

As required by the Cycling Safety Ordinance, the information on the following pages gives details on the City's progress toward complying with the Ordinance. [This information is available and best viewed online.](#)

This information was compiled by the Community Development Department; the Department of Public Works; and the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department. Significant support was provided by the Law and Information Technology Departments.

In **2019**, Cambridge City Council passed the Cycling Safety Ordinance, which requires the construction of separated bike lanes when streets are being reconstructed as a part of the City's Five-Year Plan for Streets and Sidewalks and they have been designated for greater separation in the Bicycle Network Vision.

In **2020**, the Council passed amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance, which set ambitious requirements for the installation of approximately 25 miles of separated bike lanes within the next five to seven years. The location of these facilities will be informed by both the Cambridge Bicycle Network Vision and specific requirements in the Ordinance.

In general, the amendments to the Ordinance require the installation of separated bike lanes on:

- all of Massachusetts Ave;
- Broadway from Quincy St to Hampshire St;
- Cambridge St from Oak St to Second St;
- Hampshire St from Amory Street to Broadway;
- Garden St, eastbound from Huron Ave to Berkeley St, and westbound from Mason St to Huron Ave;
- and 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations that are a part of the Bicycle Network Vision.

We've provided more details about the specific requirements and the associated timelines, and the projects that we have or will install that are related to this Ordinance.



Cycling Safety Ordinance Requirements + Timelines

The information below provides more details about the requirements and timelines laid out in the 2020 **amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance**. The Ordinance text is available in [Chapter 12.22 of the Cambridge Municipal Code](#). We are providing this simplified version of the timelines to help you understand what we're required to do and when we're required to do it. Some dates are dependent on when we finish other tasks, so the information provided below is our current estimate. This page will be updated as time goes on.

The Separated Bike Lane Year and Annual Reporting

Many of the deadlines in the Ordinance are either "by May 1" or "by no later than May 1" of a certain year. To make it easier to understand how all the pieces fit together, we're consistently referring to all these dates as April 30, including in cases where the formal deadline is May 1. This means that you can think of the "Separated Bike Lane Year" as beginning in May and ending in April, which will hopefully make the timeline simpler to follow.

Each year, at the end of May, we must provide a report to the Cambridge City Council detailing the progress we've made during the previous year and what we plan to do in the current year. We're also required to maintain information online about the location and length of the facilities that we've installed.

Quick-Build vs. Construction

The Ordinance distinguishes between **quick-build** methods and **construction**. Quick-build methods include pavement markings, flex-posts, signage, and signal changes. Construction involves more extensive changes, including potentially moving curbs and/or removing medians. Work becomes more complex anytime we dig into the ground, and construction projects may include work on the infrastructure (e.g., water, drainage and sewer pipes, traffic signal wires) that we have underground.

As a reminder, under the original Ordinance passed in 2019, we must construct separated bike lanes when streets in the "Greater Separation" category of the Bicycle Network Vision are reconstructed as a part of the City's Five-Year Plan for Streets and Sidewalks.

The MassAve4

The Ordinance splits Massachusetts Avenue into two groups. Group one, which we are calling “The MassAve4” includes all locations that have complicating factors (i.e. the two major bus stops in Harvard Square and the sections with overhead bus wires). The second group includes all other parts of Mass Ave.

The MassAve4 includes Mass Ave from

- Dudley St to Beech St;
- Roseland St to Waterhouse St;
- Garden St to Church St, in the northbound direction (this segment is Peabody St); and
- Dunster St to Plympton St.

It is possible that installing quick-build separated bike lanes on these four segments of Mass Ave would have significant negative impacts on other road users. However, construction projects may allow us to make more significant changes (e.g., removing the median) that would reduce some of the potential negative impacts.



0.00 of 2.51 miles installed or under construction

submitted April 30, 2021

Impacts Analysis Due

We were required to submit a report to the Cambridge City Council describing the impacts of installing quick-build separated bike lanes on each block of the MassAve4.

May 31, 2021 status update: The [MassAve4 Impacts Analysis](#) was submitted to the Cambridge City Council and posted online on April 30, 2021.

by April 30, 2022

Construction Timeline Approval

After the Impacts Analysis is submitted, we'll determine which blocks can be installed using quick-build methods and which blocks require construction. This decision will be based on further analysis and review of the benefits and impacts of each approach (i.e., quick-build and construction). For the blocks that require construction, we must propose and get City Council approval on an implementation timeline.

May 31, 2021 status update: The Cambridge City Council Transportation and Public Utilities Committee will meet to discuss the MassAve4 Impacts Analysis. After the committee meeting, we will host and participate in a number of additional community conversations, which will inform the decision about which blocks can be done with quick-build methods.

by April 30, 2023

Quick-build Installation Deadline

For blocks that do not require construction, we must install quick-build separated bike lanes.

by April 30, 2024

Possible Quick-build Installation Deadline

If the City Council **does not approve** a construction timeline by April 30, 2022: We must install quick-build separated bike lanes on blocks where we originally said that construction was needed, regardless of the impacts outlined in the prior report.

by date to be determined

Possible Construction Deadline

If the City Council **approves** a construction timeline by April 30, 2022: We must construct separated bike lanes by the deadlines laid out in the approved timeline.

The Rest of Mass Ave

The Rest of Mass Ave includes all segments of Mass Ave, from Memorial Drive to Alewife Brook Parkway, that are not included in the MassAve4.



0.20 of 3.51 miles installed or under construction

by April 30, 2022

Installation Deadline

We must install separated bike lanes on all parts of Mass Ave that are not in the MassAve4. In locations where we choose to do construction, we're only required to start construction by the end of April 2022.

May 31, 2021 status update: We will be installing the Mid-Mass Ave Safety Improvement Project in the next few weeks. Within the next year, we will begin construction on the Harvard Square Kiosk project, which includes construction from Peabody St to JFK St.

Over the course of the next year, we will conduct community engagement and install four other projects that will complete The Rest of Mass Ave. These projects are:

- Alewife Brook Pkwy to Dudley St
- Beech St to Roseland St
- Waterhouse St to Cambridge St
- Plympton St to Bow St
- Small portions between Sidney St to Memorial Dr

by December 31, 2022

Central Square Exception - Design

If we are constructing separated bike lanes between Sidney St and Inman St, we don't have to meet the April 30, 2022 deadline. Instead, we have until the end of 2022 to begin design.

May 31, 2021 status update: We anticipate beginning the design in 2022.

by December 31, 2025

Central Square Exception - Construction

If we are constructing separated bike lanes between Sidney St and Inman St, we have until the end of 2025 to begin construction.

The Special4

The Special4 includes:

- Broadway from Quincy St to Hampshire St;
- Cambridge St from Oak St to Second St;
- Hampshire St from Amory St to Broadway; and
- Garden St, eastbound from Huron Ave to Berkeley St, and westbound from Mason St to Huron Ave.

0.00 of 7.49 miles installed

by April 30, 2025

Potential Progress Report Due

If we do not install separated bike lanes on all segments of the Special4 by the end of April 2025, we must provide a report to the Cambridge City Council explaining how we plan to get them done within the next year.

May 31, 2021 status update: We anticipate installing a quick-build separated bike lane on Cambridge St between Oak St and Prospect St by April 30, 2022. We have not yet determined the timeline of the other projects.

by April 30, 2026

Installation Deadline

We must install separated bike lanes on all segments of the Special4.

Other Locations

The Ordinance requires the installation of 22.6 miles of separated bike lanes by the dates listed below. This 22.6 miles includes lanes installed on “The Rest of Mass Ave” and the “Special4”. It does not include the “MassAve4”. This means there are 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes that have to be installed in other locations that are in the Bicycle Network Vision.



4.04 of 11.60 miles installed or under construction

by June 30, 2022

COVID-19/Public Process Extension Approval

If we need an extension due to delays in public process caused by COVID-19, we must submit a report to the City Council explaining why the extension is needed and ask for their approval.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not yet opted to request this extension.

by April 30, 2025

General Extension Notice

If we need a one-year extension (for any reason) we must provide a report to the City Council explaining why the extension is needed. Extending this deadline is the City Manager’s choice.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not yet opted to enact this extension.

by April 30, 2026

Installation Deadline

We must finish the installation of 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations (aside from Mass Ave and the Special4). In locations where we choose to do construction, we're only required to start construction by the end of April 2026.

May 31, 2021 status update: Between May 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021, we installed or began construction on 3.92 miles of separated bike lanes that are in this category. We anticipate installing or beginning construction on another 2.14 miles before April 30, 2022.

by April 30, 2027

Possible General Extension

If we submit a report explaining why we needed a one-year extension: We must finish the installation of 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not yet opted to request this extension.

by April 30, 2028

Possible Extension (based on MassAve4)

If, when working on the MassAve4, we install 1.25 miles of quick-build separated bike lanes in the segments from Beech St to Dudley St or from Waterhouse St to Roseland St: We must finish the installation of 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not determined where we will be installing quick-build separated bike lanes within the MassAve4. Therefore, we do not yet know if this extension will be enacted.

by August 31, 2028

Possible COVID-19/Public Process Extension

If we ask for and receive Council approval on an extension related to COVID-19 delays: We must finish the installation of 11.6 miles of separated bike lanes in other locations.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not yet opted to request this extension.

COVID-19 Revenue Shortfalls

The Ordinance acknowledges that we may be significantly limited in our ability to meet the requirements due to the financial impacts of COVID-19.

by June 30, 2022

Extension Approval

If extensions are needed due to revenue shortfalls caused by COVID-19: We must submit a report and get the City Council's approval on a new timeline.

May 31, 2021 status update: We have not yet opted to request this extension.

by date to be determined

Possible Altered Timeline

If the City Council approves a new timeline by June 30, 2022: We must install separated bike lanes by the deadlines laid out in the timeline.



Cycling Safety Ordinance Projects

In the coming years, we are going to add significantly to the city's network of separated bike lanes. We will use this page to provide updates on our progress on an ongoing basis. There are four categories of projects: MassAve4, The Rest of Mass Ave, Special4, and Other Locations.

- **MassAve4** - Mass Ave from Dudley St to Beech St; Roseland St to Waterhouse St; Garden St to Church St, in the northbound direction (this segment is Peabody St); and Dunster St to Plympton St.
- **The Rest of Mass Ave** - All segments of Mass Ave, from Memorial Drive to Alewife Brook Parkway, that are not included in the MassAve4.
- **Special4** - Broadway from Quincy St to Hampshire St; Cambridge St from Oak Street to Second St; Hampshire St from Amory Street to Broadway; and Garden St, eastbound from Huron Ave to Berkeley St, and westbound from Mason St to Huron Ave.
- **Other Locations** - Locations that are not included in the three previous categories, but have been designated for greater separation in the Bicycle Network Vision.

Typically, we must complete a separated bike lane before we can count it toward the requirements of the ordinance. Construction projects in The Rest of Mass Ave and Other Locations categories are exceptions; they count when construction begins.

The information below is grouped by "separated bike lane year" (May 1 – April 30 of the following year) when construction began or the project was completed.

Current Projects

2022 Projects: 4.90 miles

Projects listed in this table are projects that we expect to complete or begin construction on between May 1, 2021, and April 30, 2022. The information in the "Status" column reflects the current status of the project.

Rest of Mass Ave

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Alewife Brook Pkwy to Dudley St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.90 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Beech St to Roseland St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.54 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Waterhouse St to Cambridge St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.06 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Peabody St to JFK St

Direction(s) southbound

Mileage 0.05 miles

Status Plans are complete; anticipate beginning of construction by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Plympton St to Bow St

Direction(s) westbound

Mileage 0.06 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Trowbridge St to Inman St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.84 miles

Status Community engagement in progress; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To 125 Massachusetts Ave to Amherst St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.12 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To 33 Massachusetts Ave to Memorial Dr

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.03 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Special4

Street Cambridge St

From/To Oak St to Prospect St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.16 miles

Status Community engagement will begin soon; anticipate completion by April 30, 2022

Other Locations

Street Huron Ave

From/To Glacken Field to Fresh Pond Pkwy

Direction(s) both

Mileage 1.06 miles

Status Plans are complete; anticipate beginning of construction by April 30, 2022

Street Main St

From/To Portland St to Albany St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.20 miles

Status Plans are complete; anticipate beginning of construction by April 30, 2022

Street River St

From/To Memorial Dr to Massachusetts Ave

Direction(s) eastbound

Mileage 0.68 miles

Status Community engagement in progress; anticipate beginning of construction by April 30, 2022

Street Somerville Ave

From/To White St to City Line

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.12 miles

Status Complete

Street Holworthy St

From/To Cambridge - Watertown Greenway to Belmont St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.08 miles

Status Plans are complete; anticipate beginning of construction by April 30, 2022

Future Projects (Ongoing Community Engagement)

Note: Projects listed in this table are currently undergoing a community engagement process, but we don't know yet when we will complete the project or begin construction.

MassAve4

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Dudley St to Beech St

Direction(s) both directions

Mileage 1.24 miles

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Roseland St to Everett St

Direction(s) both directions

Mileage 0.94 miles

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Everett St to Waterhouse St

Direction(s) southbound

Mileage 0.16 miles

Street Peabody St

From/To Garden St to Church St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.05 miles

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Dunster St to Plympton St

Direction(s) westbound

Mileage 0.12 miles

Past Projects

2021 Projects: 4.12 miles

Projects listed in this table are projects that we completed or began construction on between May 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021. The information in the "Status" column reflects the current status of the project.

Rest of Mass Ave

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Garden St to Peabody St

Direction(s) southbound

Mileage 0.08 miles

Status Complete

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Peabody St to JFK St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.05 miles

Status Complete

Street Massachusetts Ave and Peabody St

From/To Church St to Dunster St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.07 miles

Status Complete

Other Locations

Street Ames St

From/To Main St to Memorial Dr

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.48 miles

Status Complete

Street Binney St

From/To Grand Junction Railroad to Galilei Way

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.14 miles

Status Under construction

Street Cambridge St

From/To Fayette St to Oak St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.26 miles

Status Under construction

Street Dewolfe St

From/To Mill St to Memorial Dr

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.12 miles

Status Complete

Street Galilei Way and Binney St

From/To Broadway to Sixth St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.50 miles

Status Complete

Street Gore St

From/To City Line to Sixth St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.28 miles

Status Under construction

Street Hampshire St

From/To City Line to 208 Hampshire St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.28 miles

Status Under construction

Street Monsignor OBrien Hwy

From/To Third St to Land Blvd

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.78 miles

Status Under construction

Street Mt Auburn St

From/To Eliot St to Holyoke St

Direction(s) eastbound

Mileage 0.16 miles

Status Complete

Street Mt Auburn St

From/To 52 Mt Auburn St to Plympton St

Direction(s) eastbound

Mileage 0.02 miles

Status Complete

Street Mt Auburn St

From/To 45 Mt Auburn St to Banks St

Direction(s) eastbound

Mileage 0.11 miles

Status Complete

Street Quincy St

From/To Cambridge St to Broadway

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.10 miles

Status Complete

Street Quincy St, Bow St, and DeWolfe St

From/To Broadway to Mill St

Direction(s) northbound

Mileage 0.37 miles

Status Complete

Street Vassar St

From/To Main St to 15 Vassar St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.12 miles

Status Complete

Street Webster Ave

From/To City Line to Cambridge St

Direction(s) both

Mileage 0.20 miles

Status Complete

Completed Before the Ordinance Took Effect

This table only provides details about street segments that are specifically called out in the Ordinance, this is not a comprehensive list of separated bike facilities in Cambridge.

MassAve4

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Everett St to Waterhouse St

Direction(s) northbound

Rest of Mass Ave

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Waterhouse St to Cambridge St

Direction(s) southbound

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Cambridge St to Garden St

Direction(s) southbound

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Bow St to Trowbridge St

Direction(s) northbound

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Douglass St to Sidney St

Direction(s) northbound

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Sidney St to 125 Massachusetts Ave

Direction(s) both

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To 125 Massachusetts Ave to Amherst St

Direction(s) southbound

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To Amherst St to 33 Massachusetts Ave

Direction(s) both

Street Massachusetts Ave

From/To 33 Massachusetts Ave to Memorial Dr

Direction(s) southbound