



City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works

Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner

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January 20, 2015

To: Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

From: Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner, DPW

Re: Council Order O-3, dated October 20, 2014 regarding Fern Street

During the design process for the Concord Avenue Area sewer separation project, Fern Street emerged as a potential street to be a priority bicycle and pedestrian route; safely connecting the North Cambridge neighborhood to the Tobin School/Tobin Field/Fr. Callahan Playground via Danehy Park and Fern Street. The design was developed through community meetings, meetings with the Tobin School, neighborhood walks and open houses and provides a high quality bicycle and pedestrian path along the east side of the street. The goal is to transform the street into a truly multi-modal, high quality pedestrian and bicycle street to benefit residents, commuters and children attending the Tobin School.

In October 2014, the City received a petition signed by more than 300 people expressing support for the enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connection, but concerns about the loss of 18 parking spaces on Fern Street. Subsequently, the City received another petition signed by more than 300 people expressing support for the plan and concerns about compromising the design to maintain parking.

On December 17, 2014 the City Manager hosted a meeting with DPW staff, residents that participated in the original design process and residents representing both of the petition efforts. Working together, the group was able to develop a revised plan that maintains the high quality bicycle and pedestrian facility (east side of the street), a loading zone (approximately 3 parking spaces) and 7 residential parking spaces (west side of the street). There was consensus that this revised design provides the desired high quality bicycle and pedestrian facility, while maintaining a reasonable number of parking spaces to support the adjacent residential uses.

City staff appreciates everyone that participated in the process and looks forward to continuing to work with people as these improvements move in to construction.



FERN STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Updated Design

January 2015



LEGEND

- PROPOSED SIDEWALK/ CONCRETE DRIVEWAY APRON
- PROPOSED LAWN AREA
- BUILDING
- TRAFFIC LANE DIRECTION
- AT-GRADE CROSSWALK
- RAISED CROSSWALK
- RAISED INTERSECTION
- BIKE LANE

- EXISTING BACK OF SIDEWALK TREE CANOPY
 - IMPROVEMENTS/MULTIUSE PATH
 - EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN *B)
 - PROPOSED SIDEWALK TREE (3)
 - REQUESTED BACK OF SIDEWALK TREE (3)
- NET LOSS OF PARKING:
- Change From Original Proposal:

NOTE: Parking on Fern Street proposed to be reduced for multi-use path and a connection between Tobin School and Danehy Park. Also, artscape opportunities to be incorporated into the design.

