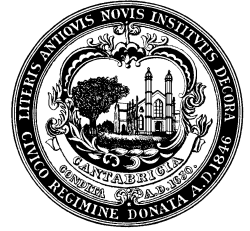


City of Cambridge
Commission for Persons with Disabilities
51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732
617-349-4692 voice · Relay via 711



Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Chair

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on October 9, 2025 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Avril dePagter
Melissa Miguel
Deepti Nijhawan
Emma Pan
Zach Solomons

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

Rachel Tanenhaus
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
*Deputy Director/
Assistant ADA Coordinator*

Maya Friedrich
Administrative Assistant

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD Staff/Board |
| 3. Approval of August minutes
<i>See pages 4-6 of this packet</i> | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 4. Presentation on Cambridge
Participatory Budget (CPB)
<i>See pages 7-16 of this packet</i> | 30 min. | Melissa Liu,
<i>Cambridge Participatory Budget &
Engagement Coordinator</i> |
| 5. Chair's Report | 10 min | Danielle Jones-McLaughlin |
| 6. Staff Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jim Wilcox,
<i>Engineer, Department of Public
Works</i> |
| 8. Public Input | 4 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 or streamed in a separate URL at <https://bit.ly/CCPDcaptioning>.

(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, November 14 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 October 9, 2025 CCPD Meeting as a Member of the Public

Join Online:

Registration is required to view the meeting or to participate in public comment. Register online at https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8aHRV-7nSBOB0Re56leZ6w.

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: **896 2918 4203**

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” 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!

Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, August 14, 2025 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:43pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinkerhoff, Avril dePagter, Emma Pan, Danielle McLaughlin, Deepti Nijhawan

Absent: Rayna Jhaveri, Zachary Solomons, Melissa Miguel, Dan Stubbs

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus, Maya Friedrich

Other: Buckowe Yam

Announcements:

- Rachel announced that Keisha has resigned from the Board. We are grateful for Keisha's energy and contributions and also appreciate that Danielle has stepped up as Acting Chair. Nominations to fill Danielle's previous role as Secretary will open up at the September CCPD Board meeting and elections will take place at the October meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

- The May CCPD meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- There were no June minutes because we did not have quorum for our June meeting.

Retreat Debrief:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- The CCPD Board had a wonderful retreat in May at Dan's office facilitated by consultant Ora Grodsky—see the attached retreat notes for more information. The two main goals of the retreat were:
 - Improving meetings
 - Designating working groups for special projects
- The CCPD Board voted to approve the following three working groups, which were determined at the retreat:
 - Resource sheets working group
 - Cambridge Participatory Budget (CPB) working group
 - New member welcome packet working group
- Discussion of who would participate in which working group was postponed because several Board members were not present at this meeting
- At the retreat, Board members suggested that the Board move to hybrid meetings as soon as possible. A member asked when that might be feasible. Rachel is not sure when the 2nd floor conference room at 51 Inman Street will be available for hybrid meetings, but she will continue to keep the Board updated as she has more information.

Chair's Report:

- None.

Staff Report:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- Reiterated thanks for Keisha's valuable work with the Commission and noted that three members' (Avril, Dan and Loring) term limits are coming up. Rachel reminded the Board that terms last for three years and members can serve up to two terms:
 - Once their second terms expire, Board members are permitted to stay on the Board until successors are appointed—Loring and Avril have confirmed they can stay on; Dan will let us know—Rachel emphasized how thankful we are for their work.
 - These Board members are welcome to join working groups until their successors are appointed. Working groups will continue even once their members drop off the Board as new members can join these groups as well—the groups/projects won't change but the people on them will.
 - We will have a total of 5 vacancies and are putting out a call for new Board members—once we get applications in, Emma has agreed to help interview candidates. The interview and selection process will likely take a few months.
- Rachel will not be at the September meeting (Maya and Kate will)—staff from the Cambridge Participatory Budgeting initiative will present.
- In June, CCPD participated in Cambridge Riverfest—both current and former board members attended so CCPD was well-represented! We also had a presence at Boston's ADA Day in July—the disability pride flag was raised over Boston City Hall for the first time ever, and we participated in a street march and a rally.
- In July, we did a social media campaign on disability featured on the City's social media accounts. Our posts received great engagement and we plan to continue to use the City accounts for our social media campaigns so they can reach a larger following.
- CCPD is involved with (not hosting) a disability pride event that will most likely take place on Saturday, October 4th from 11am-2pm at Joan Lorentz park in front of the library. The event will feature a silent disco, art by folks with disabilities, and food--more details TBA.
- Rachel gave a presentation for the Cambridge library staff about how libraries are a key resource for people with disabilities, and how librarians can better accommodate the disability community. The presentation was very well received!
- Mount Auburn hospital is hosting their [annual community benefits public meeting](#) on Thursday, September 18 from 3:30-4:30pm. They will provide updates on what the hospital is doing to benefit the surrounding community, featuring a presentation from Waltham Community Farms and the hospital's midwifery team, and celebrating their 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.
- The [city's Cambridge Works program](#) is looking for people 18-35 who have struggled to find employment to apply for their next cycle, which starts in mid-September. Cambridge Works offers a 3-month paid internship placement at a local organization and well as coaching and job-search support to find permanent employment.
- Rachel participated in a focus group for Spaulding Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment—Rachel provided perspective on the importance of meeting the healthcare needs of the disability community, something that Spaulding prioritizes given their work as a rehabilitation hospital.
- Rachel provided testimony regarding a Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) variance request from the Sheraton Commander—Rachel felt some parts of the variance were reasonable while others could be addressed without variance, specifically concerning modifications to some of their rooms and the entrances to their restaurants.
- Rachel has been involved with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Access and Functional Needs Working Group, as well as with a working group focused on heat resilience for people in Cambridge since climate change impacts people with disabilities most immediately.

- CCPD is in the process of transferring the reasonable accommodations process for City employees to the human resources (HR department). CCPD will continue to collaborate with HR and support this process, and Rachel feels very confident that the new HR leadership will prioritize the needs of employees with disabilities.

Public Works Update:

None.

Public Comment:

A member of the public expressed gratitude that the city has programs for adults and children with disabilities. They discussed feeling personally connected to CCPD's mission because they have loved ones with disabilities and asked about volunteer opportunities with CCPD. Rachel told them that while CCPD does not have direct service volunteer opportunities, we are putting out a call for new board members soon and passed along CCPD's email address. Additionally, Rachel noted there are local nonprofits serving people with disabilities that may offer more direct volunteer opportunities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maya Friedrich



City of Cambridge, MA

Participatory Budgeting

An Approach to Community-Led Decision Making and
Engagement



What is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?

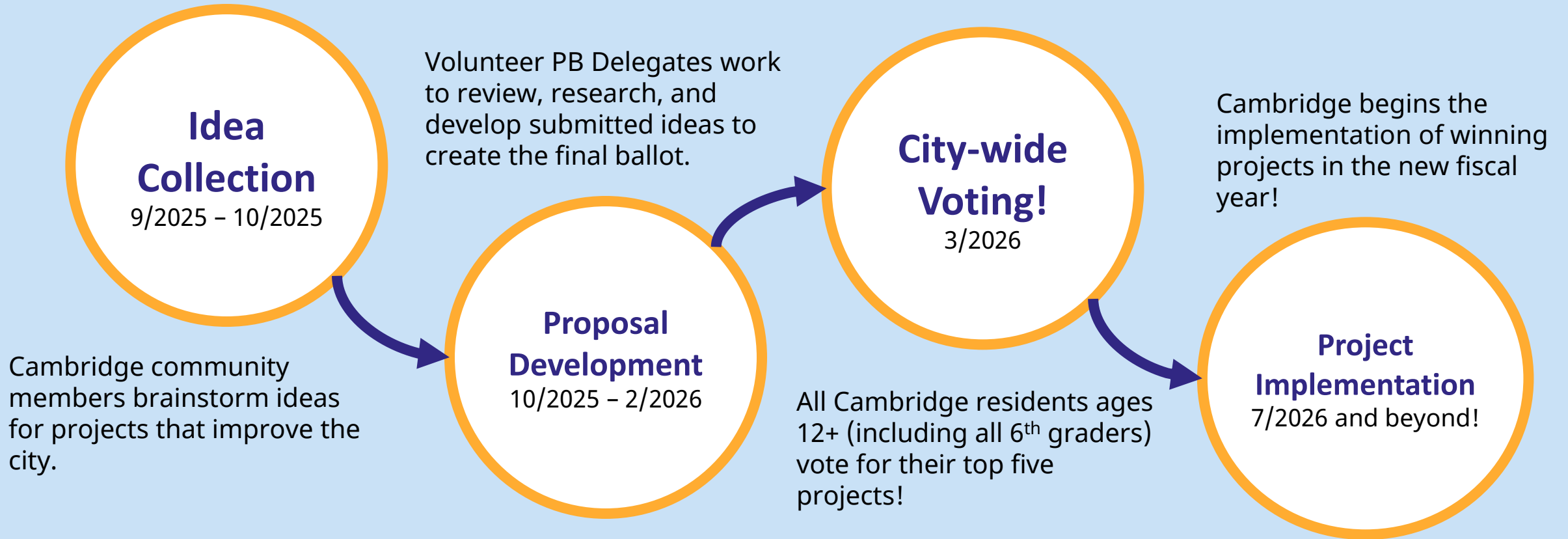


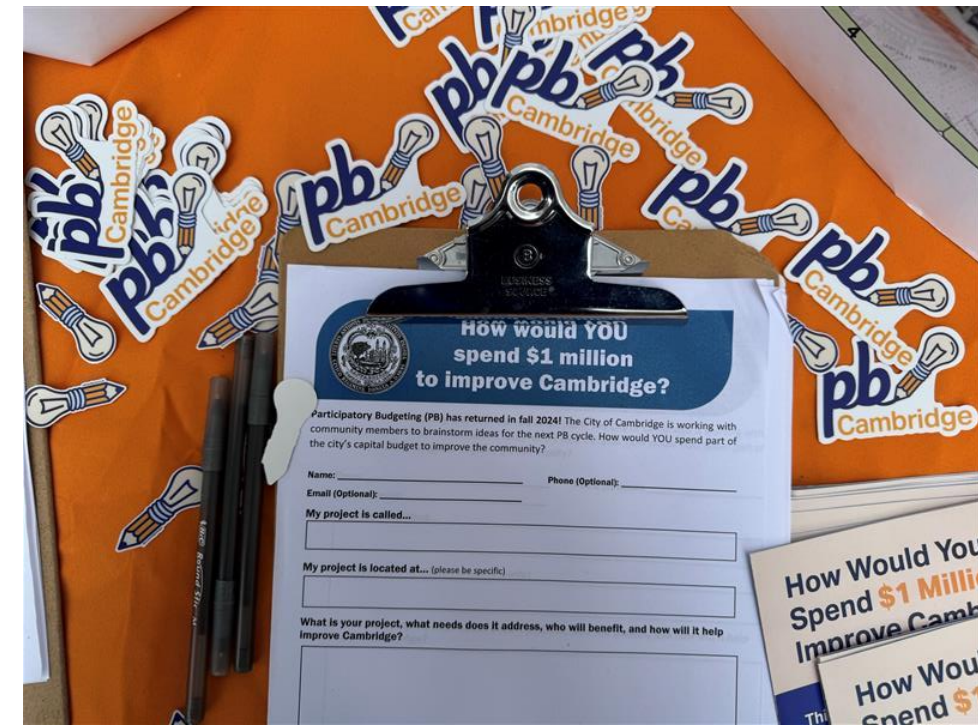
Participatory Budgeting is a process where community members decide how to spend part of the City's budget to improve Cambridge.

PB gives real **people**, real **power**, over real **money**.

Cambridge residents have set aside over \$10.5 million to pay for 79 PB projects since the first PB Cambridge cycle in 2014.

PB12 Timeline





Idea Collection

What is the title of your idea?

Pickle Ball at Glacken Field



Juliana Davis suggested this Community Resources & Education idea near 600 Huron Avenue, Cambridge, MA.

What is your idea, and how does it improve Cambridge?

I believe it is possible to add extra lines to a tennis court so that it can also be used as a pickle ball court. Would it be possible to do this at some of the courts at Glacken Feild?

[VIEW ON MAP](#)

0 Support This!



What is the title of your idea?

CPL bike racks



Mark Feeney suggested this Transportation, Streets & Sidewalks idea near 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA.

What is your idea, and how does it improve Cambridge?

There is often limited space for locking bikes at the library. Adding additions racks/posts would improve things for both library patrons and Rindge students who cycle to school.

[VIEW ON MAP](#)

1 Support This!



What is the title of your idea?

Skate features in public spaces



Iandon wheeler suggested this city-wide Facilities, Parks & Recreation idea.

What is your idea, and how does it improve Cambridge?

Integrate deliberately fun to skate features in Public spaces like Malmö and Barcelona do. Integrate skateboarding into public spaces rather than deliberately excluding them.

[VIEW ON MAP](#)

0 Support This!



What is the title of your idea?

Scatter seating benches throughout the city

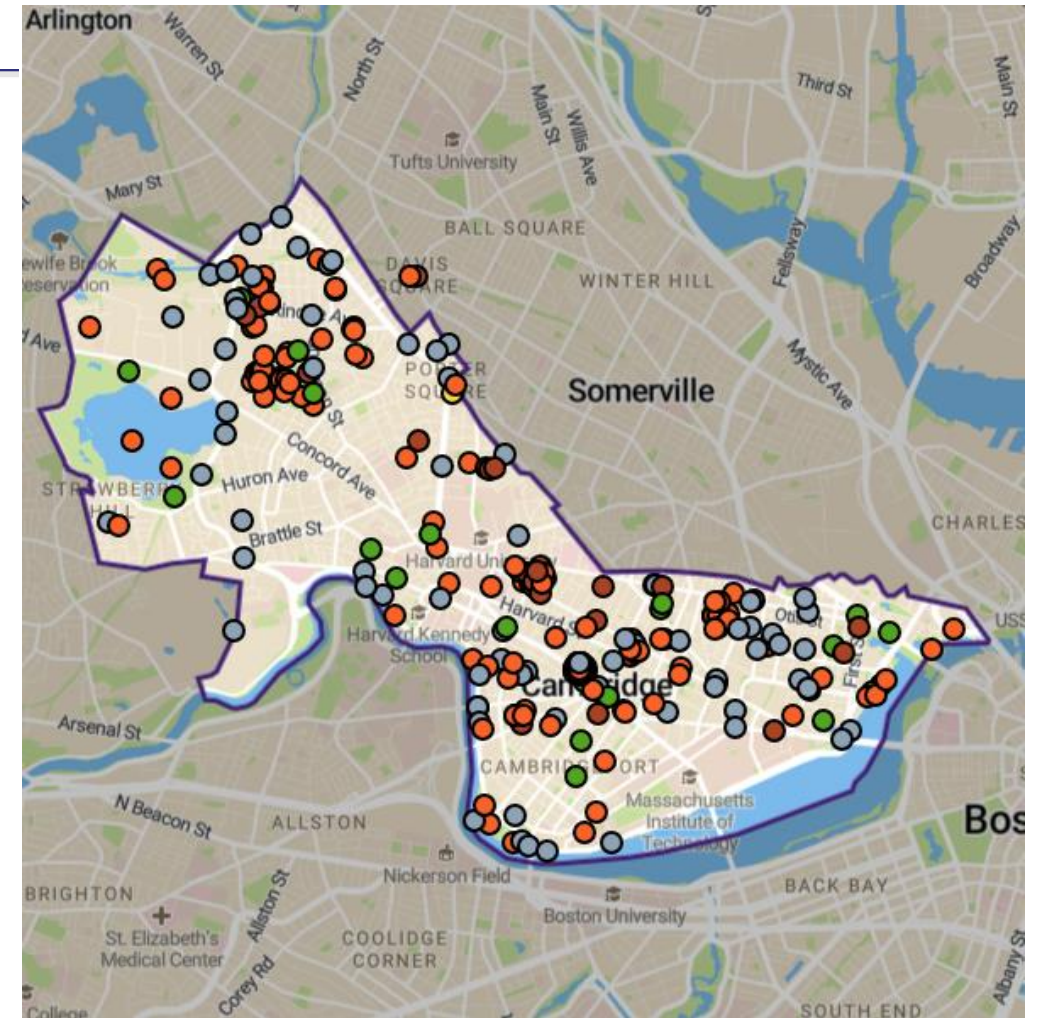


jh suggested this city-wide Transportation, Streets & Sidewalks idea.

What is your idea, and how does it improve Cambridge?

There are a large number of pedestrian friendly sidewalks in every neighborhood that need occasional benches. Going to or from a major square, where there are some benches, and home or work can be a long walk.

0 Support This!









Why PB?



- Provide a space for community members to engage in a fun, easy way to contribute to how the city can be improved for them
- Ensure that the budget reflects the public's needs, and inform the community on existing initiatives
- Foster civic engagement and community spirit, create community leaders and ways to work closely with the broader community

PB Resources



- [Cambridge Participatory Budgeting](#)
- [Participatory Budgeting Project](#)
- [Boston Youth Lead the Change](#)
- [Boston Participatory Budgeting: Ideas in Action](#)
- [Somerville Participatory Budgeting](#)