

Cambridge Common Community Involvement/Project Timeline 1996-2012

1996	Enhancement grant for \$500,000 approved.
Jan-Dec 1997	Citizen Advisory Committee formed to work with City and consultants to formulate a plan for Common improvements. Approximately 10 meetings held.
Oct 1997	Community meetings held with Harvard Square Defense Fund, Neighborhood 9, Agassiz Neighborhood and Cambridge Historical Commission on Common improvements.
Dec 1997	Public meeting on concept plan held with general support but concern about potential for bicycle/pedestrian conflicts on the Common.
Mar 1999	Completion of internal and public process on bicycles on sidewalks policy to reduce bicycle/pedestrian conflicts and which allows bicycles on sidewalks (including Cambridge Common) at low speeds except for commercial squares.
Jun 1999	Project budget shortfall makes it necessary to seek additional funding sources.
Apr 2002	Harvard Square Design Study initiated with a citizen/business/institutional advisory committee and public process.
Nov 2002	First Harvard Square Design Study public meeting.
May 2003	Second Harvard Square Design Study public meeting with recommendations for transportation improvements.
May 2004	Final Open House/Public Meeting of Harvard Square design study recommending new bicycle connections, including the path through Flagstaff Park.
Sept 2004	FY 2005 appropriation for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to Cambridge Common through CPA public process.

Nov 2004	City hires Earth Tech and Halvorson Design Partnership to continue design work on Common improvements with a series of regular meetings of city departments involved including Public Works, Historical Commission, Electrical Department, Parking, Traffic and Transportation Department, Recreation Department and City Manager's Office.
Feb 2004	First in a series of meeting with citizen-led Committee on Public Planting to agree on planting and landscape improvements to Common.
Aug 2005	SAFETEA-LU High Priority Funding allocated for Flagstaff Park project under the title "Cambridge Bicycle Path Improvements."
Sept 2005	FY05 appropriation for Community Preservation Act funds to Cambridge Common.
Sept 2007	FY07 appropriation for Community Preservation Act funds to Cambridge Common.
Oct 2007	Final agreement on planting plan with Committee on Public Planting.
Jan 2008	Pre-application submitted for new Enhancement grant
Jan 2010	Submit 25% design to MDOT, respond to comments and make plan modifications, including reducing tree removal from 28 to 22.
Jan-May	Meet with citizen groups including Agassiz, Public Planting, Historical Commission and Harvard Square Defense to preview 25% design.
June 2011	MDOT 25% public hearing on Common conceptual design
July-Oct 2011	Modify plans to include public hearing comments and bring to 75% design to submit to MDOT
May-Aug 2012	Respond to MDOT 75% comments to date, waiting for remainder
Sep 2012	Environmental Notification Form for project released for public comment by MEPA
Oct 2012	Certificate on Environmental Notification Form issued by MEPA