

City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Avril dePagter  
Chair

Loring Brinckerhoff  
Keisha Greaves  
Valerie Hammond  
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin  
Melissa Miguel  
Deepti Nijhawan  
Zach Solomons  
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, June 13, 2024 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<br><i>If needed, alternates named</i>  | 2 min.  |                    |
| 2. Announcements  | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Presentation on Net Zero<br>Transportation Plan<br><i>See page 8 of this agenda packet</i>                   | 40 min. | Stephanie Groll    |
| 4. Approval of May Minutes<br><i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i>   | 2 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| 5. Nominations for Chair & Secretary  | 5 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| 6. Elections for Chair & Secretary  | 5 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| 7. Chair's Report   | 10 min. | To be determined   |
| 8. Public Works Update  | 10 min. | Melissa Miguel     |
| 9. Staff Report   | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus   |
| 10. 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. 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 either Thursday, July 11 or August 8 from 5:30-7:00 PM (summer recess to be voted on at today's meeting)**

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

Approved 8/8/2024

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

# Minutes for Thursday, June 13, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM

## Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Keisha Greaves, Melissa Miguel, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, Deepti Nijhawan, Zach Solomons, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Avril dePagter (Chair), Valerie Hammond

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Guest speaker: Stephanie Groll, Community Development Department

## Announcements:

- Rachel announced that Kate Thurman was recognized by the City Manager with a 2024 Outstanding City Employee Award

## Presentation on Net Zero Transportation Plan:

Stephanie Groll, Mobility Strategy Manager in the Community Development Department (CDD) presented on the City's Net Zero Transportation Plan (NZTP). See attached slides for more information.

- Net Zero means there will be no climate pollution created from transportation going into the air
- Why do we need a plan?
- Process of developing the plan
- The advisory group set 4 goals for the plan:
  - Remove climate pollution from transportation
  - Improve mobility (making it easier to get around Cambridge for everybody)
  - Improve economic opportunity and address historic injustice
  - Create a stronger & more connected community
- Centering Equity in this process
- Guiding documents
- What is Cambridge doing to reduce emissions?
- 94% of Cambridge's transportation emissions come from private cars and trucks on the road
- If we make no changes at all, 63% of our transportation emissions will be reduced by 2050 because of better fuel efficiency, more people shifting to electric vehicles that are being charged with clean energy, and other actions, like electrifying the MBTA system. We need to eliminate 37% by city actions
- Developing actions to close that gap:
  - Reducing car ownership
  - City planning
  - Reducing car trips
  - Electric vehicles
  - Community engagement
  - Buses and trains
  - Parking

- Active transportation
- Questions for members:
  - What could change in Cambridge?
  - How will change happen?
    - We want to be sure we're aware of who this burden is falling on and who has more capacity to take on the responsibility of getting to zero emissions. We are relying on change in behavior, which is hard. When change is hard, we really want to think about how we can reduce the harm or discomfort of that shift
- Dan, noting that most emissions are from cars, asked if the City has a plan to increase the number of charging stations and other sorts of incentives to encourage residents to switch to electric cars. He said that not everyone has a driveway, which makes it difficult to reliably charge an electric vehicle (EV).
- Loring was also thinking about barriers to electric cars: not enough infrastructure but also the price tag. He said that he doesn't like taking the T because it's always so dirty. Why can't we spend some money to power wash the stations and make them more attractive?
- Stephanie said that the City will be installing 100 new EV charging stations over the next few years that will be publicly available. There are also requirements for private property owners to put in EV charging stations when they build new developments. A certain number of parking spaces must have them.
- Asking for the city to support putting EV charging stations at affordable housing sites
- There was a recent regulation change that would allow people to legally rent out their personal EV charging stations
- Dan asked about Blue Bikes. Stephanie said that the Blue Bikes are owned by the cities, even though we contract with Lyft to operate the program. It is a publicly owned public transportation system, but by bicycle. The city subsidizes the cost of riding Blue Bikes; it would be much more expensive otherwise. The City recently got a grant to add more Blue Bikes. Dan feels like it's an important goal for encouraging people to take other modes of transportation
- 8 categories of possible actions:
  - Active transportation – making it easier to walk, bike, take a scooter
  - Buses, trains, shuttles
  - City planning
  - Community engagement – engaging people more equitably to improve their transportation experience
  - Reducing car ownership
  - Electric vehicles
  - Parking – changing parking rules to reduce how much people drive
  - Reducing car trips – reducing the need to drive
- Danielle mentioned that she lives closer to one of the commuter lines and is exposed to exhaust from it. She also expressed concern about parking in the bike lanes, cars that are idling waiting on people. She also tries to avoid the T because there are very strong smells and exhaust on the T
- Keisha mentioned The Ride. She said that there is a shuttle system for seniors, and asked if the City has thought about providing transportation for people with disabilities to medical appointments, etc.?
  - Stephanie said that she needs to learn more about the shuttle for seniors
  - She said that the city did just get a grant from the state to make operations better for Door2Door Transportation, the SCM shuttle service, which serves seniors and people with disabilities. The current trips they provide are food access trips and medical trips. They want to expand the hours of the service and try to expand trip purpose so users can take it to go get a haircut, go to church, etc.
- Rachel said that it's one of the best working groups she's been on in terms of how they recruited people from all kinds of groups. She said there is all kinds of diversity represented – neighborhood, cultural groups, disability, income diversity, religious, racial. They provided advisory group members with transportation planning 101 education, which was very useful information to those who are not transportation planners. Members often ask

for more data and staff go back and get it. Urgency sometimes means you cut corners on equity and that hasn't been the case here.

- Stephanie asked those in attendance to speak up about anything that she hasn't mentioned for each of the 8 categories. What are they not thinking about that they need to be thinking about?
- Kate spoke about visiting Verona in Italy recently. Although it was woefully inaccessible, it is largely a walking city. There's very little parking, although there were several designated disability parking spaces
- Stephanie: what does it mean for a city to be a walking city?
  - things are close by, it's safe – in terms of traffic (cars, bikes, etc.), crime, lighting, etc.
  - minimal car interaction and even bicycles, clean air, safe space
- Deepti asked if The Ride is under City jurisdiction. Stephanie said that it is not because it's run by the MBTA, but the City does have coordination meetings with the MBTA. Rachel noted that the folks who attend those meetings from the MBTA don't have anything to do with The Ride, but rather the fixed route system. The Ride rarely comes up at those meetings.
  - Stephanie: so we need to either have people from The Ride at these meetings or to have a separate meeting is for Ride-based issues
- Deepti has suggestions for improving the reservation system and other minor things that could make a big difference in the lives of Ride riders
- Rachel will ask Andy Reker, a Transportation Planner in CDD who works the most with the MBTA, to come to a CCPD meeting so he can help us strategize as well.
- For more information or to provide feedback:
  - Visit the Net Zero Transportation Plan website: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/nztransportation>
  - Share ideas and feedback at <https://bit.ly/CambridgeNZTPFeedback>
  - If you want to talk about it, call Stephanie on the multilingual helpline: 617-865-2273 for free interpretation

## Minutes:

A motion to approve the May minutes was seconded and then passed unanimously

## Nominations and Elections for Chair & Secretary:

- Nominations opened in the May meeting. In that meeting:
  - Keisha nominated Deepti for Chair and Avril and Dan for secretary, but they each declined the nominations
- Additional nominations were made in this meeting:
  - Keisha was nominated for Chair
  - Danielle said that she doesn't mind being secretary as support for Keisha. Dan seconded that nomination
  - There were no further nominations. Deepti made a motion to close nominations, Dan seconded, motion passed unanimously
- Election for Chair
  - Keisha was unanimously elected as Chair
- Election for Secretary
  - Danielle was unanimously elected as Secretary

## Chair's Report:

Keisha deferred her report, given that she was just elected.

Rachel noted that members need to vote on summer recess, whether to take July or August off.

- Deepti made a motion to recess during the month of July, which was seconded, and passed unanimously

- The next CCPD meeting will be held on August 8, 2024

## **Public Works Update:**

Melissa Miguel reported on ongoing construction. See attached document, MAY UPDATE – DPW, for details.

- Each construction project page can be found at <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects>
  - Under the contact tab for each street, you can enter your email address if you would like to receive construction notifications
  - Search the street of interest in the keyword field

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Thurman



## **MAY UPDATE - DPW**

### ➤ **On-going construction:**

#### **River Street/Carl Barron Plaza**

- Utility work along the corridor, and foundation work at Carl Barron Plaza, continue.
- We are looking to do some temporary paving of River Street between Kinnaird and Franklin, in early summer. Utility work in that section is basically complete, and this paving should smooth things out until we do full roadway reconstruction in 2025.

**Willard Street-** Drain installation nearly complete. Expect surface (curb, sidewalk, roadway) work to begin this month.

**Binney Street Park-** Continued work on landscaping, installation of previous multi-use path (which is a section of Grand Junction Path) Estimated construction completion is late spring/early summer 2024.

**Harvard Sq. Plaza** –Includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at Mass Ave., Dunster St, JFK St and Brattle St. Work has been on hold pending coordination with the MBTA. There is potential to start the project late early summer 2024. MBTA coordination continues. *Work in Harvard Sq will commence after the July Red Line Diversion.*

#### **Chapter 90, Contract 24**

- Huron Avenue – Glacken Field to Aberdeen is complete. Aberdeen to Fresh Pond Parkway will be paved next week.
- Gas co. notified the City that work needs to extend from Aberdeen into Huron. Previously it was believed it would not be needed. Gas work will extend into Huron Ave so Huron Ave at the intersection with Aberdeen will be paved upon completion of the gas work.
- Chestnut Street - water main installation complete. Roadway binder paving complete. Sidewalk reconstruction to follow.
- Webster Ave – Binder paving complete. Sidewalk work on Webster starts next week.
- Elm St – Tree protection installed. Drainage work install in progress. Water main relay in progress.

### ➤ **Upcoming projects:**

#### **Port Infrastructure Project**

- Clement Morgan Park: An event was held in the Park June 4 to show the new design for the Park. Plans will also be made available online after this event to gather feedback.
- The Park project will be bid in the fall of 2024 for construction starting over the winter when the basketball courts and park have less use.
- Phase 1 of the utilities and surface streets will also be bid in fall 2024.

#### **Mass Ave Partial Construction**

- A presentation of the Rindge to Linnean Street segment was made to the joint meeting of the Bike/Pedestrian/Transit committees on May 15, 5:30 PM.
- As a result of the comments received to date, from both the April Working Group and May Joint Committee meetings, we have decided to postpone the “Rindge to Linnean” Public Open House which

MM UPDATES JUNE 2024



had been tentatively scheduled for the end of June. This is an especially complex section of the project, and we want to be able to share more quantitative information about how the proposed corridor design will operate for all modes. Therefore, we will spend the summer months performing additional modeling and analyses and preparing graphics and/or animations that can be easily understood by a wide range of stakeholders and community members. We plan to resume community engagement and hold this Open House in Fall 2024. Please note that this change in the Open House schedule does not impact the schedule for phased implementation of the project.

**Chapter 90, Contract 25** - Newport Construction low bidder. Anticipated construction starts mid-summer 2024.

Project Page: Folks can sign up for email notifications under the contact tab:

- <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects>
- Search the street of interest in the search bar then click the contact tab
- Streets included in Contract 25:
  - Green St- Pearl to Landsdowne
  - Maple Avenue- Broadway to Cambridge-
  - Centre St – Dana to Hancock
  - Montgomery St – Harvey to Rindge
  - Sciarappa St- Charles to Winter

**Chapter 90, Contract 26** – First round of community meetings are complete. Next round will begin in Sept. where the city will present a 75% design plan based on community feedback, local, state and federal ordinances and standard engineering practices.

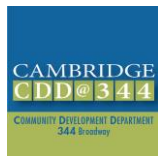
Project Page: Folks can sign up for email notifications under the contact tab:

- <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects>
- Search the street of interest in the search bar then click the contact tab
- Streets included in Contract 26:
  - Chetwyn Road – Newell St to End
    - Will be a shared street
  - Gray Street – Martin to Linnaean
  - Haskell – Rindge to Mass Ave
  - Norfolk – Broadway to Somerville City Line
  - Shepard – Garden to Mass Ave
  - Kirkland Rd – Kirkland St to Dead End
    - Will be a shared street



City of Cambridge

# Net Zero Transportation Plan Community Meetings







# Language Help?

Call for an interpreter.  
617-865-2273

City of Cambridge



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 Ou bezwen entèpretasyon? Rele pou ou mande pou yon entèprèt.  
 ترجمة مجانية اتصل لطلب مترجم.  
 ¿Asistencia lingüística? Solicite servicios de interpretación.  
 ভাষা সংক্রান্ত সাহায্য? একজন দোভাষীর জন্য কল করুন।  
 Teletradução Grátis! Fale com um intérprete.  
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 Nevoje per ndihme gjuhësore? Merrni ne telefon te kerkoni nje përkthyes.  
 한국어 통역 서비스 한국어 통역사를 요청하세요.  
 Мовні послуги? Виклик перекладача.  
 د ژبي مرسته د ژباړونکي لپاره زنگ ووهئ.  
 Trợ giúp ngôn ngữ? Cần một thông dịch viên.  
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 Языковая помощь? Вызов переводчика.  
 کمک لسانی برای مترجم زنگ بزنید.

Having difficulties with the service? Call or Text: 617-909-3522



Share your thoughts. How can we improve?

<https://camb.ma/helpline>

[accesshelp@cambridgema.gov](mailto:accesshelp@cambridgema.gov)

Cambridge has a  
multilingual help line

Ask about the *Net Zero  
Transportation Plan* if  
you would like to learn  
more in another  
language



# Goals & plan for this meeting

## Goals:

- **Introduce** community members to the Net Zero Transportation Plan process
- **Listen** to reflections and ideas from community members

## Agenda:

- Welcome & Agreements
- Overview of the Net Zero Transportation Plan
  - What is the Net Zero Transportation Plan about?
  - What are the goals of the plan?
  - What kinds of actions will the plan include?
- Conversation: input and ideas



# Group Agreements

- One mic, one person speaks at a time
- Be as present as you can
- Take away stories, not names
- Be respectful, be kind
- Speak from the heart, listen from the heart
- Trust you will know what to say

## Check in

Please share

- Your name
- One way you like to move around Cambridge

# What is a Net Zero Transportation Plan?



“Net Zero” means there will be no climate pollution coming from transportation that go into the air.



# Why do we need a Net Zero Transportation Plan?

1. City Council said that Cambridge will get to net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier
2. If we don't get rid of emissions, climate change will make everyone's lives harder, less healthy, and cost more
  - **Extreme heat / worse air quality** (learning loss, more childhood asthma, death)
  - **Worse weather emergencies** (floods, strong winds, sea-level rise)
  - **More economic struggles** (increased demand for public services, like emergency response, food assistance, health insurance)

# What is the process to make this plan?

# How are we developing the Net Zero Transportation Plan?

1. Formed an **advisory group** to guide the Plan:
  - People who **share information with and receive information from their communities** that informs the plan
2. Reaching out to the broader community to hear **ideas, concerns, and opportunities** about transportation changes we could make:
  - **Community meetings**
  - **A survey**
  - **Small group conversations**
3. Working with **consultants** who bring technical knowledge
4. Partnering with the **CET@CDD** to get feedback from members of six linguistic communities and the American-born Black community (giving feedback to the project team, doing outreach, and getting feedback from members of their communities)



# Net Zero Transportation Plan

## Advisory Group members

- **Farris Blount** (Cambridge Black Pastors Alliance, Junior Pastor)
- **Malene Council** (Department of Human Service Programs CET, Program Assistant/Outreach Worker)
- **Dosa Chidandali** (Cambridge Women's Center, Co-Director, Programs & Services)
- **Karim Elrazzaz** (Islamic Society of Boston Cambridge, Community Programs Director)
- **Guerlancia "Gigi" Laurent** (Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Community Liaison)
- **Ibrahim Omar** (Islamic Society of Boston Cambridge, Operations Integration Analyst)
- **James Pierre** (Adius Arts Initiative, Founder)
- **Nora Sears** (De Novo Center for Justice and Healing, Volunteer Coordinator)
- **Rachel Tanenhaus** (Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Executive Director)
- **Omriqui Thomas** (Cambridge Public Schools Student)
- **Angela Vierling-Claassen** (Cambridge Resident)
- **Lonnell Wells** (Cambridge Bike Give Back, Co-Founder)
- **Yao Wu** (Chinese American Association of Cambridge, Member)

# Net Zero Transportation Plan Advisory Group members



Islamic Society of Boston  
Cambridge | Roxbury



DE NOVO  
CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND HEALING



Chinese American Association of Cambridge



# Goals of the Net Zero Transportation Plan

The Advisory Group set 4 goals for the Net Zero Transportation Plan:

- 1. Remove climate pollution from transportation**
- 2. Improve mobility** (make it easier to get around Cambridge)
- 3. Improve economic opportunity and address historic injustices**
- 4. Create a stronger and more connected community**



# Centering equity in this process

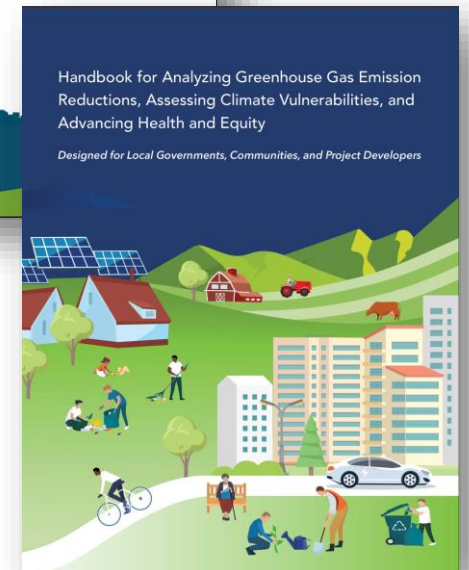
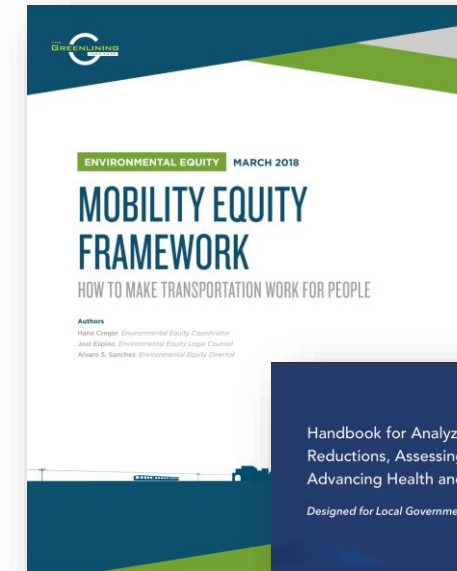
The Advisory Group recognizes that an equitable process for developing the Plan:

- 1. Is guided by community voices**
- 2. Is transparent**
- 3. Prioritizes underserved, underheard, and historically excluded groups of people**
- 4. Reduces harm**
- 5. Builds long-term relationships**
- 6. Is accessible**

# Guiding documents

Technical work is grounded in best practices and frameworks from leading organizations:

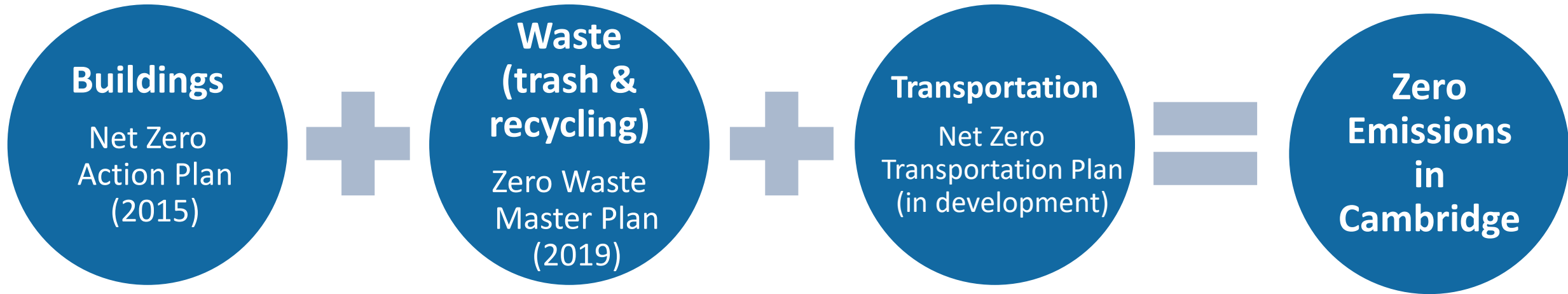
- **Greenlining Institute's *Mobility Equity Framework***
- **California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's (CAPCOA) *Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions***
- **Argonne National Laboratory's *Alternative Fuel Lifecycle Environmental and Economic Transportation (AFLEET) Tool***



# How far do we have to go?



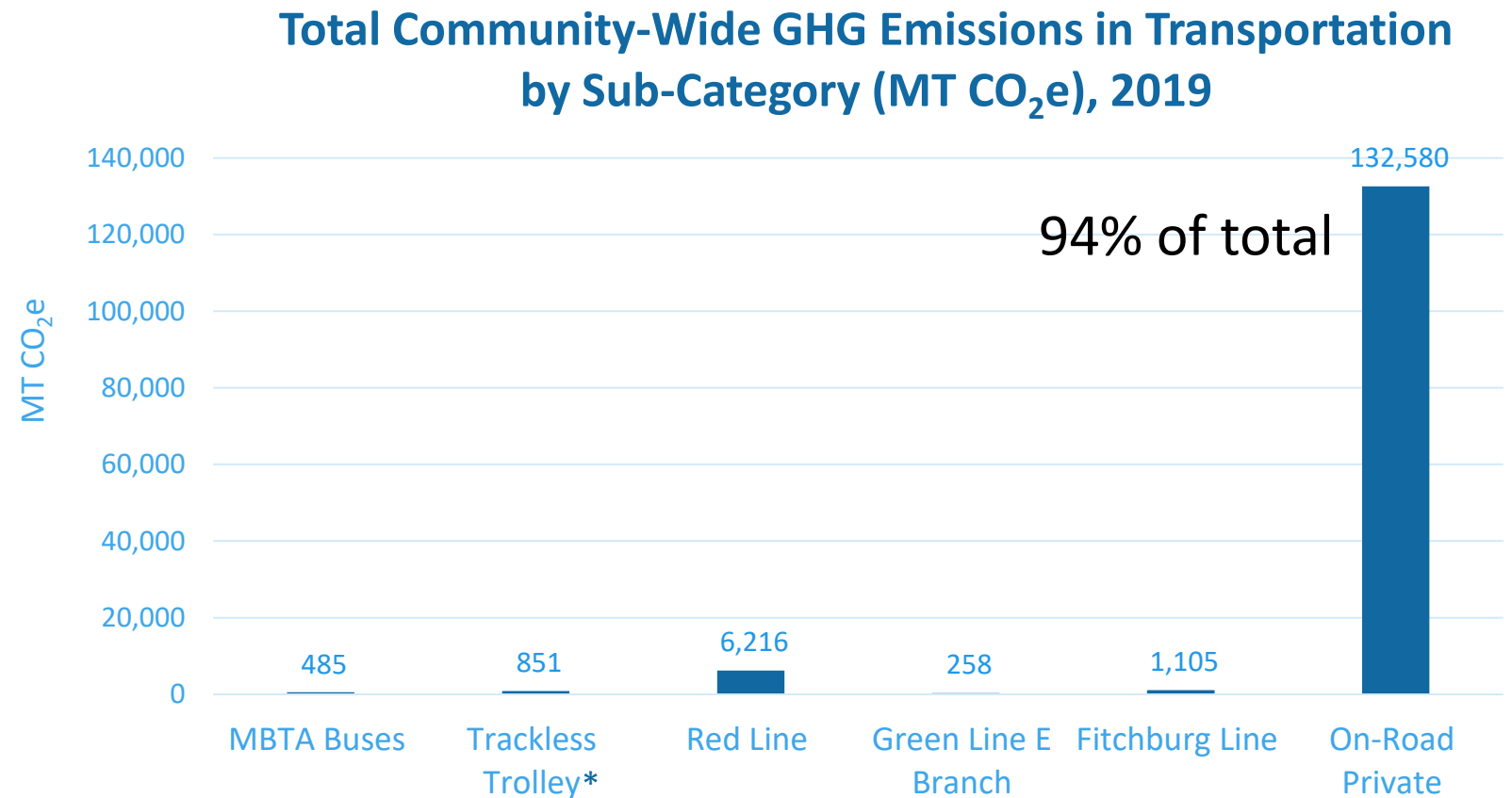
# What is Cambridge doing to reduce emissions?





# How much of Cambridge's transportation emissions come from cars and other modes?

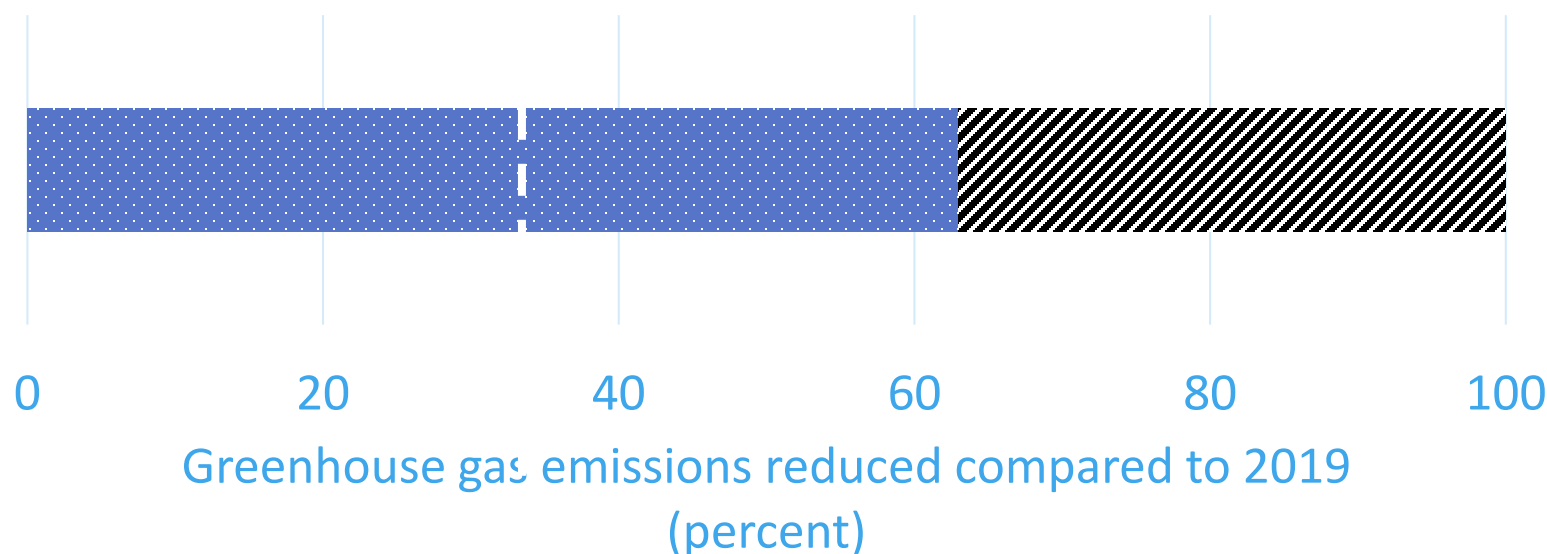
- Most transportation emissions come from private cars and trucks



\*Note: trackless trolleys have been replaced with hybrid diesel-electric buses, but in 2025 they will be replaced by 100% electric [when the new Trolley Sq facility has been rebuilt]

# With existing policies and trends, emissions will decrease substantially by 2050

Estimated reduction in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in Cambridge by 2050



- % of greenhouse gas emissions reduced without NZTP
- ▨ Remaining emissions to be eliminated by NZTP

- Fuel efficiency improvements
- Electric vehicle adoption
- Shift to clean energy for vehicle charging
- Other actions being taken by the state

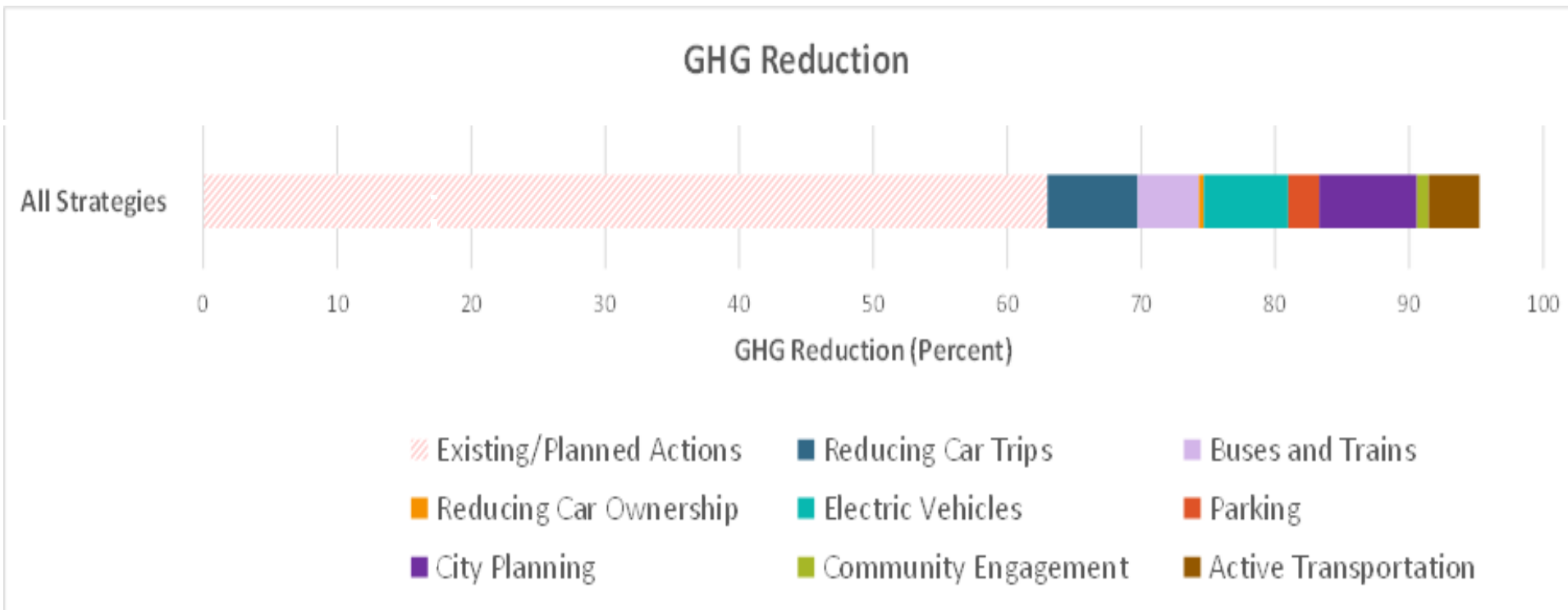
\*This is a prediction based on assumptions—the actual change may be slower or faster

# We are developing actions to help close the gap

Additional actions  
needed to reach  
zero emissions goal

Additional actions  
could:

- Encourage sustainable modes
- Increase shift to electric vehicles
- Reduce number of trips taken or distance of trips





# What could change in Cambridge?

If we take action to get rid of emissions from transportation:

- More people will walk, ride bikes/scooters, and take the T, and drive less
- The city will change in ways that make it safer, easier, and more pleasant for people to walk, ride, and take the T, which might make it less convenient to drive in some places
- People will drive electric vehicles, instead of gas vehicles



# How will change happen?

**1. The City of Cambridge is committed to eliminating emissions – but we can influence how that happens. We want a plan that is based on community needs and insights.**

- In cases where change is hard, how can we reduce the harm or the discomfort of that shift?

**2. We want to improve and expand people's transportation options.**

- We believe we can create a plan that allows everyone to contribute in some way. Not every action or option works for every person, so we need a variety of options.
- "Don't punish me for owning a car. Make it easier for me not to."
- *We want to be aware of who this burden is falling on, of who has more capacity to take on the responsibility of getting to zero emissions.*



# Questions?

# What will help us get there?





# Feedback on 8 categories of possible actions

Active  
transportation

Buses, trains,  
shuttles

City planning

Community  
engagement

Reducing car  
ownership

Electric  
vehicles

Parking

Reducing car  
trips

*Which 1-2 impact your life the most?*

*Which ones of these do you think are a positive shift for your community?*

*Which seem harder? How can we make what's hard about that easier?*

*What other ideas do you have?*

# Future input and ideas



# We want to hear from you! Thank you!



We need help figuring out the actions in these categories. We are working with Advisory Group and community members to pick actions.

- ❖ Visit the Net Zero Transportation Plan website for more info: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/nztransportation>
- ❖ Share ideas and feedback at: <https://bit.ly/CambridgeNZTPFeedback>
- ❖ If you want to talk about it, call Stephanie on the multilingual helpline: 617-865-2273 for free interpretation



# Thank you!