

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Keisha Greaves

Chair

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin

Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff

Avril dePagter

Rayna Jhaveri

Melissa Miguel

Deepti Nijhawan

Emma Pan

Zach Solomons

Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus

Executive Director/

ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman

Deputy Director/

Assistant ADA Coordinator

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on November 14, 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 | 1 min. | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Approval of October Minutes
<i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i> | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 4. Open Forum for Member Input | 25 min. | CCPD Board |
| 5. Chair's Report
<i>Upcoming Retreat Planning</i> | 10 min. | Keisha Greaves |
| 6. Experience as a Participatory Delegate | 10 min. | Danielle Jones-McLaughlin |
| 7. Police Department Update on Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety Campaign | 10 min. | Deputy Superintendent John Boyle |
| 8. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Melissa Miguel |
| 9. Staff Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus & Kate Thurman |
| 10. Public Input
<i>See pages 2&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, December 12, 2024 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, November 14, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Keisha Greaves (Chair), Rayna Jhaveri, Melissa Miguel, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin (Secretary), Emma Pan, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Deepti Nijhawan, Zach Solomons

Staff: Kate Thurman, Rachel Tanenhaus

Guest speaker: Deputy Superintendent John Boyle, Cambridge Police Department

Minutes:

A motion to approve the October minutes was seconded and then passed unanimously by all present.

Open Forum for Member Input:

Keisha opened the floor to members who would like to share ideas, input etc.

Topics included:

- Possible guest speakers
 - Members of the Cambridge disability community to bring things to our attention on topics such as pedestrian safety, bike lanes, etc.
 - City employees with disabilities who can speak about their experiences navigating employment with the City
- Hosting a “town hall” event for the Cambridge disability community
- Need for better community engagement
- Releasing an anonymized survey for the disability community to submit if they wish
- Attending meetings of other Commissions on Disability to see how they work
- Digital accessibility

Chair’s Report:

Keisha opened the floor for members and staff to discuss the planning of a member retreat for the spring, likely in April:

- CCPD has the option of working with Ora Grodsky again, who facilitated the previous member retreat and is on contract with the City already
- Rayna, Avril, Danielle, and Keisha joined the small working group to plan the retreat
- Dan said his office space in Boston will likely be available if the retreat is on a Saturday
- CCPD staff arranged for transportation, lunch, and the private facilitator at the last retreat

Experience as a Participatory Budgeting (PB) Delegate:

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin spoke about her experiences being a PB delegate for the past few years, stating that it has been a great opportunity to connect with people in the city and get an understanding of the interconnectivity of the different City departments.

She reported having constructive conversations with City staff about why a project idea cannot be facilitated or how a proposal can go from an idea to an actual project. She has enjoyed the PB “speed consulting” events during which the delegates can visit with staff from different City departments.

Danielle said being a PB delegate is a great opportunity to connect with people in the city and to understand how different City departments connect. She has also enjoyed learning about the ideas that residents have for making the city better. She mentioned picking Kate’s brain on how accessibility operates in the city, some of the challenges, and figuring out how to fix some of the issues.

Kate added that PB speed consulting is her favorite event of the year as a staff member. She enjoys hearing directly from community members and working collaboratively with both delegates and staff from across the city on creative problem solving. She said that some PB proposals may appear at first to be impractical to implement, whether financially, logistically or otherwise. However, talking them through with delegates can lead to tweaks or alternative ideas for addressing the same underlying issues.

Danielle mentioned that in addition to the two speed consulting events, PB delegates have weekly meetings to go over the submitted proposals. After significant research, delegates decide on and write the final description of proposals that appear on the PB ballot.

Police Department Update:

Deputy Superintendent John Boyle spoke about the temporary bike lanes with flex poles that are bolted into the street. He said that there has been a lot of roadway redesign in recent years. When traffic patterns change, the Police Department (PD) sends out motorcycle officers to the area. For the first two weeks of PD enforcement of new traffic patterns, the officers pull over drivers who commit traffic violations to educate them on the change rather than ticketing them right away. After those first few weeks, police officers will start issuing traffic violations to drivers.

Deputy Superintendent Boyle said that the PD does a lot of bicycle enforcement, especially during the morning commute in high accident locations. However, the way traffic citations are worded, bicycle violations often fall under red light violations, even if that’s not what the cyclists were pulled over for committing. Citations are set by the Commonwealth, and there isn’t any way to denote when citations are issued to a cyclist vs. a motorist, which makes data collection very challenging.

He added that electric scooters are supposed to use the bike lanes and not the sidewalks. Additionally, bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks in business districts.

Lastly, Deputy Superintendent Boyle said that the MBTA Red Line will be shut down between Harvard and Broadway stations from Sunday, November 17—Sunday, November 24 and that there will be a lot of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in Cambridge for the Harvard/Yale football game on November 24th.

Public Works Update:

See attached “DPW Update – November 2024” for details of Melissa Miguel’s Public Works update.

Staff Report:

Kate Thurman & Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- CCPD staff and their colleagues in the Office of Equity & Inclusion held a well-received event for City employees for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The event was comprised of guest speakers from Advocates, Inc. who spoke about their initiatives around disability inclusion in their workplace, followed by an Employee Voices panel of City employees with disabilities sharing their experiences working for Cambridge.
- CCPD's new Administrative Assistant position is still posted, so applications haven't been processed yet, but staff hope to start the interview process over the next several weeks.
- Rachel presented at a monthly meeting of the Cambridge Human Right Commission (CHRC), speaking about CCPD's work as a board and as an office. She said would love to have CHRC members come to a CCPD meeting sometime. Rachel noted that CCPD staff works closely with CHRC staff because CHRC takes complaints of disability discrimination in Cambridge. Disability discrimination is covered by the City's Human Rights Ordinance.

Public Comment:

Dorian Freeman said she works at Harvard and is involved with digital accessibility there. She mentioned learning about CCPD last year and had been hoping to apply to be a Board member but had too much going on at the time applications were open. She asked if CCPD has a focus on digital accessibility, noting that Harvard has a very strong digital accessibility team and that she would be happy to share more about Harvard's work on digital accessibility.

Rachel said that CCPD staff are working with other City departments on digital accessibility, and Kate added that they would love to connect with Dorian and Harvard to discuss their digital accessibility policy, as the City is working on creating such a policy.

Keisha suggested making digital accessibility a topic for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman

DPW UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2024

➤ **On-going construction:**

- **Port Infrastructure Project- Harvard St.:**
 - No winter month construction
 - Will resume next year
- **River Street:**
 - Fairmont Ave and Fairmont Street being final paved next week. This completes both. Fairmont Street will now be accessible “end to end”. Fairmont Ave is a Shared Street. Some features still be installed next spring. But operating safely as a Shared Street now.
 - Carl Barron Plaza will see pedestrian detours ongoing for the next month. Contractor to pay special attention to accessibility features – we will monitor closely.
- **Willard Street-**
 - Complete minus a few street tree plantings that remain
 - New signal went into operation today at Mt Auburn and Sparks Street. This will make it much easier and safer to cross to the DCR parkland and the river paths.
- **Binney Street Park-**
 - Opening Ceremony
 - Fri Nov 22nd
 - 10am – 11:30am
- **Harvard Sq. Plaza – Dunster St detour to end on Tues 11/19 , mid-morning**
 - Mobilize to Phase I
 - See attached phasing and detour plans
 - Phase I duration - ~ 11 weeks
 - Estimate Contract Completion Date – November 2026
- **Chapter 90, Contract 24 –**
 - Huron Avenue – Complete
 - Park Avenue - Complete
 - Chestnut Street
 - brick sidewalk install continues through winter as weather allows
 - top course paving complete – Pearl to Pleasant
 - Elm St
 - top course paving complete
 - Webster Ave
 - top course paving complete

- **Chapter 90, Contract 25-** Contract has been awarded to Newport Construction
 - Utility work began this week on **Maple Ave**
 - Work will continue through winter as weather allows

Contract Streets

- 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

➤ **Upcoming projects:**

- **Port Infrastructure Project:** Clement Morgan Park and Streets in Phase I contract will be bid this winter.
- **Mass Ave4 improvements:**
 - Median removal, which is the first step in the process, bid package was opened last week for the Roseland-Waterhouse segment. This work will begin in 2025.
- **Chapter 90, Contract 26-** First round of community meetings have been completed. Second round will start up mid-March 2025 and continue through May. Expected bid date: Summer 2025

Contract Streets

- Chetwyn Road – Newell St to End
- Gray Street – Martin to Linnaean
- Haskell – Rindge to Mass Ave
- Norfolk – Broadway to Somerville City Line
- Shepard – Garden to Mass Ave
- Avon Hill Street – Linnaean St to Upland Rd
- Hillside Ave – Avon Hill St to Washington Ave

➤ **Red Line Diversion**

- Red Line service will be suspended between Harvard and Broadway beginning at approximately 8:30 PM through the end of service on November 17.
- Red Line service will continue to be suspended between Harvard and Broadway all day and everyday November 18 – 23.
- MBTA will be providing free, accessible shuttles
- For more information please visit:

- [MBTA Reminds Riders of Upcoming Red Line Service Suspension, Announces Update to November 17 and November 24 Red Line Service Changes | News | MBTA](#)