- Conceptual Streetscape Master Plan
- Community vision
- Cambridge Common to Porter Square
3 Primary Areas of Focus

1. Neighborhood Identity and Culture
2. Streetscape and Landscape
3. Pedestrian Safety and Transportation
1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture

- Lower Massachusetts Avenue is one piece of a larger whole
- State numbered Route 2A
- Boston-Cambridge orienting spine
- Project area is walkable (3/4 mile= 15 minutes)
1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture –
*Rich & Lively Shopping District*

- Retail & Restaurant frontages
- Local Services
- Multi-cultural establishments
- Opportunities for additional uses
1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture –
   People

- Local residents/mixed-age groups
- University students & faculty
- Multi-cultural population
1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture – Porter Square & Porter Square Station

- Project Anchor
- MBTA Red Line Station / Commuter Rail
- Lower plaza sub-spaces
- Opportunity for program uses
- Deferred maintenance/social issues

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1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture –

*Cambridge Common*

- Project Anchor
- Iconic Historic Landscape
- Planned improvements (2012)
- Future program activities
- Passive & Active Recreational Space
Pedestrian connections between Mass. Ave. and Quad open spaces
Harvard Law School Campus Improvements
Significant Architecture

1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture – Harvard University

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1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture – Lesley University

- Pedestrian connections between Mass. Ave. and Campus
- Main Campus (Victorian Buildings)
- Porter Campus – University Hall & Art Institute expansion

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• Existing Public Art Installations
• Art Opportunities
• Expanded Arts Community
• Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center
• Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University (Prospect Hall site)

1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture – Celebration of the Arts

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1. Neighborhood Identity & Culture – Rich History

- Early Newtowne
- City of Cambridge
- Cambridge Common
- Harvard University & Lesley University
2. Streetscape & Landscape
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Lighting*
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Signage*

- Regulatory Signage
- Interpretive/Educational
- Community Bulletin Boards
- Wayfinding

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2. Streetscape & Landscape

Sidewalks

- Sidewalk width varies
- 11-13' average
- Narrow at some locations (6-7')
2. Streetscape & Landscape

Sidewalk Zones
2. Streetscape & Landscape

Sidewalks
2. Streetscape & Landscape

Street Trees – Existing Conditions

2010 Tree Study – Massachusetts Ave
- 32 Large Canopy Trees (covers both sides of sidewalk)
- 63 Small/Medium Canopy Trees
- 26 Damaged/Highly Questionable
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Trees*

- Soil volume relationship to healthy trees
- Street tree average life span
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Trees – Soil Volume*

Soil Volume = 120 cubic feet

Soil Volume = 500 cubic feet

Soil Volume = 1000 cubic feet

*Source: Casey Trees – Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box, 2008*
Open Soil Area
An unpaved area of soil surrounding a tree, which contains existing, new or amended soil. An open soil area may be planted or covered with mulch. Open soil areas reduce impervious surface and stormwater runoff.

Open soil areas can be continuous or separated by pavement. Open soil areas can be planted with groundcover, ornamental plants or grass or covered with mulch as shown in the images above.

Source: Casey Trees – Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box, 2008

2. Streetscape & Landscape
Street Trees
Root Paths

constructed paths that use aeration or drainage strips to give roots a way to grow out of the tree space and under pavement in order to access better planting soils. root paths can connect tree spaces and adjacent green spaces.

root paths under construction, shown in ground trench (above left) and extending out from a tree space (middle, photos courtesy of James Urban). root paths run under the pavement to connect tree spaces to landscape areas (above right).

Source: Casey Trees - Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box, 2008

2. Streetscape & Landscape

Street Trees

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2. Streetscape & Landscape

Street Trees

A variety of pavements, both solid and permeable, can be used to create a covered tree space. Pavers, such as granite cobbles and permeable paver blocks (shown above left and middle), placed with gaps between the stones allow water to flow to the soil below. Grates can be used as a soil covering when they are not immediately adjacent to the tree.

Source: Casey Trees – Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box, 2008
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Trees*
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Trees*

- Species Selection
- Variety to avoid monoculture
- Opportunities to plant back of sidewalk
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Trees – Potential Conflicts*

- Catenary Wires
- Tree Pit Size
- Underground Utilities

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• Maximize Open Space Opportunities
• Create additional planting buffers

2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Landscape Improvements*
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Landscape Improvements*

Potential viability for median plantings
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Green Streets & Stormwater Management*

- Curb Cuts
- Rain Gardens
- Porous Pavements
2. Streetscape & Landscape

*Street Furnishings*

- Planters
- Benches/conversational seating
- Litter Receptacles
- Bike Parking
2. Streetscape & Landscape

Specialty Improvements & Art Elements

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Multi-modal balance between cars, pedestrians, bikes & transit

3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

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3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

Bicycle Safety & Circulation

- Bike Accommodations - planning underway
- Bike parking
- Potential Bike Share Program
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Mass Transit*

- Bus Stops & Shelters
- Bus Lay By
- Porter Square T-Station & Commuter Rail Connections
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Pedestrian Safety*

- Strengthen visibility of pedestrians on sidewalks
- Potential for curb extensions
- Potential for mid-block pedestrian crosswalks
- Comply with Federal, State and ADA regulations
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Planned Intersection Improvements*
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Planned Intersection Improvements*
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Planned Intersection Improvements*

Shepard & Wendell St.

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3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Planned Intersection Improvements*
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

Planned Intersection Improvements
3. Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

*Planned Intersection Improvements*
Putting It All Together

Coming soon!

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