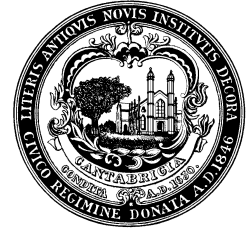


April 9, 2026 Meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Table of Contents

1. [Meeting Agenda](#) – page 2
2. [Instructions for Joining the April 9 CCPD Meeting](#) – page 3
3. [Instructions for Providing Public Comment](#) – page 4
4. [Board Chair and Secretary Position Descriptions](#)—page 5
5. [Current CCPD Board Working Group Ideas](#) – page 6
6. [Public Works Presentation: Accessible Parking by Separated Bike Lanes](#) – page 7
7. [March Minutes and Presentation Slides](#) – page 13



APRIL 2026 MEETING AGENDA

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is holding a meeting online via Zoom on April 9, 2026 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Acting Chair

Nieta Greene
Cecelia Cobb
Asherah Davis
Deepti Nijhawan
Emma Pan
Erum Sattar
Zach Solomons
Jim Wilcox

Rachel Tanenhaus
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
*Deputy Director/
Assistant ADA Coordinator*

Maya Friedrich
Administrative Assistant

- 1. Introductions** (5 min)
- 2. Announcements** (2 min) – CCPD Staff/Board
- 3. Board Leadership Roles Description and Nominations** (8 min) – CCPD Board
CCPD will discuss the board leadership elections process and open nominations for Chair and Secretary positions. See position descriptions on [page 5](#).
- 4. Approval of March Minutes** (2 min) – CCPD Board
See [pages 13-41](#) of this packet
- 5. Chair's Report** (8 min) – Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
- 6. Working Groups Planning and Expectations** (45 min) – CCPD Board
*Board members will decide and vote on working group projects and will discuss expectations of working group members.
See [page 6](#) for the CCPD Board's current working group ideas*
- 7. Public Works Update** (10 min) – Emily Boyle, Engineer, Department of Public Works
See [pages 7-12](#) of this packet for presentation slides
- 8. Staff Report** (6 min) – Rachel Tanenhaus
- 9. Public Input** (4 min) – General Public
See [page 4 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, May 14, 2026 from 5:30-7:00 PM.**

Members of the public: [See instructions on pages 3 & 4 on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment](#) via Zoom

Instructions for Joining the April 9, 2026 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_eQqV2EAPRCuniLh08rSsNg.

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: **842 6589 4055**

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!

CCPD Chair & Secretary Job Descriptions

Chairperson

Responsibilities Include:

- Collaborating with staff to prepare meeting agendas and support clear communication
- Attending and facilitating board meetings
- Representing the Commission in an official capacity when appropriate

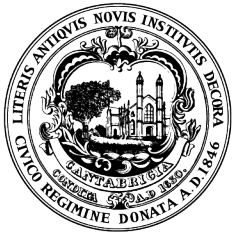
Secretary

Responsibilities Include:

- Collaborating with the Chair to prepare meeting agendas
- Timekeeping during meetings and interrupting as necessary to keep the agenda moving on time
- Checking in periodically with active working groups to facilitate accountability
- Facilitating CCPD Board meetings in the absence of the Chair

2026 Board Working Group Ideas

Working Group Idea	Project Goals	Board Comments/Interest
Resource Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop directories of housing providers and other resources for new Cambridge residents with disabilities and their families 	
Cambridge Participatory Budget (PB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how to increase the Cambridge disability community’s participation in the PB process • Develop and/or advise on accessibility-related PB projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecelia expressed interest • Nieta expressed interest— she served as a PB delegate in past years and noticed accessibility issues in the PB process.
New Board Member Orientation Packet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a welcome packet to orient new members of the CCPD board and formalize the onboarding process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nieta expressed interest • Erum and Danielle validated the need for a streamlined board member orientation process even if it isn’t developed through a working group
Civic Engagement Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize CCPD board representation at public forums and policy-related engagement opportunities • Attend and report back on meetings/events on topics affecting the disability community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle expressed interested in getting CCPD Board members engaged with Massachusetts Executive Order No. 656 (Autism Support Strategy)

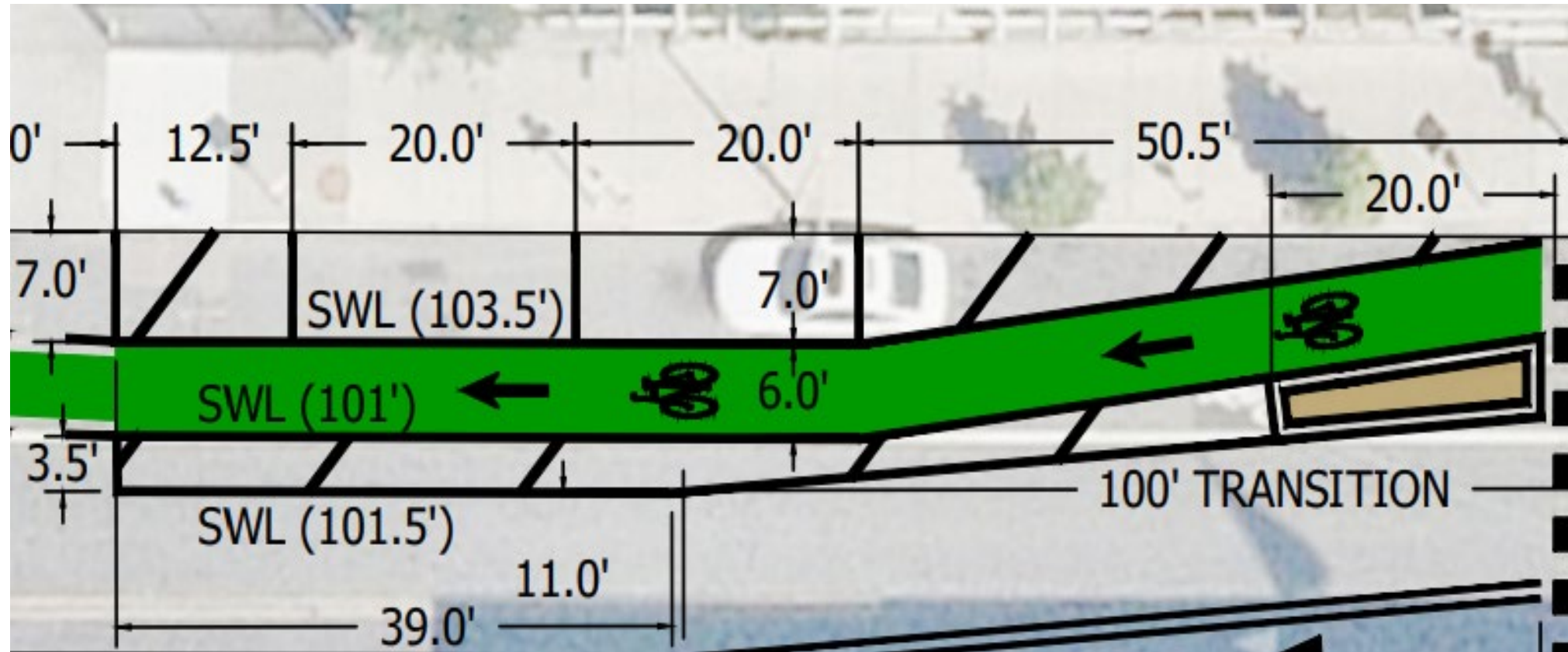


CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

THE CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
WORKS

Accessible Parking by Separated Bike Lanes

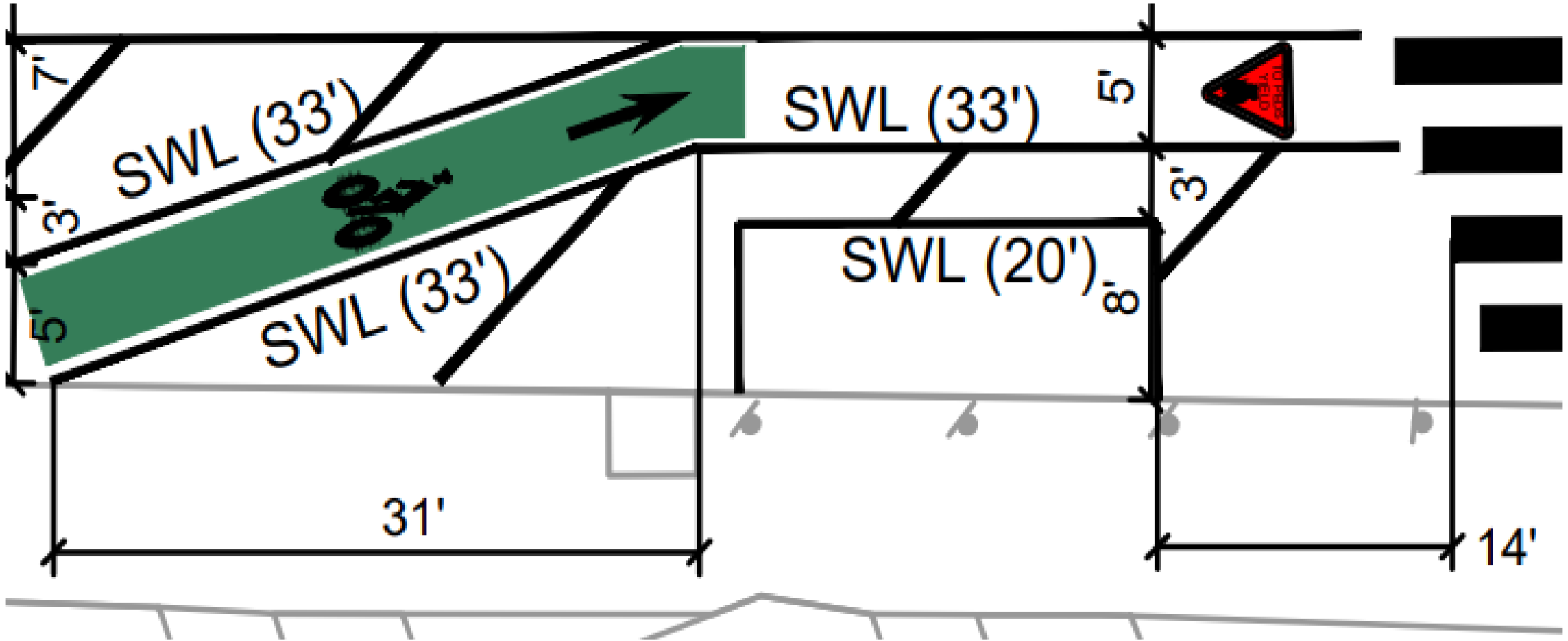
Current Layout On Main Street



Current Layout On Main Street



Current Layout on Hampshire Street



Current Layout on Hampshire Street



Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, March 12, 2026 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present:

Members: Nieta Greene, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, Erum Sattar, Zachary Solomons, Jim Wilcox

Absent: Cecelia Cobb, Asherah Davis, Deepti Nijhawan, Emma Pan

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus, Kate Thurman

Other: Deputy Superintendent (DS) Buckowe Yam

Announcements:

- Danielle praised Rachel for her presentation on CCPD's work at the City Council Veterans and Human Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 11. She also praised Nieta for attending and providing valuable insight during the public comment portion of that meeting.

Approval of February 2026 Minutes:

- The February 2026 CCPD meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation on Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan:

Betsy Harvey Herzfeld reported (see attached slides for additional details):

- Betsy introduced herself as a member of Boston's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Her presentation discussed the MPO's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, abbreviated as the "Coordinated Plan".
- Betsy described the role of an MPO:
 - Every urbanized area in the United States (more than 50,000 people) has an MPO.
 - MPOs were established in the 1960s to meet new federal transportation planning requirements.
 - MPOs ensure that federal transportation funds address the current needs of local communities.
 - Every MPO has a policy board made up of municipal members and transit agencies/providers in the region (for example, the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and Metro West).
 - The MPO board sets regional transportation goals informed by public engagement, stakeholder outreach, and staff planning work. These goals help determine which projects are funded. Some past projects have included off street bike paths, the MBTA green line extension, and safety improvements to roads.
 - MPOs increase public engagement, bringing community members into decision-making processes for transportation planning. Boston MPO has staff dedicated to collaborating with groups like local disabilities commissions and councils on aging (COAs) to ensure diverse transport needs are communicated to the board.
 - MPOs also conduct studies and analysis on regional transportation issues.
- Betsy shared facts about the Boston region MPO:
 - Boston MPO covers 97 cities and towns around Boston (approximately east of interstate 495). It is the biggest MPO in Massachusetts with about 3.4 million residents who have differing needs.

- Boston MPO differs from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) and other regional transit authorities in the following ways:
 - MPO is an approver of how money is spent and does not build the projects themselves.
 - MPO mostly deals with federal dollars, so they must approve money spent on projects by MBTA and MassDOT.
 - MPO asks how fund-seeking projects align with Boston regional priorities, and they work closely with MassDOT to ensure they aligned in their goals.
 - MPO does not directly implement programs for people with disabilities. For example, MPO is not involved in the planning or operations of the MBTA's Ride program. However, MPO conducts studies and creates plans that can influence these programs and determine which programs receive funding.
- What is the Coordinated Plan?:
 - The plan is part of MPO's portfolio of work that focuses specifically on the needs of seniors and people with disabilities.
 - Its main purpose is to support applications to the Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP):
 - The CTGP is a state grant that supports projects for seniors and people with disabilities. A wide variety of organizations can apply including transit authorities, Councils on Aging, municipalities, nonprofits and transit operators.
 - The grant can fund projects such as the purchase of new vehicles, [travel training \(educational programs that increase community members' awareness of transit services\)](#), and transit operating costs.
 - Grant applicants need to demonstrate that their project is meeting a need identified in the regional MPO's Coordinated Plan. The [Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program website](#) shows examples of past projects the grant has funded.
 - Because CTGP-funded projects must align with needs identified in the Coordinated Plan, the plan must be informed by the lived experience of people with disabilities who can identify where gaps in service are.
 - The Coordinated Plan is updated every four years, and the Boston MPO is working to update it this year.
 - The plan content falls into three main buckets, all of which are informed by public input:
 1. Unmet transportation needs for older adults and people with disabilities
 2. Strategies and actions to meet these unmet needs (for example, community transit education programs, expanded transportation, or elevator improvements at transit stations)
 3. Identifying priorities, because funding is limited
 - The engagement process asks people with disabilities and older adults, "What needs are you seeing in your community?"
 - Examples of common responses include:
 - elevator maintenance at red line stops
 - services providing transportation to non-medical destinations
 - education about how to use transit in the community
 - Outside of this meeting, CCPD members and members of the public can provide feedback to MPO in the following ways :
 - People can reach out to [Betsy directly via email at ehertzfeld@ctps.org](mailto:ehertzfeld@ctps.org) to provide input about community needs.
 - Boston MPO will send a survey to municipalities, advocacy organizations, and different transit providers in April asking similar questions about needs and priorities.
 - Timeline of the Coordinated Plan:
 - Fall 2025 to spring 2026: MPO will be gathering input through engagement processes (through meetings like this one) through the beginning of spring.

- Spring 2026: MPO will begin writing the Coordinated Plan.
- Fall 2026: MPO will publish the new Coordinated Plan in replacement of the previous one.
- Contacting Boston MPO:
 - You can sign up for Boston MPO’s email list on their website at www.bostonmpo.org.
 - MPO has social accounts on X, Bluesky, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook (all handles are @BostonRegionMPO).
 - The current coordinated plan is available online at www.bostonmpo.org/cpt-hst.
 - You can [email Betsy Harvey Herzfeld at ehertzfeld@ctps.org](mailto:ehertzfeld@ctps.org).
- Betsy requested feedback and questions from CCPD board and staff:
 - Danielle asked whether an organization could apply for CTGP funding for transportation related to an event. Betsy replied that any entity may apply to CTGP for their project, but the application must demonstrate that the project aligns with a need in the MPO’s Coordinated Plan. Betsy clarified that MPO does not determine who receives CTGP funding but only writes the Coordinated Plan itself.
 - Nieta expressed appreciation for the Coordinated Plan and said she wishes there were more advertisements for this process so more community members could offer feedback. She raised concerns about a lack of transit routes going from east to west in the Boston region. She noted that getting to areas like Acton and Concord from North Cambridge usually involves taking several busses and trains followed by rideshares through areas without public transit options.
 - Erum noted that Betsy had mentioned educational opportunities and asked what these programs entail. Betsy clarified that her mention of “educational opportunities” referred to grant-funded programs providing community members with education about what transit options are available to them. Erum said she wanted to learn more about these educational projects that had been funded in the past, and Betsy said they can be found on the [CTGP website](#).

Presentation on Immigration and Disability:

Carolina Almonte reported (see attached slides for additional details):

- Carolina introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Commission for Immigration Rights and Citizenship (CIRC). She also serves as Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the Police Review and Advisory Board (PRAB). She has worked with the City for about six years.
- CIRC is currently made up of two staff members, Carolina and Tagesech “Tagu” Wabeto, but they are in the process of hiring a third staff member who will serve as a program manager.
- CIRC was created in 2016 in response to the political climate’s increased hostility towards immigrants and refugees. The City wanted to create a commission to focus on immigrant community members, and a needs assessment showed that new immigrants were seeking resources and legal supports. The “buckets” of CIRC’s role are to welcome, inform, connect, and support immigrants in Cambridge.
- If someone is a new resident to the City, immigrant or not, they generally need to secure food/housing, register for English or vocational classes, find a job, locate support services, find a community, and seek legal/immigration advocacy. These items do not always happen in this order for every new resident, but CIRC identified them as the primary concerns immigrants seek support around.
- The needs assessment identified that immigration legal services are in high demand despite limited supply:
 - Carolina is proud that CIRC has run a legal clinic in partnership with De Novo Center for Justice and Healing since 2016, which does not exclude clients based on income or Cambridge residency status.
 - The clinic used to offer in-person services but has operated fully remotely since the pandemic.
 - Clients can call the Legal Screening Clinic at 617-405-5479 and leave a message with their name and contact number. The message line is open until the third Wednesday of each month.
 - CIRC and De Novo are always seeking new volunteer attorneys, as the clinic’s services are in high demand right now. The clinic has served around 200 people in the last year.

- CIRC does not collect any identifying data from individuals. They only collect the number of people they serve and their countries of origin.
- Last fiscal year, the City of Cambridge granted CIRC an additional contract to fund a part-time paralegal who works on overflow cases (cases the volunteer attorneys lack capacity to address).
- CIRC has several events planned before the end of the 2026 fiscal year (in June):
 - **Orientation Workshop for Foreign Trained Immigrants (Saturday, April 11)**—CIRC partners with the African Bridge Network to host this annual workshop for immigrants trained in specialized professions (such as engineers and doctors) in their home countries seeking to advance their careers in the United States. Carolina mentioned that foreign training often does not allow immigrants to directly continue their careers here and they must undergo additional training. This workshop has successfully provided immigrant professionals with tips on what they can do to secure opportunities.
 - **CIRC Welcome Event and Fair Housing Resource Fair (Saturday, May 9, King Open School)**—a community celebration hosted in partnership with the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (HRC) and other City housing departments to welcome new residents and share resources. In past years, the Welcome Event and Fair Housing Resource Fair were two separate events, but this year CIRC and HRC are combining them. There will be live music, face painting, art tables, food, and 25-30 housing resource tables.
 - **Citizenship Day (May 19)**—a large annual in-person workshop for Cambridge-area immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. Knowledgeable volunteers help guide attendees on their next steps in the citizenship process, and the mayor attends to give a speech. At last year’s workshop, about 48 people received help and most have become citizens since then.
- CIRC has worked with the Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition and the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project to create “Know Your Rights” trainings:
 - These trainings help audiences understand what to do if ICE comes to their house or workplace.
 - CIRC and partners have facilitated trainings for different audiences including City of Cambridge staff, direct service workers, community sessions (for about 119 attendees so far), high school students, and businesses/employers.
 - Partnerships with organizations such as MIRA, PAIR, LUCE, and De Novo are important because they offer expertise in immigration law (Carolina is an attorney, but not an immigration attorney).
 - The next training CIRC will showcase is a bystander-focused training by LUCE and will take place at the library. CIRC is partnering with the Cambridge Peace Commission and Mayor’s Office to host this event, which will likely take place in April though a date has not been set yet. The training will cover topics such as how to identify an ICE agent, how to safely protest, and the laws around recording ICE encounters.
 - You can visit the CIRC website to see recordings of past trainings, including translated recordings. CIRC tries to update their website regularly with upcoming events, but you can also reach out to Carolina directly to ask about the next training.
- Carolina discussed how immigrant status and disability can create overlapping barriers:
 - People with disabilities who face language barriers may be unable to effectively communicate their needs and experience limited access to services and information.
 - Many immigrants rely on informal support networks (friends and family) rather than formal support systems, and disabilities could create further access barriers to formal support services.
 - Disability may carry cultural stigma in some communities.
- Recent incidents have raised national awareness and concern for immigrants with disabilities:
 - In Buffalo, New York, federal border officials detained a blind, non-English-speaking refugee and abandoned him outside in the cold. He unfortunately froze to death. His family raised concerns about his treatment and ICE denied liability.
 - This instance illustrates the heightened vulnerability of individuals who cannot navigate unfamiliar environments or understand instructions due to disability and language barriers and also showcases the lack of disability awareness from immigration enforcement officers.

- Carolina shared data on ICE activity in Cambridge (collected and shared by LUCE):
 - LUCE received 26 community calls from individuals who suspected ICE presence in their neighborhood, but only 4 of these calls led to confirmed ICE presence.
 - In comparison, LUCE received 78 calls from Waltham, and 51 of these were verified ICE presence. Cambridge has seen lower ICE presence compared to its neighbors, even in comparison to Somerville.
 - LUCE has trained over 250 volunteers across Cambridge and supported three Cambridge residents who were detained in the last year.
 - This data shows that LUCE and other partner organizations have enabled effective community monitoring systems that are active and responsive.
- Carolina emphasized that LUCE volunteers connect families with legal resources. LUCE volunteers do not just come out if there's an ICE incident but provide resources for families of immigrants who are detained. The CIRC website has a [list of immigration concerns resources](#) as well.
- During work hours, community members can call CIRC with concerns related to ICE or ICE sightings, but CIRC does not have an after-hours hotline, so the City recommends calling LUCE (see their contact information on the [LUCE website](#)) during post-work hours.
- CIRC cannot predict whether there will be a surge of ICE activity in Cambridge in the future, but they are working to create emergency preparedness tools for immigrants in Cambridge:
 - Regardless of whether there is an active emergency such as an ICE detention, CIRC recommends that any resident (including immigrants, people with disabilities and those who may be most vulnerable in a crisis) create family preparedness documents.
 - These documents should include information such as emergency contacts, caregiver authorization, assistive devices, medications and plans for situations such as the primary financial contributor in a family being detained.
 - CIRC aims to release the emergency preparedness tools in May or June, and it will encourage families to include disability-related needs in these plans.
- Carolina/CIRC made the following recommendations to address the intersection of disability and immigration rights in Cambridge:
 - The City should expand disability inclusive emergency preparedness planning.
 - We should build stronger relationships between our two Commissions (CCPD and CIRC). CCPD staff plan to table at the May Welcome Event/Resource Fair, and board members are welcome to join! Interested members can <mailto:ccpd@cambridgema.gov>.
- Contact information: you can email Carolina directly at calmonte@cambridgema.gov or call her office at 617-349-4398 with questions about ICE, requests for resource referrals, or general concerns about immigration enforcement in the community.
- Carolina invited CCPD members to raise questions and concerns:
 - Rachel noted that people with sensory disabilities (hearing, sight, autism/ADHD, and some psychiatric conditions, for example) are vulnerable to ICE encounters because they may not know how to read or react in each situation, including when a weapon is pointed at them.
 - Carolina validated these concerns and mentioned that while “Know Your Rights” red cards can inform immigrants and/or their caregivers of their legal rights in a situation, ICE agents appear to be disregarding legal standards and are undermining people’s rights.
 - Nieta raised several concerns:
 - She mentioned instances of caregivers being abducted by ICE, and shared that someone in Texas died because of their caregiver’s sudden disappearance.
 - She also reiterated concerns about ICE agents’ lawless actions, including those involving people with disabilities, and she hopes Know Your Rights trainings will discuss disability issues. She also asked for local law enforcement to protect our community (including people with disabilities) from ICE aggression.

- Danielle provided a bystander and caregiver point of view, mentioning that caregivers of people vulnerable to ICE activity should understand what they need to do to support the person they provide care for. She suggested incorporating information for caregivers into the bystander Know Your Rights training as Nieta suggested.
- DS Yam validated Nieta’s concerns about the responsibility of local law enforcement and clarified that Cambridge PD does not comply with ICE when they are not legally obligated to do so.
- Erum thanked Carolina for CIRC’s work and mentioned that some immigrants also carry trauma from their countries of origin, which can exacerbate other disabilities. Carolina validated Erum’s concerns and said that CIRC partners with organizations who offer community-centered trauma support.

Chair’s Report/Working Groups Discussion:

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin facilitated a discussion about working group planning with the CCPD board:

- The Board reviewed the list of working groups from our May 2025 retreat including:
 - A group that will create resources sheets for new Cambridge residents with disabilities and their families
 - A group that will strategize on making Cambridge Participatory Budget (PB) process more accessible for people with disabilities and explore disability-related PB project ideas
 - A group that will create an orientation packet for new CCPD board members.
- Rachel mentioned that she talked to people from the City’s Department of Transportation, and from Community Development and the Department of Public Works who are involved in a bike lane reconstruction project. They are looking for input on where to put disability parking spaces along bike lanes. Rachel suggested that the CCPD board could create a working group to offer feedback on this.
- Nieta affirmed the Board’s need for an orientation packet for new members and expressed support for the PB working group idea. She and other board members have served as PB delegates in past years and noticed accessibility issues in the PB process.
- CCPD board and staff members agreed that further discussion about working groups should be prioritized on next month’s agenda, and that we should also discuss procedural concerns and expectations of working groups. Rachel mentioned the importance of setting expectations around meeting frequency and time expectations so working group members can follow through with their commitments.
- Board members can email CCPD staff at ccpd@cambridgema.gov with project ideas or feedback before our next meeting.

Public Works Report:

Jim Wilcox reported:

- In alignment with the Board’s feedback about spotlighting accessibility-related projects, Jim described the “shared street” the Department of Public Works (DPW) constructed on Fairmont Avenue:
 - Due to the interference from utility poles and trees, DPW could not construct accessible sidewalks on this street. Instead, they re-paved and re-constructed the street to accommodate pedestrians, cars, and bicycles.
 - The new surface is paved with high-reflectivity asphalt, which stays cooler than other paving materials. Portions of the street without this coating serve as designated parking areas. DPW created landscape areas alongside the street where the sidewalks used to be.
 - Entrances to the street slope upwards and the road’s paving material changes to slow down vehicles and alert drivers that they are entering a shared street.
 - Jim clarified that shared street projects are only suitable for small streets such as dead ends in low-traffic neighborhoods with low-speed limits to ensure pedestrian safety.
- The City has a contract starting in the Port Neighborhood this spring and will be creating similar shared streets on Worcester Street and Suffolk Street.

- Erum asked how to request a shared street in her neighborhood, and Jim responded that this project is only suitable for certain streets for safety reasons. They are usually dead ends or one-block streets with one-way traffic.

Photos of Fairmont Avenue project:



Staff Report:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- CCPD staff were invited to speak at the City Council’s Human Services and Veterans Committee meeting on March 11:
 - At the meeting, Rachel presented on CCPD’s cooperation with other City departments, and other department heads praised our work with them.
 - Rachel also spoke positively about the Board and the valuable insight our board members provide to increase accessibility in our community.
 - The meeting included a public comment period at the end of the session where some community members (including our board member Nieta) provided feedback.

- The [video recording of the March 11 Human Services and Veterans Committee meeting](#) is available to the public online. The meeting is about two hours long, and Rachel speaks from roughly the 10-minute to 45-minute mark, after which City Council and department heads respond with their comments and questions before public comment.
- We concluded from the meeting that CCPD should discuss how we can be further involved in City processes, including at the City Council level.
- Rachel presented at a Capital Budget Hearing today (March 12) requesting \$50,000 for CCPD to allocate towards accessibility improvements to City infrastructure:
 - This is the amount we usually receive, and Rachel believes the hearing went well and our request will likely be fulfilled.
 - CCPD hopes this funding will support collaboration with the Recreation department to resurface Dana Park and the tennis courts at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.
 - We also hope this will fund the implementation of touchless automatic door openers at some City buildings.
- Danielle asked whether the budget discussed at the Capital Budget Hearing would affect the planned accessibility improvements for our hybrid meeting space at 51 Inman Street. Rachel clarified that funds for those updates come from a different part of the City budget.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maya Friedrich

Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (CIRC)





Staff for the Commission

Email: circ@cambridgema.gov | Phone: 617-349-4396



Carolina Almonte
Executive Director



Tagesech Wabeto
Immigrant Services
Liaison

The Mission

Welcome • Inform • Connect • Support



Experience as a new resident

Secure Food & Housing



Find a Job



Connect with Community



Register for Classes



Locate Support Services



Seek Immigration Advocacy



Cambridge & De Novo Legal Screening Clinic



Need a legal consultation about your immigration situation?

617-405-5479

Please call and leave a message with your name and contact number. You can call the message line any time before **the third Wednesday of the month.**



FY26 Planning

■ Orientation Workshop for Foreign Trained Immigrants:

CIRC partners with the [African Bridge Network](#) to sponsor a yearly workshop for Foreign-Trained Professionals. Experts are brought in to answer questions and provide career and non-career resources that help recent immigrants build on their foreign training.

■ CIRC Welcome Event and Fair Housing Resource Fair:

Our biggest event of the year! The Welcome event was created to foster a sense of belonging and unity for immigrants in Cambridge, where community members and employees feel celebrated, supported, and embraced. This year, our celebration will be on May 9, 2026, at the King Open School.

■ Citizenship Day:

CIRC partners with [Project Citizenship](#) for “Citizenship Day,” which is a large in-person citizenship application workshop. CIRC tables at this event, provides interpreters, and assists with outreach.



Trainings

We have worked with MIRA and PAIR to create various “Know your Rights” Trainings. Visit the CIRC website to view recordings and translated presentations!

Target Audiences:

- Internal Employees, Direct Service Workers, Community Session(s), Bystanders, Students, Businesses and Employers.

Next Training will be with LUCE and the Mayor’s Office! Date TBD.

Immigrants with Disabilities: Challenges

- **Layered barriers to access.** Immigrants with disabilities often experience overlapping challenges including language barriers, disability related needs, and limited access to services or information.
- **Reliance on informal support networks.** Many families depend on friends, family members, or community networks rather than formal systems due to lack of awareness, trust, or accessibility.
- **Cultural stigma around disability.** In some communities, stigma or misunderstanding about disability may discourage individuals or families from seeking support or accommodations.

National Incidents Raising Disability Concerns

Recent national incidents have raised serious concerns about how immigration enforcement impacts people with disabilities. In Buffalo, a blind refugee who did not speak English reportedly died after being left outside by federal border officials. His family was unaware of where he was or what had happened.

Federal officials have disputed aspects of the case, including whether he had disabling conditions requiring assistance.

Why this matters: These incidents have heightened concerns among disability advocates and immigrant communities about:

- **Communication barriers during enforcement actions**
- **Lack of disability awareness during encounters with federal agents**
- **The heightened vulnerability of individuals who cannot navigate unfamiliar environments or understand instructions**

Cambridge ICE Data (From LUCE)

Cambridge volunteers responded to **26 community calls** reporting possible ICE activity over the last year. **4 incidents were confirmed ICE presence in Cambridge.**

Regional comparison: Neighboring cities reported significantly higher numbers. In **Waltham**, volunteers responded to **78 calls**, with **51 confirmed ICE incidents.**

Support for affected residents: LUCE's Community Support Team assisted **three Cambridge residents who were detained** in the past year. The network includes **more than 250 trained volunteers across Cambridge.**

What this means

- Community monitoring systems are active and responsive
- Local partnerships help ensure residents receive support and accurate information
- Volunteer networks play an important role in connecting families to legal and community resources

Recommendations

Expand disability inclusive preparedness planning: We encourage families to include disability related needs in **family preparedness plans**.

- Plans should include medications, assistive devices, and emergency contacts. Caregivers should know how to advocate for disability accommodations

Build stronger connections between Commissions: We are always open to collaboration to improve outreach to immigrant communities with disabilities.

- One idea is to share disability resources at immigrant focused events such as the upcoming **CIRC Welcome Event!**

Questions?

- [Email: calmonte@cambridgema.gov](mailto:calmonte@cambridgema.gov)
- or Call: 617-349-4398





Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Cambridge Disability Commission

Betsy Harvey Herzfeld, Principal Planner,
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

March 12, 2026

What is an MPO?



Conducts the federally required regional transportation planning process



Guides transportation funding and planning decisions



Collaborates with various stakeholder groups to make cooperative and publicly informed decisions



Conducts studies and analysis on transportation issues



What is the Coordinated Plan?

- Supports applications for the Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP)
 - Projects to meet mobility needs for older adults and people with disabilities
 - Funds transit vehicles, mobility management activities, and operating costs
 - Transit authorities, Councils on Aging, municipalities, nonprofits, and private transit operators can apply
- Project applications must reference a need identified in the Coordinated Plan



What is the Coordinated Plan?

- Updated every four years
- Plan content
 - Unmet **transportation needs** for older adults and people with disabilities
 - Possible **actions and strategies** to meet the unmet needs
 - Regional **priorities** for implementation
- Engagement with providers and public central to developing the plan



We want to hear from you!

In Cambridge, what are the greatest transportation needs for people with disabilities?

How do you think these needs could be addressed?

Examples:

- Transportation infrastructure
 - Example: elevator maintenance
- Coordination of transit services
 - Example: too many transfers between transit services
- New or expanded existing transit services
 - Example: difficulty accessing non-medical destinations
- Education
 - Example: learning how to use transit and what options are available

Coordinated Plan Schedule

Timeframe	Activities
Fall 2025 – Spring 2026	Identify transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities through public engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveys• Subregional “coffee chat” conversations• Community Advisory Council• Invite us to your meeting!
Spring 2026	Wrap up engagement and begin writing Coordinated Plan
Fall 2026	MPO adopts the 2026 Coordinated Plan

Stay Engaged!

- Sign up for the MPO's email list
- Follow @BostonRegionMPO on X, Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn
- Coordinated Plan website: www.bostonmpo.org/cpt-hst
- Contact: Betsy Harvey Herzfeld, eherzfeld@ctps.org

Questions?

Feedback?