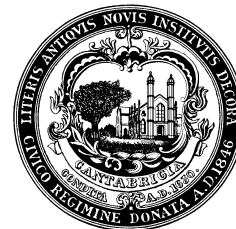


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



Avril dePagter
Chair

Mary Devlin
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff
Gary Dmytryk
Jerry Friedman
Stelios Gragoudas
Valerie Hammond
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Jackie Jones
Philibert Kongtcheu
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus
Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

**The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Approval of July 14 Minutes | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| <i>See page 4 of agenda packet</i> | | |
| 4. Update on Brattle St. Safety Improvement Plan (& Bike Lanes) | 30 min. | Andreas Wolfe |
| <i>See page 8 of agenda packet</i> | | |
| 5. Discussion on Member Interests | 30 min. | CCPD Board |
| 6. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 7. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 8. Old Business | 3 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 9. New Business | 3 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 10. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| <i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | | |

CART/closed captioning will be provided for this meeting

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform. Additionally, you may stream CART in a separate URL at <http://bit.ly/CCPDCART>
(captions will not appear until the meeting has started)

The City of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate, including on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.

The next CCPD meeting will be held online on Thursday, November 10

Members of the public: See instructions on following pages on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom

Instructions for Joining the October 13, 2022 CCPD Meeting as a Member of the Public

Join Online:

Registration is required in order to view the meeting or to participate in public comment.

Register online at

https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/2016650017480/WN_InKCgm1OTiedeA5L-GBJ5A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information regarding Zoom technology visit:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/citycouncil/zoomonlinemeetinginstructions>

Join by Phone:

If you do not have access to the internet, you may also call into the meeting using a phone by dialing any of the following numbers and entering the Webinar ID (registration is not required). For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location:

+1 309 205 3325

+1 312 626 6799

+1 646 931 3860

+1 929 436 2866

+1 301 715 8592

+1 669 900 6833

+1 719 359 4580

+1 253 215 8782

+1 346 248 7799

+1 386 347 5053

+1 564 217 2000

+1 669 444 9171

When prompted, enter the webinar ID: **828 9026 6104**

NOTE: your microphone will be automatically muted until you are called on to speak during the public comment period of the meeting. See instructions on the following page for how to “raise your hand” in order to indicate that you would like to speak during the public comment period on the agenda.

Instructions for Providing Public Comment During CCPD Meetings via Zoom

Anyone wishing to address the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) during the Public Comment section of the agenda may indicate that by "raising their hand" virtually within the Zoom platform. The host (CCPD staff) will call on members of the public to speak in the order in which their hands were raised. Please note that while you may raise your hand at any point during the meeting, you will not be called on to speak until the Public Comment period of the meeting.

To raise your hand:

- On a Mac or PC:
 - Click "raise hand" in the webinar control panel
 - Alternatively, you may use the keyboard shortcut to raise and lower your hand:
 - Windows: press "Alt+Y"
 - Mac: press "Option+Y"
 - When you are called on by the host to speak, you will be prompted to unmute your microphone (you must unmute yourself, as the host does not have the ability to unmute individuals).
 - After you have spoken or once your 3 minutes are up, your microphone will be muted by the host
- If you are calling in by phone:
 - Press *9 to raise and lower your hand
 - When you are called on to speak during the public comment period, you will need to press *6 to unmute yourself (press it again to mute yourself)
 - Note: your phone number will be visible to only the host of the meeting (CCPD staff). Because your name will not be displayed, we will call on you when it's your turn to comment by using the last four (4) numbers of your phone number to identify you. For example, "The person calling in from the number ending in ####, you may now provide public comment."
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Once they have the floor, members of the public are asked to identify themselves, and each speaker is limited to not more than three (3) minutes. Although the public comments should, whenever possible, address one or more items on the agenda for that particular meeting, if time permits, the Chair may allow a speaker to comment on matters that may not directly address an item on the agenda, but do concern the Commission.

Thank you for your patience as we work together to make virtual meetings accessible for everyone!

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Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, July 14, 2022 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Mary Devlin, Gary Dmytryk, Jerry Friedman, Stelios Gragoudas, Valerie Hammond, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Jackie Jones, and Phil Kongtcheu

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Guest speakers: Tanya Ford and Charlie Marquardt of the Cambridge Election Commission

Minutes:

The June 9, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously

Updates from the Election Commission:

Overview

- Tanya Ford, Executive Director, and Charlie Marquardt, Commissioner, of the Cambridge Election Commission (the Commission) provided updates and spoke about accessibility issues around elections.
- The goal of the Commission is to encourage everyone who is eligible to vote to vote. They also ensure that everybody's vote is counted.
- Tanya said that they work closely with Rachel and Kate in terms of reviewing procedures, surveying polling locations, ensuring accessible ballot drop boxes, etc. They want to be sure people with and without disabilities can vote and don't get turned off from voting, and they look forward to collaborating with CCPD in order to do that.

Changes to Precincts

- One of the big changes this election season is that changes captured by the biannual census are requiring some precincts to be redrawn. The Commission is required to rebalance Cambridge precincts to make sure that the population of each is within 5% of one another. This regulation applies to whole population in each region, not just voters. Cambridge has grown significantly, especially North and East Cambridge. The Commission had to move a lot of precinct borders around, meaning that some residents were moved to different precincts. This was further complicated by the state moving their precinct borders around first; Cambridge had to adapt to their newly redrawn precincts.
- In Cambridge, the maximum allowable precinct size is 3,800 residents; because one district came out to include 3,897 residents, the Commission had to create a sub-precinct for 97 people. The City now has 33 wards and precincts and 9 sub-precincts.

Brattle Street Safety Improvement Project Community Meeting

Phase 1: Mason St to Mt Auburn St
Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Separated Bike Lanes and Intersection Safety Improvements
September 8, 2022 | 6 p.m. | Zoom

Agenda

- Planning Background
- Project Overview
- Phase 1 Design: Mason St to Sparks St
- Schedule/Next Steps
- Questions + Feedback

Implementation Schedule

Fall 2022

Phase 1 – Mason St to Sparks St

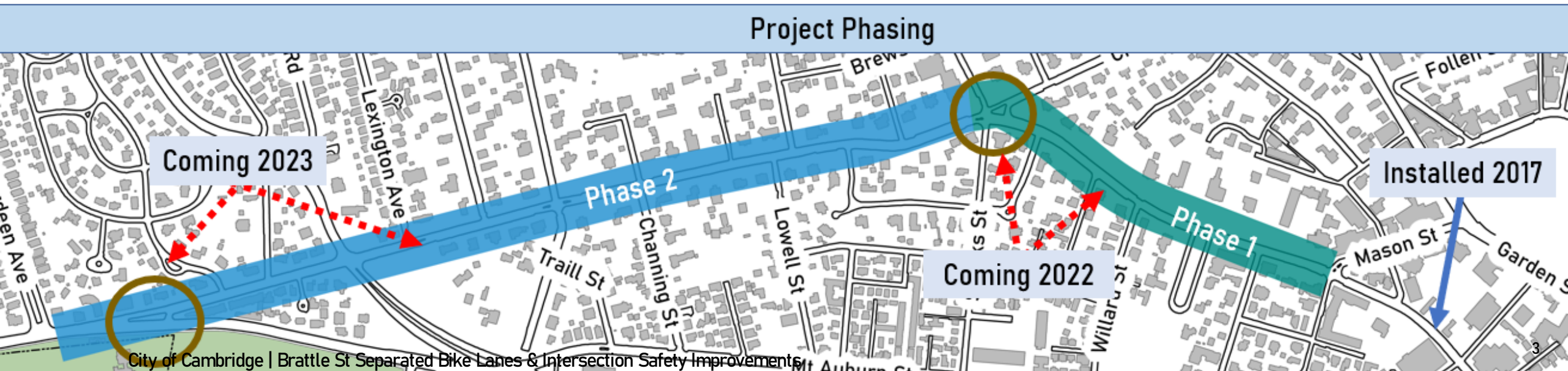
- Separated bike lanes
- Safety improvements at Brattle St and Sparks St/Craigie St intersection



Spring/Summer 2023

Phase 2 – Sparks St to Mt Auburn St

- Separated bike lanes
- Safety improvements west of Sparks St
- Intersection improvements at Brattle St/Fresh Pond Pkwy and Brattle St/Mt Auburn St



Planning Background Policies and Ordinances

Separated Bike Lane Benefits

- Increases comfort and access for people of all ages and abilities
- Reduces crash and injury risk
- Eliminates threat of "dooring" from parked vehicles
- Reduces potential conflicts between vehicles and people biking
- Provides shorter crossing distance and increased separation from vehicles for people walking
- Encourages slower traffic speeds by visually narrowing the roadway width



Cycling Safety Ordinance Overview

2019: City Council Passed the Cycling Safety Ordinance

- Requires construction of separated bike lanes when streets are being reconstructed as a part of the City's **Five-Year Plan for Streets and Sidewalks** and when they have been designated for “Greater Separation” in the Bicycle Network Vision

2020: City Council Passed Amendments to the Ordinance

- The amendments set ambitious requirements for the installation of approximately 25 miles of separated bike lanes within the next five to seven years.
- The location of these facilities is informed by both the Cambridge Bicycle Network Vision and specific requirements in the Ordinance.



Image: A separated bike lane on Brattle St;
Credit: Kyle Klein

Cycling Safety Ordinance Overview - Continued

In general, the amendments to the Ordinance require the installation of separated bike lanes on:

- All of Massachusetts Ave;
- Garden St, eastbound from Huron Ave to Berkeley St, and westbound from Mason St to Huron Ave;
- Broadway from Quincy St to Hampshire St;
- Cambridge St from Oak St to Second St;
- Hampshire St from Amory St to Broadway; and
- **11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations within the Bicycle Network Vision**
 - **Brattle St is part of these 11.6 miles**

Learn more at
cambridgema.gov/cycling-safety-ordinance



Image: A person riding a bicycle on Ames Street; Credit: Kyle Klein

Brattle Street in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan

- Plan identifies need for separated bike lanes on Brattle Street
- Avoids busier streets with buses, such as Mt Auburn Street
- Connects West Cambridge to the Charles River and important locations to the east (e.g., Harvard and Central Squares)



Learn more at
cambridgema.gov/2020bikeplanupdate

Planning Background: Separated Bike Lanes and the Bike Plan

Separated Bike Lane Benefits- Continued

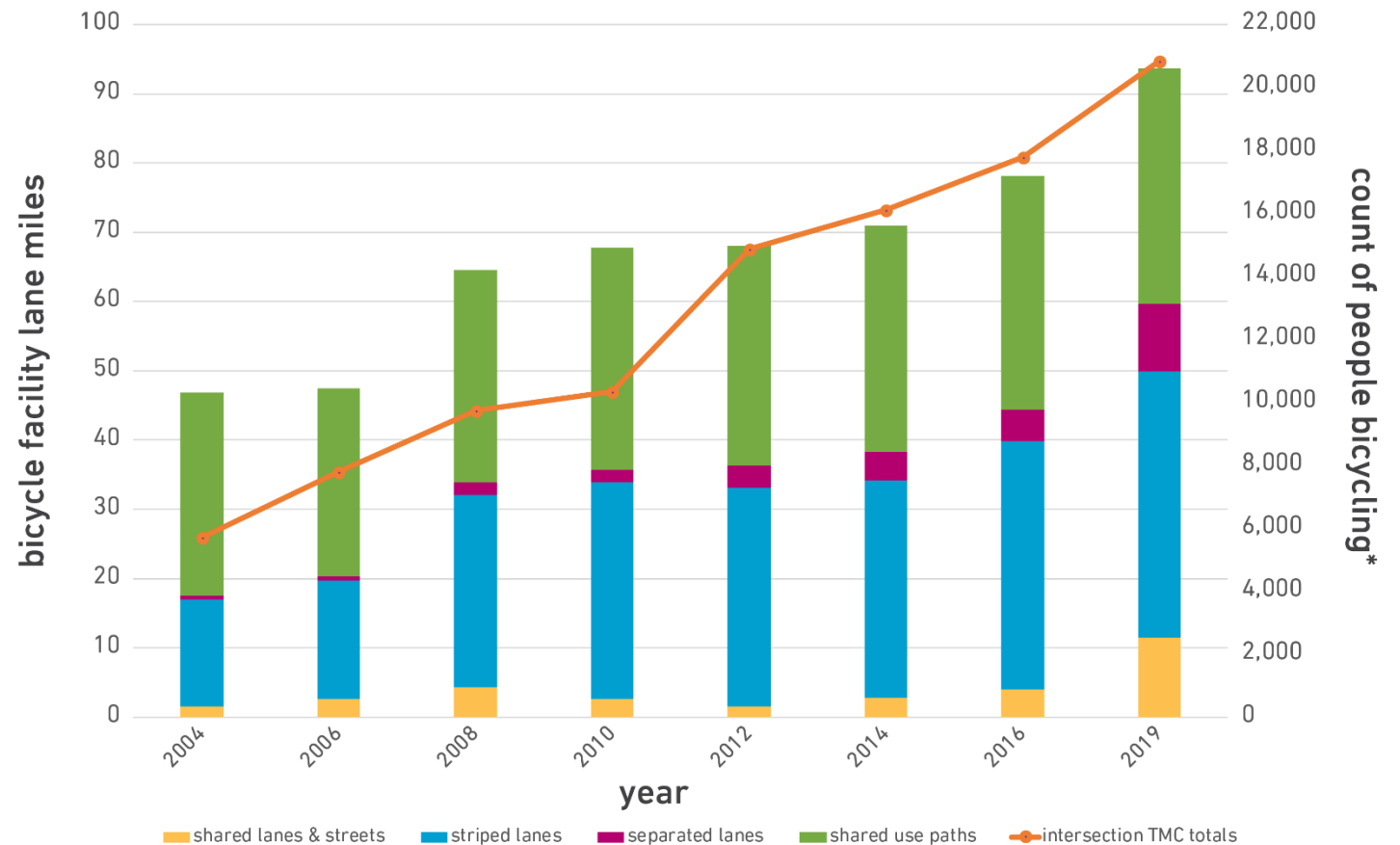
More people ride bicycles when we build more bicycle infrastructure.

A lack of safe and accessible routes and facilities for people of all ages and abilities prevents many people from biking.

As we've built more, we've enabled a wider variety of people to bike



BICYCLE FACILITY LANE MILES AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE BICYCLING (2004-2019)



Cambridge Bicycle Plan

Vision from the Cambridge Bicycle Plan:

Cambridge will be a place where bicycling is equally available to everyone, all destinations can be reached by bike, and streets are designed to accommodate bicycling for people of all ages, abilities and identities.

A variety of barriers make it harder for people to choose to bicycle, even though they would like to. Creating safe and comfortable streets is a necessary condition to enable everyone to have this choice. This reflects the philosophy that people are at the center of transportation planning and design.



Project Overview

Separated Bikes Lanes: Types of Separation

1. Pre-Cast Concrete Curbs

- Reduce visual clutter
- More durable material

2. Flex Posts

- Higher visibility
- Installed at driveways, side-streets, and as needed
- Provide clarity to road users



Separated Bike Lanes: Types of Separation

Pre-Cast Concrete Curbs and Flex Posts



Example images of pre-cast concrete curbs with strategically placed flex-posts

City of Cambridge | Brattle Street Separated Bike Lanes & Intersection Safety Improvements



Separated Bike Lanes: Types of Separation

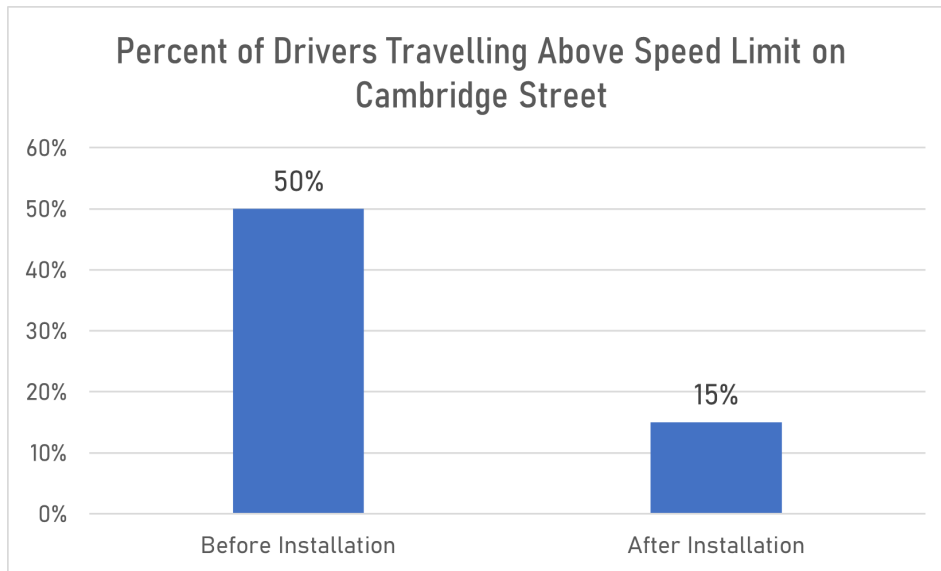
Pre-Cast Concrete Curbs



Example image of pre-cast concrete curbs without flex posts

Traffic Calming – Speed Reduction

- This project will narrow the roadway for drivers, both physically and visually
- We expect this to decrease driver speeds and increase pedestrian safety
- A similar project (Cambridge St) saw a reduction in speeds of about 25%
- Lower speeds are safer for all users, including drivers and pedestrians



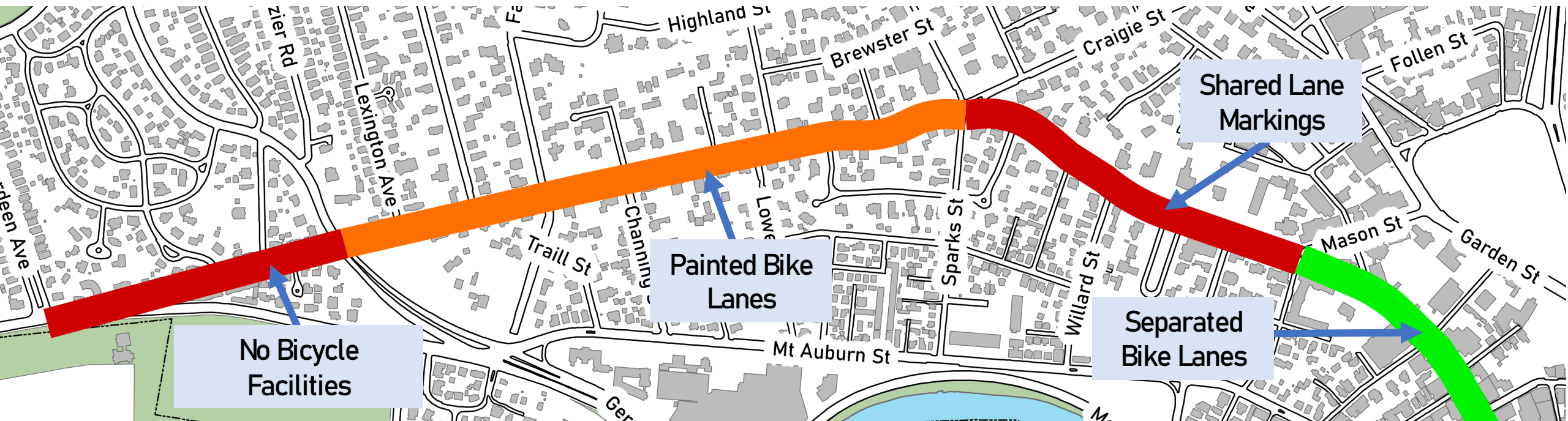
Cambridge St Speed and Count Study ([Click for Link](#))



Cambridge St Separated Bike Lanes

Existing Bike Facilities

- **Eliot St to Mason St** -- Two-Way Separated Bike Lane
- **Mason St to Sparks** -- Shared Lane Markings
- **Sparks St to Fresh Pond Pkwy** -- Painted Bike Lanes
- **Fresh Pond Pkwy to Mt Auburn St** -- No Bicycle Facilities



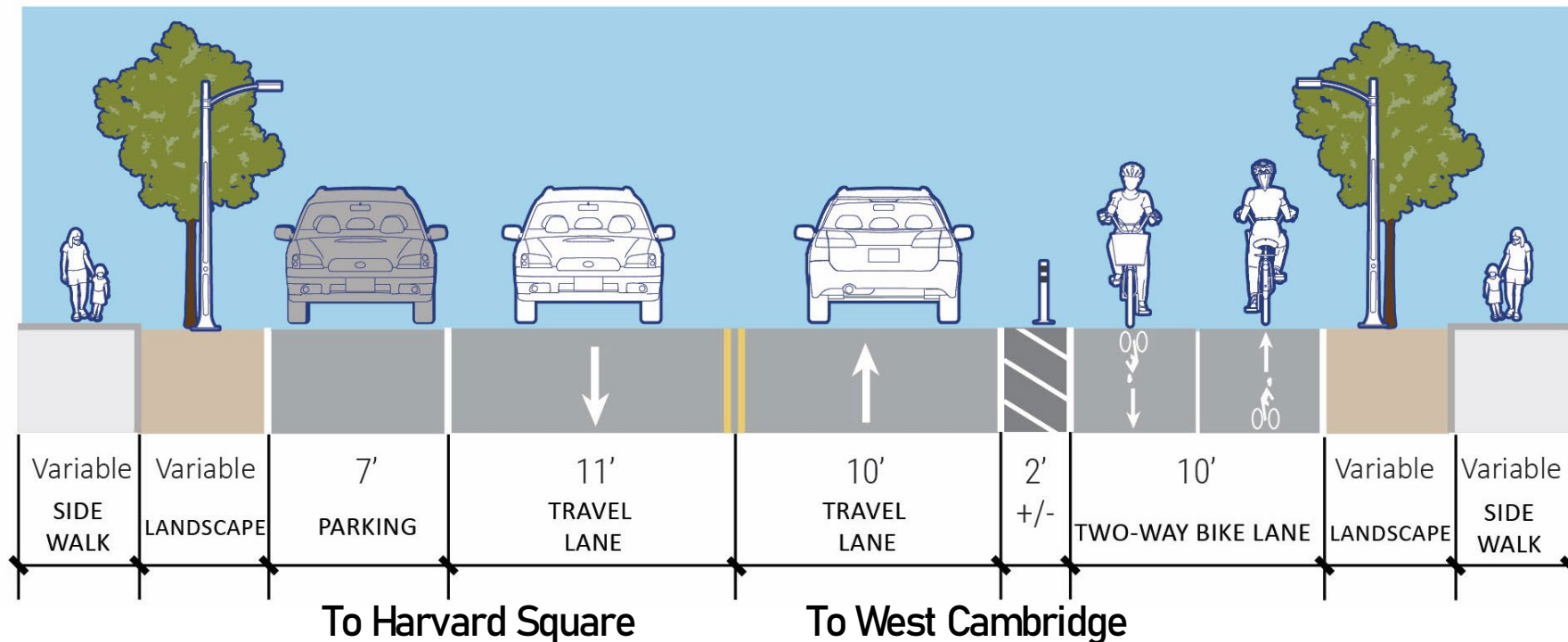
Mason St to Sparks St Design

Phase 1: Installation Planned for 2022

Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

Mason St to Sparks St

- Room for parking on one side of the street
- People biking will need to cross the road to access the south side of the street



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane





Mason St to Hawthorn St

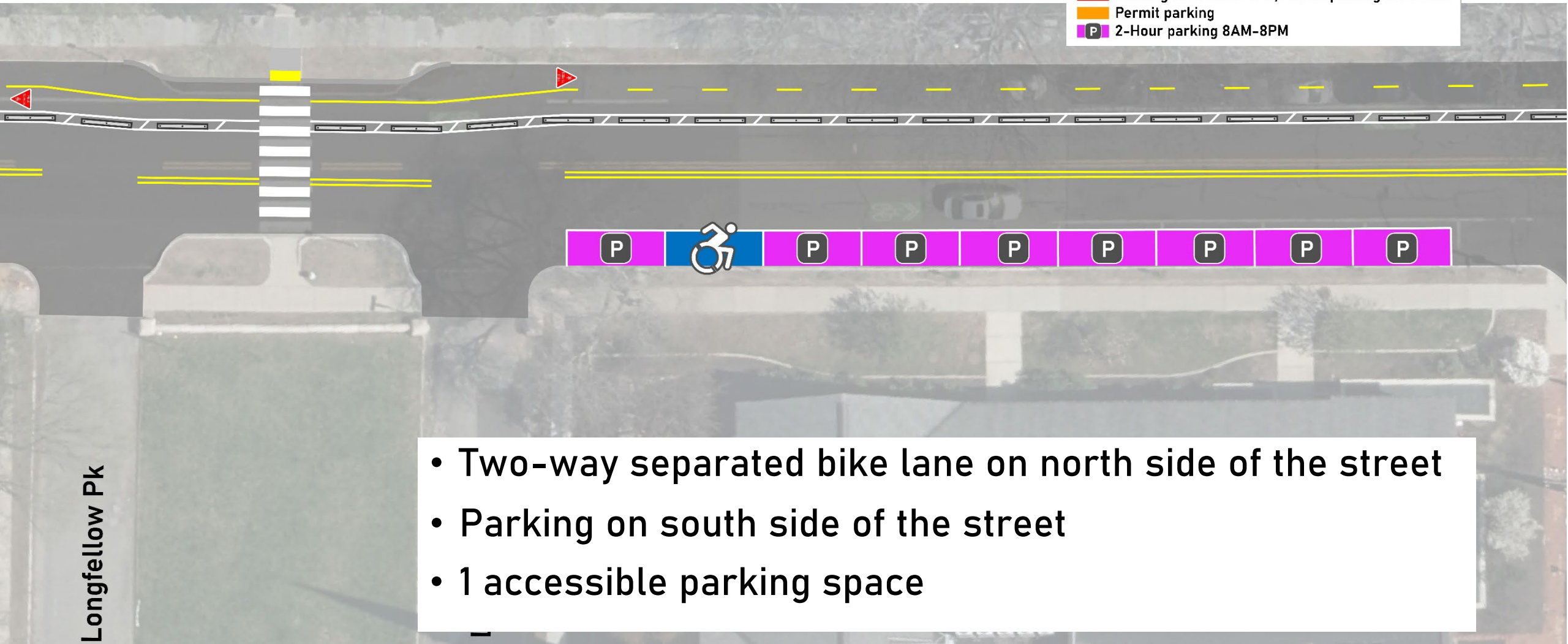


Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

Hawthorn St to Longfellow Park

Parking Key

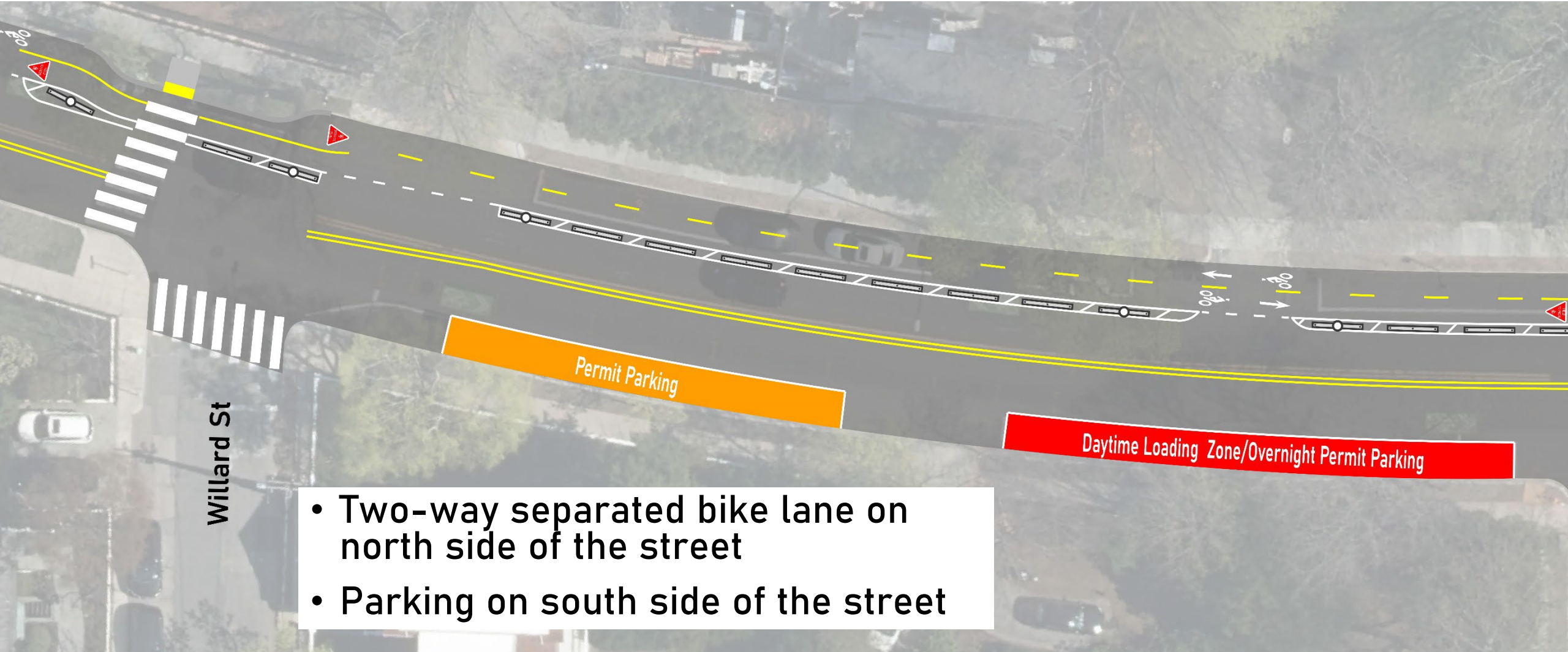
-  Accessible space
-  Loading zone 8AM-4PM/Permit parking 4PM-8AM
-  Permit parking
-  2-Hour parking 8AM-8PM



- Two-way separated bike lane on north side of the street
- Parking on south side of the street
- 1 accessible parking space

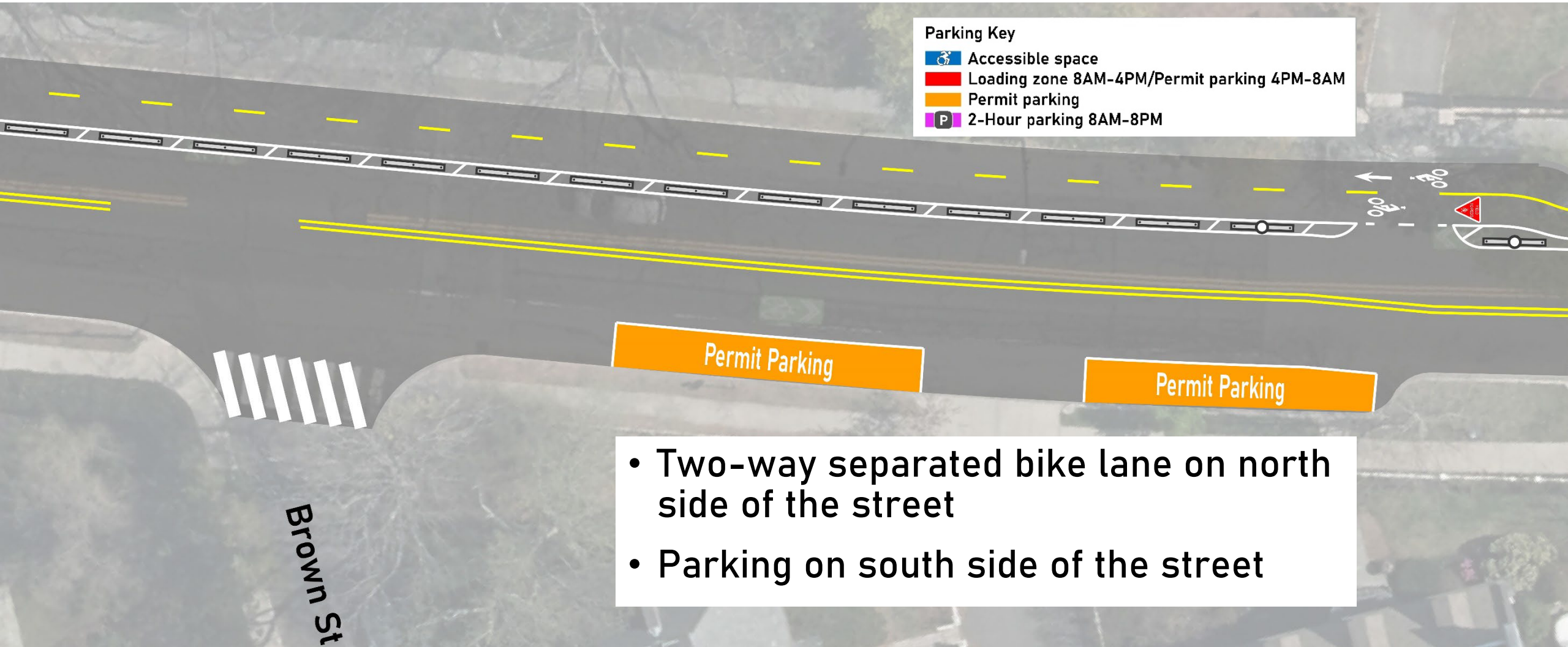
Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

Longfellow Park to Willard St



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

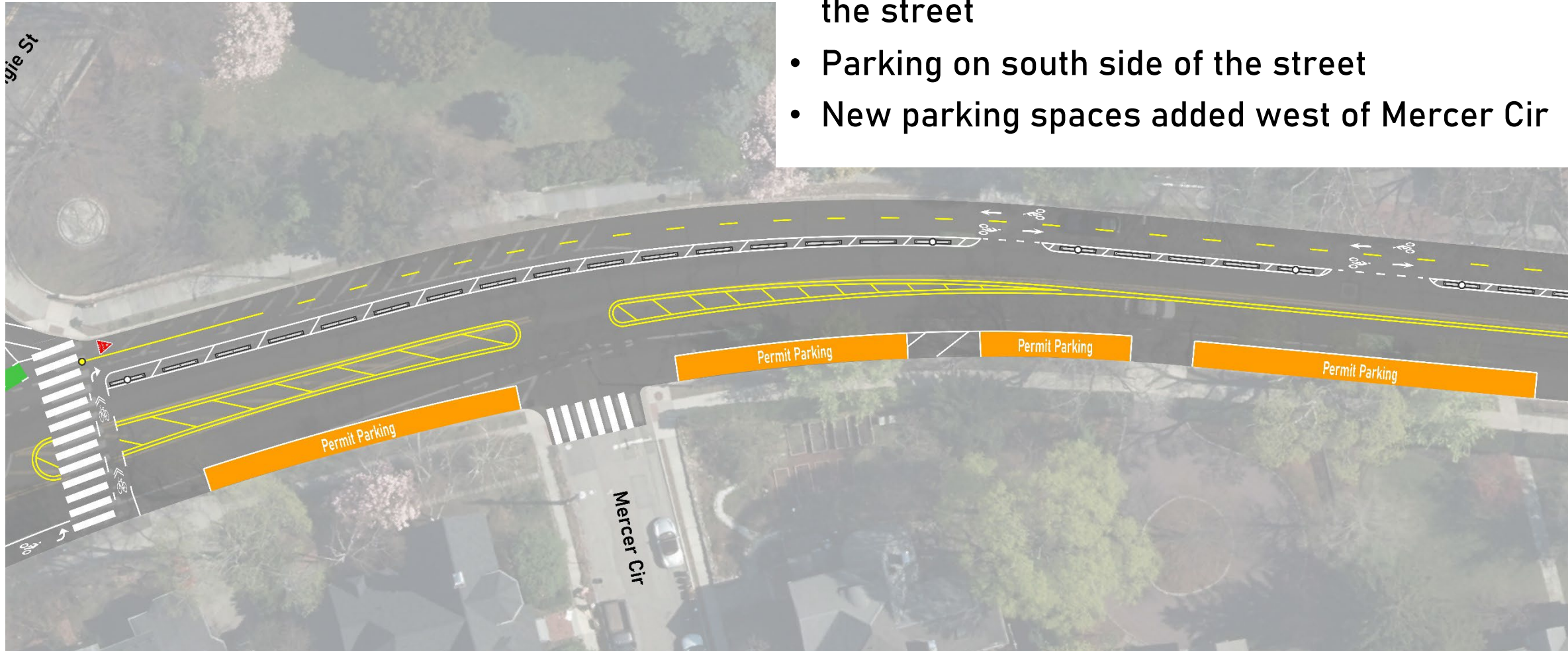
Willard St to Brown St



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

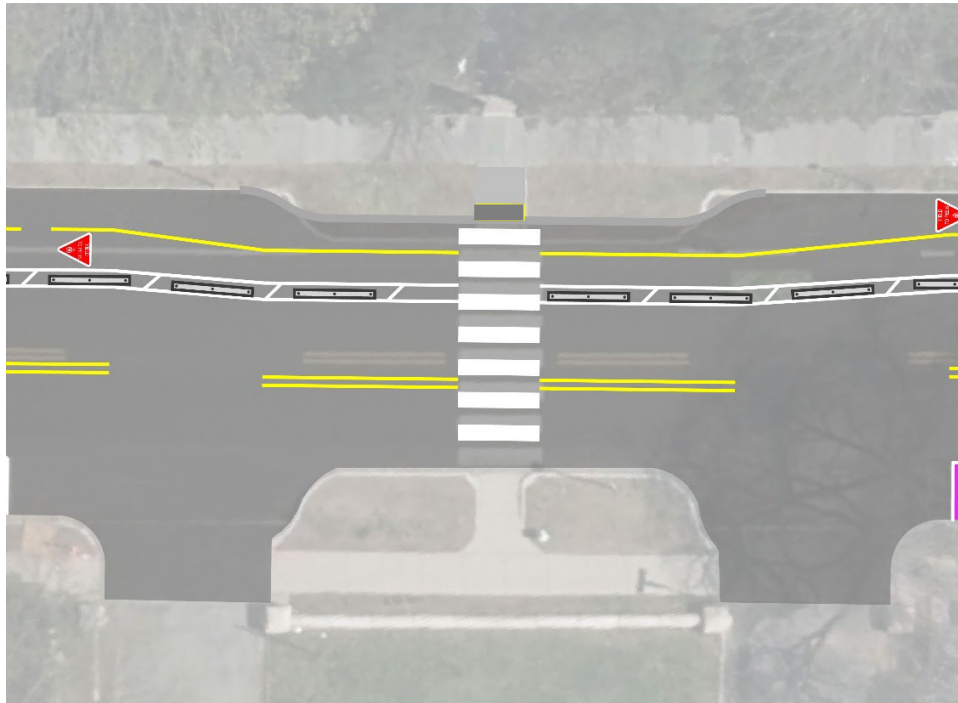
Brown St to Craigie St

- Two-way separated bike lane on north side of the street
- Parking on south side of the street
- New parking spaces added west of Mercer Cir



Pedestrian Crossing – Brattle St @ Longfellow Park

- Two-way separated bike lane on north side of street
- We will cut-back the north side curb extension by 2 feet
 - Space is removed from the grass strip between the road and sidewalk
- No impact on existing bluestone sidewalk



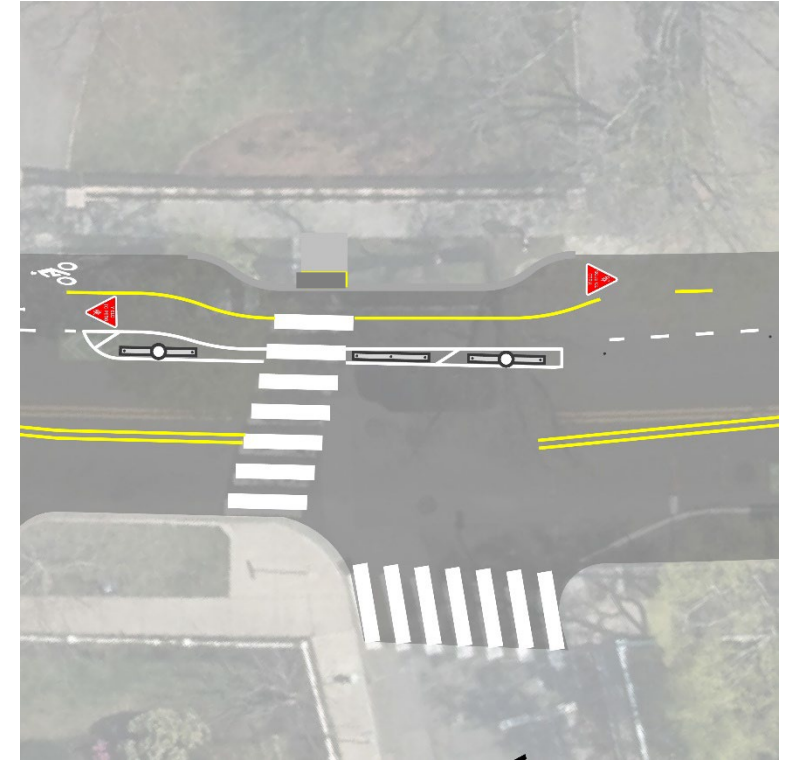
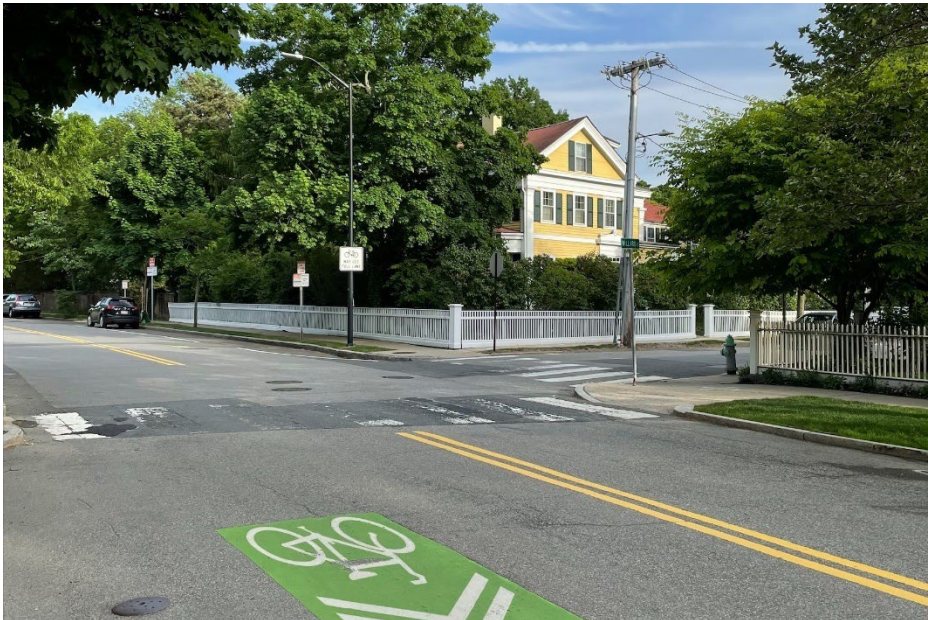
Longfellow Park Crossing



Rendering of Longfellow Park Crossing

Pedestrian Crossing – Brattle St @ Willard St

- Refresh crosswalk markings
- Two-Way separated bike lane on north side of street
- We will cut-back the north side curb extension by 2 feet to fit the preferred cross section



Willard St Crossing

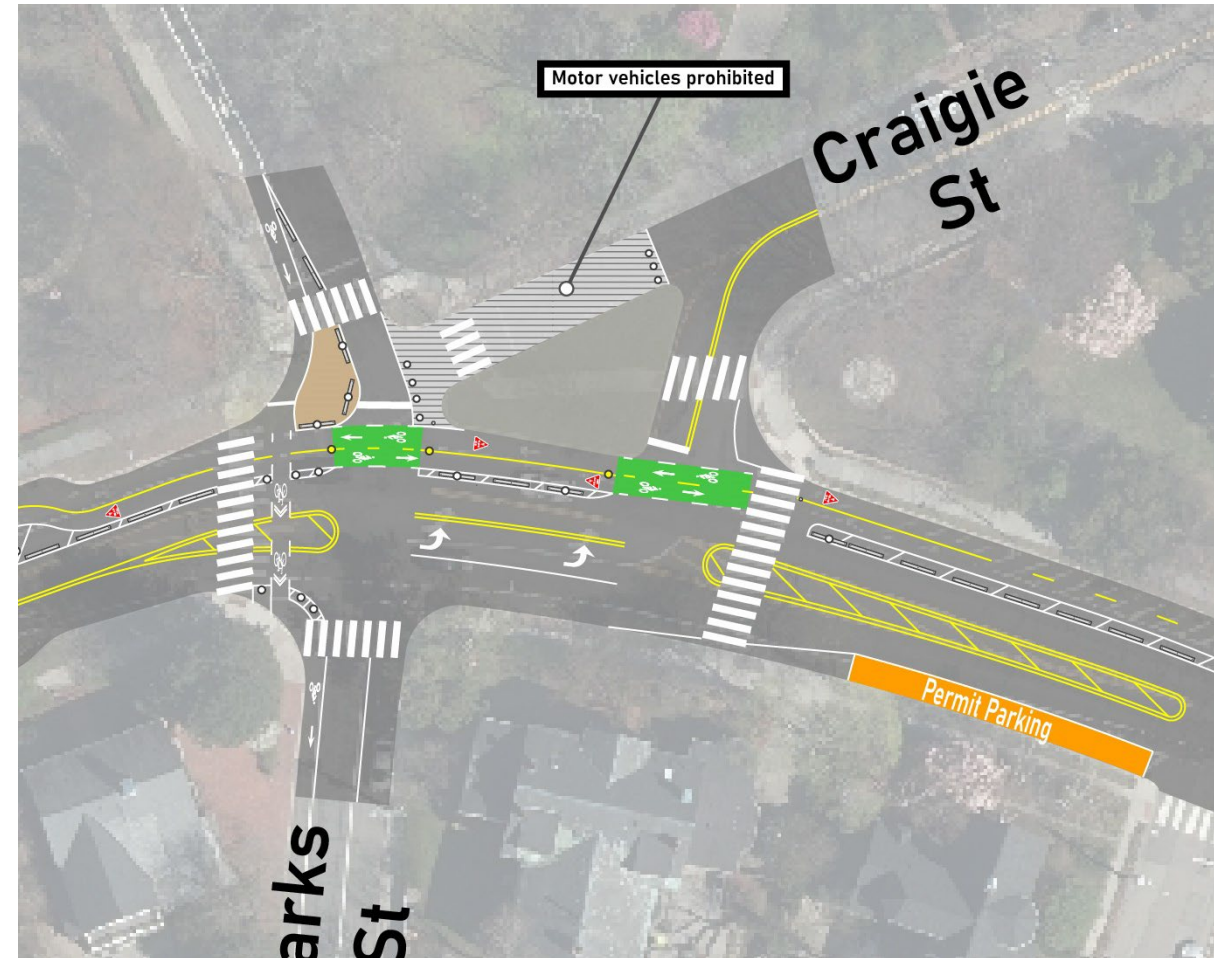
Quick-Build Intersection Improvements

Spark St / Craigie St / Brattle St

- Creates two distinct intersections
 1. Brattle St @ Craigie St
 2. Brattle St @ Sparks St
- Includes interim bicycle markings during Phase 1

Benefits

- Improves safety
- Simplifies intersection and reduces conflict points
- Narrows crossing of Sparks St for pedestrians



Intersection Safety Improvements at Sparks St/Craigie St/Brattle St

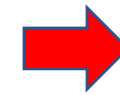
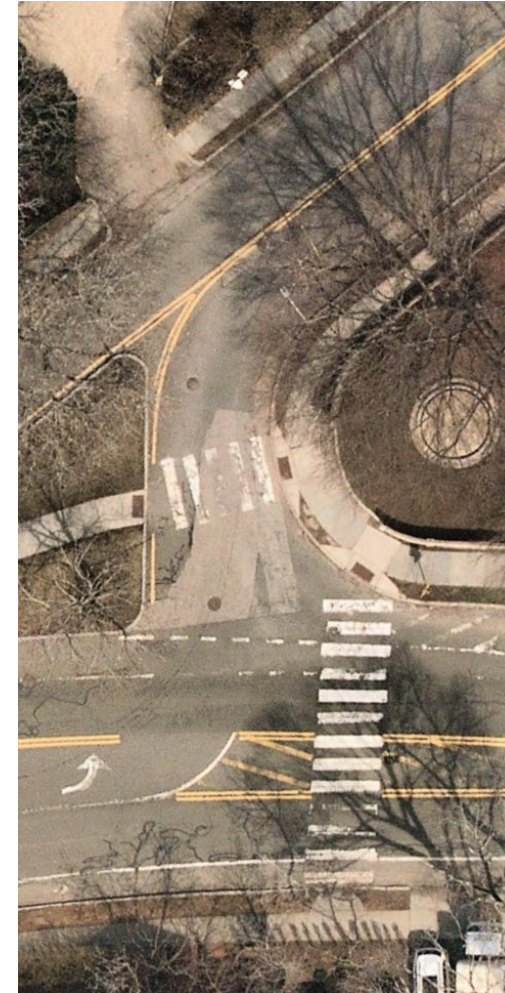
Quick-Build Intersection Improvements

Narrowing of Craigie St Entrance

- Two-way traffic in a section of Craigie St that is currently one-way

How is this safer?

- Narrower space for drivers forces people turning to slow down
- Slower speeds reduce crashes that result in injuries



Before and After Representations of Craigie St

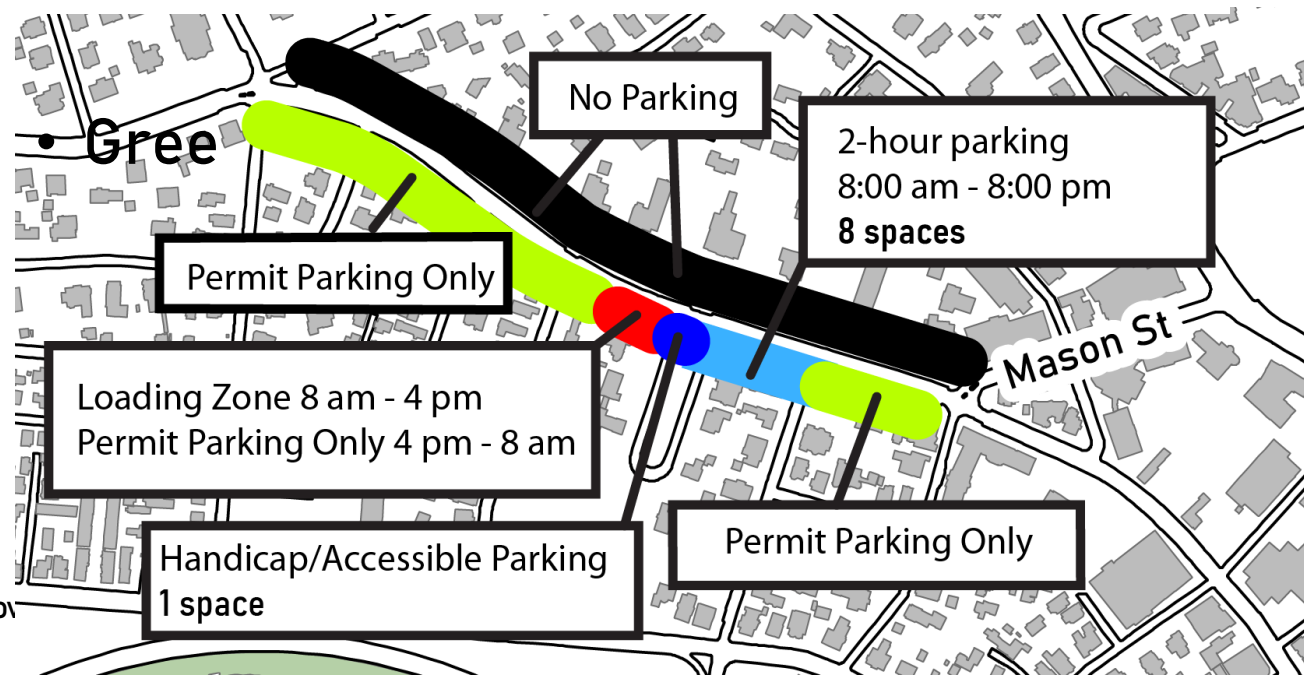
Parking Changes - Summary

- No parking on north side of the street
- Metered parking on south side remains
- 1 Handicap/accessible parking space added
- Daytime loading zone added

Existing Parking on Brattle St



Proposed Parking on Brattle St



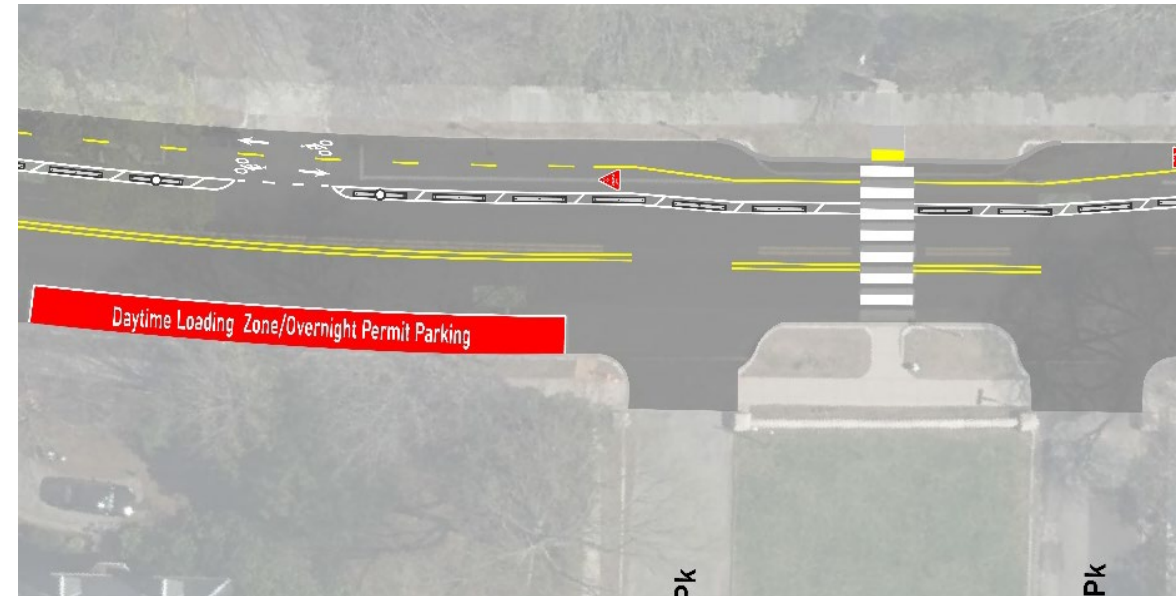
Parking Changes

Loading Zone at Longfellow House

- We are adding a loading zone on Brattle St across from the Longfellow House
- Loading Zone hours will be 8 am – 4 pm
- Permit Parking only overnight

Benefits

- Facilitates pick up and drop off, deliveries
- Loading Zone can accommodate tour bus parking
- Residents may use spaces overnight

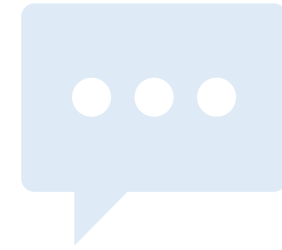


Loading Zone Proposed Location Across from Longfellow House

Questions + Feedback

Questions + Feedback

- Which planned improvements are most important?
- What could make this project better?
- What do you want to know more about?



Contact Information

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Contact Information

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Assistant Director for Street Management
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bmckenna@cambridgema.gov

www.cambridgema.gov/BrattleStSafety

Voting by Mail

- Tanya reported that in 2020, the state created a temporary law due to COVID allowing all eligible voters to vote by mail rather than having to go to their polling location. A lawsuit brought by the Disability Law Center against the City of Boston requiring them to provide reasonable accommodation for anyone requesting access to online voting for people with disabilities that prevent them from being able to independently mark a paper ballot. As a result, the state created an online portal with accessible PDF ballots that voters could mark, and then print and mail it or email it to their local Election Commission. While not named in the lawsuit, the City of Cambridge made this option available to Cambridge voters, as well.
- Last year for the municipal election, the Commission worked with Rachel and the Information Technology Department (IT) to create a system allowing voters to submit their ballot through a secure online portal. Cambridge was able to do so because the state does not oversee municipal elections.
- The deadline to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot for this year's elections is 5 PM on August 29 for the September 6 primary, and November 1 for the November 8 state election.

Accessible Voting Equipment

- The Secretary of State's Office must certify any voting equipment used in the state, which has created some challenges in equipping polling places with reliable, accessible machines that are available to people with disabilities who are unable to independently mark their ballots. Cambridge has been using the AutoMARK accessible voting machine for about 20 years, which is the last time the Secretary of State approved an accessible option.
- Because the City is not permitted to choose their own election equipment, they are still using the very old AutoMARK machines, which have become unreliable. The Election Commission thoroughly tests each AutoMARK machine before and during elections, but they still tend to break down a lot. They may work perfectly when tested, and then stop working for no apparent reason a few minutes later.
- Additionally, the state holds the contract for repairing AutoMARK machines, so cities must rely on them to do so. Because the machines are so old, their parts are no longer being made and often have to be sourced secondhand from places like eBay.
- There are other issues with the AutoMARK, as well. Users wear headphones and the machine reads each candidate out loud. The machine requires users to mark "yes" or "no" for each candidate listed; it does not enable voters to skip directly to the candidate(s) for whom they are voting.
- The Commission has been working hard to encourage the Secretary of State to approve newer, more reliable technology, and is hoping for some collaboration from CCPD in doing so. They need help from the disability community to pressure the Secretary of State to move forward. It would be helpful to get other cities and towns on board, too.
- They would also like help explaining to voters who rely on these machines that it's not the Election Commission that is refusing to provide more reliable accessible voting equipment, as they have no choice under state law other than to use the equipment certified by the Secretary of State. However, on Election Day, responsibility does fall on the Commission. While they do train poll workers to offer assistance if the machine isn't working, the Commission feels very strongly that everybody should be able to vote independently and privately. Additionally, anytime the Secretary of State's Office receives complaints about the AutoMARK not working, they call Tanya to tell her it's not acceptable to have nonworking equipment, with which she adamantly agrees. However, by not certifying modern technology, the Secretary gives no other option to cities and towns.
- It was noted that there is a free statewide conference being held online on July 21 by REV UP Massachusetts. REV UP is a national movement to get out the disability vote and stands for Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power! It will be attended by people from all over the state and is a good opportunity to advocate for state certification of new accessible voting technology. (For more information about REV UP Massachusetts, see <https://revupma.org>).

- Loring suggested that a few CCPD members come together and draft a letter to the Secretary of State. Tanya mentioned that the Election Commission could also sign on to it. It was noted that the difference between a letter and a resolution is that a letter requires certain City reviews and approvals that add time to the process, whereas a resolution doesn't.
- Charlie noted that the Election Commission has written up resolutions in the past and passed motions to send them to the delegation of the Commonwealth and to the leadership of the affected committees at the State House.
- Mary asked what other efforts are going on throughout the state in regard to updating accessible voting machines, noting that Cambridge is one of just 351 cities and towns in MA. Tanya said that she, Charlie, Kate and Rachel met recently with Amelia Fowler, Voting Rights Advocate at the Disability Law Center who is one of the leaders of REV UP Massachusetts. Among other things, they discussed collaborating on the creation of a resolution that would be sent to all cities and towns, giving them the opportunity to sign on to it. Amelia will be reaching out to the other communities about it.
- Tanya added that it can be difficult to work with other cities and towns because most of them no longer have election administrators; many election officials received threats after the 2020 election and left their positions.
- Tanya also noted that there is more that needs to be done to ensure accessible elections than just updating equipment. While CCPD staff survey each polling location in Cambridge to ensure accessibility, many other communities do not have that resource, resulting in a lot of physically inaccessible polling places around the state.
- Tanya reported that cities and towns must pay for voting equipment themselves; there is sometimes funding available from the Secretary of State's Office. Cambridge is fortunate to have the resources to purchase new equipment, but not all cities and towns have the funding to do so. They do have the option of renting equipment from the Secretary of State, but it is much more expensive long term to rent.
- While there is not enough time for new voting equipment to be certified by the state in time for this year's elections, the process needs to be started. In the past, the Secretary's Office has not shared any information about available equipment until they certify new machines. Mary added that Chapter 50 of the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) contains the regulations on how election machines are selected.
- Valerie made a motion that a working group meet to further discuss a resolution on this issue. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - Stel, Valerie, Loring and Avril volunteered to work on it

Discussion on Member Interests:

- Avril reported that she, Loring, Mary, Kate and Rachel interviewed board candidates. Some candidates mentioned some interesting ideas that CCPD could work on. Kate gave an overview of the member appointment process, noting that it will likely be Fall before new members are appointed.
- Loring said that it was nice to hear from other members of the local disability community and suggested that CCPD consider increasing engagement with the community. For example, CCPD could have a forum every so often to invite members of the public to speak about disability-related issues they face in Cambridge.
- Mary said that it feels like the Commission has lost focus on its mission in the last year or so. She would like for the board to recommit to focusing on community needs. Gary agreed and encouraged the board to have a retreat. Rachel will reach out to the facilitator to get that process started.
- Another idea that came up was collaborating more with other City boards and commissions.
- A motion to create a small working group for planning the retreat was seconded and passed unanimously (note: Mary had to leave the meeting prior to this motion, so was not present for the vote)
 - Valerie, Avril, Dan, and Mary expressed interest in joining the retreat planning working group.

Public Works Update:

- Jerry reported that he's part of a group from different City departments that is working with a consultant to develop new urban design guidelines for the public realm. Rachel attended the first meeting, as well. They are currently about two months into the 18-month process. The public process will be happening over the next year.
- DPW has now received bids for the River Street and Carl Barron Plaza projects, and construction is expected to start this fall.
- Avril noted that SeeClickFix is a great resource for residents. She reported a sidewalk issue and it was fixed within a week.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman