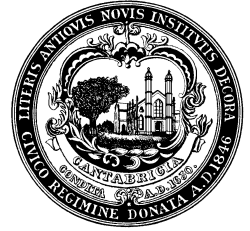


City of Cambridge

## Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · Relay via 711 · 617-349-4766 fax



Avril dePagter  
Chair

Mary Devlin  
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff  
Keisha Greaves  
Valerie Hammond  
Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin  
Melissa Miguel  
Deepti Nijhawan  
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus  
Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman  
Project Coordinator

**The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an  
abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on Thursday, December 14, 2023 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

### AGENDA

**\*Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking\***

- |   |         |                                 |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Introductions  | 2 min.  |                                 |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i>  |         |                                 |
| 2. Announcements  | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / Board              |
| 3. Approval of October Minutes  | 2 min.  | CCPD Board                      |
| <i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i>   |         |                                 |
| 4. Annual Snow Report   | 45 min. | Public Works Staff              |
| 5. Public Works Update  | 5 min.  | Melissa Miguel                  |
| 6. Cycling Ordinance Committee Updates  | 15 min. | Mary Devlin                     |
| 7. Staff Report   | 15 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus & Kate Thurman |
| 8. Public Input   | 3 min.  | general public                  |
| <i>See pages 2&amp;3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> |         |                                 |

### **CART/closed captioning will be provided for this meeting**

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform. Additionally, you may stream CART in a separate URL at <http://bit.ly/CCPDCART>  
(captions will not appear until the meeting has started)

The City of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate, including on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.

**The next CCPD meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11 from 5:30-7:00 PM**

Members of the public: See instructions on pages 2 & 3 on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom



Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

# Minutes for Thursday, December 14, 2023 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM

## Present:

Members: Avril dePagter (Chair), Mary Devlin (Secretary), Keisha Greaves, Valerie Hammond, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, Melissa Miguel

Absent: Loring Brinckerhoff, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Deepti Nijhawan, Dan Stubbs

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Guest Speakers: TJ Shea and Brian McLane, Department of Public Works

## Announcements:

- This may be Valerie's last meeting as a CCPD Board member, since her second term is up at the end of the month. Valerie is welcome to remain on the Board until her successor is appointed. Thank you, Valerie, for six years of fantastic work!

## Minutes

- A motion to approve the October minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Snow Report

- TJ Shea from the Department of Public Works (DPW) presented DPW's annual snow report
- Last year, Cambridge had only 13.6" of snow all season
- Cambridge purchased over 3,000 tons of salt last year. The city usually purchases 6,000 tons in a year.
- The city had 13 salting events, but didn't require any snow plowing at all
- The average snowfall in Cambridge is between 45-50" per season
- There were no parking bans last winter
- Summer of 2023 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> rainiest season on record with over 40" of rain. There have been more climate extremes with climate change
- Snow removal is a multi-city department operation, not just DPW – it also involves the City Manager's Office; the Police Department; the Fire Department; Cambridge Public Schools; the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP); Traffic, Parking, and Transportation (TPT); the Water Department; the Electrical Department; Inspectional Services (ISD);, and Emergency Communications
  - The Water Department provides labor and equipment
  - TPT helps plow city-owned lots and bike lanes
  - Electrical maintains the fire pull boxes and any downed wires
  - ISD only involved in serious snow events like the ones that occurred in 2015
  - Emergency Communications monitors for emergencies
- Parking bans have several components
  - Notification
  - Towing operations



- Street assessment to determine when bans can be lifted
  - Notification of ban lifts
- Residents can park in several lots during snow emergencies
- DPW clears 23 miles of sidewalks adjacent to public buildings and parks
- In storms of 6" or more, they clear priority bus stops
- School/public access
  - The Superintendent decides school closures
  - The Fire Department drives through city streets to provide feedback on safety issues and shovel out hydrants
- Bike lanes
  - Clearing bike lanes is a whole separate operation
  - DPW is trying to get the message out to people not to put snow in the bike lanes
  - There are new bike lanes this year: Brattle St, Hampshire St
  - Looking at Cambridge St. for next season
  - Every bike lane has its own unique needs
  - Snow removal in bike lanes is a shared responsibility
    - DPW
    - DHSP – bike lanes around Danehy
    - TPT
    - Private developments
    - MIT & Harvard
- Snow hauling
  - Happens after a storm of 6" or more or when back-to-back storms occur. The city brings in private contractors, city staff, etc. to clear intersections, bus stops, pedestrian ramps, and widen roadways and clear the squares. They try to take as much snow as possible
  - Take snow to designated snow farms
- Special equipment
  - DPW is trying to standardize, but the city has lots of bike lanes that are different widths, etc. which creates problems for equipment
- Sidewalk shoveling compliance
  - Snow must be removed within 12 hours after the snow has fallen during the day or by 1PM if it snowed overnight
  - The city gets a lot of SeeClickFix complaints about icy sidewalks
  - Last year, DPW got 200 complaints and 83 citations were issued. They get a lot of duplicate complaints
- Challenges
  - Continuity of services – trash pick-up, etc. The city uses the same staff to plow, pick up trash, fill potholes, etc. Staffing is always an issue
  - Private ways – DPW gets lots of complaints for not plowing or salting private ways. That is sometimes done for emergency vehicle access, but it is the responsibility of the abutting property owners
  - The city only has capacity to plow disability parking adjacent to city buildings
  - Dead ends
  - Space savers
- Anti-icing and de-icing
  - Anti-icing is treating surfaces before snow falls
  - De-icing is treating surfaces while snow is falling and after snow fall
  - Anti-icing is done with brine – salt percentage of 23.3%. it's a salt-water solution, and it works like spraying the skillet before frying
  - The city's brine farms have the capacity to hold 20,000 gallons of brine
  - De-icing is done with treated rock salt. They spray the salt with brine. Brine helps salt stay on the road



- The city is broken down into five snow sections: North, Mid-Cambridge, West, East, and Cambridgeport. City staff handle 3 out of the 5 snow sections
- DPW tries to get all snow complaints to go through SeeClickFix
- Snow information is available at [www.cambridgema.gov/snow](http://www.cambridgema.gov/snow) - IT and community relations update as needed
- Accessible spaces are only plowed when they are adjacent to city buildings. The city relies on businesses and property owners to help clear other accessible spaces. Avril asked how property owners know about this requirement? DPW sends compliance officers out to enforce the snow clearance rules.
- Corner property owners are responsible for shoveling out curb cuts
- DPW has added contracts for clearing and hauling snow since 2015. The city is divided into two parts for two large contractors that will go around at night and clear intersections, bus stops, squares, schools, parking lots
- Mary asked if there is a way to do targeted mailing to corner property owners. Mary is a corner property owner and she also has a fire hydrant in front of her house, so she shovels that out, etc. But the new neighbors across the street didn't know about the rules and didn't clear those areas.
- Avril pointed out that people can sign up on the city webpage to adopt a fire hydrant, which helps the Fire Department. She asked if it be possible to do this for accessible parking spots.
- Snow violations are issued per day, not per location, so the city can give violations every day that a property owner isn't shoveling
- Valerie asked if shoveling could be a community service project for middle and high school students
- The Red Line is closing from Alewife to Harvard Red Line from Feb. 5-13; there needs to be collaboration with the MBTA for snow clearing around bus stops
- From July 8-23, the Red Line will also be closed from Alewife to Kendall
- Avril asked how the impact of bike lanes might affect accessibility especially since a number of parking spaces have been taken away

## Cycling Ordinance Update:

- Mary is the CCPD representative on the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) Advisory Group, which advises the city on outreach and engagement rather than on project design. However, the group has been able to make some changes, including changing the ramps on Hampshire Street
- Mary has been focused on updating the language that is being used; they were using old language to refer to people with disabilities
- They will be including data tracking; they will start tracking crashes that involve people using mobility devices
- The city is also going to take counts of the number of people who use wheelchairs who are using the bike lanes to avoid sidewalk traffic
- The group meets once a month, and their focus has been mostly on businesses sharing their concerns about losing parking and access to their businesses
- Valerie asked how we define "mobility device"?  
Mary said that the group is using a number of different definitions because there are people who use e-bikes, scooters, (micro-mobility devices), etc. Now the group is going to look at the use of wheelchairs and walkers in terms of accessibility
- There are no protocols on whether wheelchair users can use bike lanes, but visibility is a concern because cyclists sit higher than wheelchair users
- The meetings are open to the public; they're posted on the City website. It's the CSO Advisory Group

## Public Works Update:

- Melissa Miguel
  - She and Jerry presented to the Joint Transit Committee last night
  - The Huron Ave bike lane and crossing improvements are pretty much wrapped up between Glacken Field and Aberdeen. Belmont St. is wrapping up, doing pavement markings



- Melissa met with Kate and Rachel about detectable warning panels on Belmont St.
- Construction in Carl Barron Plaza in Central Square will be starting soon, under Jerry's purview
- The city is wrapping up the design on Complete Streets Contract 25 (chapter 90), which is the reconstruction of Green St. from Pearl to Landsdowne; Maple Ave. from Broadway to Cambridge St.; Center St. from Dana to Hancock; and Montgomery St. from Harvard to Rindge
- The city is starting community meetings about these projects early next year; the first round will be on-site meetings. The city will hold hands-on redesign and walk-through meetings. In these meetings, Juan, the traffic calming program manager walks through the streets with engineers and residents who can share their lived experiences
- The Binney Street project is working on landscape installations, and is slated for completion in late spring or early summer 2024
- For the Harvard Square Plaza and kiosk, the city is finalizing an agreement with the MBTA, hoping to start construction in the next 3-6 months. The project will include accessibility upgrades, change in grade, improved drainage, seating, and tree plantings

## Staff Report:

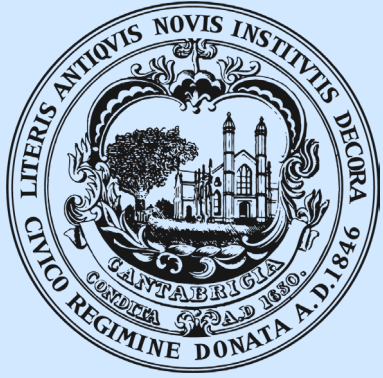
- Kate noted that CCPD has limited capacity in the office and that she and Rachel are working with City leadership on taking a step back to look at the big picture, strategizing, increasing capacity, etc. She and Rachel will report more on this in the new year
- Rachel reported on her work on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning team, addressing the fact that with climate change there are more natural disasters. The planning team wrote a plan and presented it in front of the Health and Environmental Subcommittee for City Council. Afterwards, the Council approved the plan at this past City Council meeting. The city will now send it to the state and federal governments. It's a living document; the planning team wants more input and has expressed interest in presenting at a CCPD meeting. Lots of community organizations were involved in creating the plan
- The Cambridge Public Health Department may have gotten a grant for assessing our public health programs and services and systems for inclusion and accessibility. The grant team will create an inclusive environment for the process. They will be doing community engagement, coming to CCPD, etc.
- There have been a few variance requests that have gone through the MAAB. Rachel can provide more detail at the next meeting.

Rachel, Kate, and CCPD Advisory Board members thanked Valerie for her six years of service as a CCPD member.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Thurman





# City of Cambridge

# Winter Operations







# Agenda

- 03** 2022-2023 Summary
- 04** Historical Data
- 06** Weather Outlook
- 07** Storm Coordination
- 08** Parking Bans
- 10** Accessibility
- 18** Specialty Equipment
- 22** Anti-Icing/De-Icing



# 2022-23 Season Event Summary

- 13.6" of snow
- 3147 tons of salt
- 13 salting events
- 2 plow events
- 0 hauling events

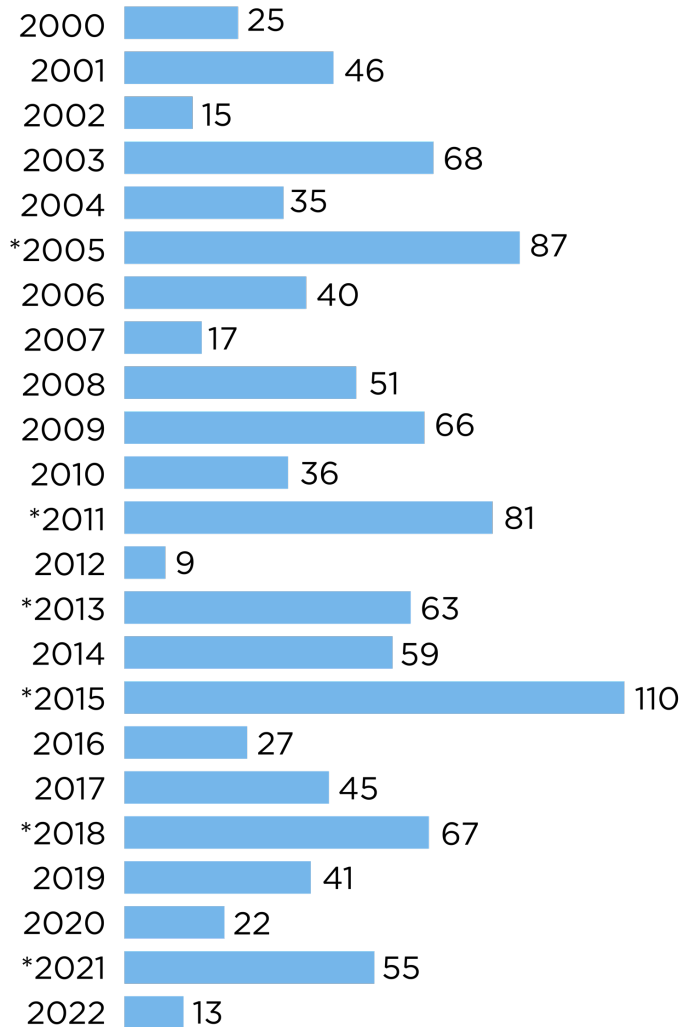




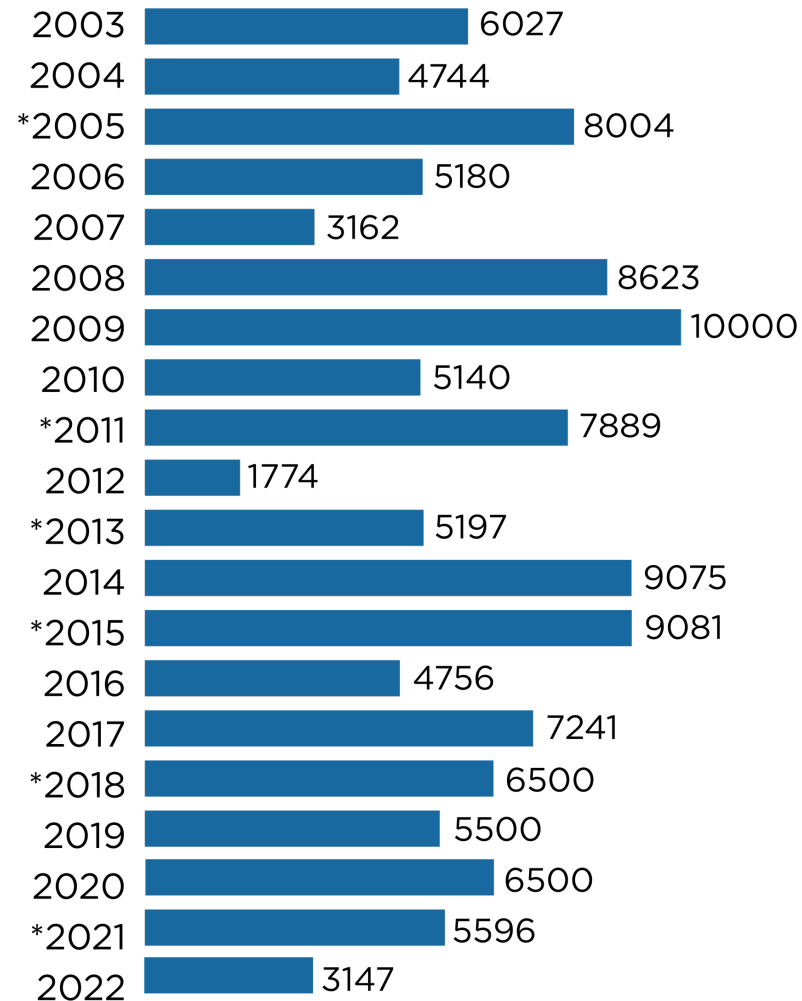
# Historical Data

\* Indicates a year where we have had at least one blizzard

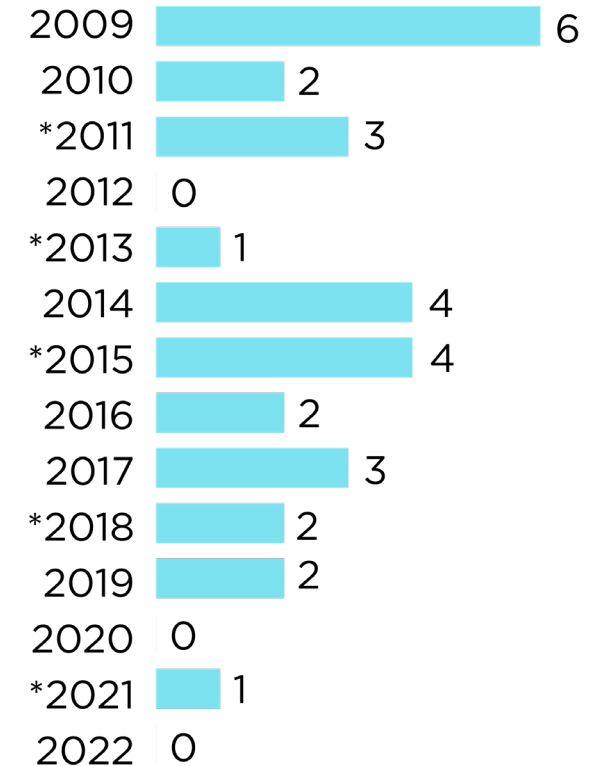
## Snowfall (Inches)



## Salt Tons



## Number of Parking Bans



## Averages

**Snowfall:** 47 inches

**Salt Tons:** 6157



# Preparing for Winter Weather Outlook





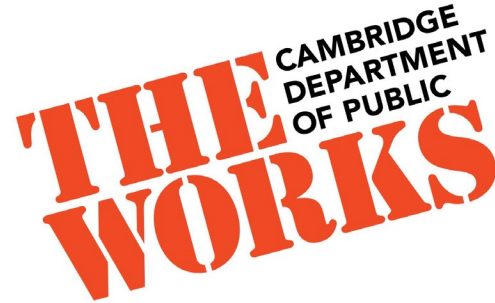
# Precipitation Outlook

- Summer of 2023 has been the 2<sup>nd</sup> rainiest season on record with over 40"
- Scientists say the pattern of heavy rainfall experienced in the Northeast this summer has the fingerprints of climate change all over it.
- It's been a summer of [climate extremes](#). Heatwaves, wildfires, record-breaking ocean temperatures — and here in the Northeast, a whole lot of rain.



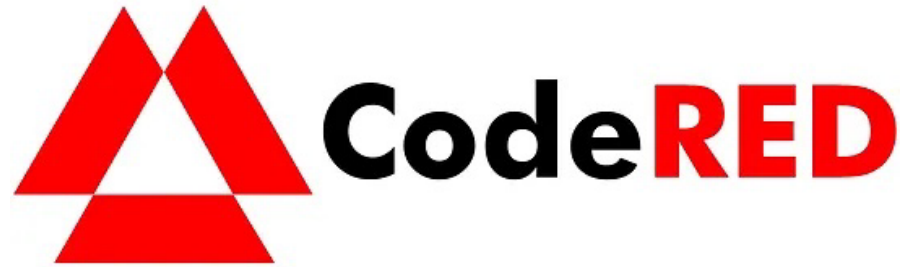
# Citywide Storm Coordination

- DPW
- City Managers Office
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Cambridge Public Schools
- Dept of Human Services
- Traffic Parking & Transportation
- Water Department
- Electrical
- Inspectional Services
- Emergency Communications



Department of  
Human Service Programs





## Parking Ban

- Declaring the ban
  - Notification and Communication
    - Snow Center
    - CodeRED
    - Social Media
- Towing Operations
  - Supervision
  - Coordination
- Street assessment
  - Traffic and DPW
- Lifting the Ban



# Snow Emergency Parking Lot

**52 Oxford St**  
(Harvard)

**65 Waverly St**  
(MIT)

**First St Garage**  
(City)

**Green St Garage**  
(City)

**Cambridge  
Galleria** (Private)

**One Kendall  
Square Garage**  
(Private)





# Public Transportation Accessibility

## Bus Stops/Ramps

- Cambridge Street
- Massachusetts Avenue
- Concord Avenue
- Mount Auburn Street
- Western Avenue
- River Street
- Huron Avenue
- Rindge Avenue
- Broadway
- Prospect Street
- Pearl Street
- Brookline Street
- Green Street
- Granite Street
- Aberdeen Ave
- Magazine Street
- Putnam Ave – Western to Brookline
- Bigelow Street
- Inman Street
- Webster Street
- Windsor Street
- Garden Street
- Main Street
- Kirkland Street
- Quincy Street
- Columbia Street
- Hampshire Street



## Pedestrian Operations



23 miles of City-Cleared Sidewalks/ Curb Ramps



Abutting schools, public buildings, public open space



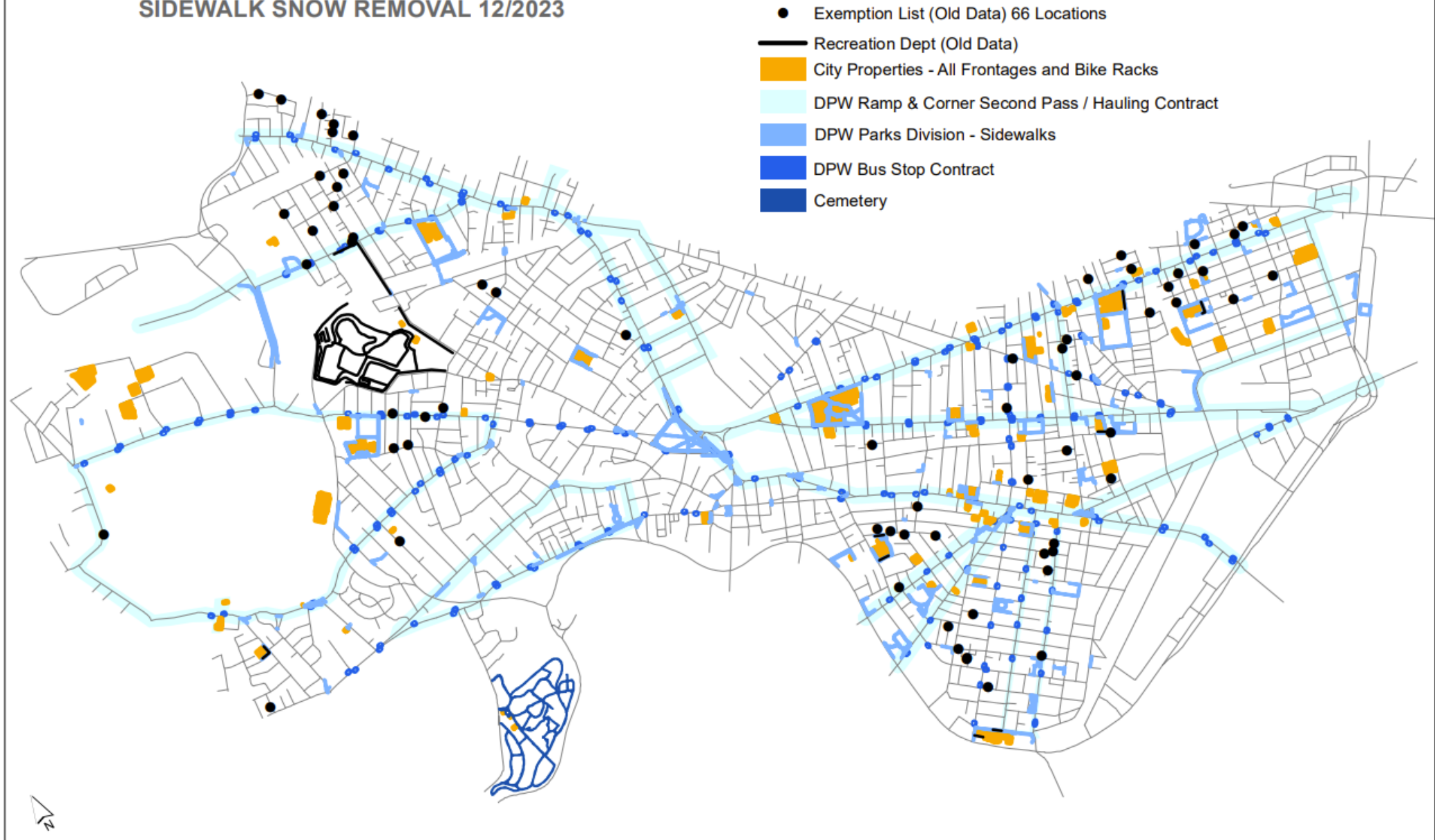
City-owned parking lots and garages



Residential exemption program



## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL 12/2023





# School/Public Safety Access





# Protected and Raised Bike Lanes

- Challenging
- Timing
- Messaging
- Responsibility





# Bike Facilities and Snow Removal

- The number of bike facilities are increasing every year
  - Newest bike lanes on Brattle, Hampshire, Cambridge, Broadway
- Each has different needs in terms of snow removal
- In some cases, these facilities are part of “quick build” projects and present challenges in terms of maintenance during snow season
- Snow removal in bike facilities is a shared responsibility between
  - DPW
  - DHSP
  - TP&T
  - Private Developments
  - Universities



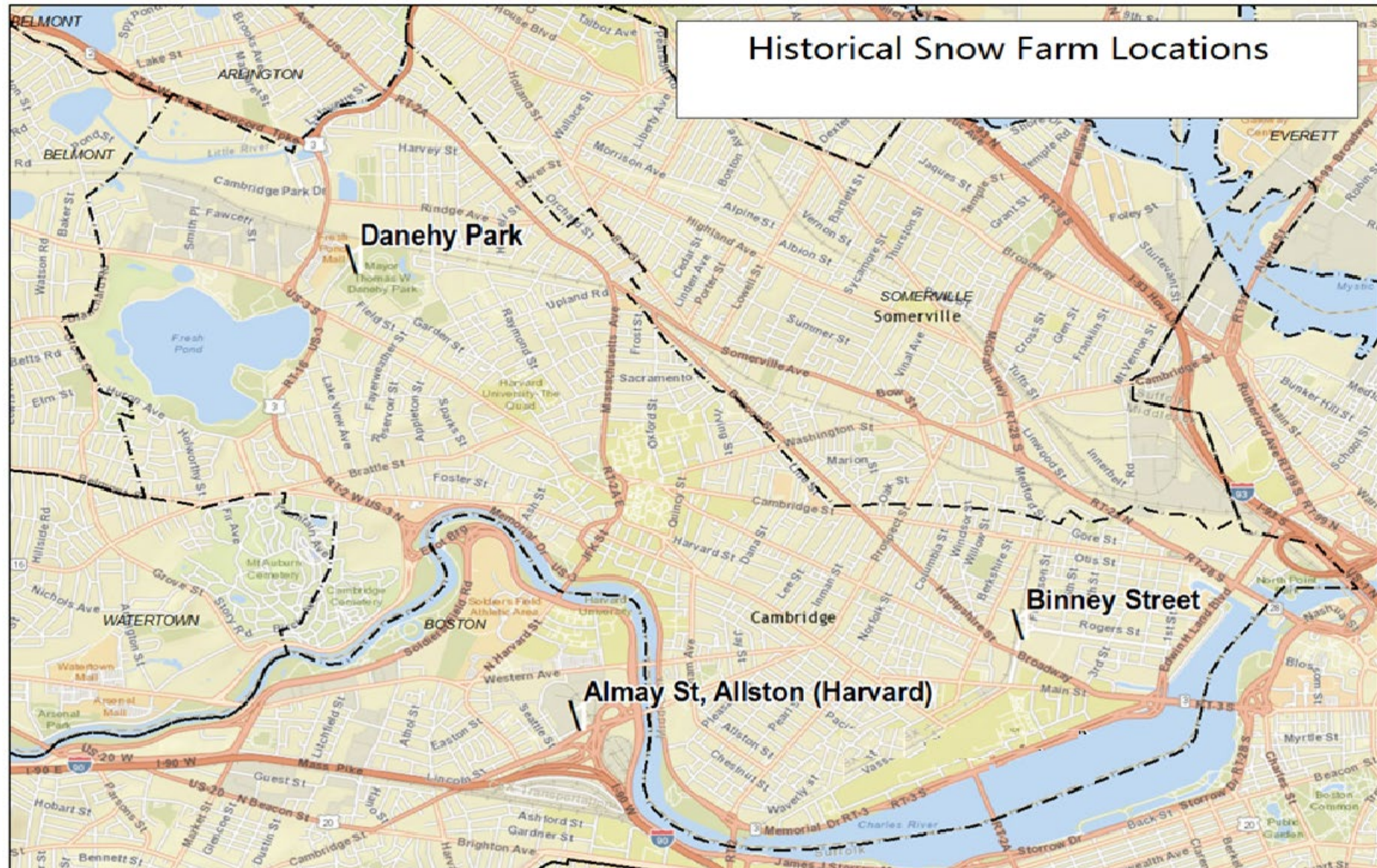




# Snow Hauling











# Specialty Equipment

## Sidewalk/Bike Lanes



- Holder sidewalk tractor
- Wacker Neuson sidewalk tractor
- Multihog tractor
- Bobcat skid steer





# Ticketing/Fines

Snow Season	# of Complaints Received
2016-2017	1068
2017-2018	933
2018-2019	591
2019-2020	695
2020-2021	758
2021-2022	970
2022-2023	223
Total:	5238

Snow Season	# of Citations Issued
2016-2017	546
2017-2018	166
2018-2019	210
2019-2020	326
2020-2021	223
2021-2022	274
2022-2023	83
Total:	1828

Payments made on tickets within 6 months of issuance is approximately 50%





# Challenges

- Continuity of Services
- Dead Ends
- One-way Streets
- Handicap Parking
- Space savers









# Anti-Icing & De-Icing







# Anti-Icing with Brine

The brine solution is applied in liquid form to the roadway before anticipated snow or ice and prevents snow and ice from bonding with the street surfaces. Unlike granular salts which can bounce off roadways or get stuck on top of snow and ice, brine begins working immediately once it comes into contact with precipitation.







LOW ZONE  
NO PARKING  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Public Sun

# MURAL IN PROGRESS

Local artist Mural Project has been commissioned by the City of Cambridge to beautify the new bike tank with a fresh painted mural.

Snap a pic and tag us!  
@CAMBRIDGEARTS  
@MURALEE



CAMBRIDGE ARTS



Cambridge MA



# De-Icing

During and after a storm, we work to de-ice the roads. We remove the ice and snow from the surface of the road by plowing and applying additional materials to the surface of the roads. This helps to loosen the ice and snow from the pavement, while also lowering the freezing point of water.



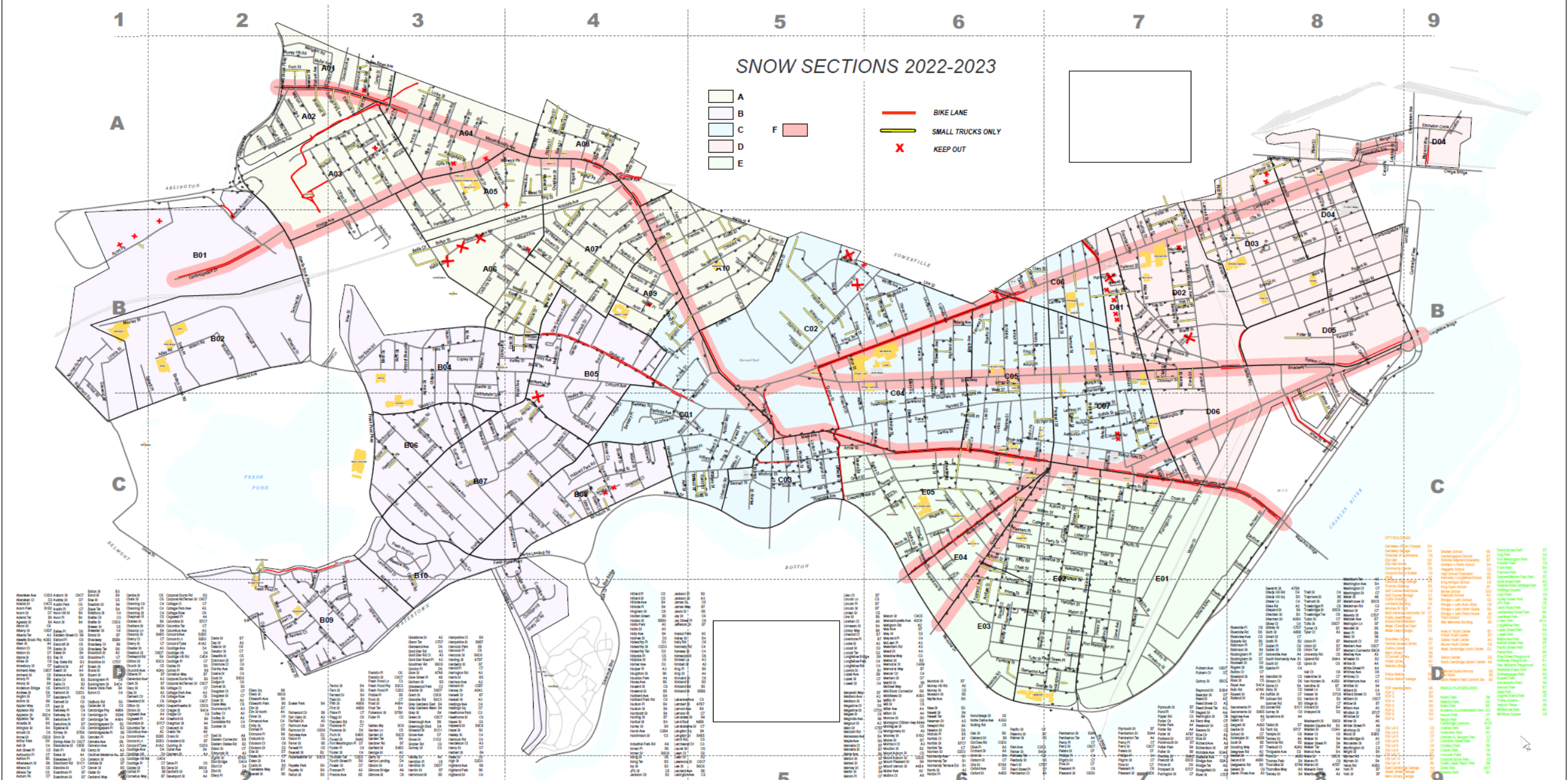
## Materials Used

- Rocksalt
- Magnesium Chloride
- Pre-mix

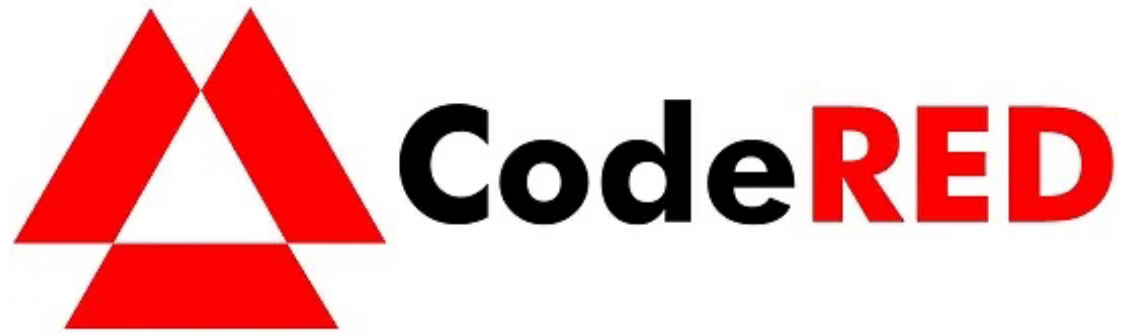


# SNOW SECTIONS 2022-2023

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
- BIKE LANE
- SMALL TRUCKS ONLY
- KEEP OUT









# Visit Cambridge Snow Center for More Updates

[www.cambridgema.gov/snow](http://www.cambridgema.gov/snow)





# Questions?

