

# Community Meeting with Raymond Street Residents

November 9, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. | Graham and Parks School



City of Cambridge  
Traffic, Parking, + Transportation

[www.cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason](http://www.cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason)

# Agenda

- Today's Meeting and Upcoming Listening Sessions
- Background
- Our Observations and Adjustments
- Short-Term Plan
- Medium-Term Plan
- Listening Session



# Today's Meeting and Upcoming Listening Sessions

- Today's meeting is focused on Raymond Street, and was organized at the request of Raymond Street residents
- Two upcoming listening sessions on the Garden Street Safety Improvement Project:
  - **Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Graham and Parks School**
  - **Tuesday, December 13 at 6 p.m. on Zoom**



# Today's Meeting

- **Purpose:** This is a meeting focused the impacts of the Garden Street one-way switch on Raymond Street.
- **Outcomes:** We want to hear your concerns so that we can observe and respond.
- **Process:** We will present what we've done so far and what we're planning, go over ground rules for feedback, and then hear from you.



# Background



## Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

# Meetings and Outreach Events

### May 24

Community Meeting 1: Broad outline of project, gathered initial community feedback

### July 12

Community Meeting 2: Presented two draft layouts of Garden Street

### August 9

Community Meeting 3: Presented a third draft layout based on community feedback

### September 20

Community Meeting 4: Presented details on final selection based on community feedback

### September 22

Community Open House on Garden Street:  
Chance to meet with City staff and ask questions



## Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

# Outreach Overview

## General Outreach

- City's daily email updates
- Regular updates to website and email list

## Before Community Meeting 1

- Postcards to 3,500 addresses in project area. This did not include Raymond Street.
- Physical signage: 40 laminated signs on Garden Street and side streets announcing the project and meeting.
- Flyers: We distributed flyers at doors on Garden Street.

## Before Community Meeting 2

- Physical signage on Garden Street and side streets.



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## Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

### Project Kickoff

Safety improvements will be coming to Garden Street from Huron Avenue to Mason Street near Cambridge Common.

This project will install separated bike lanes and make improvements to existing pedestrian crossing locations.

We will host our first community meeting on May 24th, where we will introduce the project, its goals, and gather initial feedback from the public. See other side for details.



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City of Cambridge  
795 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02139

### Community Meeting

Tuesday, May 24th  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
via Zoom

For more information on:

- Joining our mailing list
- Attending the meeting



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# Outreach Overview

At Community Meeting 2, attendees requested that we look into turning a significant section of Garden Street to a one-way. Recognizing that this would impact a larger area, we expanded our outreach ahead of Community Meeting 3.

## Before Community Meeting 3

- Physical signage: on Garden Street and side streets, alerting people about the three layout options, including the one-way
- Flyers: We distributed flyers at doors on streets impacted by the one-way (including Raymond Street).

## Before Community Meeting 4

- Physical signage on Garden Street and side streets.
- Postcards: We sent postcards with information on the meeting and intended one-way to over 4,700 addresses, including Raymond Street





City of Cambridge | Community Meeting

# Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for our third community meeting to discuss upcoming safety improvements to Garden Street between Huron Avenue and Mason Street. During this meeting we will:

- Discuss three layout concepts for the street
- Give you an opportunity to ask questions and provide additional feedback

**One of the three layout concepts that we will discuss includes converting Garden Street to one-way for vehicles in the eastbound direction between Huron Avenue and Concord Avenue.**

## Learn More + Join the Meeting

Join online: [cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason](https://cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason)

Join by phone: call 929-436-2866 and Meeting ID 820 6801 5465

## Contact the Project Manager

Stephen Meuse | [smeuse@cambridgema.gov](mailto:smeuse@cambridgema.gov) | 617-349-4713

## Accessibility Statement

People with disabilities may request accommodations by contacting Traffic, Parking, and Transportation at 617-349-4700 (voice), 711 (relay), or [tpt@cambridgema.gov](mailto:tpt@cambridgema.gov).

Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

# August Flyers and Posters



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# Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

## September Postcards

### Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

Changes Coming in 2022

This fall, the City of Cambridge will install separated bicycle lanes and make improvements to existing crosswalks on Garden Street between Huron Avenue and Mason Street.

Feedback from three community meetings identified a preferred plan: **convert Garden Street to a one-way for vehicles** between Huron Avenue and Concord Avenue, with vehicles traveling eastbound (toward Harvard Square). Bicycle lanes will travel in both directions, with a one-way separated lane on each side of the street.

Learn more at an online community meeting or an in-person open house this September. (See other side for details.)



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344 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02139

### Garden Street Safety Improvement Project

**Fourth Community Meeting**  
*Tuesday, September 20, 2022*  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
via Zoom

**Community Open House**  
*Thursday, September 22, 2022*  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Garden Street/Concord Avenue  
intersection



More info, meeting details, and mailing list sign up.  
Visit [www.cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason](http://www.cambridgema.gov/GardenStHuronMason).

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# Observations and Adjustments



# Observations

- **October 28:** Garden Street switches to one-way operation between Huron Avenue and Mason Street.
- City staff, including TP+T staff and Cambridge police officers, have regularly observed the impacts on side streets.
- We are making adjustments to signal timing to help traffic flow better.



Clip recorded by a TP+T staff member -  
Thursday, November 3 approx. 8:30 a.m.



# Wayfinding Apps

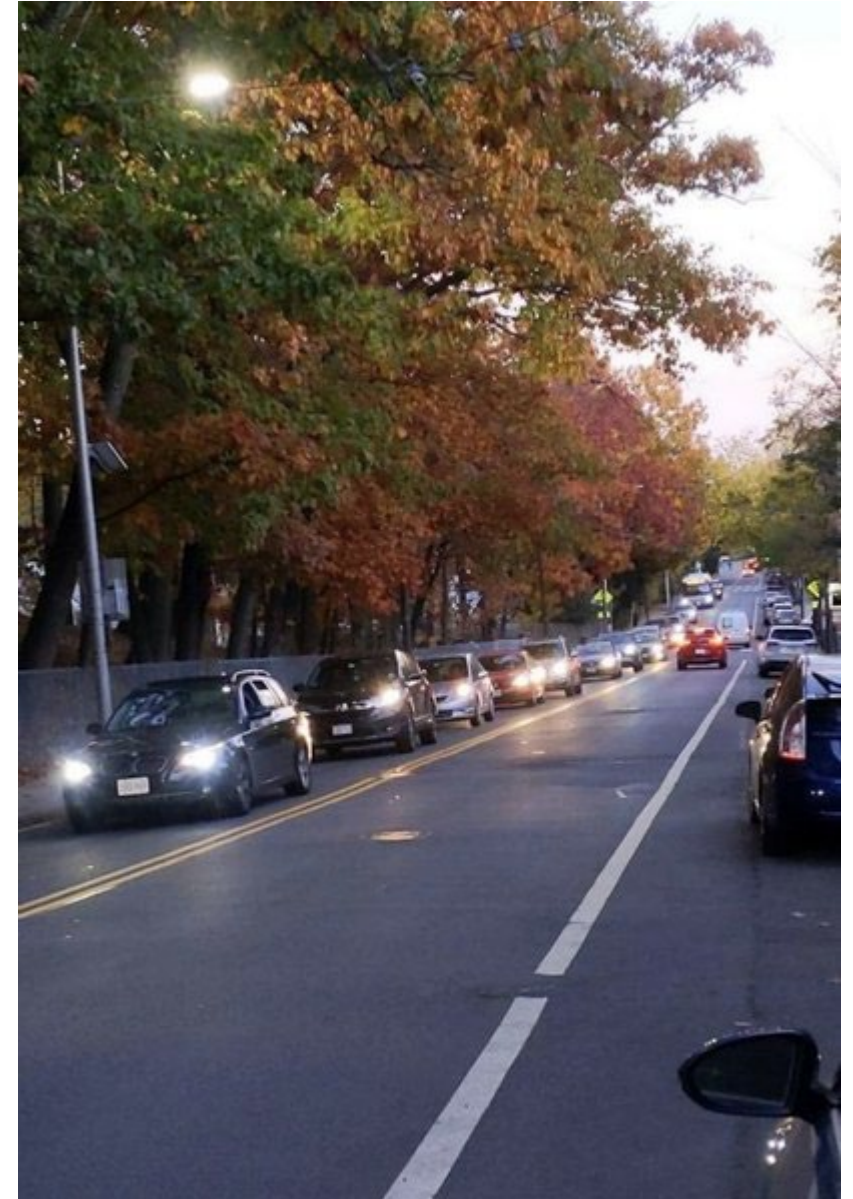
- There were initial issues with updating wayfinding apps like Google and Waze, which continued to direct people the wrong way down Garden Street
- Once the apps brought drivers to the area, they had to find alternative routes through the neighborhood
- When apps know that Garden Street is a one-way, they are less likely to bring drivers taking longer trips to the area
  - We found that 85% of a.m. trips and 65% of p.m. trips headed west on Garden were headed to destinations outside of the study area





# Concord Avenue

- After Garden Street became a one-way, congestion worsened on Concord Avenue
- We conducted observations last week
- We adjusted signal timing on Monday, November 7
- Over the past few days, congestion has lessened
- We will continue to monitor Concord Avenue and side streets



# Short-Term Plan



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# Short-Term Plan

- Listen to residents about areas of concern
- Continue to make observations
- Police Department has placed speed trailers on Raymond Street and Garden Street
- Adjust signal timing to address congestion
- Identify any small changes to street layout or operations
- Education and outreach efforts around correct bike-lane usage, including wrong-way biking





# Medium-Term Plan

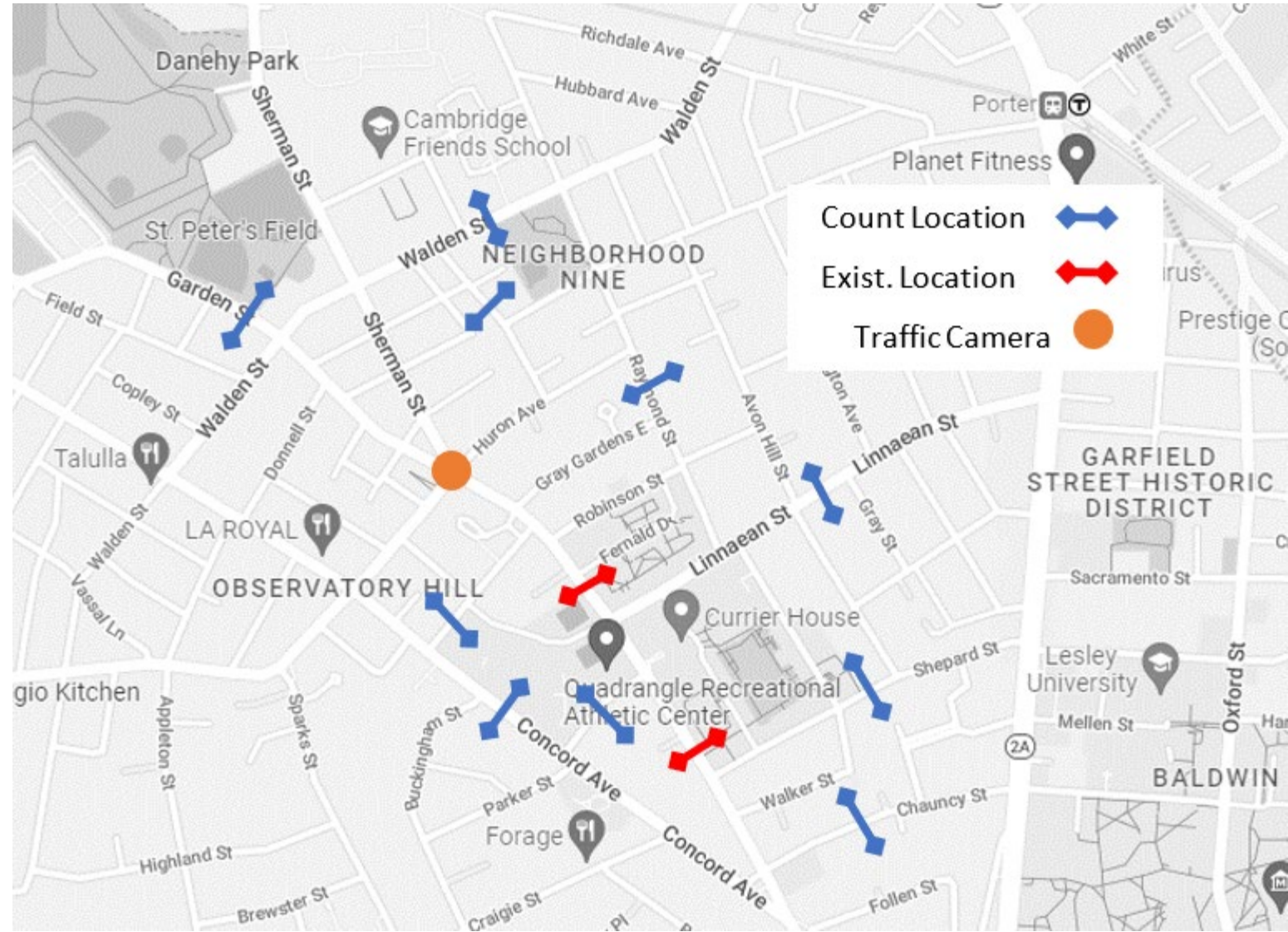


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# Traffic Counts

- Before we made changes on Garden Street, we conducted traffic on October 12
- We will conduct “after” counts in a few months
- **Why wait for a few months?** To let people get used to the new traffic flow and settle into new routines.



# Reporting Back

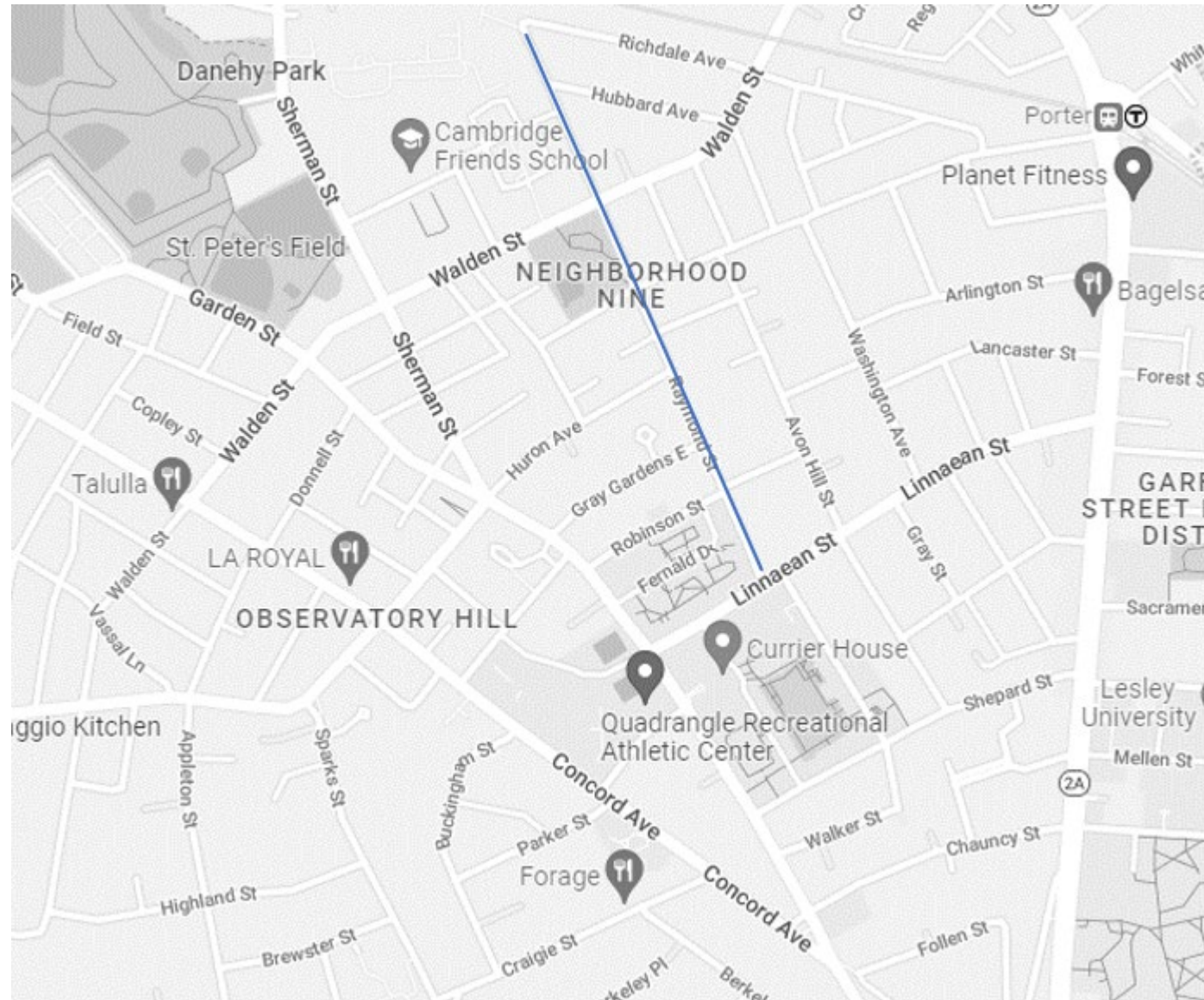
- It takes a while for traffic patterns to settle after changes to the road.
- In March or April (depending on weather), we will conduct traffic counts and report back on the impacts of the change.
- In the meantime, we will continue to listen to concerns and respond as necessary.



# Raymond Street

We have observed and heard about an increase in car volume on Raymond Street.

- Existing north-south travel pattern (Huron-Raymond-Upland/Walden) continues
- Some increase in westbound trips from Linnaean
- We want to hear what you're seeing!





# Our Toolbox

- **Changes to signs** (such as adding all-way stops)
- **Markings** (such as adding parking lines, edge lines, and center lines near intersections)
- **Parking regulation changes** (to create better sight lines at stops and turns)
- **Traffic calming**, such as alternating which side parking is on (chicanes)
- **Permanent speed feedback sign**
- **Changes to street operations** (requires additional analysis of larger network impacts)



# Listening Session / Q&A



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# Community Meeting Agreements

We recognize that people have strong feelings about the project, and that we don't all necessarily agree. A diversity of opinions will strengthen our ability to see the issues.

But we are all working to make our streets safer. To have a productive meeting, let's:

- **Show respect to all that participate**
- **Embrace diverse points of view**
- **Give everyone a chance to participate**
- **Avoid debates and interruptions**
- **Listen to understand, rather than to respond**
- **Limit strong forms of reaction, whether positive or negative**
- **Do not engage in personal attacks**

We are very interested in all feedback on Garden Street project, but today's meeting is focused on Raymond Street.

If you have feedback unrelated to Raymond Street, consider emailing the project manager or attending a future listening session.

