

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

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 February 13, 2025 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 January Minutes
<i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i> | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 4. Presentation on City-Wide Pedestrian
Network Inventory and Assessment
<i>See page 7 of this agenda packet for presentation</i> | 45 min. | Jim Wilcox,
Department of Public Works (DPW) |
| 5. Chair's Report
<i>Reports from Working Groups</i> | 10 min. | Keisha Greaves |
| 6. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Melissa Miguel |
| 7. Staff Report | 5 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 8. 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://www.streamtext.net/player?event=CCPDMEETING>.

(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, March 13, 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

Instructions for Joining the February 13, 2025 CCPD Meeting as a Member of the Public

Join Online:

Registration is required to view the meeting or to participate in public comment. Register online at https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7CeWPt07TiCs2fOLR90eYQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information regarding Zoom technology visit:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/citycouncil/zoomonlinemeetinginstructions>

Join by Phone:

If you do not have access to the internet, you may also call into the meeting using a phone by dialing any of the following numbers and entering the Webinar ID (registration is not required). For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location:

+1 309 205 3325

+1 312 626 6799

+1 646 931 3860

+1 929 436 2866

+1 301 715 8592

+1 669 900 6833

+1 719 359 4580

+1 253 215 8782

+1 346 248 7799

+1 386 347 5053

+1 564 217 2000

+1 669 444 9171

When prompted, enter the webinar ID: **870 5785 2739**

NOTE: your microphone will be automatically muted until you are called on to speak during the public comment period of the meeting. See instructions on the following page for how to “raise your hand” to indicate that you would like to speak during the public comment period on the agenda.

Instructions for Providing Public Comment During CCPD Meetings via Zoom

Anyone wishing to address the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) during the Public Comment section of the agenda may indicate that by "raising their hand" virtually within the Zoom platform. The host (CCPD staff) will call on members of the public to speak in the order in which their hands were raised. Please note that while you may raise your hand at any point during the meeting, you will not be called on to speak until the Public Comment period of the meeting.

To raise your hand:

- On a Mac or PC:
 - Click "raise hand" in the webinar control panel
 - Alternatively, you may use the keyboard shortcut to raise and lower your hand:
 - Windows: press "Alt+Y"
 - Mac: press "Option+Y"
 - When you are called on by the host to speak, you will be prompted to unmute your microphone (you must unmute yourself, as the host does not have the ability to unmute individuals).
 - After you have spoken or once your 3 minutes are up, your microphone will be muted by the host
- If you are calling in by phone:
 - Press *9 to raise and lower your hand
 - When you are called on to speak during the public comment period, you will need to press *6 to unmute yourself (press it again to mute yourself)
 - Note: your phone number will be visible to only the host of the meeting (CCPD staff). Because your name will not be displayed, we will call on you when it's your turn to comment by using the last four (4) numbers of your phone number to identify you. For example, "The person calling in from the number ending in ####, you may now provide public comment."
 - After you have spoken or once your 3 minutes are up, your microphone will be muted by the host

Once they have the floor, members of the public are asked to identify themselves, and each speaker is limited to not more than three (3) minutes. Although the public comments should, whenever possible, address one or more items on the agenda for that particular meeting, if time permits, the Chair may allow a speaker to comment on matters that may not directly address an item on the agenda, but do concern the Commission.

Thank you for your patience as we work together to make virtual meetings accessible for everyone!

Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, January 9, 2025 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM

Present:

Members: Keisha Greaves, Deepti Nijhawan, Melissa Miguel, Avril dePagter, Zach Solomons, Rayna Jhaveri, Loring Brinckerhoff, Emma Pan

Absent: Danielle Jones McLaughlin, Dan Stubbs

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus

Announcements:

- The Cambridge Public Health Department will hold a focus group for persons with disabilities on physical activities on Saturday, January 25 at 2:30 pm at the Valente branch of the Cambridge Public Library. People with disabilities and their caregivers are invited to participate in a compensated, in-person focus group. Registration is required.

Approval of Minutes:

- November minutes were approved unanimously.
- December minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report:

Updates on Work with MIT Job Connector:

Rachel researched some questions posed to her by the employment working group and the folks at the MIT Job Connector.

- Harvard University as a whole does not specifically have job matching programs on- or off-campus for students with disabilities, but the Harvard Business school has a job matching program for people with disabilities through Jewish Family and Children's Services.
- Concerns posed at a City Council meeting by the City Manager regarding a proposal to establish a Job Trust were not related to the existence of the Job Trust itself, but to its proposed source of funding. Cambridge already has higher fees for developers than any of its neighbors and the City Manager expressed that adding to those fees at a time when Cambridge is already predicting a drop-off in development over the next few years might not be a wise move fiscally. No issue was raised with the Job Trust itself. City Council voted to begin the lengthy home rule process necessary for establishing the Job Trust and will determine where funding would come from once that process was a little further along. The Job Trust is likely to be created at some point.

Board members asked about the possibility of inviting the City Manager to a CCPD meeting. Keisha mentioned that she frequently e-mails him and that others could contact him with concerns.

CCPD Retreat Planning

Avril, Keisha, Rayna, and Danielle are on the planning committee for the next CCPD Board retreat. Possible dates include May 3, May 10, or May 31.

Public Works Update:

On-going construction:

- **Port Infrastructure Project- Harvard St.:**
 - No winter month construction
 - Will resume next year
- **River Street:**
 - Utility work to continue along River St throughout the winter, as weather permits.
 - 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:**
 - **CONTRACT COMPLETE**
- **Binney Street Park:**
 - **CONTRACT COMPLETE**
 - **PARK OPEN**
- **Harvard Sq. Plaza:**
 - Dunster St detour to end on Tues 11/19, mid-morning
 - Mobilized to Phase I early January
 - Phase I duration - ~ 11 weeks
 - Phase I involves curb and sidewalk replacement, utility installations and conduit work
 - 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
 - Some sidewalk work remains
 - Final paving Spring 2025
 - Webster Ave – Complete
 - Dodge Street
 - Final roadway in this contract
 - Contractor will mobilize spring 2025 with a winter 2025 completion date
- **Chapter 90, Contract 25-** Contract has been awarded to Newport Construction
 - Utility work ongoing on **Maple Ave**
 - Utility work to commence on **Montgomery Ave** in February 2025
 - 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 work will begin early 2025. **Contract is currently in the process of being awarded.**

- **Chapter 90, Contract 26-** Second round of community meetings will start up late March 2025 and continue through May. Expected bid date: late summer 2025
 - 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

If you are interested in receiving email notifications/updates for Chapter 90 - Contract 26, please email Melissa Miguel, P.E. at mmiguel@cambridgema.gov and you will be added to the contact list.

Reminder: Sidewalk ordinance for snow removal

12.16.110 - Sidewalks—Snow and ice removal.

Removal of Snow from Sidewalks. The owner or occupant of private property bordering on a street where there is a sidewalk or footway shall, within twelve hours after snow ceases to fall in the daytime and before one p.m. after a fall of snow during the night, cause all snow that may be on such sidewalk or footway to be removed therefrom. In the event of an unusually heavy snowfall, the time limit shall be extended at the discretion of the Commissioner of Public Works. The provisions of this section shall apply to snow which falls from buildings as well as to that which falls from the clouds.

Removal of Ice from Sidewalks. The owner or occupant of private property bordering on a street where there is a sidewalk or footway any portion of which is encumbered by ice shall within six hours after the sidewalk or footway becomes encumbered with ice cause such sidewalk or footway to be made safe and convenient by removing the ice therefrom, or by keeping the same covered with sand or some other suitable substance.

To report an icy sidewalk, use the SeeClickFix App or call DPW at **617-349-4800**.

Staff Report:

Rachel Tanenhaus reported

- Rachel has been participating in the Community Based Advisory Committee for Mount Auburn Hospital.
- Since less construction goes on in the winter, Cambridge hasn't been receiving as many MA Architectural Access Board (MAAB) variance requests lately.

Public Comment:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Tanenhaus

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

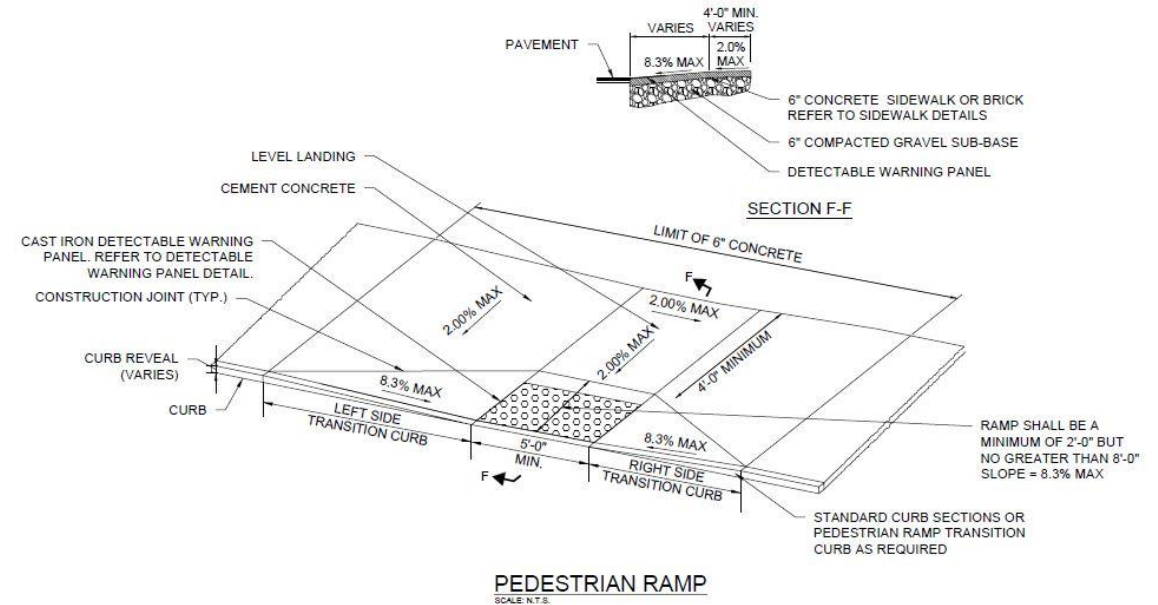
City-Wide Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

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Public Right of Way- Federal and State Accessibility Requirements

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
- Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
- Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Regulations (AAB) – 521 CMR

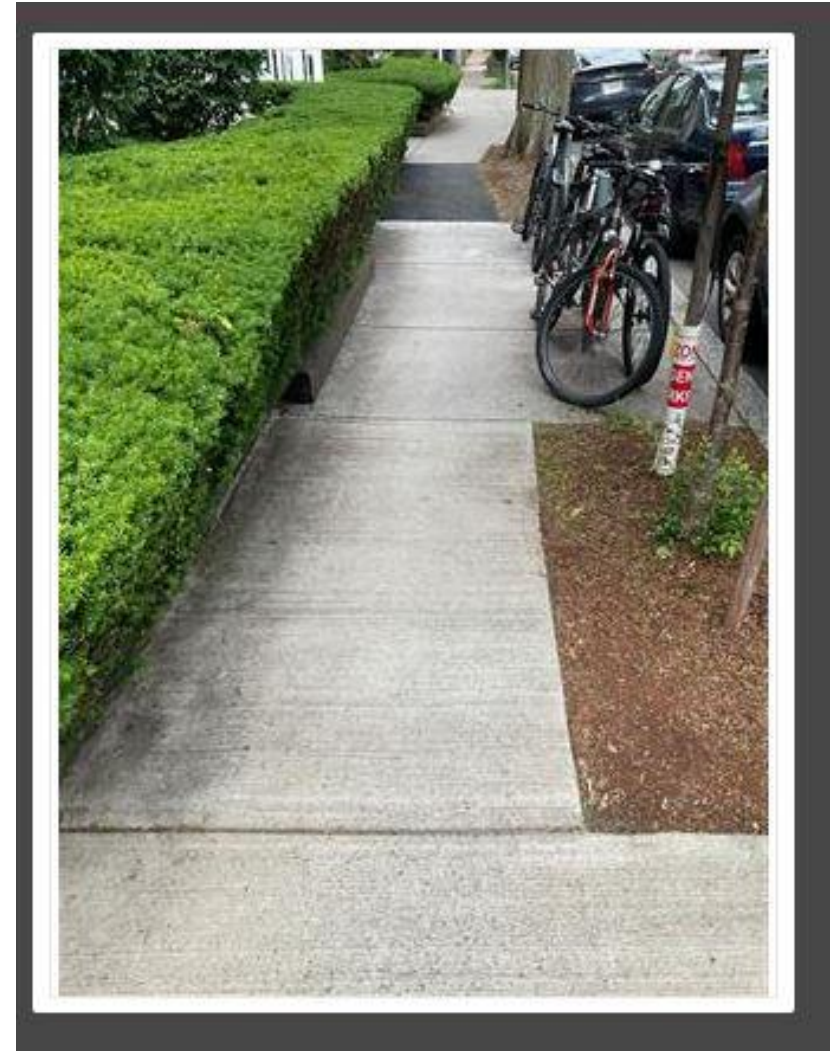


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Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

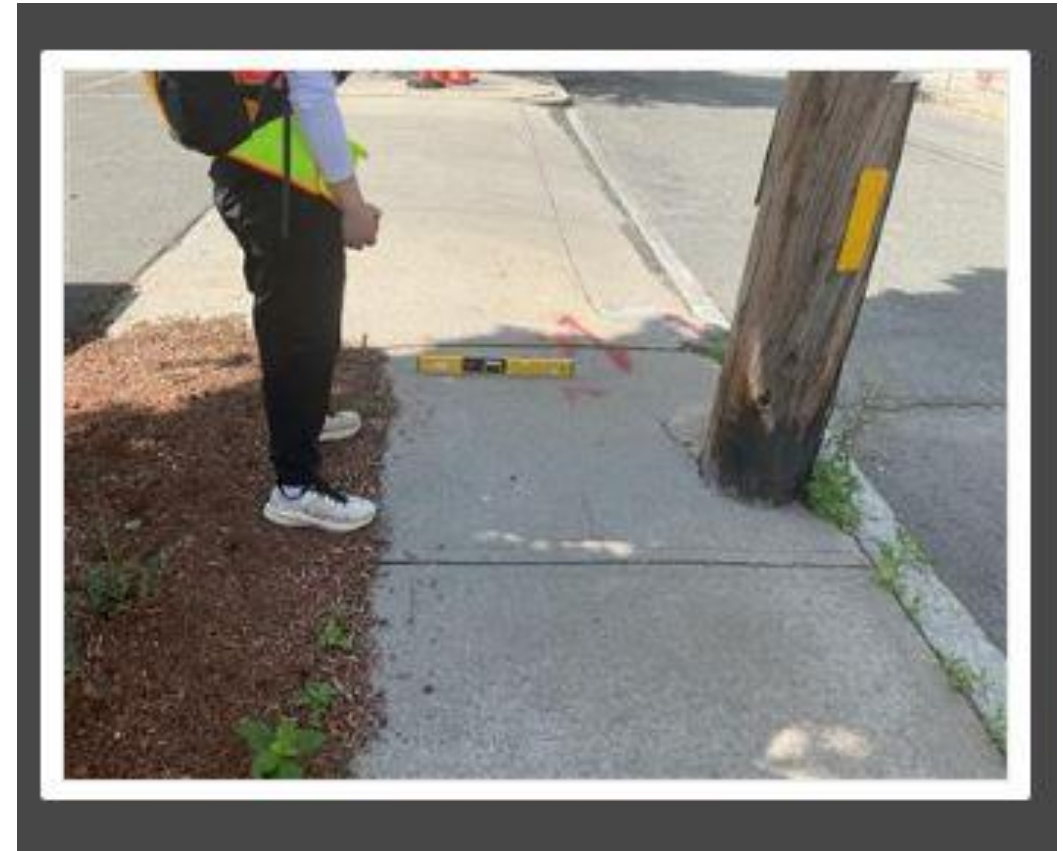
- City-wide inventory of City owned public right of ways
- All sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks
- Assessed condition based on PROWAG criteria
- Work completed during the Summer of 2024
- Did not include State right of ways and private ways



Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

PROWAG Criteria for Sidewalks

- Continuous clear width = 48" (exclusive of curb)
- Passing Spaces required if clear width is less than 60"
- Grade (running slope)= 5.0% or not to exceed grade of street
- Cross Slope= 1:48 (2.1%) maximum
- Surface must be stable, firm and slip resistant
- Changes in Level= ¼ inch



Pedestrian Network Inventory Assessment

Condition Ratings for Sidewalks

Good condition

- No surface distresses other than minor blemishes
- Less than 10% of sidewalk segment needs to be replaced

Fair condition

- Surface distresses present, but minimal impedance
- 10% - 50% of sidewalk segment needs to be replaced

Poor condition

- Frequent surface distresses
- Many cracks, depressions, bumps, patches, tree roots
- 10% - 50% of sidewalk segment needs to be replaced



Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

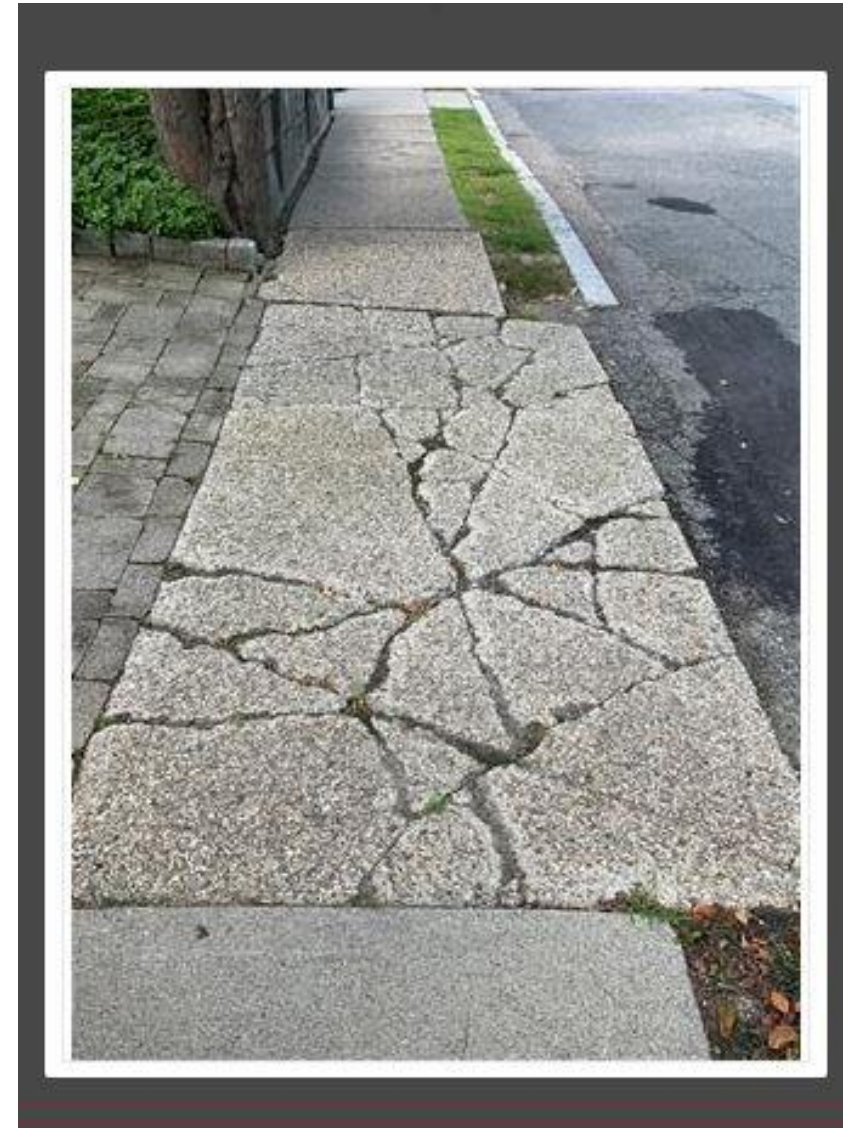
Sidewalk Results – 185 miles inspected

Materials

- 138.35 miles of concrete sidewalk
- 43.44 miles of brick sidewalk
- 3.25 miles of asphalt sidewalks

Condition

- 79.57 miles in good condition
- 91.49 miles in fair condition
- 13.98 miles in poor condition



Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

Sidewalk Results – Observed Issues

Obstruction Issues= 6,004-point locations

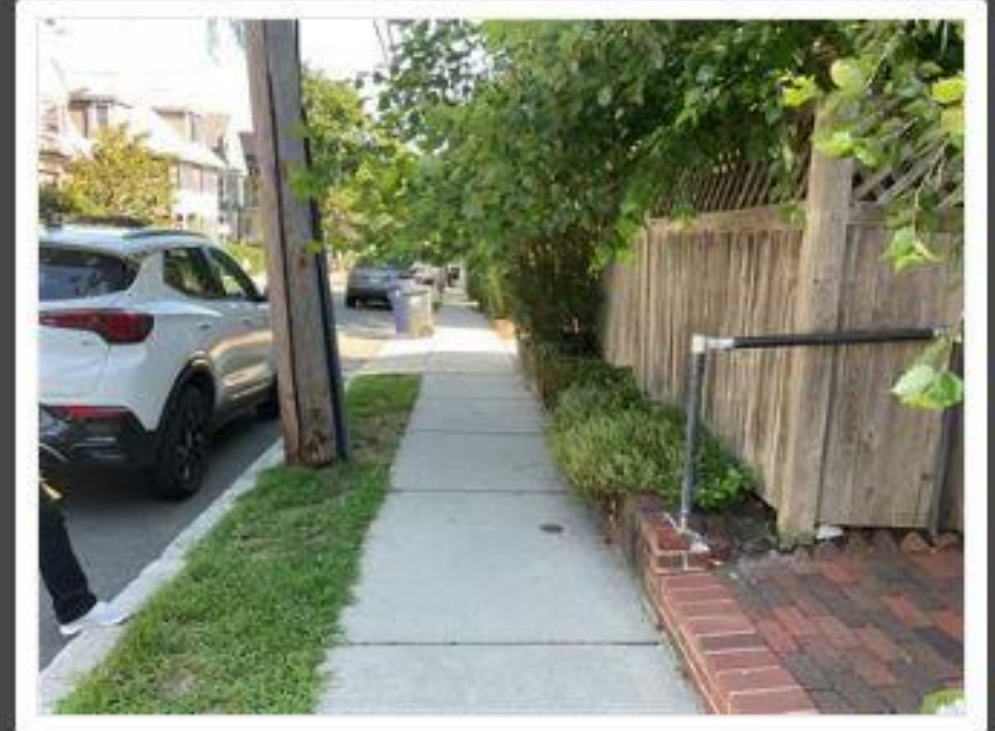
- Hydrants
- Utility poles
- Trees

Structural Issues = 4,038-point locations

- Depressions
- Lifting Panels
- Cracking

Maintenance Issues = 309-point locations

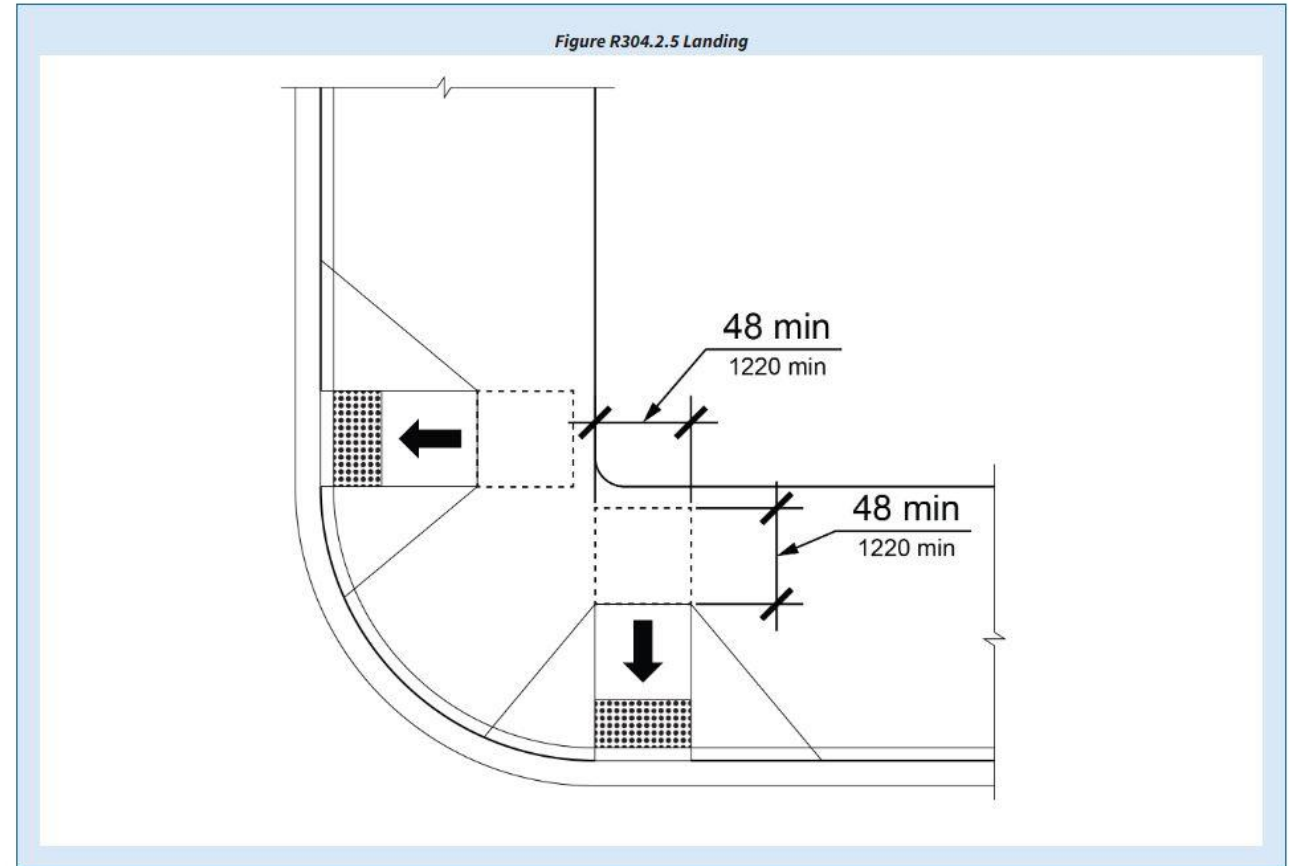
- Overhanging trees
- Overhanging shrubs
- Cracking



Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

PROWAG Criteria for Curb Ramps

- Continuous clear width = 48"
- Grade (running slope)= 8.3% maximum
- Cross Slope= 1:48 (2.1%) maximum
- Landing= 48" x 48" minimum
- Surface must be stable, firm and slip resistant
- Must have a detectable warning surface



Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

Curb Ramp Types



Perpendicular Ramp



Continuous Ramp



Parallel Ramp

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Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

Curb Ramp Results – 5,193 inspected

Materials

- 4,740 concrete ramps
- 263 brick ramps
- 118 asphalt ramps

Condition

- 2,305 in good condition
- 2,373 in fair condition
- 443 in poor condition

Compliance (PROWAG criteria)

- 1,114 compliant ramps
- 3,362 non-compliant ramps
- 645 retrofit ramps



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Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

PROWAG Criteria for Crosswalks

- Continuous clear width = 60"
- Grade (running slope)= 5.0% maximum
- Cross Slope= 5.0 %maximum
- Surface must be stable, firm and slip resistant
- Must have pavement markings



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Pedestrian Network Inventory and Assessment

Crosswalk Results – 5,193 inspected

Materials

- 2,368 asphalt crosswalks
- 62 brick crosswalks

Condition

- 1,090 in good condition
- 1,087 in fair condition
- 253 in poor condition

Compliance (PROWAG criteria)

- 1,886 compliant crosswalks
- 544 non-compliant crosswalks



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City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works

Five Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan



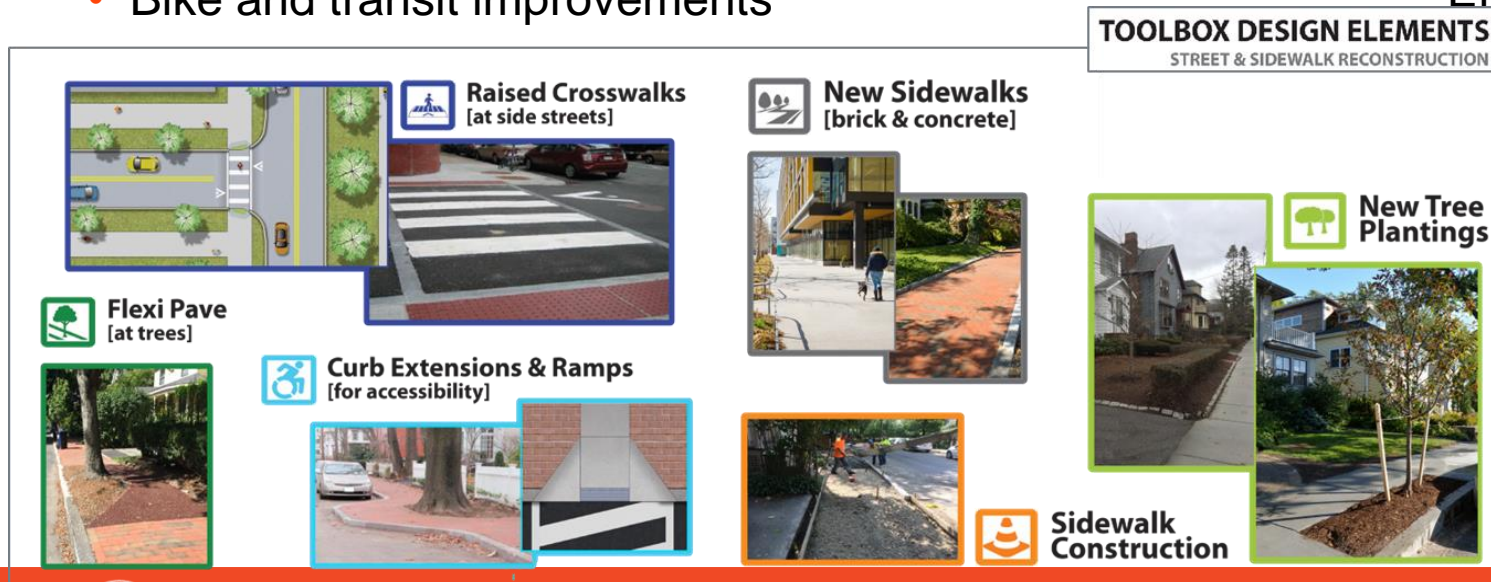
Programs: Street & Sidewalk

Street and sidewalk construction projects generally include:

- Paving
- Sidewalk and pedestrian ramps
- Traffic calming
- Street trees
- Stormwater management and green infrastructure
- Bike and transit improvements

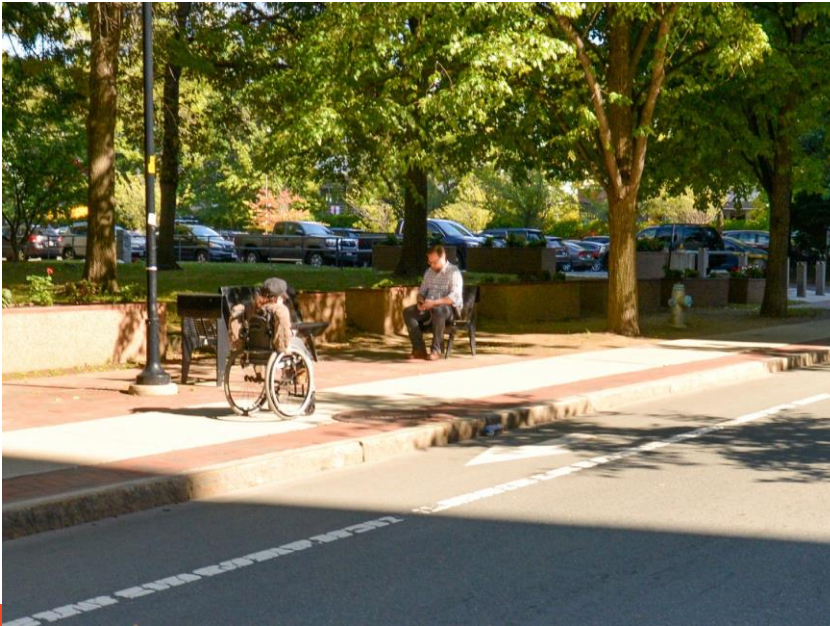
The City actively maintains and ensures safe, accessible City-owned street and sidewalks by:

- Conducting pothole repairs
- Paving streets through Miscellaneous Patch Contract
- Removing sidewalk obstructions, such as botanical, bicycle, signs, etc.
- Enforcing snow and ice removal



PROGRAMS: ANNUAL SIDEWALK CONTRACTS

- Budget: \$1,500,000 per year
- Program is used to address discrete sections of sidewalk throughout the City.
- Repairs typically a block in length but can be as small as one panel.
- Priority given to sidewalks and curb cuts in High Priority Areas, and as identified by **Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the DPW**.
- The DPW makes smaller repairs throughout the year to maintain accessibility across the City.
- Portion of Miscellaneous Sidewalk Program funding reserved for **sidewalks and curb cuts** where access is of acute importance.
- If you know of a location that is a critical access issue and is not addressed in the Five-Year Plan, please contact the Commission.



Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Rachel Tanenhaus, Executive Director
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator

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www.cambridgema.gov/disabilities



Redesign Streets and Sidewalks

Large capital project in **the Port** that will include reconstructing many streets and sidewalks. Many of which are very narrow and make it challenging to plant trees and provide accessible sidewalks. Through the community design process, **shared streets** are being considered.



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Questions

James Wilcox, City Engineer
jwilcox@cambridgema.gov
617-349-6426

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