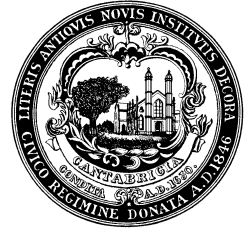


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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



Keisha Greaves  
Chair

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin  
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff  
Avril dePagter  
Rayna Jhaveri  
Melissa Miguel  
Deepti Nijhawan  
Emma Pan  
Zach Solomons  
Daniel Stubbs

**The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding  
a meeting online via Zoom on December 12, 2024 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Zoom registration link:

[https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_v41UuQQuQE0qd3oXvdP33Q](https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v41UuQQuQE0qd3oXvdP33Q)

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM**

## **AGENDA**

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

Rachel Tanenhaus  
Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman  
Deputy Director/  
Assistant ADA Coordinator

- |  |         |                             |
|--|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Introductions   | 1 min.  |                             |
| 2. Announcements   | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / Board          |
| 3. Presentation on Snow Removal<br><i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i>                                     | 45 min. | John Nardone & Brian McLane |
| 4. Chair's Report  | 10 min. | Keisha Greaves              |
| 5. Working Group Reports   | 5 min.  | CCPD Board                  |
| 6. Public Works Update   | 10 min. | Melissa Miguel              |
| 7. Staff Report  | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus            |
| 8. Public Input<br><i>See pages 2&amp;3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | 3 min.  | general public              |

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

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform or  
streamed in a separate URL at <https://bit.ly/CCPDcaptioning>

(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 9, 2025 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**

Approved 1/09/2025

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

# Minutes for Thursday, December 12, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM

## Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin (Secretary), Emma Pan, Zach Solomons, Dan Stubbs

Absent: Deepti Nijhawan, Keisha Greaves (Chair), Rayna Jhaveri, Melissa Miguel

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus, John Boyle

Guest speakers: John Nardone and Brian McLane, Department of Public Works (DPW)

## Announcements:

- Rachel announced the Cambridge Program's annual play. The Cambridge Program for Individuals with Special Needs will perform the original play "If These Walls Could Talk: A Look into the Everyday Lives of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities".
  - Performance dates are:
    - Saturday, December 21, Russell Youth Center, 680 Huron Aves, 7 p.m.
    - Sunday, December 22, Russell Youth Center, 680 Huron Ave., 4:30 p.m.
  - Tickets are \$15 (cash or check) and available at the door.
  - All of the play's performers are participants in The Cambridge Program, which serves residents with intellectual disabilities who are age 11 and older. Every year, the plays are designed to allow people of all ability levels to participate and flourish.

## Snow Removal:

John Nardone and Brian McLane of the Department of Public Works (DPW) presented on snow removal in Cambridge. See the attached presentation for more information.

- Data and predictions:
  - Last year's snow totals were even more underwhelming than the year before: In 2023-24, Cambridge received 10.2" of snow and had 9 salting events and 2 plow events. The City used 2691 tons of salt. Most snow events turned to rain.
  - On average, Cambridge gets 46.9" of snow/year and uses 6006 tons of salt.
  - Previous historical data on salt are based on purchases rather than use. But we have a lot of leftover salt right now.
  - Salt trucks are calibrated every year 150-400 pounds of salt per lane mile.
  - The City applies the least amount of salt necessary to get the streets clear.
  - The precipitation outlook for winter 2024-25 shows temperatures above normal across New England, and the number of snowplow events below normal for most of Southern and Central New England, but above normal for Northern New England. There is potential for "inside runners", where a storm's center of low pressure will be in Central MA or the MA/NY border but warmer near us, so that would mean more rain here.

- Different departments coordinate during snowstorms:
  - Coordinating operations (City Manager, Police)
  - Keeping roads open (Police, Fire)
  - School closures and clearing the school parking lots (Cambridge Public Schools)
  - Clearing Danehy Park and snow exemption properties and parking spaces (Human Services)
  - Parking bans (Traffic, Parking, and Transportation)
  - Trucks and water emergencies (Water)
  - Electrical issues (DPW)
  - Structural issues (Inspectional Services)
  - Emergency communications, closing streets off (E911)
- Parking bans:
  - The City uses Code Red to alert people to parking bans. The Snow Center is operational during winter months. Notices are also posted on City web site and social media. It's much easier to get notices out with social media than back when the City had to make news deadlines, and compliance is much better now.
  - DPW supervises and coordinates plowing. When a parking ban is lifted, DPW and Traffic, Parking, and Transportation will inspect the streets to see if more clearing needs to be done, usually at night.
  - During a parking ban, people can park in designated locations (see slides), which often have specific hours.
  - The City hasn't had a parking ban in 3 years.
- Snow clearing:
  - In total, the City clears 30+ miles of streets, sidewalks and curb ramps, plus about 100 bus stops. The bus stops and ramps weren't always cleared, but they are now because the CCPD Board lobbied to make it happen, including changing plowing contracts.
  - Normal snow event: 150 pieces of equipment on the road. Hauling event: same amount, different equipment.
  - City properties and schools are cleared very quickly. The City also clears parks and the Mount Auburn Cemetery.
  - During an active snow event, the priority is to keep roads open for public safety (fire, ambulance, etc.).
  - Schools need to be as clear as possible when they open – for students and teachers.
  - Cambridge doesn't close schools easily during snow.
  - Protected and raised bike lanes can be hard to plow, but the City has figured out timing and coordination, including making sure snow doesn't get plowed right back where it was. Clearing ice from bike lanes is important too.
  - The equipment used to clear bike lanes can also be used on pedestrian areas.
  - The City uses two snow-hauling locations: Danehy Park and a backup space from Harvard in Allston-Brighton by the Doubletree. There are fewer options for hauling snow now because people don't want to leave property empty.
  - The City tickets and fines property owners who do not clear their sidewalks. In 2003-24, the City received 403 complaints and issued 188 citations. Sometimes the City can talk to the offending property owners and remind them to clear their lots, but there are some habitual repeat offenders.
  - Challenges include:
    - Picking up trash
    - Maintaining easy access to manholes
    - Plowing dead end streets and tight one-way streets
    - Clearing disability parking spaces
    - Dealing with space savers

- If space savers aren't picked up after a couple of days, they will be collected with the trash. The City saves them for thirty days. DPW picks them up with a separate vehicle. No one ever comes by to reclaim them.
- Anti-icing and de-icing:
  - The City began using brine in 2019 or 2020. The brine is a 23.3% salt solution in water.
  - Salt is used on main streets and brine is used on side streets for pre-treating.
  - Brine can also be put in saddle tanks on salters. Spraying the salt with brine keeps down the bounce and scatter and keeps the salt in the road where it belongs by making it heavier and stickier.
  - The brine also contains a highly concentrated sugar that makes it sticky and heavy and helps it bond to the road and activate the salt faster.
  - The brine tanks are in Danehy Park.
  - Anti-icing means not allowing the snow pack to build up; de-icing is removing the snow pack from the street.
  - The "shake and bake" method puts a salter in front of a brine machine, so the brine can activate the salt. This method removes hard pack snow very quickly.
- Report problems (slippery walkways, bike lanes needing clearing, sidewalks next to City properties that need clearing, etc.) through See Click Fix.
- The Snow Center can be found at: [www.cambridgema.gov/snow](http://www.cambridgema.gov/snow).
- Questions:
  - Does the City use dog-safe salt?
    - The City has tried different products, mostly bag products, but dog-safe salt is not sold in bulk. People don't have snowblowers and hand shovels any more, so now the City has to use specialty equipment. The interiors of parks don't get salted; the perimeters do, so dog owners trying to avoid salt can walk their dogs away from the edges of parks.
  - Has the City saved any money saved from the lack of snow?
    - The City's snow budget is \$400,000 per year. A full season's worth of salt will use up that budget. Contracting a crew for a big snowstorm will do the same. Cities tend to budget low hoping for years without much snow, but no one sticks to that budget and every city asks for a supplemental budget at the end of the year.
  - Who takes care of snow removal in private ways or developments?
    - If the developer has their own roadways, they take care of it themselves. The City doesn't do a lot of maintenance on private roads. If the City can get a plow into a private way, they will clear and salt it. Emergency services need to be able to get down every street. The City can't clear every private way.
    - Newly developed properties may not be City property yet (e.g., Cambridge Crossing/Northpoint). As those properties get developed more, the City will take them over more. These situations are handled on a case by case basis. During construction, the contractor is responsible for clearing the construction site, including on City sites.
  - Why doesn't the City clear all the sidewalks?
    - The City doesn't have the resources. Cambridge is an historic city with really narrow sidewalks that need hand shovels or snowblowers. The City uses mechanical means and requires a minimum width of 7' for bike lanes because that's the smallest piece of equipment that can be used there. For a 10" storm, it would cost millions of dollars to clear all the sidewalks. The City also doesn't have enough contractors and competes with other cities for them. Cambridge started off with thirty contractors ten years ago and now has between ten and twelve. One of the City's biggest contractors started with two trucks and now has 35, but that's a rarity in the industry.

## Chair's Report:

Keisha was not present, but as Secretary, Danielle brought up Keisha's idea to create a Google Drive for CCPD-related social media content. Keisha, Danielle, and CCPD staff would have access to the Drive and Board members could submit content to be used once the new Administrative Assistant has been on-boarded and the office has developed a social media strategy. Further discussion can occur when Keisha is present.

## Working Group Reports:

- The employment working group held a second meeting with the MIT Job Connector, and it went well. Rachel and Kate answered questions about City resources and programs from the Director, Sarah Rees. The group will meet again with the Job Connector in February.
- Has Retreat Planning working group met yet? No. Rachel will e-mail folks.

## Public Works Update:

None.

## Staff Report:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported

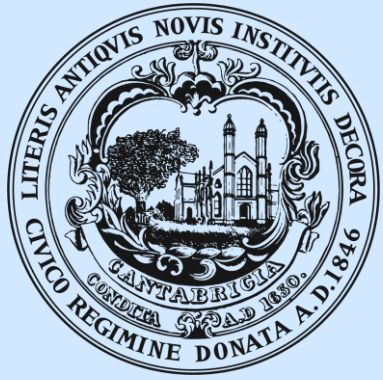
- CCPD staff are working to hire a new part-time administrative assistant. They have received many applications and are very excited to conduct interviews.
- The Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) reached out to Rachel and they met to discuss issues of oral health and people with disabilities. CPHD is interested in talking to the Board about these issues, possibly in February.
- Every five years, CPHD develops the Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address the public health needs and priorities of City residents. Rachel has been participating in the Community Advisory group helping to develop the CHIP for the next five-year period.

## Public Comment:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel Tanenhaus



# City of Cambridge

# Winter Operations







# Agenda

- 03** 2023-2024 Summary
- 04** Historical Data
- 06** Weather Outlook
- 07** Storm Coordination
- 08** Parking Bans
- 10** Accessibility
- 18** Specialty Equipment
- 22** Anti-Icing/De-Icing

# 2023-24 Season Event Summary

- 10.2" of snow
- 2691 tons of salt
- 9 salting events
- 2 plow events
- 0 hauling events

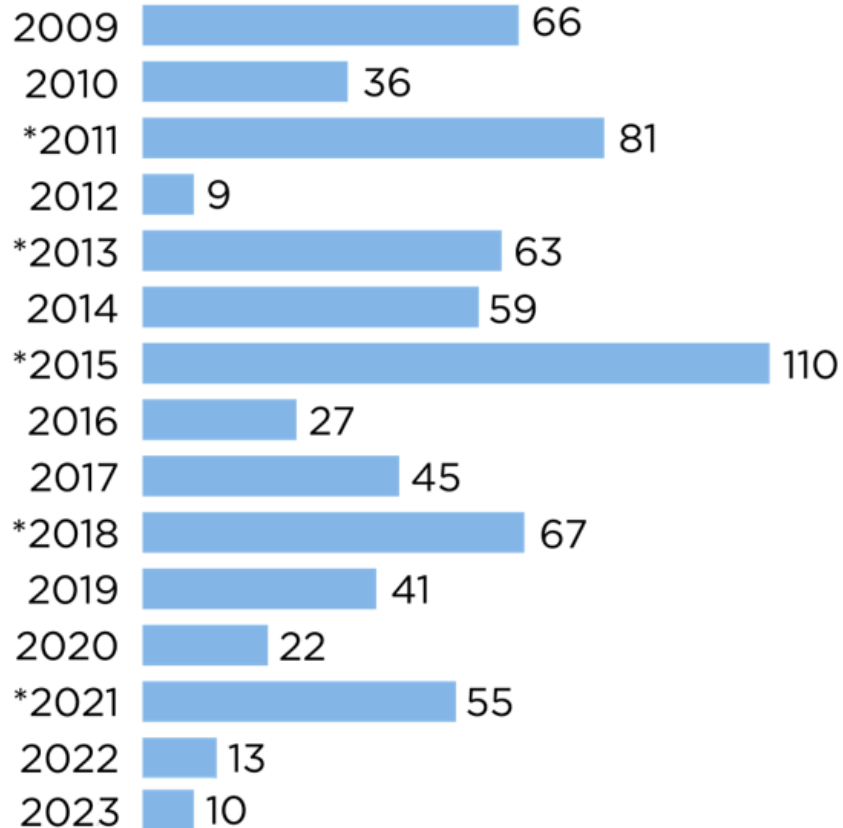




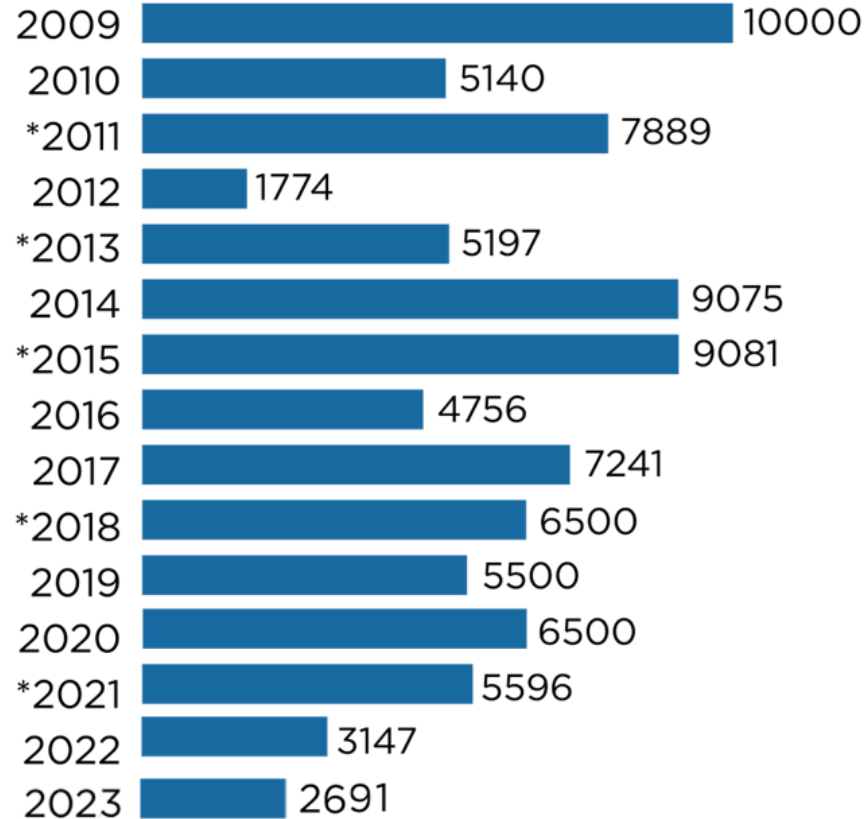
# Historical Data

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

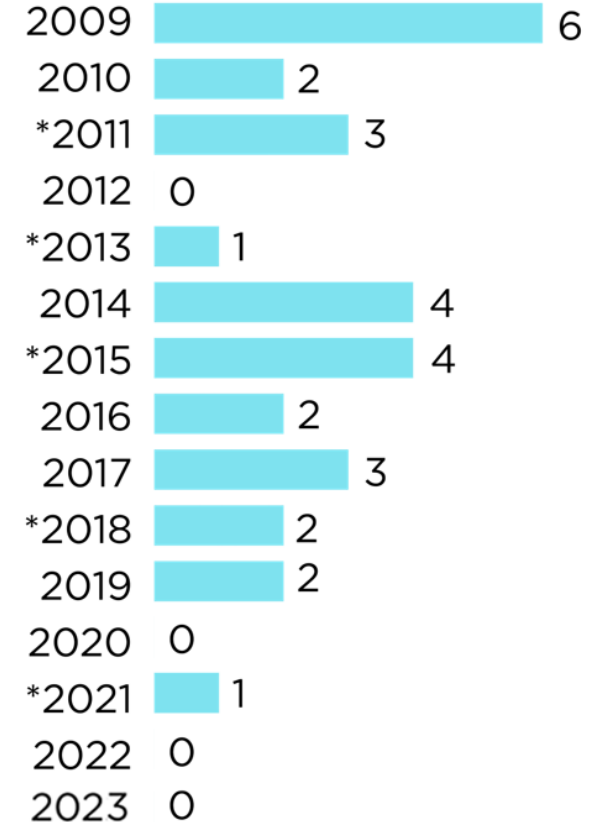
## Snowfall (Inches)



## Salt Tons



## Number of Parking Bans



## Averages

**Snowfall:** 46.93 inches

**Salt Tons:** 6006

# Preparing for Winter Weather Outlook

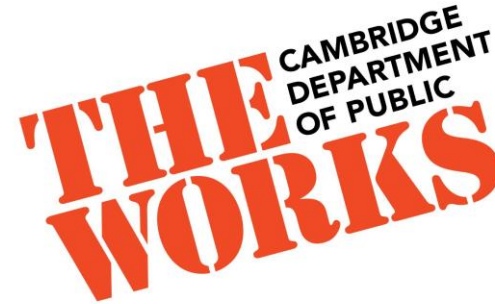


# Precipitation Outlook

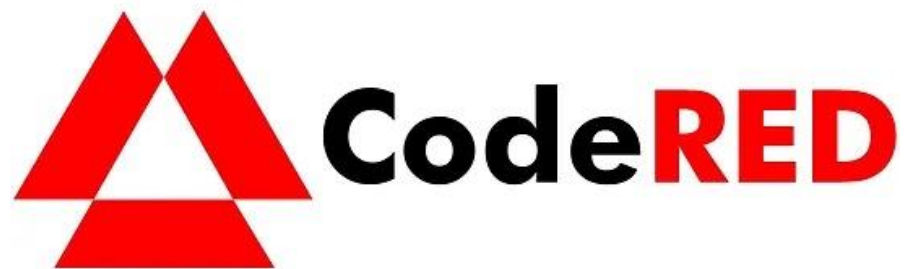
- Temperatures above normal across New England.
- Snowfall below normal for most of southern and central New England, could be above normal north.
- Not much in the way of precipitation across New England next 15-30 days if long range is correct.
- Potential for inside runners (storm track west of New England) higher than normal.

# 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

**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



30+ miles of City-Cleared Sidewalks/ Curb Ramps



Abutting schools, public buildings, public open space



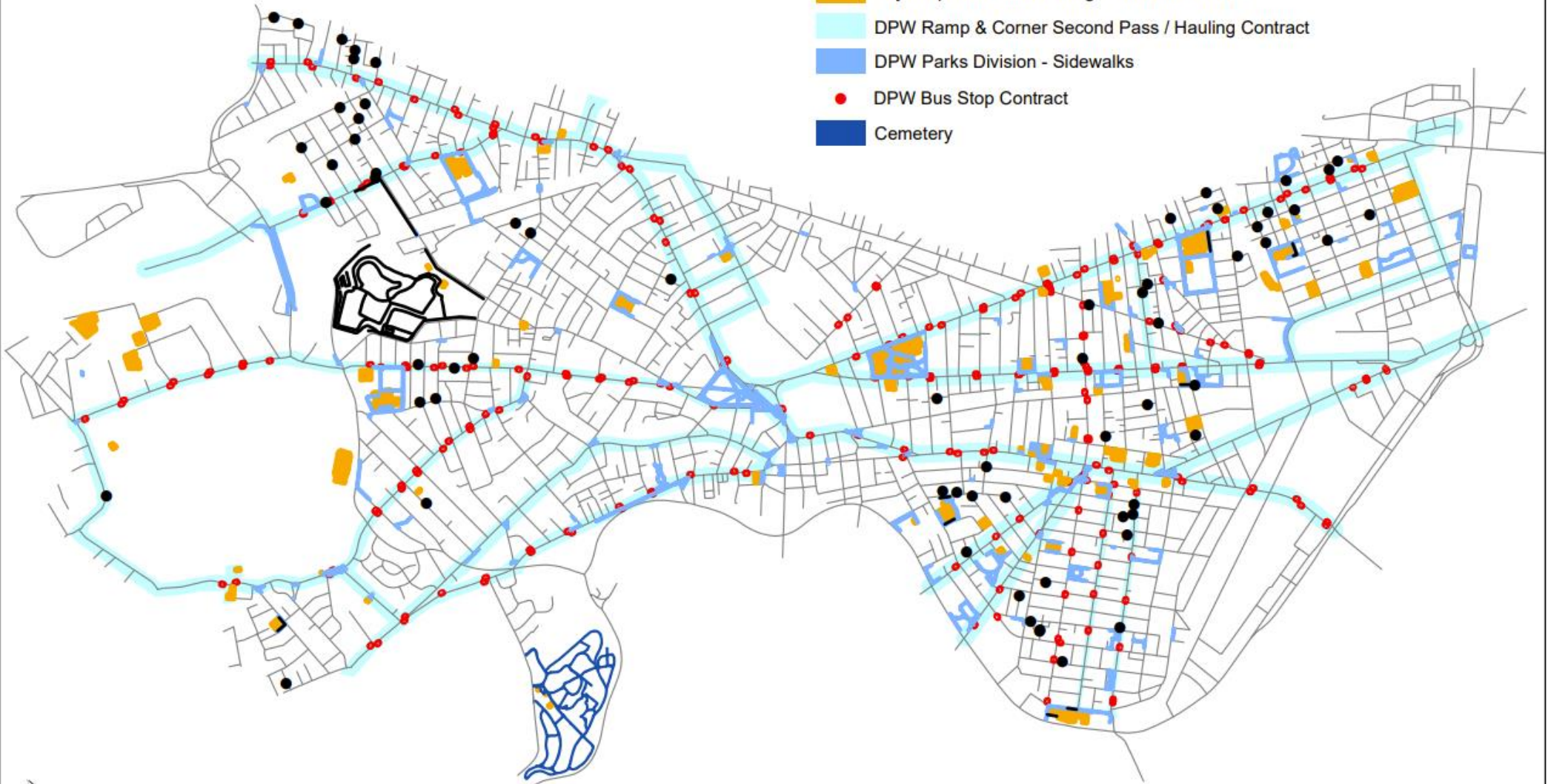
City-owned parking lots and garages



Residential exemption program

## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL 12/2024

- Exemption List (Old Data) 66 Locations
- Recreation Dept (Old Data)
- City Properties - All Frontages and Bike Racks
- DPW Ramp & Corner Second Pass / Hauling Contract
- DPW Parks Division - Sidewalks
- DPW Bus Stop Contract
- Cemetery





# School/Public Safety Access





# Protected and Raised Bike Lanes

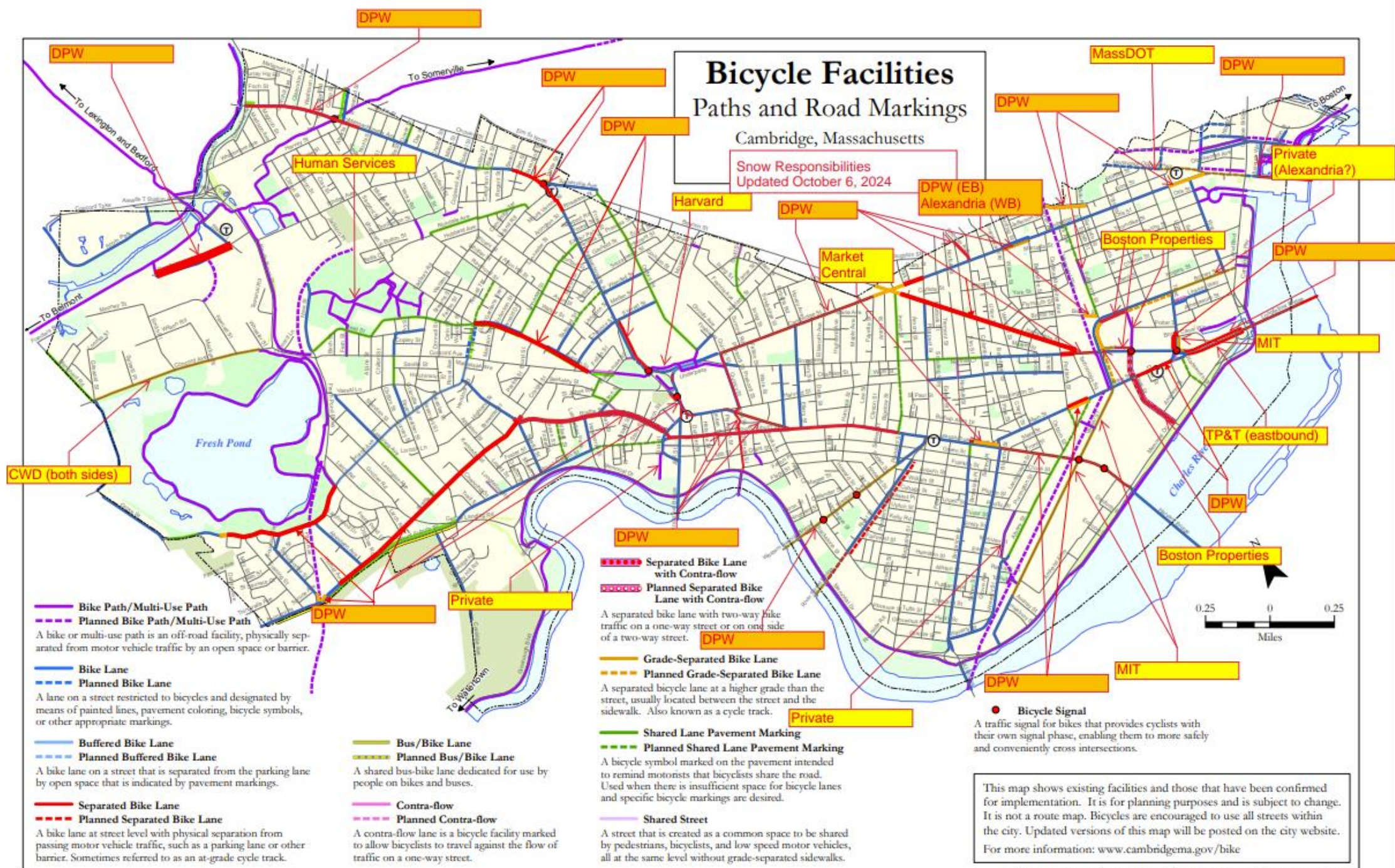
- Challenging
- Timing
- Messaging
- Responsibility





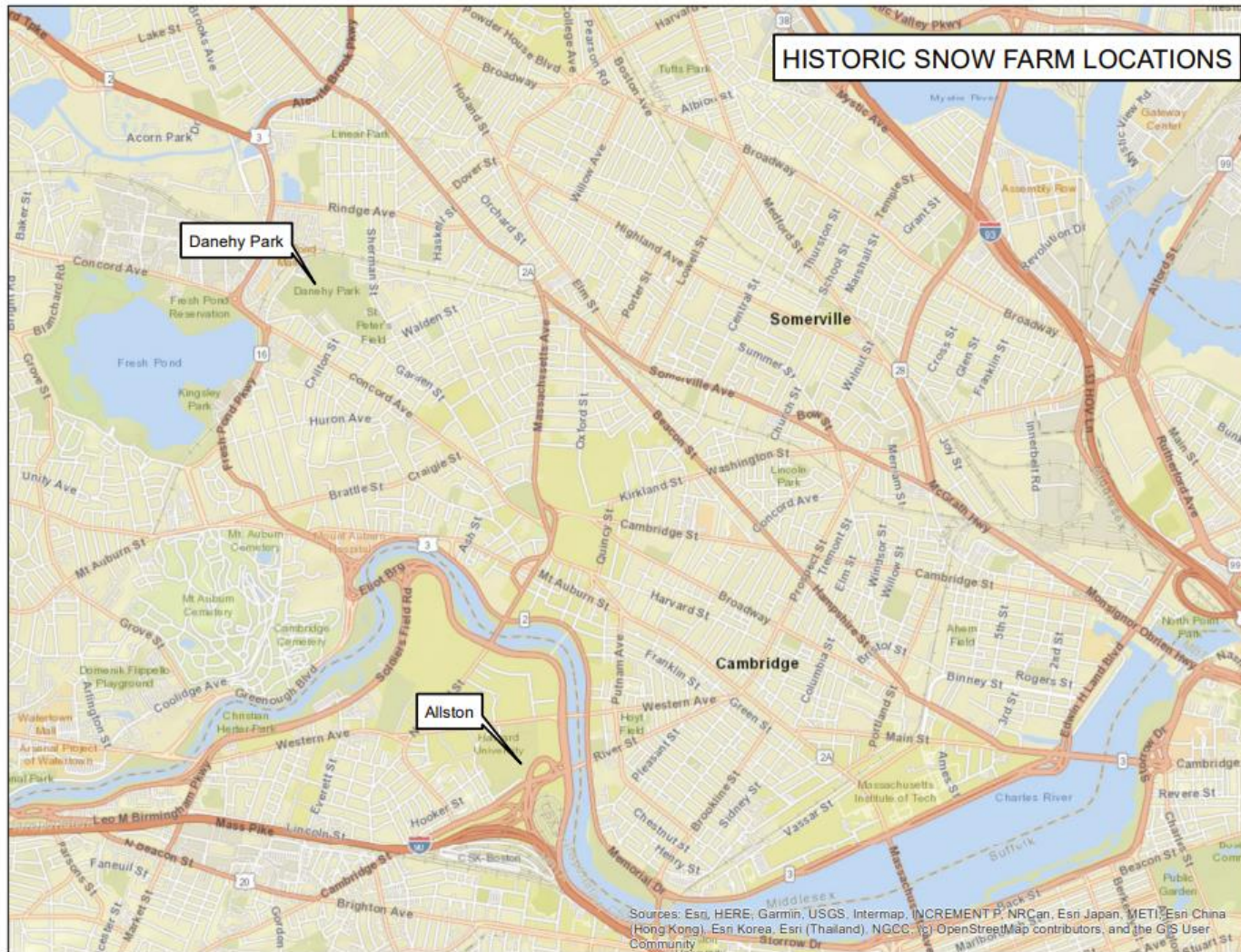
# Bike Facilities and Snow Removal

- The number of bike facilities are increasing every year
  - Newest bike lanes on Mt Auburn St., Main St., Brattle St., Hampshire St., Cambridge St., 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
2023-2024	403
Total:	5641

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
2023-2024	188
Total:	2016

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.



# De-Icing

During and after a storm, we work to de-ice the roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks. 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.

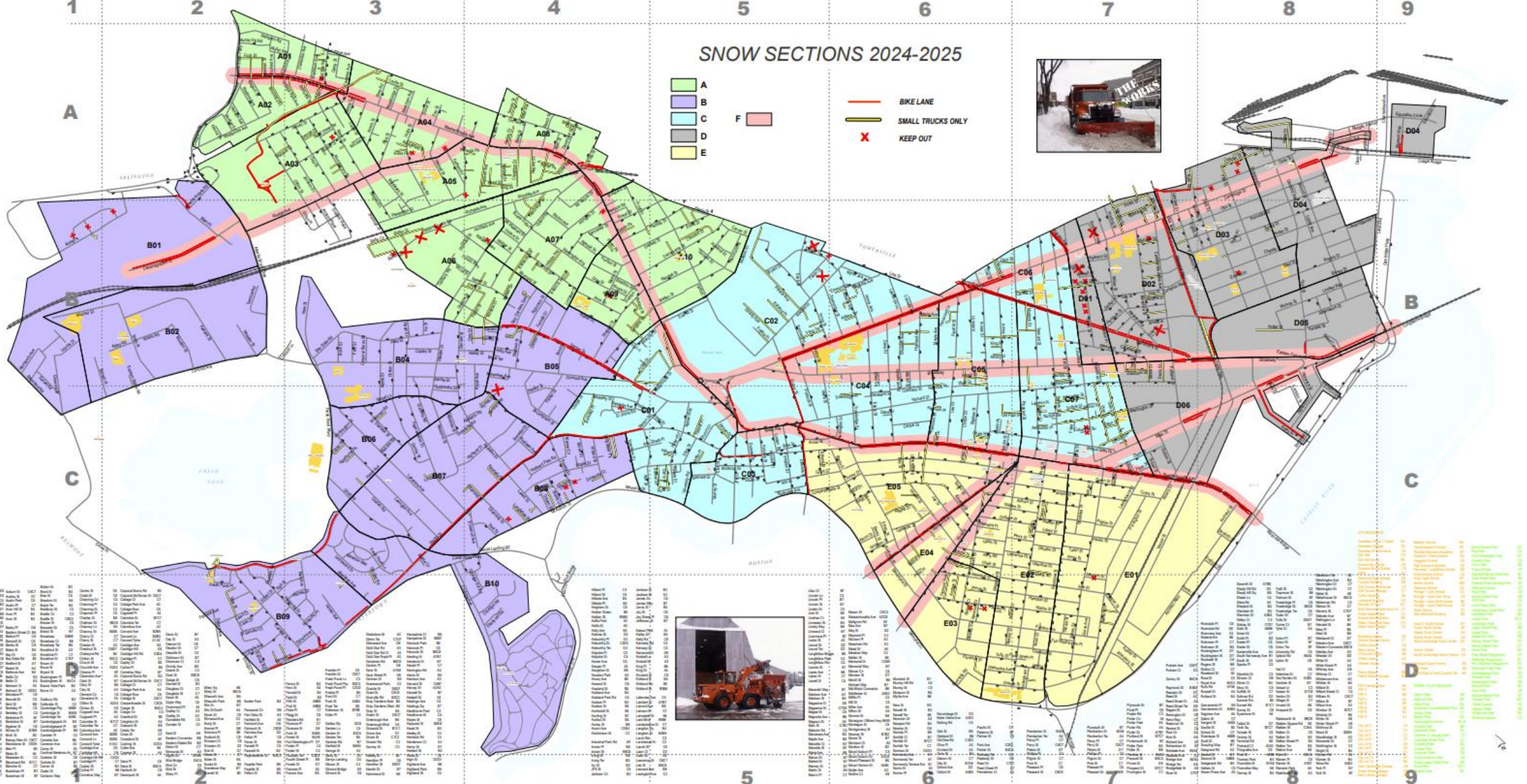


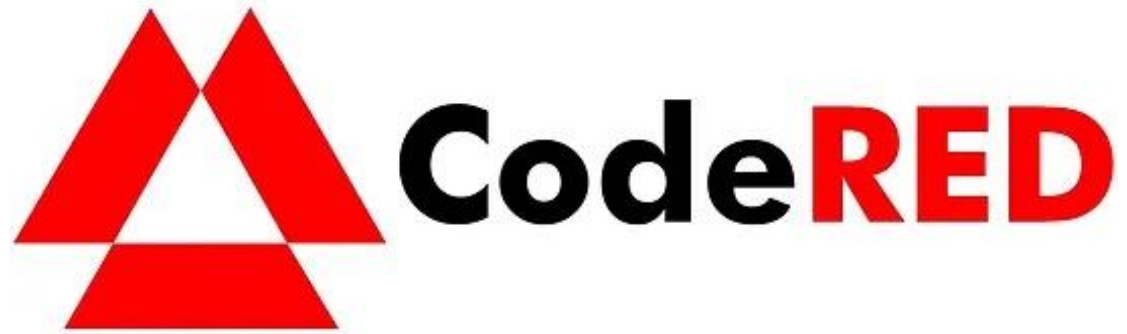
## Materials Used

- Rocksalt
- Magnesium Chloride
- Pre-mix



# SNOW SECTIONS 2024-2025

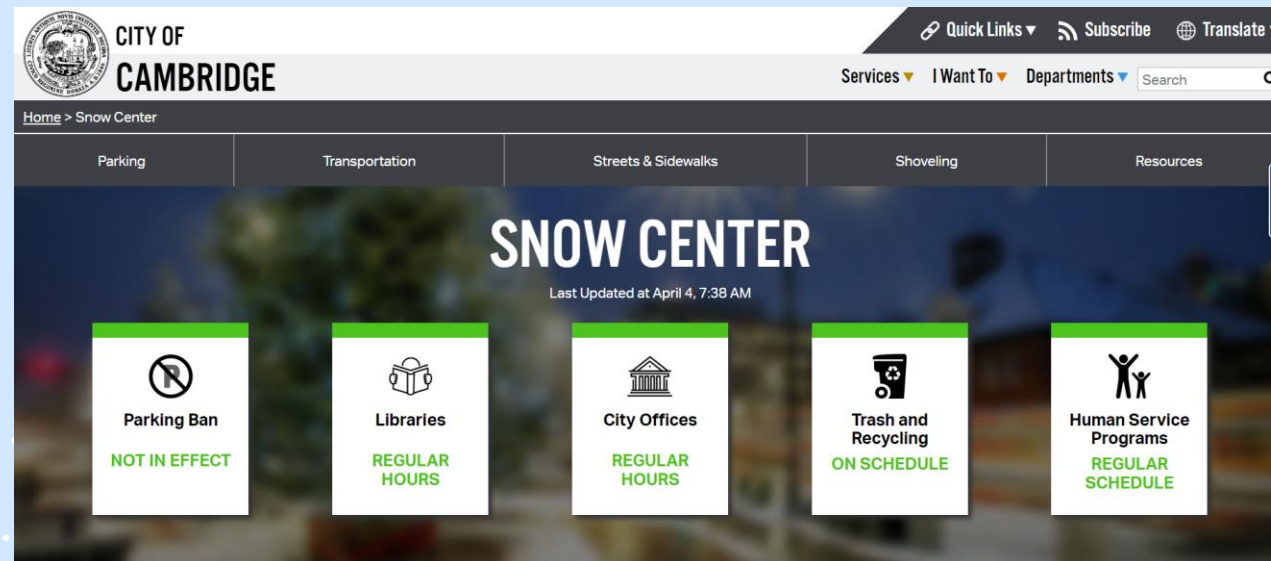






# Visit Cambridge Snow Center for More Updates

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



# Questions?

