

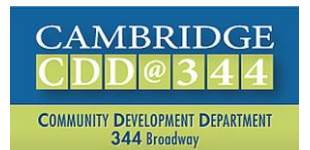
Traffic Concerns on Cambridgepark Drive

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Traffic Concerns on Cambridgepark Drive

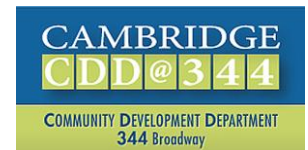
Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Traffic Concerns
- ▶ Overall Context
- ▶ Investigation into Causes and Possible Solutions



Introductions

- ▶ Cambridge Traffic, Parking + Transportation Department
- ▶ Cambridge Community Development Department
- ▶ Cambridge Police Department
- ▶ Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- ▶ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- ▶ MBTA



Problem: Congestion on Cambridgepark Drive During the Evening Commute

- Alewife area has suffered congestion for a number of years
 - Regional traffic (82% of traffic on Alewife Brook Parkway is through traffic)
 - Commuters
 - Local residents
 - MBTA parking garage access
- Recently, drivers have reported increasing levels of congestion
 - Increased queue lengths on Cambridgepark Drive
 - Gridlock/blocking the box at intersections on Cambridgepark Drive
 - Delays exiting area parking garages
 - Dangerous driver behavior, including wrong-way driving leading to pedestrian crash

Photos and Comments Received From Commuters

“The traffic problem on Cambridgepark Drive is out of control.”

“This is not just an annoyance, it's a major issue.”

“Something needs to be done to better this traffic flow.”

Source: Commonwealth Connect

“Light at Cambridgepark Drive and Alewife Brook Parkway is a disaster at all hours”

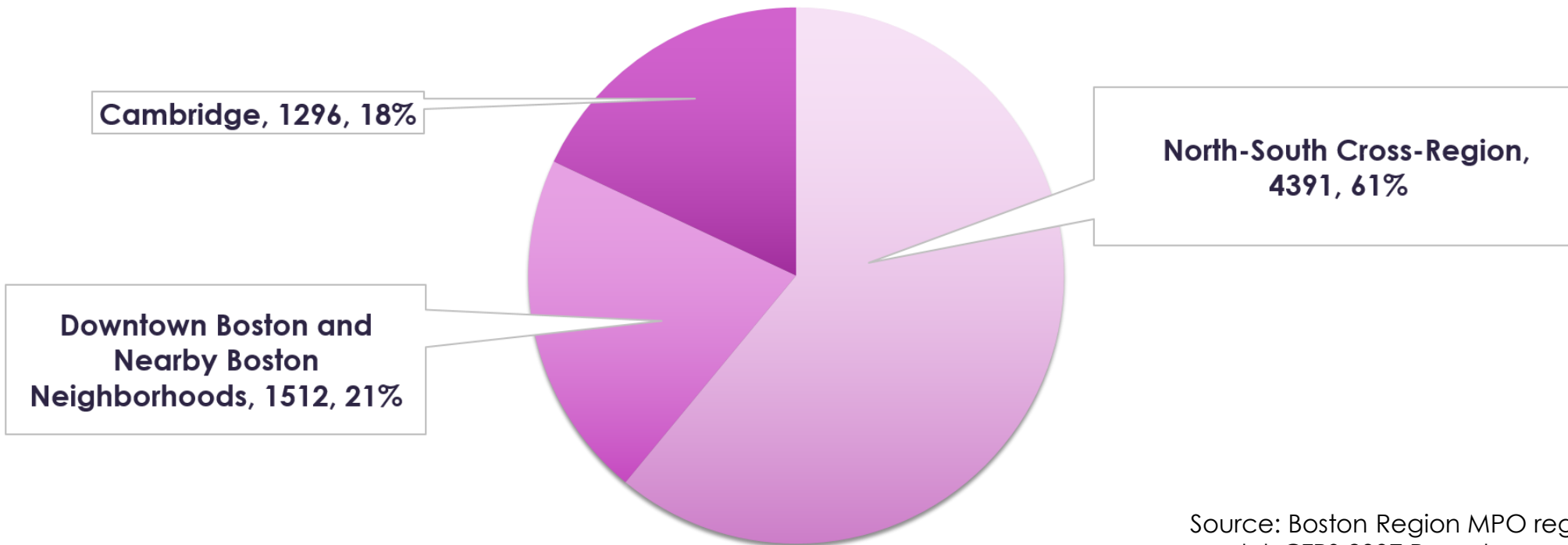
“I also worry how much worse it will get”

Constraints

- Geographic:
 - Railroad
 - Parkland
- Environmental
 - Floodplain
- Multiple Jurisdictions and Ownership



Destination of Alewife Traffic



Source: Boston Region MPO regional transportation model, CTPS 2007 Report

MassDOT Improvements at Route 2 and Route 16

Project purpose: perform minor widening, eliminate a merge condition, and improve throughput capacity and vehicle queue storage

- Widen the departure of Route 2 westbound to provide three travel lanes
- Widen the existing left turn lane on Route 2 eastbound to Alewife Brook Parkway (Route 16) northbound
- Widen the right turn lane from Alewife Brook Parkway southbound to Route 2 westbound to provide double right turn lanes
- Slight widening to existing roadways to provide 2-11 foot lanes with 2 foot shoulders
- Signal timing changes

Planning Context

- 2005 Concord-Alewife Plan
- Cambridgepark Drive Development

	<u>Units</u>	<u>Status</u>
160 Cambridgepark Drive (Hanover)	398	Complete
165 Cambridgepark Drive (Fuse)	244	Complete
130 Cambridgepark Drive	220	Under construction
88 Cambridgepark Drive	254	Under construction

Future Planning Context

- Envision Cambridge
 - A community-wide process to develop a comprehensive plan for a more livable, sustainable, and equitable Cambridge. With input from those who live, work, study, and play in our city, Envision Cambridge will create a shared vision for the future of our city. The plan will result in recommendations on a broad range of topics such as housing, mobility, economic opportunity, urban form, and climate and the environment.
- Climate Change Preparedness Plan

Possible Issues for Investigation

- Complete Route 2/Route 16 signal coordination
- Cut-through traffic from Route 2 exit
- Operation of intersections at Cambridgepark Drive / Alewife Brook Parkway/ Rindge Avenue
- Use of MBTA garage entry/exits
- Other traffic management measures (e.g. Police details)

Long Term: Continued Changes in Mode Share

- Encourage participation in Alewife Transportation Management Association
- Strategies to make it easier to walk, bike, and take transit
 - Improve transit in Alewife area (e.g. bus priority, commuter rail station)
 - Bicycle-pedestrian bridge
 - Partner with area businesses on future Hubway locations

Next Steps

- Data collection
- In-person observations
- Coordination across agencies
- Signal timing improvements
- Tests of potential traffic management strategies

Questions and Comments