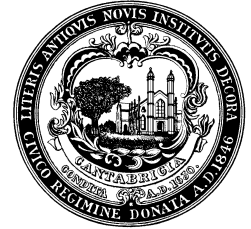


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · Relay via 711 · 617-349-4766 fax



Avril dePagter
Chair

Mary De
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff
Keisha Greaves
Valerie Hammond
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Melissa Miguel
Deepti Nijhawan
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus
Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on Thursday, March 14 from 5:30 – 7:00 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.
If needed, alternates named
2. Announcements 2 min. CCPD staff / Board
3. Presentation on Cambridge Disability Access Community Workgroup & Recruitment 45 min. Sharon Ron & Ursula Kiczkowski, MAPC and Nancy Rihan-Porter, CPHD
Presentation on pages 4-13 of this agenda packet
Community Workgroup Member Role Description on pages 14-15
Flyer on page 16
4. Approval of January & February Minutes 5 min. CCPD Board
See pages 18 (January) & 22 (February) of this agenda packet
5. Chair's Report 10 min. Avril dePagter
Interviewing candidates for CCPD Advisory Board
Time for members to discuss ideas for future agenda items, projects, etc.
6. Public Works Update 10 min. Melissa Miguel
7. Staff Report 10 min. Kate Thurman
Developing Strategy for CCPD Office Responsibilities & Initiatives
8. Public Input 3 min. general public
See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment

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 on Thursday, April 11 from 5:30-7:00 PM
Members of the public: See instructions on pages 2 & 3 on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom

Instructions for Joining the March 14, 2024 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/WN_t0OW7QUsS9OMrUUXfhVHMA

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: **871 1555 9470**

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:

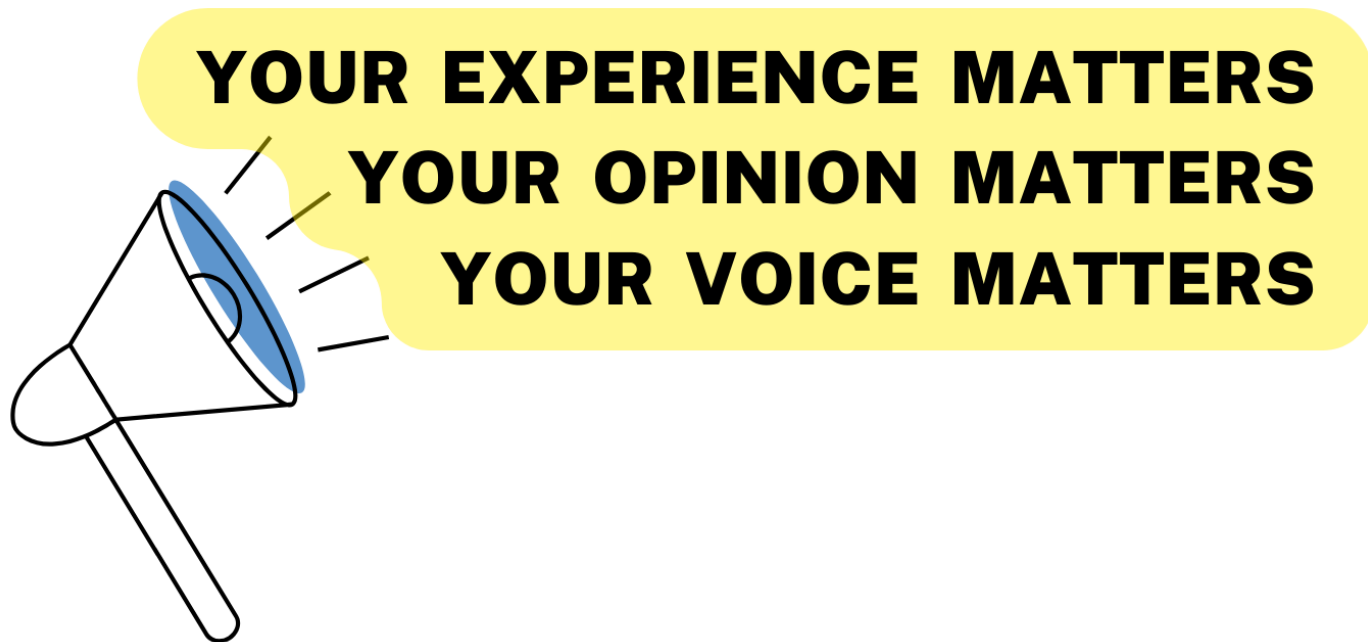
- On a Mac or PC:
 - Click "raise hand" in the webinar control panel
 - Alternatively, you may use the keyboard shortcut to raise and lower your hand:
 - Windows: press "Alt+Y"
 - Mac: press "Option+Y"
 - When you are called on by the host to speak, you will be prompted to unmute your microphone (you 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."
 - After you have spoken or once your 3 minutes are up, your microphone will be muted by the host

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!

Join the Cambridge Disability Access Community Workgroup!



Project Goals

01

Identify ways the City services, programs, and policies can better serve residents with a disability.

02

Inform the Cambridge Community Health Assessment, the Cambridge Public Health Department's 5-year plan to improve community health.

Why is this important?



Make sure our services are meeting the needs of all members of the community



Establish evidence to why we do what we do



Identify evidence-based solutions to existing issues



Elevate voices that are not always heard

Implementation Process



What is a disability?

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it harder for a person to do certain activities and interact with the world around them.

There are many types of disabilities, such as those that affect a person's:

- vision,
- movement,
- thinking,
- remembering,
- learning,
- communicating,
- hearing,
- mental health, and/or
- social relationships.

The same type of disability can affect two people in very different ways. Some disabilities are hidden or not easy to see. Some disabilities happen at or before birth, and others happen later in life.



What will the Disability Access Community Workgroup do?

Share their experiences, opinions and ideas.

Connect with other community members to get their feedback.

Help interpret community feedback and other data.

Use findings to identify actions that improve public resources and programs for residents with a disability.



Workgroup Member Benefits



\$800 paid in two equal payments.



Learn about local public health, City services, and planning



Have a direct impact on shaping public health, social and community resilience strategies.



Workgroup Details

Group size: Up to 10 residents

Time commitment: 30 hours from April to July.

Activities:

- Attend up to 5 workgroup meetings
- Review materials
- Lead community outreach

Who We're Looking For




Someone who:

- Lives, works, or volunteers in Cambridge
- Is at least 16 years of age
- Can participate for the full length of the project (April 2024 - July 2024)
- Cares about disability inclusion, racial justice, disability justice, community well-being and resilience

We will give preference to people who identify as having a disability or have a loved one with a disability.

How you can help

1. Share the flyer & position description with your networks!
2. Let Sharon (sron@mapc.org) know if you're interested in joining the Community Workgroup



**YOUR EXPERIENCE MATTERS
YOUR OPINION MATTERS
YOUR VOICE MATTERS**

Join the Cambridge Disability Access Community Workgroup!
Share your experiences, opinions and ideas and work with City staff to help improve public resources and programs in Cambridge.

What's in it for you? An opportunity to shape Cambridge's public health services while being compensated \$800 for your time and input.



We are looking for people who:

- Live, work, or study in Cambridge and are at least 16 years old
- Are able to join us from **April-July 2024**
- Identify as having a disability or have a loved one with a disability and are willing to share their experiences accessing programs and services in Cambridge

Interested? Questions? Email Sharon at sron@mapc.org or call 617-933-0778 with your **name** and **why you're interested**.

To learn more about the Workgroup visit our website →

QR CODE



Cambridge Public Health Department

Role Description: Community Workgroup Member

Cambridge Disability Access: Assessment & Planning Project

The Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) and Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) are bringing together a Community Workgroup. The Community Workgroup is a group of residents who will work with City staff to ensure that the City's public health system effectively supports the well-being of residents with disabilities.

Community Workgroup members will receive \$800 in appreciation for their contribution to the project.

What You'll Do on the Community Workgroup:

- **Join Group Discussions:** Come to meetings where we discuss disability and racial justice. Share your thoughts and experiences with disability inclusion to shape the City's approach to improving health and wellbeing.
- **Inform the Community Health Assessment:** Help identify priorities for the Cambridge Public Health Department to focus on now so that we can better meet our community's health needs in the future.
- **Connect with the Community:** Work alongside other workgroup members to have conversations about how the city can better support residents with disabilities, particularly residents of color. Your feedback will directly contribute to the Community Health Assessment and Implementation Plan (CHNA/CHIP).
- **Make Meaning from Data:** Once we've had conversations, you'll help us figure out what to do with that information. Your insights will directly impact the plans and actions the city takes to improve public health.
- **Make Meetings and Programs Better:** Share your ideas on how to make community meetings, programs, and events more accessible for everyone. Contribute to creating an accommodating and welcoming environment.

 **Timeline:** April 2024 – July 2024.

Benefits to Community Workgroup Members:

- Honorarium: \$800 paid in two equal payments.
- Learn about local public health, City services, and planning.
- Have a direct impact on shaping public health, social and community resilience strategies.

What is a disability?

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it harder for a person to do certain activities and interact with the world around them. There are many types of disabilities, such as those that affect a person's vision, movement, thinking, remembering, learning, communicating, hearing, mental health, and/or social relationships.

The same type of disability can affect two people in very different ways. Some disabilities are hidden or not easy to see. Some disabilities happen at or before birth, and others happen later in life.

Who We're Looking For:

Someone who:

- Lives, works, or volunteers in Cambridge
- Is at least 16 years of age
- Can participate for the full length of the project (March 2024- June 2024)
- Cares about disability inclusion, racial justice, disability justice, community well-being and resilience.

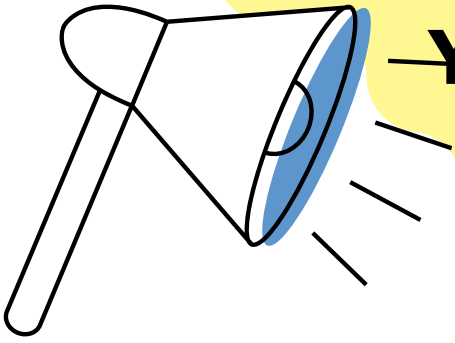
We will give preference to people who identify as having a disability or have a loved one with a disability.

How to Join

Email sron@mapc.org or call 617-933-0778 to let us know if you are interested. In your message, please share your:

- Name;
- Why you would like to join the Community Workgroup;
- What do you need to be able to take part in the group? (*This can include interpreters, disability accommodation, or other things we should keep in mind*);
- Any questions you have about the project.

YOUR EXPERIENCE MATTERS YOUR OPINION MATTERS YOUR VOICE MATTERS



Join the Cambridge Disability Access Community Workgroup!

Share your experiences, opinions and ideas with City staff to help improve accessibility services, and programs in Cambridge.

What's in it for you?

\$800 for your time and an opportunity to shape Cambridge's public health services.

We are looking for people who:

- Live or work in **Cambridge** and are **16 years or older**
- Can join us from **April-July 2024**
- **Identify as having a disability** or have a loved one with a disability

Interested? Questions?

Email Sharon: sron@mapc.org or call **617-933-0778** with your **name** and **how to reach you.**



Cambridge
Public Health
Department

Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, January 11, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter (Chair), Keisha Greaves, Valerie Hammond, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Melissa Miguel, Deepti Nijhawan

Absent: Mary Devlin (Secretary), Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, and Dan Stubbs

Staff: Kate Thurman

Announcements:

- Valerie alerted members to an interesting article on dyslexia in the *Boston Globe* article

Chair's Report:

Avril asked members how the format of CCPD meetings is working for them and to share any feedback they have

- Nicole has been reviewing the bylaws and would like to see what can be removed from the monthly meeting agenda and instead reported on quarterly, for example.
- Nicole would also like to increase CCPD's community outreach and figure out how to fold in youth representation. She recently met with the Director of DHSP's STEAM Initiative, who is putting together a working group on creating employment and internship opportunities for teenagers; maybe CCPD could be involved in some way.
- Nicole suggested advisory board involvement in providing disability awareness trainings. Members and staff could provide training for internship sites, for example.
- She noted that the Inclusion Initiative has a hard time filling part-time positions that support kids with disabilities in DHSP's out of school time (OST) programs. She works with the Office on Workforce Development to recruit applicants but said they have been averaging 1-2 staff members quitting their jobs each day. Many of the inclusion aides have their own disability-related needs. DHSP has been very supportive in placing more staff at sites than is required; some aides bring tremendous value to the team but are unable to work alone with children. Nicole said that DHSP has been very intentional in hiring and supporting inclusion aides with disabilities.
- DHSP has a working group that wants to create internships for young people coming out of high school or the Threshold Program and Lesley who have significant disability-related needs. They're looking at how to best support employees and interns in helping them understand their rights, how to request reasonable accommodation, etc. There are young adults who attended out of school time programs with support from the Inclusion Initiative who would like to return as staff.
- It was noted that there was discussion at the member retreat with a broad perspective of CCPD working groups, but it maybe helpful to narrow the scope of each group
- Valerie said that her son had a few internships through the Academy for Physical and Social Development in Newton, which strives to set children with disabilities up for success. She also mentioned The Academy in Stoneham
- Nicole mentioned the idea of piloting an internship program within DHSP for youth and young adults with disabilities. It's important to consider what valuable employment looks like.

- Deepti suggested having higher cutoff ages for some employment programs, noting that some people with disabilities need additional support later in life.
- Nicole noted that the Inclusion Initiative accepts applications from and works with adults of any age in the OST programs, but that they are struggling with the capacity to provide proper supports in order to ensure success. There's also a need for more training and supports for supervisors in how to best support staff who may have varying levels of ability.
- The STEAM Initiative is looking at creating an internship program modeled after the Mayor's Youth Summer Employment Program, working primarily with CRLS students.
- Deepti mentioned that when the casino Encore was opening, they said they would give preference to Cambridge, Somerville, and Everett job applicants, but every job they listed included a requirement that the applicant be able to lift a certain number of pounds. She suggested creating a portal of information and resources for employers who are interested in hiring PwD.
- Keisha said that Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) could be a good partner in creating internships for disabled youth. Valerie suggested the Perkins School for the Blind as another potential partner.
- Some members expressed confusion over what they're able to do in small working groups outside of public meetings.
 - If members come across articles of interest or have ideas they would like to bring up at a meeting, email Kate and Rachel. We cannot have any kind of discussion, including via email, involving a quorum of members outside of public meetings. However, Kate and Rachel can forward along articles, etc. of interest, blind copying CCPD members to avoid any inadvertent deliberation.

Public Works Update:

Melissa Miguel reported on ongoing construction:

- Port Infrastructure Project- Harvard St.
 - Utility work at Harvard/Windsor intersection 1 -2 weeks in January
 - Utility work between Portland and Davis Street - January through mid-March
- River Street:
 - Utility work continues throughout the winter along the corridor
 - Carl Barron Plaza trees removed, and demolition started at the end of December 2023. Demolition and test pits to continue in this area throughout January.
- Willard Street - Drainage structure installation continues up Willard Street
- Binney Street Park
 - Continued work on landscaping, installation of pervious multi-use path (which is a section of Grand Junction Path)
 - Estimated construction completion: late spring/early summer 2024.
- Harvard Sq. Plaza
 - Includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at Mass Ave., Dunster St, JFK St and Brattle St.
 - Work has been on hold pending coordination with the MBTA
 - There is potential to start the project late Spring 2024
 - The Community Development Department (CDD) has contracted with Culture House and Lesley College to run the Harvard Square kiosk, but the Lesley position and department was eliminated by the college, so now just working with Culture House. CDD will also be collaborating with the Cambridge Office for Tourism. Culture House will do activity planning, art displays, etc. There will be community space with different pop-up events. They're trying to limit food sales so it doesn't compete with Harvard Sq businesses. The kiosk will have big doors where the bookcases used to be that will slide open so the building will feel like a part of the plaza
 - There will be tiered seating behind the Harvard Sq MBTA head house for music, community events, etc.

- Construction is expected to take 18-24 months to complete once it breaks ground because it has to be done in phases to maintain access to the T. There are load restrictions on the plaza because of the station underground, so they have to limit work that can be done per square foot at any given time.
- The plaza will be redone in ADA compliant brick, and the running and cross slopes of the plaza will be leveled out to reach ADA compliance. Because of the slopes, they do have to put in stairs on one side of the kiosk building, so there will also be a pedestrian ramp.
- Melissa noted that this project has been underway for many years, with lots of delays with utility companies and the MBTA
- Chapter 90, Contract 24
 - Huron Avenue – Glacken Field to Aberdeen is complete. Aberdeen to Fresh Pond Parkway will be completed in 2024 construction season
 - Chestnut Street - water main installation continues with completion expected this winter.
- Upcoming projects
 - Port Infrastructure Project: utility work at Harvard and Windsor
 - Mass Ave4 improvements
 - Still digesting comments from their December Open House for the Linnaean-Waterhouse segment.
 - Continuing concept development for segments north of Linnaean to Alewife Brook Parkway.
 - Chapter 90, Contract 25- Contract will be released for bids February 8, 2024. Construction anticipated to start late spring/early summer 2024.
 - Green St- Pearl to Landsdowne
 - Maple Avenue- Broadway to Cambridge
 - Centre St – Dana to Hancock
 - Montgomery St – Harvey to Rindge
 - Sciarappa St- Charles to O’Brien Hwy
 - Chapter 90, Contract 26 - Design and Community process will begin late January/early February 2024. Construction start anticipated late 2024/early 2025.
 - Chetwyn Road – Newell St to End
 - Gray Street – Martin to Linnaean
 - Haskell – Rindge to Mass Ave
 - Norfolk – Broadway to Somerville City Line
 - Shepard – Garden to Mass Ave
- Deepti asked what’s happening in Harvard Sq with the movie theater, which has been shuttered for many years. Melissa will reach out to Denise Jillson of the Harvard Square Business Association to ask and will let Kate know of any updates so she can share

Staff Report:

Kate reported the following:

- Kate said that it’s a very exciting time in the City, with lots of transformation happening under Yi-An Huang, who started as our new City Manager (CM) about a year and a half ago.
- There is a new Strategy Division, which is housed in the CM’s office. Kate and Rachel are working with Caroline LeMay of that division to bring more structure to CCPD staff work and to address capacity shortages. They are in the very early stages of this work, but it will include over the coming months:
 - Clearly defining the scope of CCPD office work
 - Revising mission statement accordingly
 - Identifying CCPD’s constituent groups, the disability-related concerns each of those groups has, and ways to address those concerns
 - Adding tools and resources to create more efficient workflows (case & project management software, etc.)
 - Looking into the possibility of adding another staff position

- Kate and Rachel will provide updates on this work at CCPD meetings and will be asking for feedback

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)
Minutes for Thursday, February 8, 2024 CCPD Meeting
Online via Zoom

Members: Avril DePagter (Chair), Mary Devlin (Secretary), Keisha Greaves, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, Dan Stubbs, Loring Brinckerhoff, Deepti Nijhawan, Nicole Horton-Stimpson (DHHS), Melissa Miguel (DPH)

Absent:

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus

Guest: John Boyle, Cambridge Police Department

Guest Speaker: Jim Wilcox, City Engineer, Department of Public Works

Avril called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm

Introductions:

Members, guests and staff of the Commission introduced themselves.

Announcements:

Keisha advocated for accessible housing with the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL). Keisha met with the City Manager to discuss housing for people with disabilities.

John noted that the Red Line is shut down from Alewife to Harvard and the MBTA is using Yankee Bus Line shuttles to move riders.

Minutes:

A motion to Approve the December 2023 minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

A vote on approval of the January 2024 Minutes was moved to March to allow members more time to review.

DPW Presentation of the Five-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan, Jim Wilcox
(for the complete presentation please see the link included in the board packet or included [here.](#))

PRIORITIES

Complete Streets that are available for everyone to use – pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, users with disabilities, public transportation, etc.

Bicycle Ordinance

Vision Zero – calls for the elimination of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from accidents

Managing Constraints

- Budget constraints
- Storm system and sewage considerations
- Future street conditions where roadways deteriorate more quickly than expected
- Utility failures
- Bicycle plan ordinance

High Priority Areas

Within 150 feet of parks, schools, senior centers, youth programs

Within 40 feet of major travel ways

About 50% of the City's sidewalks are outside of priority areas. DPW invests about 20% of sidewalk funding there

Sidewalk Assessment to occur late Spring/early Summer

Done by consultant

Trees, width, slope, driveways

Avril asked if anyone from the Commission would be included in the assessment process

Jim replied they are using a consultant but will include Rachel and Kate in the initial discussions and have a meeting with the Board for further input.

Pavement condition assessment to start in 4-6 weeks.

Also done by consultant

Jim reviewed the grade system of pavement assessment - from 0 (needs total reconstruction) to 100 (no defects).

He noted that DPW wants to do rehabilitation in the fair range, not at the total rehab grade.

DPW includes equity in its decision-making processes so all neighborhood receive repairs.

Transit

DPW wants to ensure accessibility to transit for all who use public transportation.

SCOPE

Jim reviewed the components of the scope of work for all projects to include:

- Accessibility
- Vision Zero
- Transit
- Bicycle
- Trees and Green infrastructure
- Underground infrastructure – sewer and water, utilities, gas, electric, communication companies, university systems

Completed streets

DPW is trying to implement a 5-year moratorium on new work after a project has been completed which includes limiting new utility construction, driveway cuts, etc.

Planned Construction

DPW developed a map that demonstrates all the proposed construction in the next five years.

Funding and prioritization process

Jim discussed current large capital projects in Central Square, Inman Square (completed), Kirkland Street and neighborhood, the Port neighborhood.

Sewer and Stormwater Separation Plan

This has been worked on since the Clean Water Act and the City is currently working with Somerville and MWRA on sewer overflow. Hope to have preliminary plan in 2025 with final plan in 2026.

PROGRAMS:

Street and Sidewalks Toolbox

Includes design elements

Includes strategies for community outreach to residents and business owners

Includes standards for raised sidewalks, curb extension and ramps, flexi-pave around trees, etc.

Miscellaneous Sidewalk

A program to manage sidewalks outside the major projects.

Climate Resiliency Plan

The plan includes preparing for future flooding and its impact, and how to decrease urban heat islands by increasing the tree canopy in targeted areas of the City.

DESIGN ELEMENTS:

Pedestrian Ramp Guidelines established

Improve pedestrian access to crosswalks.

Use sidewalk materials that are affordable and allow for easy pedestrian passage:

- Currently use cement and wire-cut brick

- City Policy is to replace sidewalks with the same materials as previously used. Residents have the option to request brick instead of concrete in front of their residences and pay the difference in cost.

Design bicycle facilities that allow people of all abilities to use bicycles.

Set standards for public transit accessibility

SCOPE:

New Construction

Sidewalks will meet all ADA requirements

Roadways will have compliant pedestrian ramps

If there is a compliant sidewalk panel within 15 feet in either direction of the area of construction, DPW will extend the work to meet that panel and minimize awkward transitions.

DPW coordinates with private utility companies to ensure grading and accessibility standards are met.

The City also requires private developers to meet all compliance standards.

Street Trees

Tree protection requirements exist during construction and excavation.

The City has guidelines for planting new trees.

DPW works with property owners to plant and maintain back-of-sidewalk trees that provide shade over the sidewalk.

Green Infrastructure

Stormwater management

Traffic Signals

DPW coordinates with Traffic on Accessible Pedestrian Signals and ensures that Signal Control Cabinets meet accessibility requirements.

CONSTRUCTION:

DPW has developed guidelines for contractors to ensure pedestrian access through work zones. Use signage, on the same side of the road if possible, detours should not go too far out of the way

Bicycle Access – same as Pedestrian Access

Transit – DPW coordinates with MBTA if relocation of bus stops is needed during project construction.

Jim reminded us that the Five-Year Plan is a “living” document and the DPW welcomes feedback.

Q&A

Loring mentioned that he sees stickers about upcoming tree plantings and asked about the timelines for doing the planting.

Jim replied that the Urban Forestry Plan is still new but they are now planting 1,000 trees a year and the City has created its own nursery to ensure timely tree plantings.

Melissa also noted that stickers sometimes go up at the beginning of a project up to 3 years prior to a tree actually being planted.

Dan asked for more information about the combined sewer and rainwater control project.

Jim noted that 40% of the City still has a combined system but they are working towards separating the sewer from the rainwater through the separation plan.

The City currently has 7 overflow sites for discharge into waterways but is working to eliminate them through this plan.

Valerie asked how DPW will notify neighborhoods about upcoming projects.

Jim replied that notices are now hand-distributed door-to-door to residents and businesses, meetings are scheduled for input and again for feedback, and there are videos available that can be viewed. DPW also develops an email list to keep people updated.

Valerie suggested using plain language for communication materials. Jim noted that their communication team has been through the Plain Language training.

Rachel stressed that tree planting to minimize urban heat islands is very important especially for people with disabilities who have difficulty with temperature regulation and those who cannot afford to pay for private trees.

She also noted that the brick sidewalks can be difficult for people with disabilities to use and she has been working with DPW on using concrete sidewalks with brick trim when possible.

Deepti asked about sidewalk design and the use of smaller concrete panels and noted it is not as comfortable for those who use wheelchairs.

Jim replied they were asked to use them for the esthetic and only used in a few places. He recognized this may not be good for people who use wheelchairs or have other mobility needs and this will not be a standard.

Deepti was surprised by the heat index chart and wondered why it wasn't higher.

Jim reviewed the tree map again and explained the areas of higher heat and noted there would be more tree plantings in those areas.

Deepti asked if any resident can request a tree.

Jim replied the trees are offered as part of construction projects.

Rachel asked if pedestrian counts were used to determine how heavily pedestrian walkways were used.

Jim noted the City does pedestrian and bicycle counts but they are snapshots of a specific time, but not on-going.

Chair's Report:

Deferred due to time restrictions.

Public Works Update: Deferred in favor of DPW's presentation.

Staff Report:

We have received applications for the two Board vacancies and will be reaching out to members for help with the interviewing and selection process.

Public Comment:

Sandy Durmaskin: requested DPW consider "sidewalk clutter" (water retention planters, trees, recycling bins, etc.) in street and sidewalk design.

Susan Ostrander: wondered how the Commission has given input into the Five-Year Plan prior to its presentation. Rachel replied that the staff work with DPW staff and the Commission members give input during the presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Devlin, Secretary