

Nicole Murati Ferrer  
Chairperson

Mark Melo  
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea  
Superintendent of Streets

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



### POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

*This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, signed into law on June 16, 2021.*

**Commission Members:** Mark Melo (present), and Terrence James Shea (present), Chair Nicole Murati Ferrer (present).

**License Commission Staff Present:** Dana Clarke, Administrative Assistant.

**Advisor:** Stephen Lenkauskas, Retired City Electrician.

**Documents considered by the Board:** As to all petitions, the Commission considered the application submitted to it and all documents attached thereto.

**Decisions:** All votes, unless otherwise stated, were taken by roll call vote and were 3-0. When matters are granted with "typical conditions," those are:

- (1) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit and Department of Public Works ("DPW") Permits and comply with the provisions therein.
- (2) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- (3) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- (4) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- (5) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

1. **Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (174200) Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: **Pacific Street** - Installation of 1" PVC conduit from existing electrical cabinet to proposed EV charger. One sidewalk panel affected. [Time Stamp: 7:49]

**Present:** Kathy Watkins

**Summary:** Updated plan with more details submitted. Met and reviewed the installation, ADA accessibility, and clearance with the Disability Commission; and they are supportive of the design as proposed.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions as related to EV Charging Stations.

2. **Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (174205) Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: **Broadway** - Installation of 1" PVC conduit from existing electrical cabinet to proposed EV charger. One sidewalk panel to be removed and replaced. [Time Stamp: 13:18]

**Present:** Kathy Watkins

**Summary:** 8M Permit documents submitted.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions as related to EV Charging Stations.

3. **New Petition (179619) Traffic, Parking, and Transportation, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: **Binney Street** - Installation of approximately 472 linear feet of (1) 3" traffic conduit to facilitate construction of the proposed new buildings at **250 and 290 Binney Street**. [Time Stamp: 15:44]

**Present:** Jonathan Moser (VHB)

**Summary:** Proposing to relocate (1) 3-inch traffic conduit that is an existing conduit within the sidewalk of Binney Street on the south side to enable the 250 and 290 Binney commercial building project as part of MXD substation project. This is interrelated with petitions: 179626, 179630, and 179634. No issues with petition. Electrical has been to the site heavily and requests continued coordination with Electrical.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions and permanent sidewalk repair.

4. **New Petition (179626) Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02139**, for the following: **Binney Street** - Installation of approximately 472 linear feet of (1) 3" street lighting conduit and relocation of an existing street lighting cabinet from **Broadway** to the intersection of **Binney Street and Galileo Galilei Way** to facilitate construction of the proposed new buildings at **250 and 290 Binney Street**. [Time Stamp: 17:52]

**Present:** Jonathan Moser (VHB)

**Summary:** Relocation of a street lighting conduit also within the sidewalk of Binney Street on the south side and as piece of that relocating a street lighting cabinet on Broadway to Galileo Galilei Way at Binney Street intersection. No issues with petition. Electrical has been to the site heavily and requests continued coordination with Electrical.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions and permanent trench and sidewalk repair.

5. **New Petition (179630) Boston Properties, 800 Boylston Street – Suite 1900, Boston, MA 02199**, for the following: **Binney Street** - Installation of approximately 158 linear feet of (8) 4" telecom conduit and approximately 51 linear feet of (4) 4" telecom conduit to facilitate construction of the proposed new building at **290 Binney Street**. [Time Stamp: 18:36]

**Present:** Jonathan Moser (VHB)

**Summary:** This work is on behalf of Boston Properties. There is existing telecom conduit within the site which needs to be relocated to enable the project within the site into the public way. In coordination with Verizon, AT&T, and Crown Castle. Boston Properties can't petition conduit on the public way. They would have to reach out to whichever utility is the lead company and do a common trench.

**Decision:** Denied

6. **New Petition (179634) Boston Properties, 800 Boylston Street – Suite 1900, Boston, MA 02199**, for the following: **Broadway** - Installation of approximately 231 linear feet of (6) 4" telecom conduit to facilitate construction of the proposed new building at **105 Broadway (future 135 Broadway)**. [Time Stamp: 19:11]

**Present:** Jonathan Moser (VHB) and Anthony Vatalaro (Comcast).

**Summary:** This work is on behalf of Boston Properties. There is existing telecom conduit within the site which needs to be relocated to enable the project within the site, into the public way. This project is in coordination with Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, and Crown Castle. Boston Properties can't petition conduit on the public way. They would have to reach out to whichever utility is the lead company and do a common trench.

**Decision:** Denied

7. **New Petition (178739) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Broadway** - Place a new 3'x3'x3' manhole over existing comcast conduit in front of **468 Broadway**. From newly placed manhole, trench 26' +/- southerly to the property line of **468 Broadway**. This includes the removal and replacement of 3 sidewalk panels. [Time Stamp: 24:29]

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway

**Summary:** This for a new service for a tenant inside of 468 Broadway (the building is currently being serviced from a building on Ware Street) and this will help to alleviate the issue with the aerial cables that are trespassing from the building on Ware Street. DPW requests coordination with the City Arborist regarding an existing street tree, permanent sidewalk restoration, and coordination with the local business. We received a notification from a concerned resident about the interruption and accessibility to the entrance to the building. Comcast will reach out to the property owner – Broadway Market.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions. Additional conditions: coordination with the City Arborist regarding an existing street tree, permanent sidewalk restoration, and coordination with the local business.

8. **New Petition (178845) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Ellery Street** - Starting at utility pole # 5 on **Ellery Street**, trench and install 4' of (1) 1" PVC conduit easterly to the property line of **8 Ellery Street**. The work has already been completed by the property owner

and the commission is aware. The Eversource petition #173690 was continued at the May hearing.  
**[Time Stamp: 28:14]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway

**Summary:** This is a follow-up to the Eversource petition. Comcast is claiming ownership of the 4 feet of conduit. This is another instance of the homeowner installing conduit without a Grant of Location.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions.

9. **New Petition (178861) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Pleasant Street** - On the southeastern side of **Pleasant Street** at the intersection with **Kelly Road**, mount (1) new 36.8"x24.3"x16" Comcast power supply to utility pole #550/30 to enhance existing Comcast equipment. This is essential to the Comcast network to avoid customer outages and maintain a fluid network as it expands throughout Cambridge. **[Time Stamp: 30:13]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway

**Summary:** Power supply needed to support their self-powered equipment.

**Decision:** Granted.

10. **New Petition (179189) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127**, for the following: **Lexington Avenue** - From pole #25 on **Lexington Avenue**, trench southerly 4' to the private property line of **167 Lexington Avenue**, installing (1) 4" PVC conduit. All work is by property owner/contractor. The work has been completed and the Commission is aware. **[Time Stamp: 32:01]**

**Present:** Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway

**Summary:** Conduit has previously been installed and Comcast is now taking ownership of the conduit.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions.

11. **Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (172884) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Main Street** - Install 228' of (4) 1 ¼ conduits from P. N/A in the intersection of **Front Street and Windsor Street** to the communications manhole in front of **223 Massachusetts Avenue** through the roadway. **[Time Stamp: 33:35]**

**Present:** Jeff Harrington

**Summary:** This petition was to request a fiber cable extension to 750 Main Street. The civil drawing needed be reviewed by DPW. Site walks with Mark Pavone. CNS has submitted the pole applications and walkouts but have not received the licenses yet. Test pitting on Windsor between State Street and Massachusetts Avenue required. Curb-to-curb mill and overlay on the section of Windsor

between State Street and Mass Avenue. Concrete pedestrian ramps on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Windsor Street, ADA compliant.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions. Additional conditions: Test pitting on Windsor between State Street and Massachusetts Avenue required. Curb-to-curb mill and overlay on the section of Windsor between State Street and Mass Avenue. Concrete pedestrian ramps on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Windsor Street, ADA compliant.

**12. New Petition (178918) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Thorndike Street** - Install a new 3x3 Communications conduit in the roadway in front of **103 Third Street**. Install 76' (1) Schedule 40 PVC conduit from the west side of **47 Thorndike Street** to the new 3x3 manhole on **Third Street**. [Time Stamp: 36:53]

**Present:** Jeff Harrington

**Summary:** Based on feedback from the residents and property owner, CNS is looking to amend or change the Grant of Location to come from Second Street. It will shrink the amount of trench on the public right-of-way and benefit both the residents and adjacent neighbors. Steve suggests talking to Comcast for an alternate route. CNS will cancel this petition and submit a new one.

**Decision:** Denied.

**13. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (174126) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581**, for the following: **Main Street** – This is an equipment upgrade from a 24"h x 14" width antenna, with a 60 x 14 x 8.5 cabinet to a 24"h x 14" width antenna, with a 70.1h x 22.7 w, 21.5 d, with one 19.4 x 9.6 x 6.9 5G antenna (associated with VP 140548). [Time Stamp: 42:15]

**Present:** Bryn Thornburgh

**Summary:** When they measured from pole to the side of the building it is 6'5" inches away. The 5G will be further way so it will closest to 7 feet away. Electrical was looking for the clearance. With the cabinet depth it will be less than 6' away so they will need a waiver request on this, as well as the larger cabinet size. A request was submitted to the City Solicitor for a legal opinion as to waiver issue in terms of our Small Cell Policy and we haven't received a response yet.

**Decision:** Continued.

**14. New Petition (173663) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Charles Street** - Cathodic protection of natural gas pipeline to include anodes to be installed 30'-40' deed with minimum hole diameter of 3", spaced 10' and connected with #8 AWG Anode Cables Warning Tape. Includes power source drop to Rectifier Cabinet and AC Power Cabinet. [Time Stamp: 46:20]

**Present:** Jim Blais and Jeffrey Evans-Mongeon

**Summary:** The proposal is to install a rectifier system on Charles Street in the right of way to protect their steel gas mains in the area as part of the Third Street Relocation Project. They will have a rectifier and power metered cabinets installed and then (10), at 30 to 40 foot deep, anode wells bored into the sidewalk and capped at grade. DPW has had several site visits regarding this petition and have no issues.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions.

- 15. Continuation from April 28, 2022, for clarification on who owns that piece of property. (170059)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **First Street** - Southerly thence easterly from manhole MHC726 to private property at **#1 Thorndike Way**, install approximately 32 feet of conduit (WO#6398764). [Time Stamp: 49:48]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** Eversource has uploaded a revised plan. Test pits required where new manhole is proposed. License agreement with the City required.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions. Additional conditions: Test pits required where new manhole is proposed and license agreement with the City required.

- 16. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (169277)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Cambridge Street** - Northerly from manhole MHC114, at the intersection of **Harding Street**, install approximately 33 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC31490 (WO#6726563) [Time Stamp: 52:37]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** We have asked for a revised plan and has not been provided. Eversource is still waiting on the revised plan from their survey group.

**Decision:** Continued for revised plan to be submitted.

- 17. Continuation from April 28, 2022, for redesign. (170113)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Binney Street** - Southwesterly from manhole MHC3116, at the intersection of **Galileo Galilei Way**, to private property at **#322-346 Binney Street**, install approximately 4 feet of conduit (WO#6401780). [Time Stamp: 53:34]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** Revised plan has been uploaded by Eversource. No issues.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions.

- 18. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (173690)** Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: **Ellery Street** - Southeasterly from pole P227/5,

approximately 218 feet northeasterly from **Massachusetts Avenue** to private property at **#8 Ellery Street**, install approximately 9 feet of conduit (WO#7950491). [Time Stamp: 54:55]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy, Hannah Cooper, and Anthony Vatalaro (Comcast).

**Summary:** This was continued for a common trench letter. Conduit has already been installed by the contractor. Common trench letter sent.

**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions.

**19. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review. (174104) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Pearl Street** - Southerly from pole P538/62, approximately 30 feet easterly **of Glenwood Avenue**, to private property at #334 Pearl Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit (WO#7950596). [Time Stamp: 59:00]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** This conduit was installed by the contractor without the proper permits or Grant of Location. Electrical requested this to go from a 4-inch to 3-inch and common trench. After the conduit gets corrected, they will need to do a permanent sidewalk repair.

**Decision:** Continued for clarification and common trench.

**20. New Petition (177822) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Harvey Street** - Westerly from manhole MH3066, approximately 163 feet west of **Clifton Street**, to point of pickup at the end of **Harvey Street**, install approximately 64 feet of conduit (WO #7803206). [Time Stamp: 1:01:38]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** This work is for a new development (IQHQ) that's going on. DPW hasn't had a chance to review this project so they would like to continue for further review. Eversource will reach out to Jim Wilcox to discuss this petition.

**Decision:** Continued for further review.

**21. New Petition (177824) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Concord Avenue** - Southerly thence westerly from manhole MHC1661, at the intersection of **Concord Avenue** and **Alpine Street**, to point of pickup at **#418 Concord Avenue**, install approximately 470 feet of conduit (WO#7601692). [Time Stamp: 1:03:54]

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** This is a duct bank relocation requested by the City to facilitate a drain tie-in for the Tobin School. The City will permanent restore this area. Steve inquired about the (6) 5-inch conduits where it's typically (4). Eversource will confirm



**Decision:** Granted with Typical Conditions and coordination with the Tobin School.

**22. New Petition (177890) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Pearl Street** - Easterly from pole P538/28, approximately 30 feet southeasterly from **Lawrence Street** to private property at **#146-148 Pearl Street**, install approximately 10 feet of conduit (WO#8602274). **[Time Stamp: 1:06:53]**

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy, Hannah Cooper, and Comcast.

**Summary:** This for a new 2-family house. DPW requires permanent sidewalk repair. Common trench sent out by Eversource. Eversource received a response from Verizon requesting a copy of their plans. Comcast did receive a common trench email the day of hearing. This is not sufficient common trench notification.

**Decision:** Continued for common trench with Comcast.

**23. New Petition (179183) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Allston Street** - Northeasterly from pole P9/19, approximately 160 feet east of **Pearl Street**, to private property at **#159 Allston Street**, install approximately 9 feet of conduit (WO#7207652). **[Time Stamp: 1:09:40]**

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy, Hannah Cooper, and John Moylan (representing the contractor).

**Summary:** This for a new underground service. Going for aerial to underground. This utility pole (19) will need to be replaced with a new pole. The old pole should be removed prior to any new attachments and common trench letter sent. Permanent sidewalk repairs. Common trench notification sent today (June 16, 2022).

**Decision:** Continued.

**24. New Petition (179187) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143**, for the following: **Thorndike Street** - Westerly thence southerly from manhole MH2705, approximately 70 feet east of **Third Street**, to private property at **#48 Thorndike Street**, install approximately 113 feet of conduit (WO#5413048). **[Time Stamp: 1:12:17]**

**Present:** Jacqueline Duffy and Hannah Cooper.

**Summary:** This is for a relocation of service for a 42-unit building. Eversource will check to see if this is a relocation of the station. This building is an existing building and it does have connection to Verizon and other utilities.

**Decision:** Granted 2 -0 with Typical Conditions. (Chair Murati Ferrer voting present).

**25. Petitions to Deny/Reject Time Stamp: 1:15:38]**

**94342** (Eversource Energy - Brattle Street)

**145664** (Eversource Energy – Elmwood Street)



**136065** (Cambridge Network Solutions - 32 Vassar Street)  
**135784** (Cambridge Network Solutions - Vassar Street)  
**146063** (Cambridge Network Solutions - First Street)  
**161933** (Cambridge Network Solutions - Memorial Drive) [Time Stamp: 1:15:38]

**Present:** Jaqueline Duffy, Hannah Cooper, Jeff Harrington

**Summary:** Eversource has no status/update on petitions: 94342 and 145664.

Cambridge Network Solutions is active pursuing license agreements for these petitions. They would like to keep all petitions on the agenda. They are paying their make ready and they are moving forward. They are working on another route for VP 135784, as well trying to obtain licenses from Verizon. We would like to see the request for license agreement uploaded by Cambridge Network Solutions.

**Decision:** Denied (VP 94342 and VP145664). Continued (VP136065, VP135784, VP146063, and VP161933).

**26. Approval of May 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes [Time Stamp: 1:25:06]**

**Decision:** Minutes approved.

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NMF\_\_\_

**Minutes Approved:** August 18, 2022

MM\_\_\_MM/

**Minutes Posted:** August 22, 2022

TJS\_\_\_TJS/