0 CSOs in 2050 TY	$690M	28-33 years
		Total Cost	**$1.29B**	

Where can you officially comment on the Draft Plan?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attend the Public Hearings:

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, 6 p.m.

Public comments will be accepted from now until September 30, 2026

Submit Comments in the Online Portal:

Comments can be submitted to the project team electronically using our online portal:

https://us.planengage.com/updatedcsocontrolplan/page/home

Submit Comments by Email:

Comments can be emailed to the project team:

UpdatedCSOControlPlan@aecom.com

Submit Comments by Mail:

Electronic comments are preferred, however written comments addressed to "Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Partners" can be mailed to the following address:

MWRA
Attn: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

THE SHERMAN STREET TANK CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Sherman Street CSO Tank: Why here?

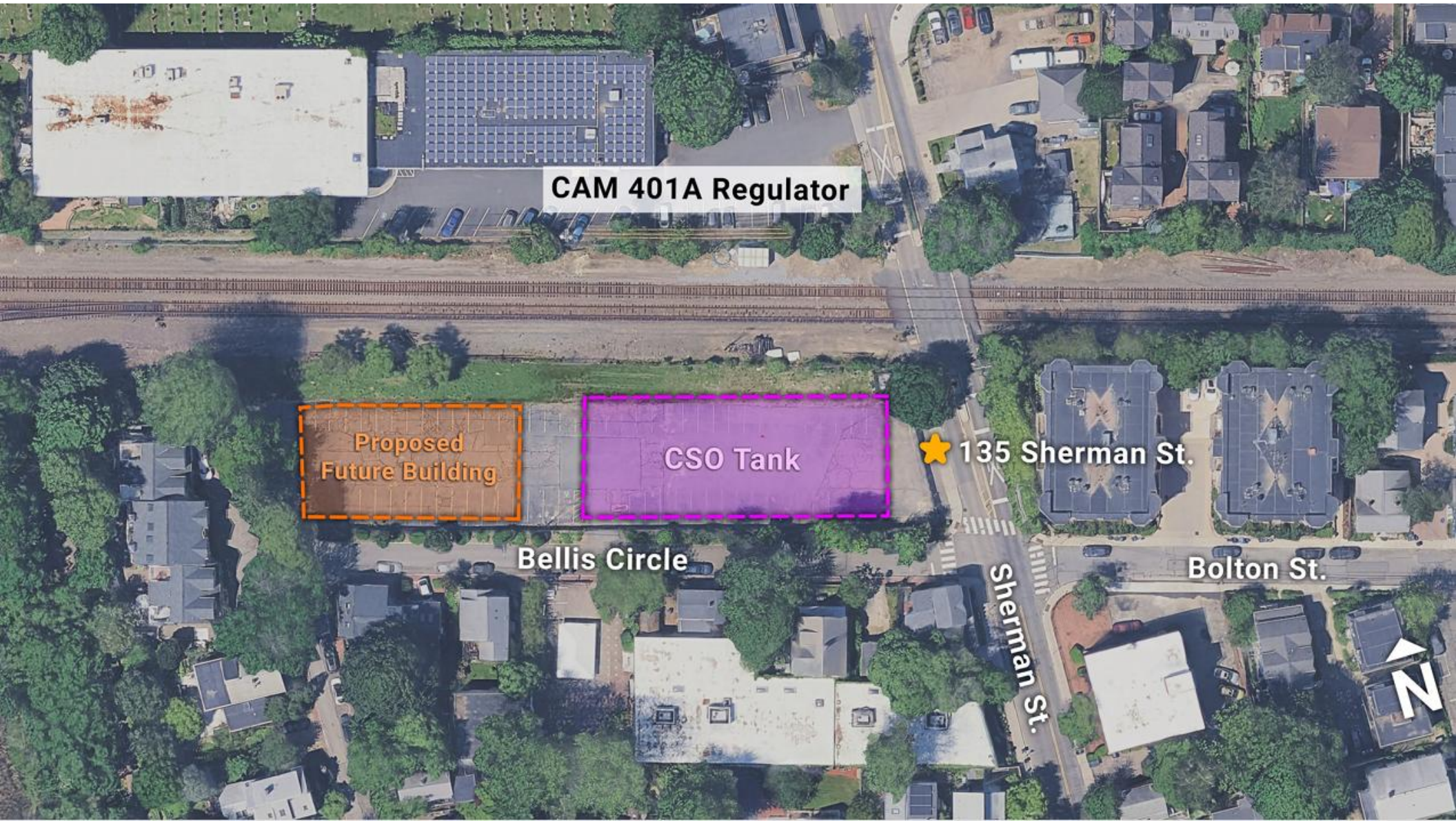
- City bought this space in 2023 for future municipal use.
- Understood the value of the location for its proximity to the CAM401A regulator.
- Since that time, the CSO plan evolved and we are prioritizing work for our most active outfall to make environmental improvements faster.

Orientation to 135 Sherman St.

Preliminary Design Underway – Tank Details

- Underground on the east side of the parcel
- Temporary storage for 2,100,000 gallons of CSO
- Concrete structure – various methods being considered
- 170’ long by 70’ wide concept footprint

- Site restored as a paved lot and new sidewalk on Bellis Circle
- Phased for future a building with parking lot
- Approximate cost ~ $36 Million


CAM 401A Regulator
Proposed Future Building
CSO Tank
135 Sherman St.
Bellis Circle
Sherman St.
Bolton St.
N

Above-Ground Features


*Concept, only. Not final design.


*Concept, only. Not final design.

A facility will be constructed

- Office space
- Equipment and vehicle storage
- Housing: 75-feet-height maximum

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Port Infrastructure Improvements Project

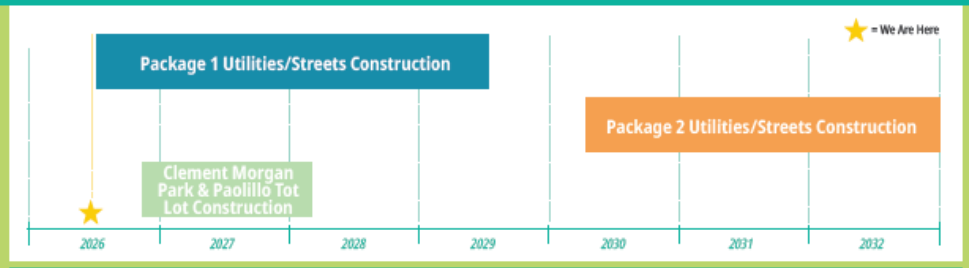
THE WORKS — CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

GIOIOSO CONSTRUCTION EST. 1962

Project Timeline

Not all streets will be under construction at once. Residents will receive notification in advance of major construction activities.

June 2026



Underground Construction Includes:

- Replacing & rehabilitating sanitary sewer & storm drain systems
- Replacing storm drain pipes & structures
- Replacing water main & services

Street Construction Includes:

- Reconstructing sidewalks
- Repaving roadway
- Installing green stormwater infrastructure & planting trees
- Improving lighting

The Port neighborhood floods, and it is getting worse because of more frequent and intense rainstorms. This project will improve sewer and drainage pipes to reduce flooding and sewer backups in the neighborhood.

Sign up for construction updates by scanning the QR code

New Electric Vehicle Charging Locations Coming to the Port!

The City is proposing to install Level-2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers at these locations. The City has received requests for curbside EV charging in this area. This will provide residents without off-street parking a place to charge.

Visit Program Website

Learn more about the program, give feedback, and sign up for email updates by visiting:
camb.ma/evcharging

The City is planning to install 4 Level-2 curbside charging ports on **Columbia St, at Clement Morgan Park.** See red line above.

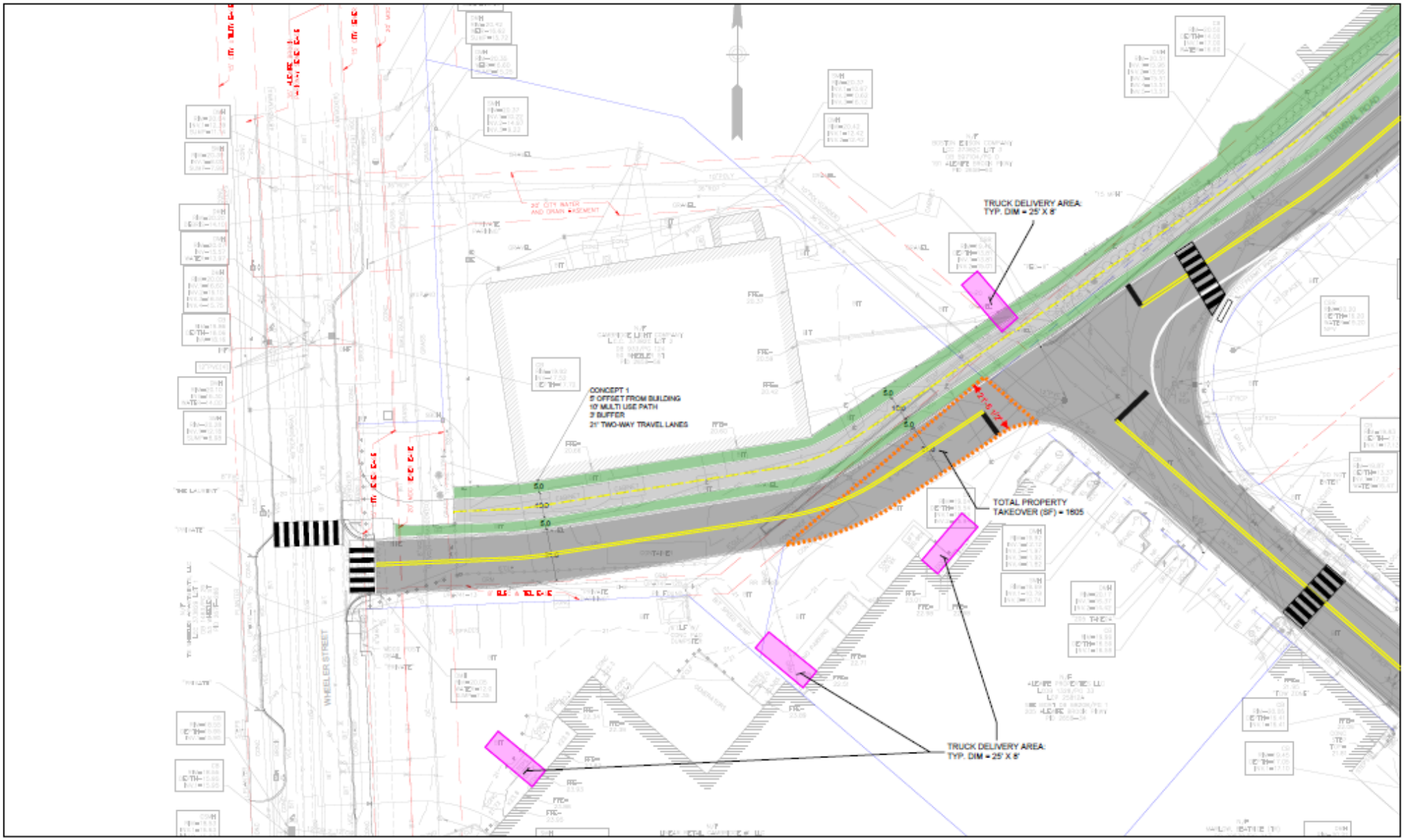
The City is planning to install 4 Level-2 curbside charging ports on **Harvard St, at Greene Rose Heritage Park.** See red line above.

Questions? Contact Charlie Creagh:
Ccreagh@cambridgema.gov

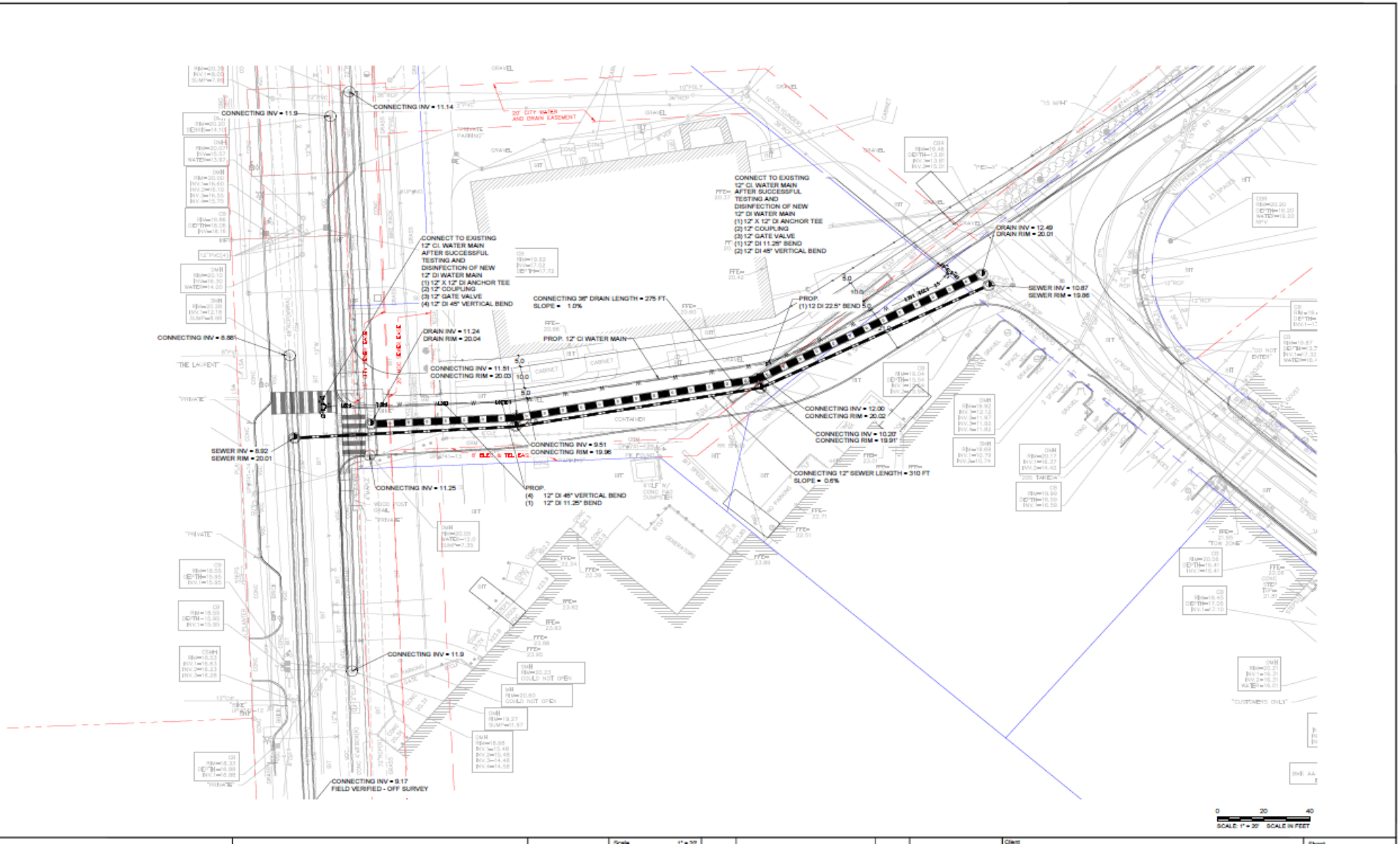
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE | Department of Transportation | DPW Public Works

Terminal Road Extension

Terminal Road Extension



Terminal Road Extension



Proposed Modifications to Project Criteria Requiring Stormwater Management

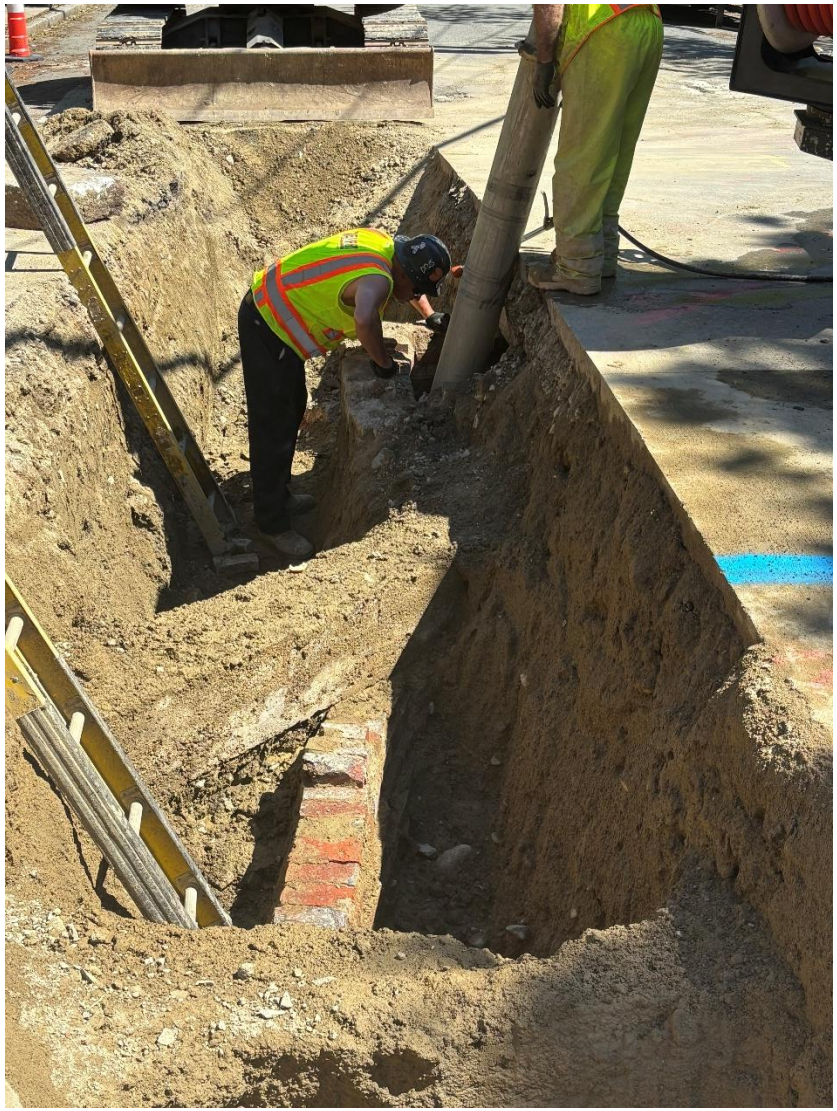
Project Category	Project Thresholds	Stormwater Requirements
Stormwater Control Permit	Activities that meet *one or more* of the following criteria shall require a Stormwater Control Permit: (i) disturb one (1) or more acres of land, (ii) exceeds fifty thousand (50,000) square feet of Gross Floor Area, (iii) has project parcels(s) equal to or greater than 20,000 sq ft in size, (iv) require a New Construction Building Permit from the City of Cambridge on a project parcel(s) equal to or greater than 10,000 sq ft in size, (v) provide or maintain parking for five (5) or more vehicles, (vi) require a Project Review Special Permit from the Planning Board, or (vii) in the opinion of the City Engineer may result in an adverse impact of the municipal Sewer, Combined Sewer, Stormwater Drainage Systems or Water Resources.	Fully meet Cambridge Stormwater Management Standards for water quantity and water quality as outlined in the June 2021 Supplemental Directive.
Building Permit with Stormwater Site Plan Review	Activities that meet *one or more* of the following criteria shall require a Building Permit with Stormwater Site Plan Review: (i) have a project parcel(s) equal to or greater than 5,000 sq ft in size, (ii) include a new building addition greater than 150 square feet, or (iii) increase impervious surface on the project parcel outside of any new building addition.	Meet Cambridge Stormwater Management Standards for water quantity and water quality as outlined in the June 2021 Supplemental Directive to the maximum extent practicable. At minimum, provide at least 1 inch of retention on-site and mitigate increase in phosphorus load.
Small Projects	Activities that meet *all* of the following criteria do not require stormwater management: (i) have a project parcel(s) less than 5,000 sq ft in size, (ii) no new building addition greater than 150 square feet, and (iii) no increase in impervious surface on the project parcel outside of any new building addition.	No requirements under Cambridge regulations.

Why are these changes needed?

- Stormwater treatment to meet EPA requirements
- Consistency with zoning changes
- Clarity on permits for small projects

You never know what you are going to find!

Water main construction Sciarappa at Otis



You never know what you are going to find!

Water main construction Sciarappa at Otis

1873 annual report

104 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

RESERVOIRS.

LOCATED IN WARD ONE.

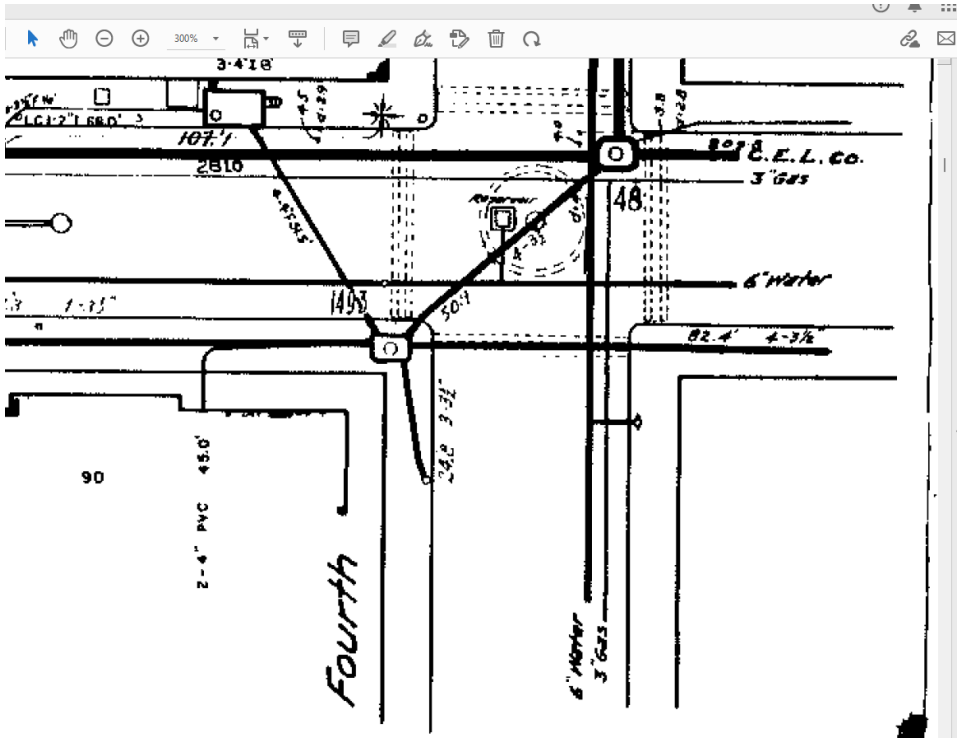
Bow Street, centre of Square.
Brighton Street, corner Eliot.
Cambridge Street, nearly opposite Sumner.
College Yard.
Garden Street, north end Appian Way.
Junction Garden Street and Concord Avenue, opposite Arsenal.
Kirkland Street, opposite Oxford.
Main Street, corner Dana.
Mount Auburn Street, opp. Orthodox Church.
Prescott Street, near J. D. Green's barn.
Square, front of house of late Dr. Holmes.

LOCATED IN WARD TWO.

Austin Street, between Temple and Inman.
Broadway, head of Tremont.
Broadway, corner Windsor.
Cambridge Street, corner Webster Ave.
Clark Street, corner Hampshire.
Essex Street, corner Austin.
Harvard Street, opp. Burial-ground
Harvard Street, head of Cherry.
Harvard Street, corner Davis.
Harvard Street, corner Prospect.
Main Street, junction Broadway.
Norfolk Street, midway between Broadway and Hampshire.
Prospect Street, 175 feet north of Broadway.
Washington Street, corner Cherry.

LOCATED IN WARD THREE.

Cambridge Street, 70 feet east of Third.
Gore Street, corner North Third.
Junction Bridge and Gore Streets.
New England Glass Co.'s Yard.
Otis Street, corner Fourth.
Revere Sugar Refinery Yard.
South Sixth Street, corner Spring.
Thorndike Street, corner Third.
Under N. England Glass Co.'s Building.
Under Lowell R. R. Machine Shop.



Before the introduction of piped water in the 1850s the town and city of Cambridge constructed wood and brick reservoirs under major intersections to provide water for firefighting. These were essentially large wells that depended on ground water to provide a source for the hand pumping engines of the day.

CONCLUSION

Goal – infrastructure that serves **residents and businesses** today and in the future.
Resiliency of new development is a critical piece of this work.