

INMAN SQUARE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE APRIL 2021

Dear Inman Square Neighbor,

The City is pleased to provide this **Construction Update** for the Inman Square improvements project. Spring and summer 2021 are going to be busy seasons. Work on the Vellucci Plazas, the roadway reconstruction, sidewalks and separated bike lanes will be underway in a phased approach throughout 2021. The intersection re-alignment, plazas, sidewalk and protected bike lanes will be substantially complete this year, with final paving scheduled for summer 2022, contingent on weather and any additional COVID delays.

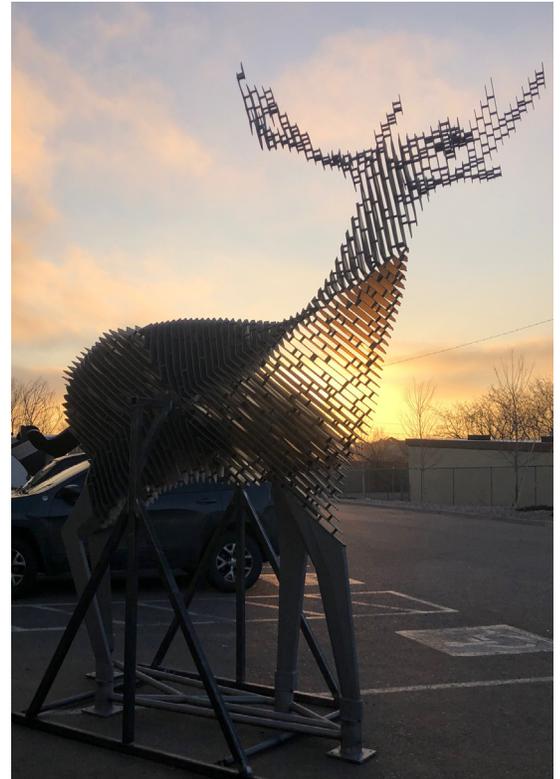
The overall construction schedule has been extended into summer 2022 due to COVID impacts on the contractor, accommodating outdoor dining throughout the pandemic and expansion of the project scope to include replacement of utilities and surface features on Oak Street. We are also updating the design for Cambridge Street to extend the separated bike lanes on both sides of the street to the project limit at Oak Street. The project team remains committed to working with residents, the East Cambridge Business Association, and individual businesses to mitigate the impacts of construction and complete this critical project.

During the duration of the Project, we will transmit occasional high-level project **Updates**, such as this one, as well as more frequent **Notices** that will detail specific short-term construction operations impacting various portions of Inman Square as construction progresses.

We know that living, working, operating a business, and traveling through an active construction project is challenging. We truly appreciate all the efforts that the Inman Square community and local businesses have put forth so far during the construction of the Project. We join you in looking forward to a successful project, which will improve safety for people walking, biking and driving and enhance the public open space in Inman Square.

Sincerely,

Katherine Watkins, P.E.
City Engineer



This roughly 3,400-pound sculpture, designed by artist Mark Reigelman, will be installed in Vellucci Plaza.



A "bird's-eye view" of Vellucci Plaza looking north to Hampshire Street after construction is complete.

What is the Inman Square project?

In 2015, the City began a process of studying the Inman Square intersection to develop short- and long-term improvements for what is one of the City's highest crash-rate locations. These crashes have involved all modes of travel through Inman Square (vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles), and improving the safety of Inman Square has been an extremely high priority and is aligned with Cambridge's **Vision Zero** commitment to eliminate transportation-related injuries and fatalities.



Findings from the initial study were presented to the community in mid-2016, and short-term improvements including restrictions on left-turns and bicycle intersection markings were implemented in summer and fall 2016. These short-term improvements did not involve significant construction, and have ways been considered an interim measure until a more permanent solution could be implemented.

The process of designing permanent improvements to Inman Square began in late 2016, and continued throughout 2017 and 2018. Several different design options were developed and analyzed, and six widely attended public meetings were held. The Plan addresses the safety and operational issues of Inman Square, and meets other project goals including improving transit operations and experience, maximizing the quality and experience of pedestrian plaza space, and providing necessary parking and loading functions.

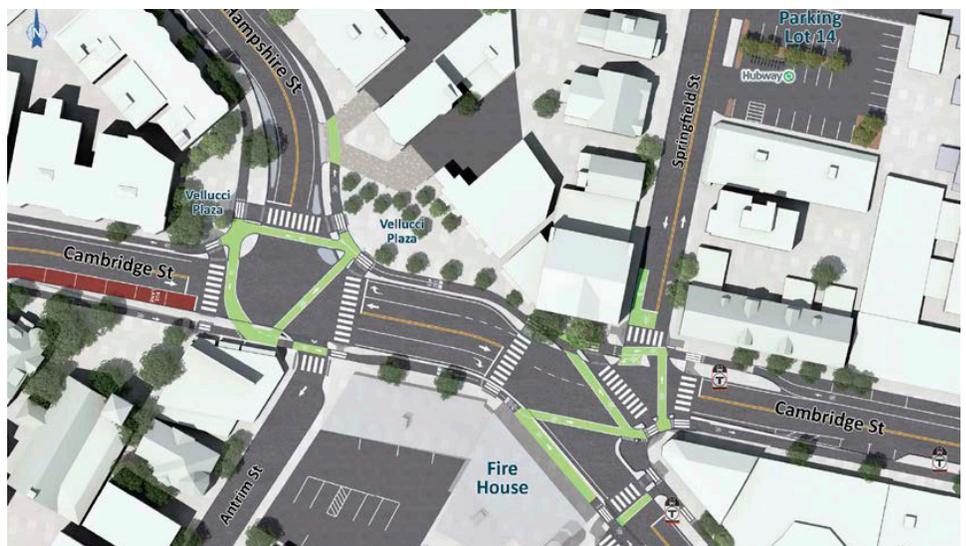
Key components of the plan include:

- Improved and more conventional intersection geometry
- Separated bicycle lanes and protected bicycle crossings
- Additional pedestrian crosswalks and protected pedestrian signal phases
- Improved signage and markings
- Peak hour dedicated bus lane and improved bus stop locations and bus routing
- Restoration of high demand left turn movements for vehicles
- Extensive tree plantings in immediate project area, Springfield Street parking lot, and nearby neighborhood streets to mitigate tree removal
- Pervious and light-colored paving materials to improve stormwater quality and reduce the urban heat island effect

This concept in its basic form is adjacent. For a much more detailed look at the design, including its extensive landscape, urban design and public arts components, we encourage you to visit:

www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/inmansquare

and click on the "Documents" tab to view the October 24, 2018, community meeting presentation.

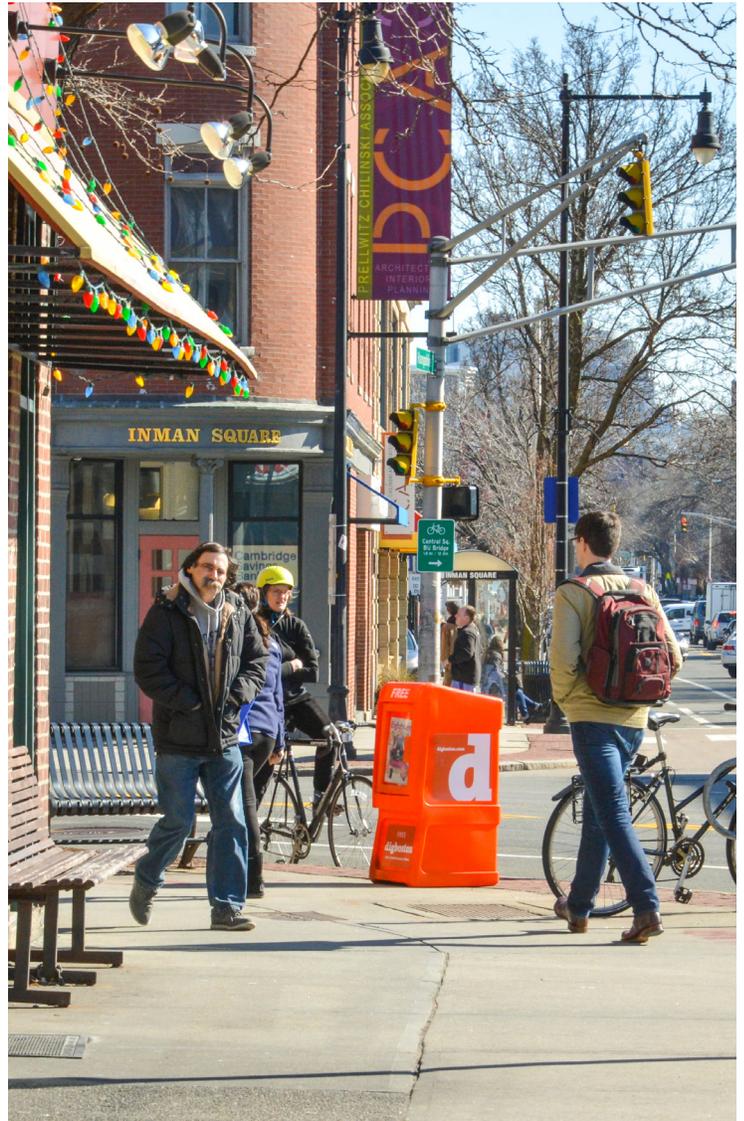


Community Outreach and Construction Mitigation

The City is committed to maintaining clear communications and minimizing impacts to residential and commercial abutters, throughout the construction phase. Ongoing outreach and mitigation activities include the following:

Business Support: The City will continue working with the businesses to manage the impacts of construction and support small businesses throughout the construction process, including:

- Reinstating Shop Inman Customer Loyalty Program (Summer/Fall 2021)
- Continuing the ornamental tree lighting on Cambridge Street
- Ongoing electronic and printed communications and periodic surveys for business owners
- Ongoing installation of wayfinding and promotional signage
- “Coffee Talk” sessions with City and Contractor staff and attendance at regular ECBA meetings (as needed)
- Temporary changes to area parking regulations



City Staff engage with the public at Inman Square Eats and Crafts in May 2019.

Updates and Notices: DPW is disseminating electronic and written communications throughout the duration of the project. These include periodic general “Updates” (such as this); and more specific “Notices” which alert the community to imminent operations in the field and related impacts to roadways, crosswalks, sidewalks, and parking. Updates and Notices are posted on the project website www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/inmansquare and are emailed to those on the Project contact list. Visit the website to be added to this contact list. In addition, hard-copies of Updates and Notices are distributed to residents and businesses as appropriate.

Construction Activity Update

Work Completed To Date

Construction began in 2019 and focused on underground utilities. Work completed to date includes completely new gas and water mains, drainage improvements, and the infrastructure needed to support new lighting and traffic signal systems.



Springfield Street Parking Lot

Near Completion

- Significant accessibility and surface improvements to this lot are substantially complete and we expect the lot to be reopened for full use in mid-April.
- Contractor will need to close the lot for a few days in May to place the final surface coating, a few weeks after the paving has had a chance to cure.



Plazas, Intersection Realignment, Sidewalks and Separated Bike Lanes (Hampshire Street and Cambridge Street “west”)

- Roadway, Sidewalk and Separated Bike Lanes
 - Full Depth Roadway Reconstruction — April to June, 2021
 - Curb, Sidewalk & Separated Bike Lanes — July to December, 2021
- Final paving, 2022



Cambridge Street “east” between Springfield Street and Oak Street

2021-2022

- Work delayed to September 2021. This will allow redesign to extend protected bike lanes to Oak Street, and facilitate outdoor dining.
- September to December 2021, utility work and full roadway reconstruction
- Sidewalk and separated bike lanes, spring 2022
- Final paving, 2022



****NEW** Quick-Build Separated Bike Lanes**

Summer 2022

Although it is beyond the limits of the construction project, we are happy to announce the City will implement **quick-build separated bike lanes between Oak Street and Prospect Street** in the summer of 2022 to coincide with the completion of the Inman Square construction. Additional outreach on this will occur during the fall of 2021.



QUESTIONS?

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