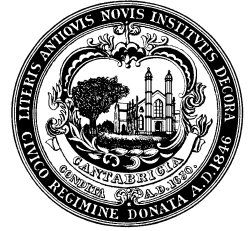


City of Cambridge
Commission for Persons with Disabilities
51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732
617-349-4692 voice · Relay via 711



Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Chair

**The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding a
meeting online via Zoom on November 13, 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. Approval of October minutes
<i>See pages 4-18 of this packet</i> | 4 min. | CCPD Board |
| 3. Vote on letter of support

<i>CCPD Board will vote on approval of
letter in support for an MA Affordable
Housing Trust 10% accessible housing
requirement (pg. 19)</i> | 10 min | CCPD Board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 5 min | Danielle Jones-McLaughlin |
| 5. Announcements | 5 min | CCPD Staff/Board |
| 6. Staff Report | 15 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 7. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Jim Wilcox,
<i>Engineer, Department of Public Works</i> |
| 8. Public Input

<i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | 4 min. | General public |

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, December 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 November 13, 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_MK-E9OeHQuuqJ7O4y9Xgeg.

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: **898 3688 4589**

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, October 9 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm

Present:

Members: Emma Pan, Jim Wilcox, Danielle Jones McLaughlin, Zach Solomons

Absent: Deepti Nijhawan, Avril dePagter

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus, Maya Friedrich, Kate Thurman

Other: Deputy Superintendent (DS) Buckowe Yam, Melissa Liu (Cambridge Participatory Budget & Engagement Coordinator)

Announcements:

- Because our board has several vacancies, we do not always know whether we will have quorum before our meetings. Loring and Dan's terms ended in September, and they could not stay on until we found successors. Rayna also recently informed us she needed to step down. We are very grateful for their service to CCPD.

Approval of Minutes:

- The August CCPD meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation on Cambridge Participatory Budget (CPB):

Melissa Liu reported (see attached slides for more details and resource links):

- We are currently in a participatory budget cycle!—see the slides for details on how to get involved.
- CPB is an annual process where City members can decide how to spend some of the Cambridge budget. We are now in our 12th PB cycle.
- Timeline: 4 stages
 - **Idea collection**
 - This year we have \$1 million, so the City is asking members of the public, “if you had \$1 million to spend on anything for the city, what would it be?”
 - CPB collects over 1,000 ideas from the community. This stage allows people who don't live in Cambridge to share their ideas.
 - Takes place through online forms, tables set up across the city, email, phone and mail.
 - **Proposal development**
 - Volunteer CPB delegates convert ideas into tangible projects.
 - Involves “speed consulting” event where volunteers discuss project ideas with city staff.
 - **City wide voting**
 - Cambridge residents aged 12+ can vote for their top 5 projects.
 - CBP does a lot of outreach in schools because Cambridge residents 12+ can vote.
 - CPB also sets up voting stations at housing developments, senior centers, City Hall, and other public spaces.

- Voting is also available online.
 - Email and mail campaigns encourage participation.
- **Project Implementation**
- Examples of previous projects include:
 - Rat traps that do not use pesticides or poisons
 - Cool Spots project for more shaded seating spots
 - Pemberton street mural painted by youth in 2023
 - Cargo bikes for tree canopy care staff
 - Chromebooks for the Community Learning Center
- Boston and Somerville have both developed their own PB processes following Cambridge.
- Danielle shared that she is a PB delegate this year and has participated before. She particularly enjoys the speed consulting event. Some of her favorite projects included street signs with indigenous names and a bee honey collection station.
- Kate asked what CCPD can do to better advocate for accessibility project proposals.
- Melissa noted that, for example, people did not understand the importance of CART until someone compared it to TV subtitles. The project did not win, but this conversation showed the value of communicating its public benefit. Sometimes the public needs the broader benefits of accessibility projects explained to them.
- Rachel expressed concern that disability projects have never won at the CPB process. She asked how CPB deals with the ethics of voting on civil rights-related proposals.
 - Melissa affirmed that CPB folks consider this dynamic with disability-related projects. Residents have expressed concerns that the City should be funding these things anyway.
 - Melissa said people are often thinking about themselves voting. As a result, they gravitate towards the projects that interest them. We must consider how to push voters to focus more on the needs of their community members. Part of this is a communication issue, as people don't always understand what they are voting for.
- Rachel asked if there would be showcase event to educate the public on different PB projects. She also asked if CCPD is allowed to promote specific projects.
 - Melissa said the City used to do an annual PB ballot gallery walk, which stopped during the COVID pandemic. CPB may bring back the event and post videos about projects on City social media accounts.
 - City departments *are* allowed to "promote" projects but are not allowed to do so at voting sites. We are also prohibited from discouraging the public from voting for specific projects.

Chair's Report:

Danielle Jones McLaughlin reported:

- On October 4, CCPD participated in a Disability Pride event at Joan Lorenz Park that took a lot of planning and yielded a great turnout (hundreds of people!). Danielle volunteered at the event's sensory table and was part of the planning team. Many folks from the library and community took part in the activities and visited the resource tables. Danielle's highlight was the silent disco!

Staff Report:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- Reiterated that the Disability Pride event was amazing:
 - We estimate that 350-400 people showed up and 100 large pizzas disappeared in 2 hours!
 - The event featured demonstrations from Special Olympics athletes and a presentation by the Cambridge Program

- There was a silent disco: people could dance to music while listening to headphones. The headphones had several music channels to choose from
- An artist with a disability designed stickers for us to hand out
- The Cambridge police brought an ice cream truck ("copsicles")
- Rachel felt there was a lot of joy, and the event centered the disability community
- We worked with Cambridge Health Alliance, the Recreation Department, the Metropolitan Area Planning Committee (MAPC), and many volunteers
- We closed applications for the new board positions on Tuesday. Emma is going to help us process and interview candidates. Once we fill the board seats, we can explore ideas from the retreat about improving our meetings.
- Rachel gave a presentation for MIT employees about disability accommodations. The event was sponsored by their Employee Resources Group for employees with disabilities. During the presentation, Rachel discussed how employers can accommodate their staff, and how employees can self-advocate.
- Rachel gave a presentation to staff at the Hive (a makerspace in the Cambridge Public Library open to Cambridge residents which has all sorts of equipment for creative projects like sewing, podcasting, etc.). They invited Rachel to talk about how to make the equipment and programming more accessible.
- Rachel serves on a committee that decides who gets grant money from the Forward Fund (managed by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority). Rachel offers her expertise in assessing the accessibility of projects that apply. She noted that the nonprofits who applied want to make their projects as inclusive as possible.
- CCPD works with businesses seeking variance requests from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB):
 - We worked with Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, a social services nonprofit. They want to make sure their space is accessible to employees with mobility disabilities. They also want their programs to be accessible to those receiving services.
 - Other variance requests in Cambridge that came in front of MAAB included:
 - Darling restaurant (Kate advised the business owners on how best to make this request)
 - The Royal Sonesta Hotel
 - a residential building on Hayes Street
- Upcoming events:
 - Two events at the Watertown library by the Watertown Disabilities Commission:
 - On Monday 10/20 from 6:30-8:30pm there is a showing of Crip Camp, a movie about the disability rights movement.
 - A panel called "Democracy Talks: Advocates Respond to Disability Rights Under Attack" will take place on Tuesday 10/21 at 6:30pm. The panelists are notable disability rights advocates.
 - There will be changes to OneCare in January because of recent federal policy. [Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights \(DAAHR\) is hosting an informational panel Thursday Nov 6 at 1pm on Zoom.](#)
- Our former Board Chair Keisha asked if CCPD would give a letter of support for an advocacy initiative. The letter asks the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund to allocate at least 10% of new housing for people with mobility disabilities. Rachel asked if the Board wants to support this.
 - Danielle expressed interest in supporting this initiative.
 - Rachel suggested that if people want to support it, she can reach out to Keisha for clarification on the timeline and the organization directing the initiative. Then, we could draft a letter and vote on it at the next board meeting.
 - A board member put a motion forward to write the letter in the coming weeks and vote on it at the November meeting. The motion to write the letter and hold a vote in November passed by a unanimous vote. Rachel said she would seek clarification from Keisha tomorrow.

Public Works Update:

Jim Wilcox reported on the following construction projects:

- **River Street:**
 - The Department of Public Works (DPW) is doing utility work along River Street at the Putnam Avenue intersection.
 - Next year DPW will continue working on sidewalks, bike lanes and roadways on River Street.
- **Carl Barron Plaza:**
 - There is ongoing construction at the Carl Barron Plaza in Central Square. Some of the new sidewalks there will open in November. These cut down the pedestrian detours, so they will be a welcome improvement for the winter.
 - The rest of the Carl Barron Plaza work will finish in the spring and summer.
- **Harvard Square Plaza:**
 - DPW is doing construction around the kiosk building and at the former Pit in Harvard Square.
 - Work will continue through the winter and most of next construction season. It should complete by November 2026.
- **Complete Streets program:** This is a DPW program aiming to improve streets through sidewalk and utility work. Current contracts include:
 - Contract 24: This contract is almost finished. Dodge Street and Chestnut Street are complete, and Elm Street will finish in a few weeks.
 - Contract 25: Work has finished on Montgomery Street. Construction on Maple Avenue will wrap up in the next few weeks. Utility work on Dana Street will continue through the winter. Work on Centre Street and Green Street will start this winter. This project will continue through the end of 2026.
 - Two more contracts will be going to bid over the winter:
 - 26A: This will include Chetwynd Road (a dead-end street). The project will create a shared street for cars, bikes and pedestrians. It will also include work on Gray, Haskell, and Norfolk Streets from Broadway to the Somerville line.
 - 26B: This includes Avon Hill Street, Hillside Avenue, Inman Street and Carlisle Street.
- **Cambridgeport infrastructure:** DPW has two projects going out for construction bids.
 - Clement Morgan Park and Paolillo Tot Lot: DPW expects construction on both parks to start in the winter. The parks will close during construction.
 - Streets package: contract will involve full reconstruction (utilities, streets and sidewalks) on the following streets:
 - Harvard Street from Prospect Street to Portland Street
 - Full length of Essex Street
 - Norfolk Street between Harvard Street and Bishop Allen Drive
 - Columbia Street from Harvard Street to Bishop Allen Drive
 - Full length of Worcester Street, Suffolk Street and Washington Street
- **Massachusetts Avenue:** DPW is making improvements for bicycles, public transit and pedestrians.
 - Work is ongoing between Waterhouse Street and Linnean Street, which will continue for a year and a half.
 - DPW is developing a design for Massachusetts Avenue from Linnean Street to Alewife Brook parkway.
 - Contracts for the rest of the project will go out for bids over the next few years.
- **Sidewalk Maintenance Contract:** involves various sidewalk repairs throughout the city and tackles accessibility issues.
- During this construction season, DPW reconstructed 122 pedestrian ramps to improve accessibility.

Public Comment:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maya Friedrich



City of Cambridge, MA

Participatory Budgeting

An Approach to Community-Led Decision Making and
Engagement



What is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?

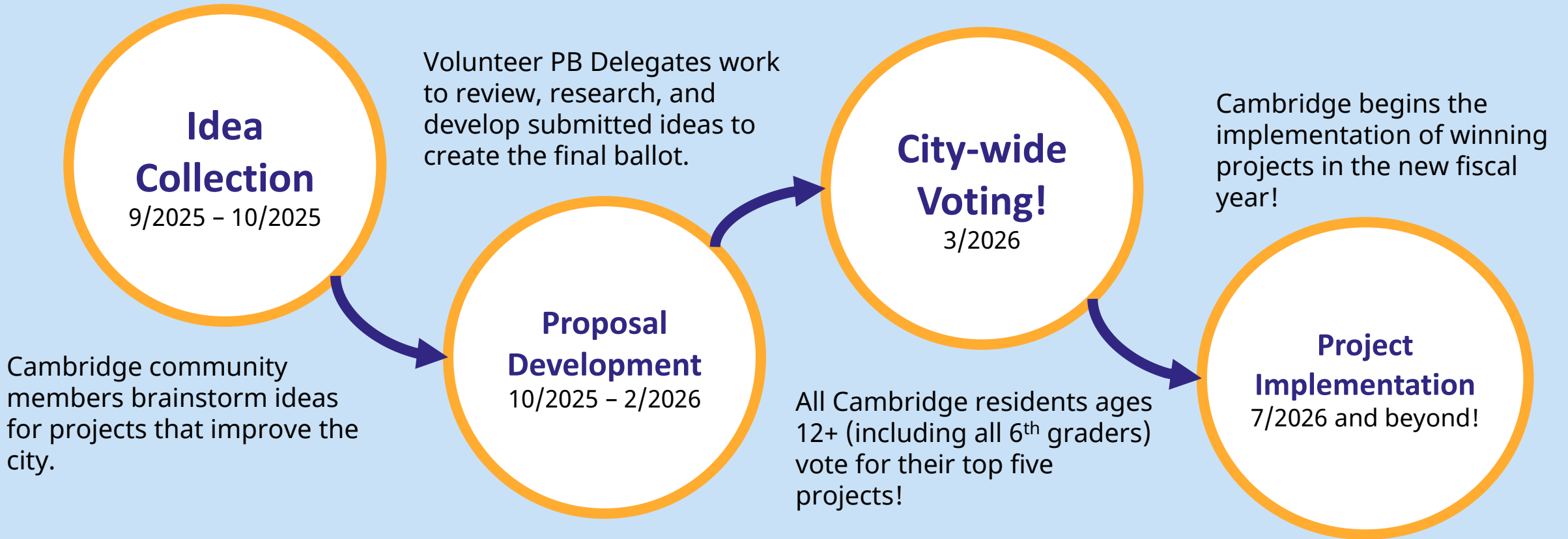


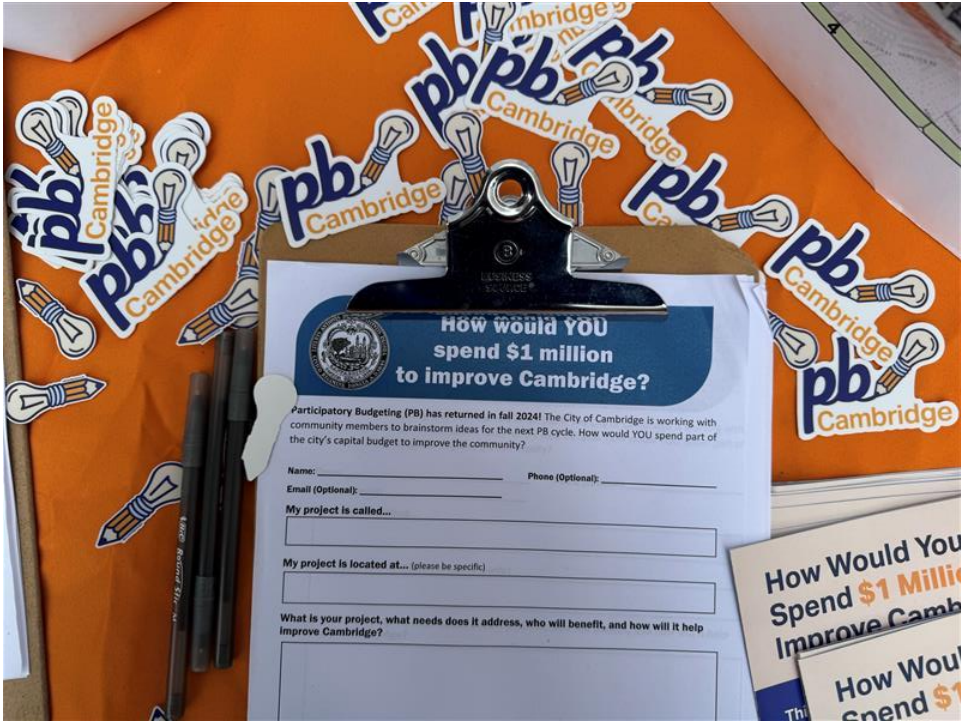
Participatory Budgeting is a process where community members decide how to spend part of the City's budget to improve Cambridge.

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

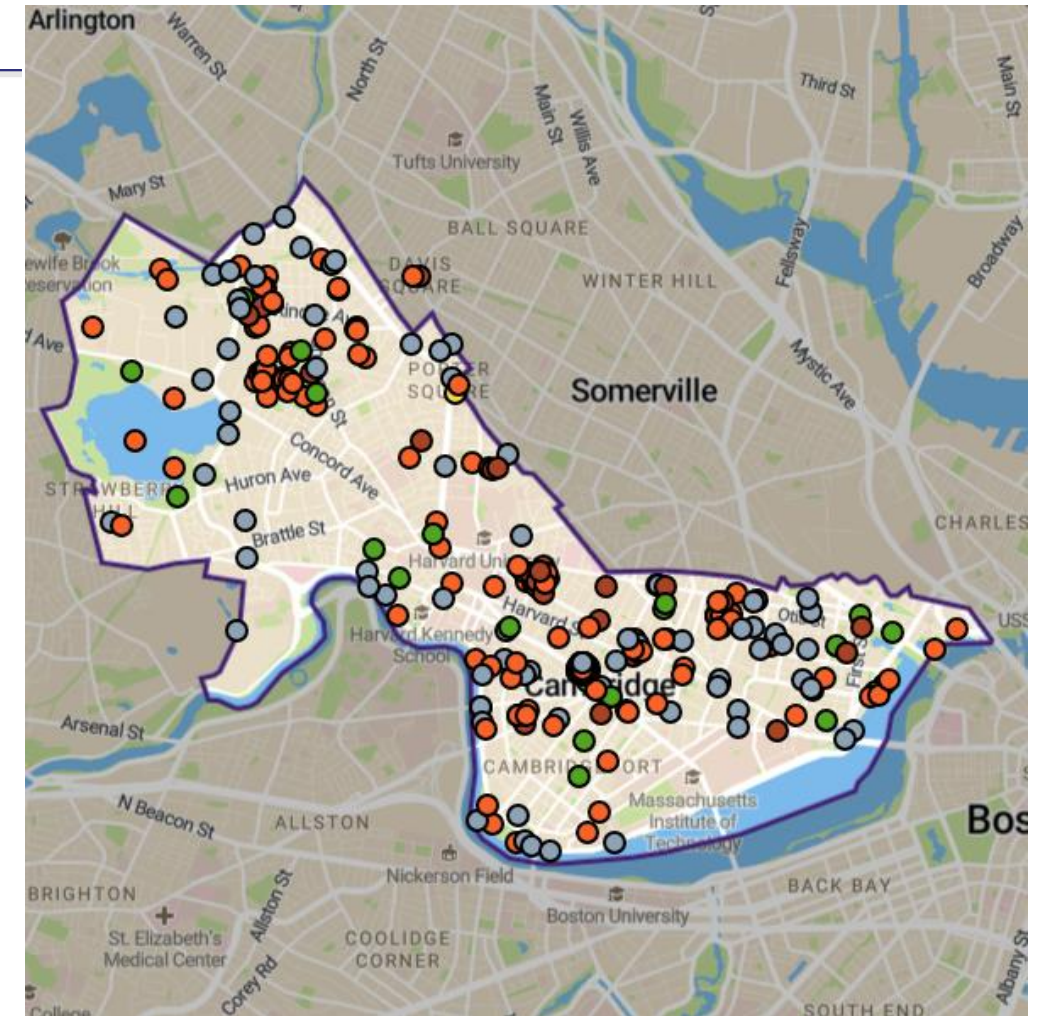


jh suggested this city-wide Transportation, Streets & Sidewalks idea.

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?



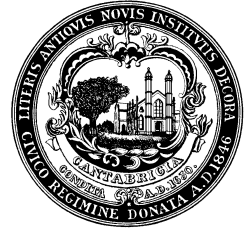
- Provide a space for community members to engage in a fun, easy way to contribute to how the city can be improved for them
- Ensure that the budget reflects the public's needs, and inform the community on existing initiatives
- Foster civic engagement and community spirit, create community leaders and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

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Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Chair

DRAFT

Avril dePagter
Melissa Miguel
Deepti Nijhawan
Emma Pan
Zach Solomons

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC)

Rachel Tanenhaus
Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator

100 Cambridge St

Suite 300

Kate Thurman
Deputy Director/
Assistant ADA Coordinator

Boston, MA 02114

Maya Friedrich
Administrative Assistant

Dear Secretary Augustus,

We are sending you this letter in support of making the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund require 10% of units in each new development to be accessible.

Through the Affordable Homes Act (also referred to as the Housing Bond Bill), the legislature plans to allot \$800 million bonded to the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

People with disabilities need to be included in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build not only affordable but also accessible housing! Some reasons include:

1) Civil rights

People deserve to live in their community regardless of whether they have a disability. However, people with disabilities face years-long waiting lists for housing across the state in comparison to people who do not need accessible housing. Because of the lack of affordable accessible housing, people are being unnecessarily institutionalized. This keeps people away from their community, friends, family, and work.

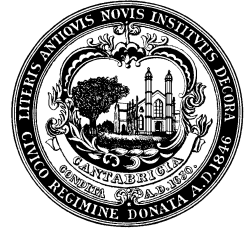
2) Health

People who have housing that fits their needs live healthier lives. Currently people who need accessible features and cannot find affordable accessible units are living in units where they cannot use the oven and stove, shower, or even fit their wheelchair into the bathroom.

3) Aging

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that by 2030 the percentage of Massachusetts residents over the age of 60 will rise to 25%. Most seniors want to age in their own community but can't due to the lack of affordable accessible housing.

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Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Chair

A Working Model: The Worcester Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Model

Avril dePagter
Melissa Miguel
Deepti Nijhawan
Emma Pan
Zach Solomons

The Worcester AHTF requires 10% of units to be accessible in each project that receives AHTF funds, which has enabled 57 affordable, accessible units to be brought online in Worcester.

Rachel Tanenhaus
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

The Worcester AHTF proves that requiring 10% of units in each project funded requirement works.

Kate Thurman
*Deputy Director/
Assistant ADA Coordinator*

We look forward to working collaboratively with legislators, EOHLC, senior advocates, and the disability community to create a more accessible Commonwealth.

Maya Friedrich
Administrative Assistant

Sincerely,

Danielle Jones McLaughlin

Interim Chair

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Rachel H. Tanenhaus, MPH

Executive Director

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

On behalf of the Advisory Board of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities