

Nicole Murati Ferrer
Chairperson

Mark Melo
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea
Superintendent of Streets

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

Commission Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melo, and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant.

Documents Considered by the Board: As to all petitions, the Commission considered the application submitted to it and all documents attached thereto.

Decisions: All votes, unless otherwise stated, were taken by roll call vote and were 3-0, unless otherwise indicated. When matters are granted with "typical conditions," those are:

- (1) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit and Department of Public Works ("DPW") Permits and comply with the provisions therein.
- (2) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- (3) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- (4) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- (5) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

1. **New petition (270070) - Cambridge Community Development Department**, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, 02139, for the following: Saint Mary Road - On existing utility pole # 131/1: replace existing 35KVA overhead transformer with 50KVA transformer. Excavate existing concrete sidewalk, install electrical conduit below ground, and replace affected concrete sidewalk panels with new. Install two dual-head level 2 electric vehicle charger stations (4 total chargers) to provide electric vehicle charging to four spaces on Saint Mary Road.

Present: Charles Creagh. Amisha Patel, resident.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received regarding application.

Summary: The Cambridge Development Department was asked by climate crisis group to install 100 electric vehicle charges in public property by end of Fiscal Year 27. Through that process they have been looking at locations and this is the first of many which they intend to install. Pole #131/6 (not over 1).

Amisha Patel, neighbor expressed concerns about lacking of public parking in the area and now switching those to electric meters/chargers is exacerbating the problem. St. Mary's has limited spots, could they give consideration to Emory Street – which may be an issue since the City is picking spaces where there is public infrastructure. CDD could maybe look at Amory Street after the hearing for the future, but they believe it would not be ADA compliant.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions as it relates to Electric Vehicle charging station petitions.

2. **New petition (270204)** - **Cambridge Community Development Department**, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, 02139, for the following: Cambridge Street - On the park side of Berkshire Street, directly opposite Marney Street, install a new electrical cabinet within the park, near the existing chain link fence and existing utility pole. Excavate existing concrete sidewalk, install electrical conduit below ground, and replace affected concrete sidewalk panels with new. Install two dual-head level 2 electric vehicle charger stations (4 total chargers) to provide EV charging to four head-in parking spaces on Berkshire Street.

Present: Charles Creagh.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received regarding application.

Summary: Berkshire is a great location for electric vehicle demand. There will be some cabinet work, but this this will be a popular location. They will be installing a total of 4 charging heads, which reduces the cost of installation to the City significantly. There are other locations that can only install 2, 4 is the sweet spot, so this is a perfect location in terms of demand and costs.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions as it relates to Electric Vehicle charging station petitions.

3. **New petition (272330)** - **Cambridge Community Development Department**, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, 02139, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - This installation of electrical vehicle charges includes: installation of a new electrical cabinet within the sidewalk area; excavation of a portion of the existing concrete sidewalk and installation of electrical conduit below ground; installation of two single-head and one dual-head level two electric vehicle charging stations (4 total chargers) and creation of a new pedestrian curb ramp to create ADA accessible path to the electric vehicle charging station interface.

Present: Charles Creagh. Florence Friedman, resident.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received regarding application.

Summary: Kind of special this location requires new pedestrian curb path. The goal is to keep the existing parking meters. This would be to serve others aside from those who participate in the Resident Paring Program. Therefore, if you want to visit and charge and don't have where to park,

you can park and charge at the same time. This would serve as a charging station and also a meter – although it is unclear that a non-electric vehicle could use it. This would be to add 2 heads at an existing parking. CDD does not see an issue with having meters not be used for electric and non electric vehicles because of the state's ban of on-electric vehicles by 2035.

They have a pending work order with Eversource. There may need to be a relocation of the manhole or something changes to the site. The location of the dual heads is in front of the 1580 Mass Ave building and at the two parking spots. CDD said they could look at whether if you do not have an electric vehicle whether you can still park.

Decision: Continue pending Eversource work order, and get further information from TPT as to whether dual meters can be used by both types of vehicles.

4. **New petition (271601) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Cottage Park Ave - Install (1) new 17"x 30" x18" Comcast vault over existing Comcast conduit in the sidewalk on Cottage Park Avenue. From newly placed vault, trench westerly +/- 35 feet to the private property line of 19 and 21 Cottage Park Avenue, installing (2) 2-inch PVC conduits for new underground service connections.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: Install over existing conduit. From that new vault trench across roadway in between property lines. The pole already has 3 conduits on it. Intercept and bring into the roadway for new service connection for the two renovated homes. This was not a common trench. This was separate and they did not join the original one because Eversource was too far and this was more cost effective. Developer owns the restoration. Not rising up pole 3 – that is just showing an existing conduit.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

[Note: Matters 5 & 8 heard together]

5. **New petition (272782) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Cottage Kinnaird Street - Starting at utility pole #411/3 on Kinnaird Street, trench southwesterly +/-65" to the private property line of 5 Kinnaird Street, installing (1) 2" PVC conduit. This is a joint trench with Eversource as the lead company (VP#267308).

Present: Shane Flewelling; and Eversource - Kelly-Ann Correia; and Shannell Grant.

Summary: This is for a new home. 2 inch PVC also added inside the trench. Developer owns restoration.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. **New petition (270028) - Cambridge Network Solutions**, 100 Quannapowitt Pkwy, Wakefield, MA 01880, for the following: Binney Street - From existing CNS manhole by 290 Binney Street, trench approximately 177 feet and install (1) 4-inch PVC CNS communications conduit, and (1) 4-inch PVC

City Shadow conduit to proposed 17" x 24" x 30" private property manhole located at 300 Binney Street.

Present: Herb Bertoni.

Summary: Looking to install 177 feet of two 4 inch PVC conduits from an existing conduit previously placed into 300 Binney street for a diverse service feed. An amendment was made to ask for a 4 inch conduit to the trench; this would bring it to a total of 3 conduits, all coming from the Verizon manhole. One of the conduits would be for CNS the other a city shadow. .

Updated plan to show the third conduit. The need is that when the slurry wall for the new building was poured, they filled the conduit and now that portion is not accessible. Therefore, the first grant of location is not being fully used, it is partially used. There is a question as to whether the inaccessible conduits are still in use (or accessible).

Decision: Continue for further coordination, ensure whether there is unusable conduit (have it removed) and if City conduit damaged, replaced.

7. **Continuation from March 21, 2024 to have Verizon perform test pits on Spinelli Place and find another corridor not on the drain line; and also to conduct a site visit with the Electrical Department for review of proposed routes (256020) - Verizon New England, 85 High Street, 3rd Floor, Pawtucket, RI 02860,** for the following: Spinelli Place - Verizon to place 340 feet of conduit from existing manhole #369 in front of 737 Concord Avenue, to proposed manhole #369A at the intersection of Concord Avenue and Spinelli Place, and then an additional 43 feet of conduit from proposed manhole #369A to proposed manhole #369B in front of 24 Spinelli Place.

Present: Karen Levesque.

Summary: The route was changed and there were amendments made. What is now in consideration and being sought is:

VERIZON TO PLACE 392 FEET OF CONDUIT FROM EXISTING MANHOLE 369 IN FRONT OF 737 CONCORD AVENUE, TO PROPOSED HANDHOLE ON THE SIDEWALK NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF CONCORD AVENUE AND SPINELLI PLACE, THEN AN ADDITIONAL 420 FEET OF CONDUIT FROM PROPOSED HANDHOLE, TO PROPOSED HANDHOLE IN FRONT OF 27 SPINELLI PLACE AND THEN AN ADDITIONAL 2 FEET OF CONDUIT FROM THE PROPOSED HANDHOLE TO EXISTING POLE 6 IN FRONT OF 27 SPINELLI PL.

Paul Almeida and Mark Melo conducted site visit. There were test pits performed and results uploaded. The plan submitted does not comply and does not show the new route. There will be an additional conduit from the handhold and into the private property. Test pits on Spinelli the date does not reflect what want to do on Spinelli. Need more time to review this and need to meet with Verizon.

Decision: Continue to further review and meet with Verizon to discuss the test pit results and plans.

8. **New petition (267308)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Kinnaird Street - Southwesterly from pole 411/3 on Kinnaird Street to private property line at 5 Kinnaird Street, install approximately 65 feet of conduit.

Present: Shane Flewelling; and Eversource - Kelly-Ann Correia; and Shannell Grant.

Summary: This is for a new home. 2 inch PVC also added inside the trench. Developer owns restoration.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

9. **New petition (269543)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Main Street - Easterly from MHC2118 to 600 Main Street, install approximately 30 feet of conduit.

Present: Kelly-Ann Correia; Shannell Grant; and Susan Barroso.

Summary: 30 feet of conduit from manhole to connect to a street light. Secondary connection from the manhole to the handhold – feeding the existing street light, secondary connection from manhole to the handhold. Cut the service, and handhold to the streetlight – existing connection removed and being replaced. City Street light system – did a walk through. Existing conduit got damaged when the street was rebuilt.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

10. **New petition (270459)** - **Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Montgomery Street - Northwesterly from Pole 488/18, approximately 105 feet north of George Street, to private property at #122 and at #124 Montgomery Street, install approximately 16 feet of conduit.

Present: Kelly-Ann Correia; Shannell Grant; and Susan Barroso. Linda Hertwig.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received regarding application.

Summary: Two locations 124 and 122 Montgomery Street; there are two different work orders, one is 6 ft and the other 10 ft of conduit for two new services pole 488/18 and going down the driveway for new services. Survey plan shows two but there is only one conduit on the public way and then on private way split into the two properties. Eversource will notify the residents when the work will done to coordinate.

Decision: Granted pending submission of updated plan, and with typical conditions, and additional conditions of permanent sidewalk repair, and existing pole must be fully removed before new attachments and the new pole the bottom half cannot impede driveway.

- 11. New petition (270680) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Harvard Street - Norfolk Street - Broadway - Tremont Street**
Harvard Street - Southeasterly from Norfolk Street to MHC48, install approximately 19 feet of conduit, and Southwesterly from Norfolk Street to new manhole MHC31346, install approximately 166 feet of conduit.
Norfolk Street - Northeasterly from Harvard Street to Broadway, install approximately 374 feet of conduit and two new manholes, MHC32376 and MHC32375.
Broadway - Northwesterly from Norfolk Street to Tremont Street, install approximately 348 feet of conduit and one new manhole, MHC32374.
Tremont Street - Northeasterly from Broadway to the Somerville City line, install approximately 2322 feet of conduit and 9 new manholes, MHC32373, MHC32372, MHC32371, MHC32370, MHC32369, MHC32368, MHC32367, MHC32366 AND MHC32365.

Present: Kelly-Ann Correia; Shannell Grant; and Susan Barroso. Residents: Stephen Michaels; and Cynthia Ann Webb.

Summary: This job is to support the growth on East Kendall and are asking for the petition to install through the streets. The new transformer is in Somerville and bring circuits to East Cambridge. If gets approved, revised plan, for 4 inch conduits to be installed for the City's new electric vehicle charging station. DPW has had many talks with Eversource as to this project. There needs to be an 8M permit, curb to curb overlay on all street, and full restoration on crosswalks and sidewalks.

Stephen Michaels noted Eversource has been in front of their homes on Hampshire for about 1.5 months, and has been very disruptive, especially to those trying to access the garage at 76-80 Tremont Street. Eversource staff has been as accommodating as can be but does not take away from the fact that this would be more disruption to the area. Michaels questioned the mitigation measures Eversource plans to incorporate. In addition, the noise levels are constant and quite disruptive.

Cynthia Ann Webb does not understand why Tremont Street has to bear such a huge burden. The garage is unavailable and when available they have to tack on 10-15 minutes to their commute to move traffic cones. The impact has been massive, and frustrating, and now this new huge project will only bring up more issues. Webb also expressed frustration that they reached out to Eversource to inquire more about the project on 5/23, and only heard back minutes prior to the meeting.

This is a very long project and will go through 2026. The project a 2 year build out. They will not work at the location each day but will do little by little and portion out the work. As far as when they work and when it is mostly through DPW and the permits they issue, so there cannot be that much coordination in terms of the times that they are there (meaning rush v. non-rush hour).

Decision: Granted, pending submission of 8M permit and updated plan, and with typical conditions and additional conditions: Eversource must communicate with all residents of the impacted streets and any garages/driveways in the areas, including but not limited to 76-80 Tremont Street, as to when the work may impact access; Eversource is required to obtain police detail and coordinate with them to allow residents to access their homes; and mill and overlay, curb to curb, and full restoration of sidewalks and crosswalks.

- 12. New petition (271055) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Prospect Street - Northeasterly from MH2398, approximately 45 feet northeast of Harvard Street, to the Somerville City line, install approximately 2134 feet of conduit.**


Present: Kelly-Ann Correia; Shannell Grant; and Susan Barroso. Adam Rosenfield, resident.

Summary: Temporary solution will need to support the growth – existing conduits over existing and slated for next year. Test pits, existing duct banks and where don't have spares will. Prospect Street and Harvard Street point a to point b. Adam Rosenfield expressed concerns as to the timeline, mitigation measures Eversource would implement and access to their home.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of: mill and overlay curb to curb and full restoration of sidewalks and crosswalks; Eversource must communicate with the all residents of the impacted streets as to when the work may impact access; and Eversource is required to obtain police detail and coordinate with them to allow residents to access their homes.

- 13. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - May 16, 2024.**

Decision: Approved.

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Minutes Approved: July 18, 2024

MM___MM/

Minutes Posted: July 18, 2024

TJS___TJS/