

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 MINUTES

Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

(Started at 9:01 a.m.)

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

Commission Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melo, and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant.

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, unless otherwise indicated. 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. New Petition (254197) - Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, 344 Broadway Cambridge MA 02139, for the following: Mount Auburn Street at Homer Avenue - Installing a new signal pole on the south side of Mt. Auburn Street opposite Homer Ave and about 15 feet of conduit.

Present: Andreas Wolfe.

Summary: Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department seeks to install a new traffic signal on Homer Avenue in conjunction with other safety improvements in that area. They are installing about 15 feet of conduit to connect to an existing line. Their intent is to have it completed by Spring.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

2. New Petition (254198) - Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, 344 Broadway Cambridge MA 02139, for the following: Mount Auburn Street at Aberdeen Avenue - Install new pole at the northwest corner of Mt. Auburn Street and Aberdeen Ave for pedestrian signal.

Present: Andreas Wolfe.

Summary: Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department seeks to move the pedestrian signal to be closer to an existing crosswalk. This work is also part of the improvements in the area. The new conduit is intended to connect to an existing line that is about 5 feet away from the existing signal. MWRA permit has been applied for and approved; needs to be uploaded to the record.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, pending submission of the MWRA permit.

3. New petition (251964) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Prospect Street - Install (1) new 3x3x3 feet Comcast manhole over existing Comcast conduit on Hampshire Street. From newly placed manhole, trench southerly 21 feet +/- to the private property line of 275 Prospect Street, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduit.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This is for a new service connection at the property. They want to bring in a new 4-inch conduit to the property. The street was just paved.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and with additional conditions that there needs to be complete mill and overlay, with pavement markings, and permanent sidewalk restoration.

4. New petition (252555) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Charles Street - On the northern side of Charles Street, approximately 160 feet east of Sixth Street, mount (1) new 36.8x24.3x16 inches Comcast power supply to utility pole #41 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.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: New power supply on the utility to take load off on the other areas. Also powered from a secondary with Eversource. No excavation associated with this work. Pole 41 has double pole.

Decision: Granted with the condition that double Pole #41 must be removed before any new installations.

5. New petition (253672) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Whittemore Avenue - Install (1) 4-inch PVC conduit +/- 5 feet southerly on Whittemore Ave from existing utility pole #728/24 to the private property line of 36-64 Whittemore Ave, and install (1) 4-inch PVC conduit +/- 7 feet southerly on Whittemore Ave from existing utility pole #728/12 to the private property line of 36-64 Whittemore Ave. This is Comcast's petition for the joint trench with Verizon (VP #218628 - Item 12).

Present: Shane Flewelling; and Karen Levesque (Verizon).

Summary: Matter was heard in conjunction with #12 on the agenda (Petition #218628). For this petition, Crown Castle is trying to take ownership of 2 of the 4 conduits identified on the Verizon Petition (#218628). For Pole 24, they would rise and then connect to private underground system, and for Pole #12 they are connecting to the building.

A site visit was performed and it showed that the developer installed the conduits prior to the grants of location. For Pole 24, the developer has already removed 1 of the 4 conduits identified in the Verizon Petition. For Pole 12, there are still 4 conduits but the developer has been instructed to remove the fourth conduit. The conduits on each pole will be owned one by Comcast, one by Verizon and the other by the City of Cambridge. The City may not need all the space in the conduits, so in the future they could share the space if needed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. Continuation from September 21, 2023 to conduct test pits on Brookline and Green Streets to ensure the path proposed is open and available; no test pits necessary on Franklin Street (239180) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - From Verizon manhole 26/507 located on Green Street, trench approximately 255 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS conduit, and (1) 4-inch PVC City Shadow conduit to the University Park manhole located at the intersection of Brookline and Franklin Street. From University Park manhole, trench approximately 240 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS conduit and (1) 4-inch PVC City Shadow conduit to existing University Park manhole #3A on Franklin Street.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Originally heard and then there was a site visit with the Department of Public Works. As a result, they have eliminated some of the trenching, and worked out a deal to use existing Comcast conduit. Benefit to what is now being proposed based off the new drawings showing the amended route, is that they have taken out one of the trenches, shortened the trench in Green and Brookline Streets, and if approved, they can keep the bus traffic in the area. The one issue is that although they are able to use existing Comcast conduit, Comcast has informed them they will need to enlarge the manholes because they are in disarray and not in good shape. They have agreed to use the Comcast vendor to replace the manholes. The updated map with the route is on the portal and the petitioner will write up the proper new description of the route so that it can be amended on the record for the grant of location. Franklin and Brookline Streets have been newly paved.

Decision: Granted, as amended, with typical conditions, and the additional condition of mill and overlay in the Franklin and Brookline Streets area.

7. New petition (253037) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Binney Street - Starting from 300 Binney Street, install (1) 4-inch PVC communications conduit approximately 39 feet and connect to existing conduit in the private way. Install approximately 155 feet of (1) 4-inch CNS communications conduit in the right of way to proposed 1x2 feet CNS handhole in the landscape strip on Binney Street. Trench approximately 8 feet from proposed handhole and install (1) 4-inch PVC conduit to electric manhole C134.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: They have done a lot of homework and tried to license Verizon conduit. Project is challenging because of all the construction in the area. This petition is to feed 300 Binney which is the older building and does not have a diverse entry. Where they could license conduit, they have done so and will use the existing fiber, and break out of Eversource, thereby requiring a smaller trench. They are

using as much conduit that is already in place. The handhold is being asked for in terms of safety because of going into different utility power.

Due to the extensive construction in the area, there was a question as to whether the work could be conducted within the lifetime of the grant (which is 6 months). Petitioner explained it was their intent to complete the work in conjunction and coordination with the current work being performed in the area and to do so in phases. For example, there is a vendor there now and they could trench into the handhold now. Then as they change traffic configurations as they open the street, then they would do another phase of the project and connect everything at the end.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition that there needs to be continued coordination with construction crews/project managers in the area and DPW Engineering to make sure the work is completed in a phased approach.

8. New petition (253039) - Cambridge Network Solutions, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - From utility pole 63 on Green Street, trench approximately 3 feet and install (1) 2-inch CNS communications conduit to 1000 Mass Ave property line/right of way line. Then from Verizon manhole 26/502, trench 2 feet and install (1) 4-inch CNS communications conduit to 1000 Mass Ave property line/right of way line.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: This is to provide a feed to the customer at 1000 Massachusetts Avenue. They are leasing pipe from Verizon, and would like to breakout from their system, go into private property and then extend to a pole that they are already licensing. Most of the excavation is on private property except on the riser which is on the public way. Petitioner received a comment/inquiry from neighbor which has been responded to and no further communications have been received.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and the additional condition of permanent sidewalk repair.

9. Continuation from October 19, 2023 pending submission of conduit petitions from Verizon for both locations (241074) - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Crown Castle is proposing to install approximately 7 feet of conventional fiber conduit from existing Crown Castle handhole to proposed Crown Castle handhole on Dana Street, and approximately 5 feet of conventional fiber conduit from the same proposed Crown Castle handhole to be stubbed and capped on street side of the curb, to be connected with future proposed conduit provided by Verizon. Crown Castle is also proposing to upgrade the existing small cell wireless facility near 975 Massachusetts Avenue to include a panel array antenna and add a larger equipment cabinet to the existing steel guyed utility pole (Node ODAS_2E-14) located near 975 Massachusetts Avenue and 2 Dana Street. Crown Castle is also proposing to install approximately 12 feet of conventional fiber conduit from existing Crown Castle handhole to proposed Crown Castle handhole on Sidney Street, and approximately 7 feet of conventional fiber conduit from the same proposed Crown Castle handhole to be stubbed and capped on street side of the curb, to be connected with future proposed conduit provided by Verizon. Crown Castle is also proposing to upgrade the

existing small cell wireless facility near 216 Sidney Street (Node ODAS_N012) to include a panel array antenna and a larger equipment cabinet at the existing steel guyed utility pole.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Karen Levesque (Verizon).

Summary: Verizon was inquiring as to whether they needed to file a petition since they have in the past and have not been approved. There was confirmation that the petitions to which Verizon was referring to where ones where the route and conduit was applied for by Crown Castle and Verizon never indicated that they were petitioning on the same route to take ownership of the conduit. It was clarified that for any type of petition, including small cells, whoever owns and maintains the conduit, they must have a grant of location. Therefore, that is why in cases like this one, both Crown Castle and Verizon must each file for a grant because each of them own part of the conduit being applied for.

Decision: Continued until Verizon submits their corresponding petition.

10. **New petition (254125) - Crown Castle, 1800 West Park Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581**, for the following: Portland Street - Crown Caste is proposing to install approximately 73 feet of conventional conduit for a power supply of a proposed node from existing Eversource MH #24 to a proposed intercept at point A. From there, there will be another 16 feet of conventional conduit installation for power and a fiber feed to a proposed Crown Castle handhole in the sidewalk on Albany Street by the Portland Street intersection. From the proposed handhole there will be about 4 feet of conventional trenching to the proposed node pole location.

Present: Ana Semashka; and Emy McSweeney; Kelly Correia; Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is to restore emergency services to the area. An MWRA 8M permit is required; the petitioner has not yet applied for it. This relates to a previous grant (#157766) but that one was never completed, and the process was abandoned. Petitioner stated that Eversource has conduit and power and that is why they are not petitioning for a grant.

Decision: As to related and pending Petition #157766, it is considered withdrawn/rejected as duplicate of current petition. As to Petition #254125, granted with typical conditions, pending submission of MWRA 8M permit and confirmation that Eversource already has power at the site.

11. **Continuation from November 16, 2023 pending submission of the aerial fee (244858) - ExteNet Systems LLC, 31 Chesterfield Road, Milton, MA 02186**, for the following: Windsor Street - The Applicant seeks permission to install a Small Cell Facility per plans submitted. This installation will include the following: an antenna mounted to the top of the pole; a shroud for radios mounted to the pole; and an electrical meter. The fiber connection will be done utilizing the existing pole lines.

Present: Keenan Brinn; and Karen Levesque (Verizon).

Summary: No excavation, all aerial work. Verizon was able to confirm the conduit is all existing and no new poles or fiber are being installed.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the double pole needs to be removed prior to any new installation.

12. Continuation from May 18, 2023, to obtain responses as to whether all four conduits are being used, and whether they are all going to rise on the pole (218628) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Whittemore Ave - Verizon to place 5 feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/24, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue, and to place 5 feet of conduit off of the existing pole 728/12, to 36-64 Whittemore Avenue.

Present: Ross Bilodeau; and Karen Levesque.

Summary: Matter was heard in conjunction with #5 on the agenda (Petition #253672). Verizon had asked for 4 conduits on each pole as that is what the developer had requested. Four 4-inch conduits on the poles are too much. For Pole 24, the developer has already removed 1 of the 4 conduits. For Pole 12, there are still 4 conduits, but the developer has been instructed to remove the fourth conduit. The conduits on each pole will be owned one by Comcast, one by Verizon and the other by the City of Cambridge. The City may not need all the space in the conduits, so in the future they could share the space if needed.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that on Pole #12 the number of conduits needs to be reduced to 3 – 1 for Verizon, 1 for Comcast and 1 for the City of Cambridge.

13. New petition (252603) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Harvey Street - Verizon to trench the roadway on Harvey Street, to install 54"x6" conduit, splicing into existing Verizon conduit, and extending to the property line of 36-64 Whittemore Ave.

Present: Ross Bilodeau; Karen Levesque; and Ranheetha Prabhu.

Summary: This is related to the work identified in Item 12 (Petition #218628) and for the same property.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

14. New petition (253379) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860, for the following: Church Street - Verizon to replace 108 feet of conduit from existing manhole 219A on Brattle Street to 66 Church Street.

Present: Ross Bilodeau; Karen Levesque; and Ranheetha Prabhu.

Summary: This is for new service as the existing conduit is not viable. There was a question as to whether a new grant was needed if they were just replacing what have and within 3 feet of where the current conduit is located. Verizon stated the whole length of the conduit is not viable. Verizon will need to provide the survey conducted that shows the conduit is broken on both ends. Verizon confirmed they do not intend to replace the bad conduit, as removing it can be difficult. They would take the new conduit and put it right on top the existing one or next to it. The description and the plan

have a discrepancy as to the number of 4-inch pipes. It should only be one pipe, yet the plan shows four and the description states two. There will need to be mill and overlay on Church Street.

Decision: Continue to get more information on the discrepancies of the plan and the description (one says 4 pipes, the other says 2, petitioner said 1) and to obtain the survey showing the conduit is broken on both ends.

15. Continuation from July 20, 2023 to conduct test pits to confirm corridor (229351) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Rindge Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue. Rindge Avenue - Easterly at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkway, install approximately 1054 feet of conduit from MHC2828 to MHC2833 via MHC2829, MHC2830, MHC2831 and MHC2832. Rindge Avenue - Easterly at Sherman Street, install approximately 1126 feet of conduit from MHC3323 to MHC3704 via MHC3324, MHC3325, MHC3405 and MHC3404. Massachusetts Avenue - Southeasterly, thence turning and running northeasterly from MHC3577, approximately 100 feet southeast of Alberta Terrace, install approximately 190 feet of conduit to property line.

Present: Emy McSweeney; Kelley Correia; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Petitioner asked to continue this one once again as they have yet to perform the test pits. They have already placed the order for the test pits to be conducted, but they are unsure when they will be performed as the team is working on other more pressing sites.

Decision: Removed from the agenda until get notification from Eversource that the test pits have been completed, results uploaded to the record, and the petition is ready to be heard.

16. New petition (253080) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, for the following: Albany Street. Massachusetts Avenue - At Albany Street, northeasterly from MHC22 to MHC560, install approximately 71 feet of conduit. Albany Street - Northeasterly from MHC560 at Mass Ave to MHC593 at Osborn Street, install approximately 92 feet of conduit. Osborn Street - Northerly from MHC593 at Albany Street to MHC3218, approximately 73 feet south of State Street, install approximately 307 feet of conduit.

Present: Emy McSweeney; Kelley Correia; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This matter was heard in conjunction with #18 on the agenda (Petition #253793). This is part of Eversource's capital project for improvements and increased service reliability in the area. The City had not been made aware of this project, which is a large scale one. The MWRA permit was applied for and Eversource is waiting for the fully executed one to be returned to it. Test pits will be required for such a large scale project – these have not been performed. Eversource explained this is a priority project for them because it relates to load growth in the East Kendall area. They are attempting to transfer load from East Kendall to Putnam. This is to be able to support the load for when the new station is created, 2028-2030. They need this completed by the summer 2024, so they will want this done by May 2024.

Decision: Removed from the agenda until get notification from Eversource that the test pits have been completed, results uploaded to the record, and the petition is ready to be heard.

17. New petition (253084) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Southerly from MHC1421 at Sparks Street, to private property across from Sparks Street, install approximately 58 feet of conduit.

Present: Emy McSweeney; Kelley Correia; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: New service for customer at Mt Auburn and going into the customer's handhold. 8M permit? Not been started, it is required. Permanent trench and sidewalk repair.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, pending submission of the MWRA 8M permit.

18. New petition (253793) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Albany Street and Portland Street. Albany Street - Northeasterly from MH593 at Osborn Street to MHC24 at Albany Street and Portland Street, install approximately 568 feet of conduit, and northeasterly from MHC3503 near 68 Albany Street to MHC24 at Albany Street and Portland Street, install approximately 182 feet of conduit. Portland Street - Northerly from MHC24 at Portland Street and Albany Street to MHC754 at Main Street, install approximately 365 feet of conduit.

Present: Emy McSweeney; Kelley Correia; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This matter was heard in conjunction with agenda item # 16 (Petition #253080). At this location, test pits have been conducted. Eversource is waiting for the MWRA fully executed permit to be returned to them. Different from the related item, here the test pits have been conducted and they are using existing conduits between the manholes. They are also asking to remove 2 and install 5. There is a need to excavate and there needs to be further coordination with DPW.

Decision: Continue.

19. New petition (253182) - Eversource Energy, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, for the following: Sixth Street and Rogers Street. Sixth Street - Southwesterly from pole 636/32 to Rogers Street, install approximately 146 feet of conduit. Rogers Street - Westerly from Sixth Street to EV electric panel, install approximately 91 feet of conduit and one new manhole MHC32244.


Present: Emy McSweeney; Kelley Correia; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: This is for a new electrical vehicle station. They would be coming off pole on Sixth street, installing a manhole and then continue through. Verizon has indicated they are replacing Pole #32. The installation cannot occur until the old pole is removed.


Decision: Granted with typical conditions and with the additional condition that no new attachments are installed until the old Pole #32 is removed.

20. Consideration of Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023.

Decision: Approved.

NMF  _____

Minutes Approved: February 15, 2024

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Minutes Posted: February 15, 2024

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