

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, August 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

(Meeting started at 9:05 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. **Possible revocation of Grant of location for Crown Castle Small Cell installation petitions #273661 – 268102 – 280427 – 1140518 for failure to start and complete the proposed work within the allowed time set by the Pole and Conduit policy.**

Present: Sarah Feely.

Summary: It was discussed that the work associated with Petitions #2736661 and 268102 were all completed. As to #280427, all but one, 163 Brookline Street had been completed. They expect that work to be completed by October – the hold up being they are waiting for the equipment. Similarly, as to #1140518, all the work has been completed except for 25 First Street – they are waiting for power and expect to have this completed by September.

The Commission raised concern about requests for information and updates on the grant of location not being returned or provided. The petitioner stated they are incorporating a new system to ensure they track the grants more carefully.

Decision: Granted an extension through November 2025.

Note: *The Commission also raised the issue of the annual recurring fee with Crown Castle and the discrepancy between the Commission's records and theirs. The Commissions stressed the importance, especially on Small Cell Petitions, to be clear, state each location separately and have consistent records. Crown Castle will investigate and send a detailed written response so the Commission can make a final determination.*

2. **New petition (1173411) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Emmons Place – Hammond Street - This is a request to modify existing equipment. Modifications are needed to the site in order to comply with new technology, allow for increased bandwidth and reliability for residents and businesses, enhance emergency services, and also continue to allow collocation of multiple carriers on a single pole, reducing the wireless installations on surrounding poles.

Present: Sarah Feely.

Summary: This is for two installations – 7 Emmons Plance and 88 Hammond Street. Both sought out grants are for upgrades. They are keeping the same shroud and proposed equipment by removing radio units from the shroud and attaching a new radio on its place. They are also changing the antennas on both poles, from 5.4 ft to 3.5 ft for the size of the antenna. At 88 Hammond Street the utility company is replacing the pole. The only excavation would be on Hammond Street for the installation of the new pole.

Decision: Granted as to both and for 88 Hammon Street with typical conditions and the additional condition that the double pole needs to be removed.

3. **Eversource request for an 8-month extension for GOL #232127 which should have been completed on 4/21/25.**

Present: Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: The hold up with completing this work within the allotted time was a customer related issue. This work is for MIT and it took a while to negotiate the easement agreement. Usually easement agreements are three pages, but with MIT they came back with a 14 page one and legal counsel had to review and approve the terms. The negotiations have completed, and they are only waiting for signatures. The Commission discussed whether the 8-month request was reasonable considering the construction moratorium.

The Commission raised concern about requests for information and updates on the grant of location not being returned or provided. They have also implemented a different system to track these projects to keep up with the grant of location timelines.

Decision: Granted through June 2026.

4. **Continuation from November 21, 2024 to perform test pits (1140344) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street and Prospect Street -

Northeasterly from MHC348, at corner of Prospect Street and Cambridge Street, to MHC2431, install approximately 54 feet of conduit.

Summary/Decision: Not heard – moved to September agenda for failure to complete test pits.

5. **Continuation from November 21, 2024 to perform test pits (1140348) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Columbia Street at Cambridge Street - Northeasterly from MHC2428 at Cambridge Street to private property at 1035 Columbia Street, install approximately 418 feet of conduit and one new manhole, MHC32501.

Summary/Decision: Not heard – moved to September agenda for failure to complete test pits.

6. **New petition (1171380) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Sidney Street - Westerly side, approximately 100 feet northeast of Emily Street, install one pole #635/20-X.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is a City of Cambridge project to install public showers. They are crossing over the entire street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

7. **New petition (1171387) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Western Avenue - Easterly from manhole (MHC537), approximately 100 feet east of Riverside Place, to private property at #356 Western Avenue, install approximately 30 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to provide new electric service based on customer request.

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

8. **New petition (1171397) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Sherman Street - Southerly from manhole (MHC2796), approximately 117 feet south of Bellis Circle, to private property at #98-100 Sherman Street, install approximately 73 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: Based on the monthly meeting between the Electrical Department and Eversource, the project was discussed and amended. Rather than coming from manhole 2796, they will come from manhole 2795, which is closer to the service address and, thus, less conduit will be installed on Sherman Street. This is for new service as there will be two new buildings with EV chargers added to 21 Walden. The amended plan showing the new route should be available by next week.

Decision: Granted, pending submission of plan and description with amended route and with typical conditions and additional condition of permanent trench and sidewalk repair.

9. **New petition (1172332) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Northerly from manhole (MHC879), across from Scouting Way, to private property at #311 Broadway, install approximately 3 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for temporary service for the Faith Lutheran Church due to the fire a few years back. There was a mention that if this is where permanent service will be installed, maybe they should install the conduit now so as not to do any further excavating.

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

10. **New petition (1172340) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Westerly from manhole (MHC59), across from Banks Street, to private property at #14 Mount Auburn Street, install approximately 17 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This relates to the Harvard University capacity project. It is a 13-15 line extension based on the customer's request.

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

11. **New petition (1174235) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Magazine Street at Massachusetts Avenue - Easterly from manhole (MH306), at Magazine Street and Massachusetts Avenue, to proposed customer handhole, install approximately 19 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is to install at the corner of River Street and Massachusetts Avenue an electric light box for the City of Cambridge. They requested the MWRA permit in July but still waiting for it (pending signatures). There was a question as to whether there is some discrepancy between this plan and the River Street contractor's plan.

Decision: Granted, pending submission of MWRA permit, with typical conditions and additional condition that they need to coordinate with the River Street contractor.

12. **New petition (1175781) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Vassar Street - Northeasterly from manhole (MHC2340), across from Audrey Street, to

manhole (MHC28575), install approximately 256 feet of conduit. Then southeasterly from manhole (MHC28575) to customer handhole, install approximately 50 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is for new electric service at Vassar Street related to Eversource gas. There were doubts as to whether a grant of location was also needed for the Eversource gas work as the petitions are usually provided as a package not seen/considered piecemeal. Concerns about the recent paving and remarking on the area were raised and whether all the paving and excavation would be necessary.

Decision: Continued to allow Eversource gas to submit any related and necessary corresponding petition, or in the alternative, to appear and respond to the Commission's questions as to whether there is existing conduit that can be used or have the route be amended to avoid such a long dig/trench.

- 13. New petition (1176310) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street and Cardinal Medeiros Avenue
MAIN STREET and GALILEO GALILEI WAY - Install approximately 510 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2713 to new MHC31121 via new manhole, MHC32711. Install approximately 690 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2341 to new MHC31121 via new manhole, MHC32711. Install (2) new manholes, MHC32711 and MHC31121 in Galileo Galilei Way.
PORTLAND STREET - Install approximately 145 feet of (2) 6-5" conduits from MHC526 to MHC30 at Hampshire Street.
HAMPSHIRE STREET and CARDINAL MADEIROS AVENUE - Install approximately 30 feet of 6-4" conduit from MHC3203 TO MHC1142, 60 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC30 to MHC1142 and 190 feet of 6-4" conduit from MHC1123 to MHC1140.
CARDINAL MEDEIROS AVENUE - Install approximately 130 feet of 4-5" conduit from MHC1121 to MHC1140, 135 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC1142 to MHC1140, 125 feet of (2) 6-5" conduit from MHC1140 to MHC31, 215 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC31 to MHC3276, 375 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC31 to new manhole MHC32709, 90 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC3276 to new manhole MHC32709; install one new manhole MHC32709; replace 2 existing manholes MHC1140 and MHC31.
BINNEY STREET from CARDINAL MEDEIROS AVENUE to THIRD STREET - Install approximately 5,375 feet of (2) 6-6" conduit, 181 feet of 6-6" conduit, 770 feet of 6-5" conduit, 626 feet of 4-5" conduit; install (1) new manhole need MHC32710; install (6) new special order manholes (A,B,C,D,E,F); replace (9) existing manholes.
THIRD STREET at BINNEY STREET - Install approximately 250 feet of 6-5" conduit from MHC2596 to MHC1375.

Present: Susan Barroso; and Charles Eck.


Summary: This is related to the Greater Cambridge Energy Program for the new underground substation to help support area growth. The transmission line components (which were approved last year) are currently under construction and this petition would be for the corresponding electric distribution. They intend to begin work towards the end of this year with the intent to continue on

track to end all civil work by January 2029. They continue to heavily coordinate with the Department of Public Works and other area developments. It was acknowledged this work is part of the Memorandum of Understanding that was agreed upon and signed with the City, and that test pits relating to this petition have been done.


Decision: Granted with typical conditions and any conditions as stated on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Petitioner and the City of Cambridge.

14. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - June 26, 2025.

Decision: Approved.

NMF______

Minutes Approved: September 18, 2025

MM___MM/

Minutes Posted: September 18, 2025

TJS___TJS/