



- Conceptual Streetscape Master Plan
- Community vision
- Harvard to Porter Squares

PUBLIC MEETING # 2

May 4, 2011

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE STREETScape MASTER PLAN: Harvard to Porter Squares
City of Cambridge - Community Development Department

What we heard . . .

Community Goals

I. REVIEW AND IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL MODES

Review and improve safety for all modes with emphasis on more and better unsignalized pedestrian crossing, bicycle facilities, access improvements, signage on rules

II. SUPPORT DIVERSITY OF BUSINESSES AND RETAILERS

Create visual interest on the street through design options such as changes to parking, adding street furniture and new lighting, decorative accent paving, increased sidewalk dining including temporary options

III. PROMOTE NEIGHBORHOOD STREET CHARACTER

Create more of a neighborhood street with more green space, trees, enhanced casual encounters, and lighting (less like a wide, high-speed/volume roadway)

IV. ENHANCE THE SENSE OF PLACE AND IDENTITY OF THE CORRIDOR

Layer actions that build on its varied character

I. IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



I. Improve Safety for all Modes of Transportation

Support Diverse Businesses

Promote Neighborhood Street Character

IV. Enhance Sense of Place and Identity

I. IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

- Planned intersection improvements
 1. Roseland St
 2. Linnaean St. / Exeter Park
 3. Garfield St .
 4. Shepard St. / Wendell St.
 5. Waterhouse St
- Widen sidewalk at pinch points
- Bike Lanes
- Curb Extensions
- MBTA bus stops

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1. Roseland St. Intersection

- crosswalks to be designed and completed by Lesley

- Evaluate potential for mid-block crossings at Lancaster St. Intersection based on success/effectiveness of improvements at Garfield St



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2. Linnaean St./Exeter Pk. Intersection

- New Crosswalks
- Curb Extension on north side of Linnaean

3. Garfield St. Intersection

- Move crosswalk
- Add curb extensions
- Add pedestrian-activated rapid flash beacon
- Move bus stop



Pedestrian-activated rapid flash beacon at 6th & Binney St.

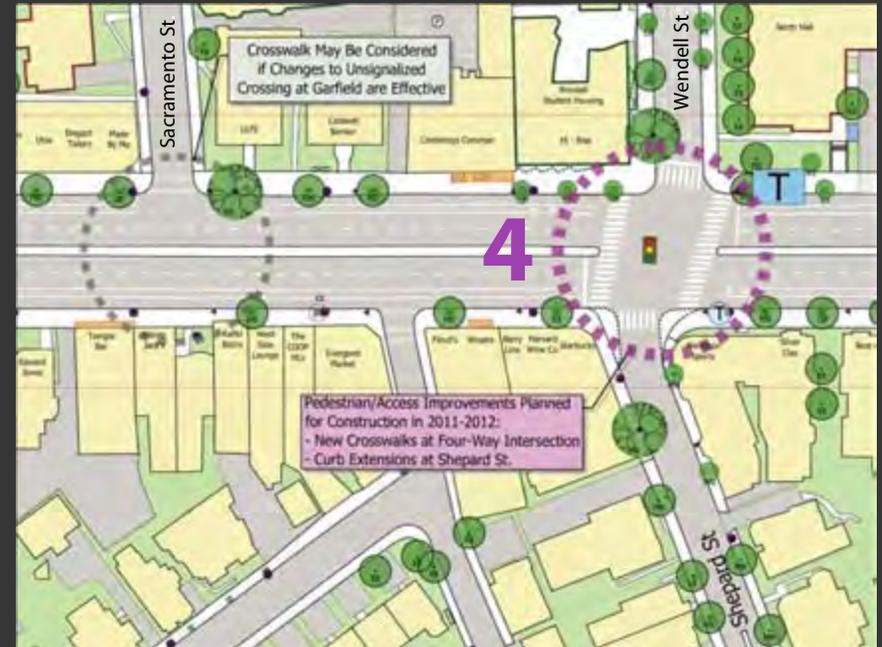


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- Evaluate potential for mid-block crossing at Sacramento St. Intersection based on success/ effectiveness of improvements at Garfield St

4. Shepard & Wendell St. Intersection

- New crosswalks
- Curb extensions on Shepard St



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- *Chauncy & Everett St. Intersection - new crosswalks completed by Harvard*

5. Waterhouse St. Intersection

- Add crosswalks
- Straighten & shorten crossings
- Curb extensions



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Widen sidewalks at pinch points

- Look at options in front of Commonwealth Lock (next to Porter Square)
- MBTA bus stop and air intake vents across from Harvard Law School

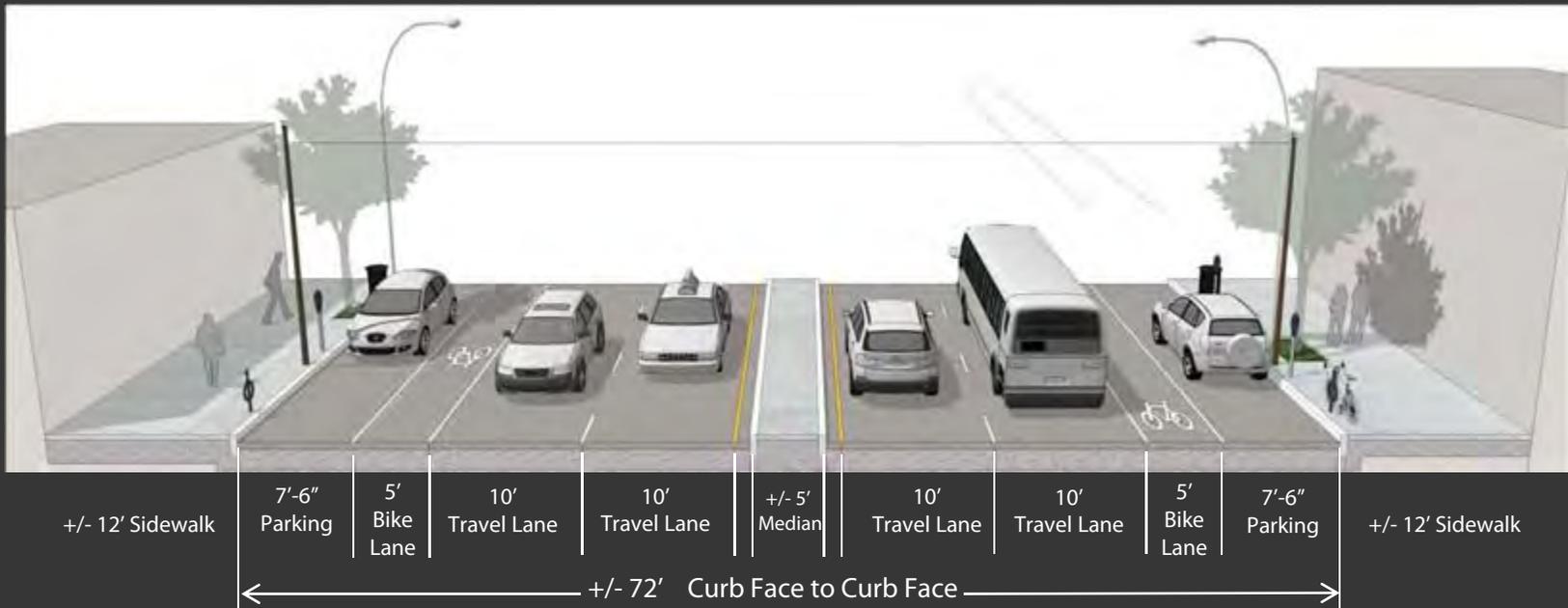


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Bike Lanes

Proposed Roadway Section (Typical)

- No change in roadway, median or sidewalk widths
- Reallocation of roadway

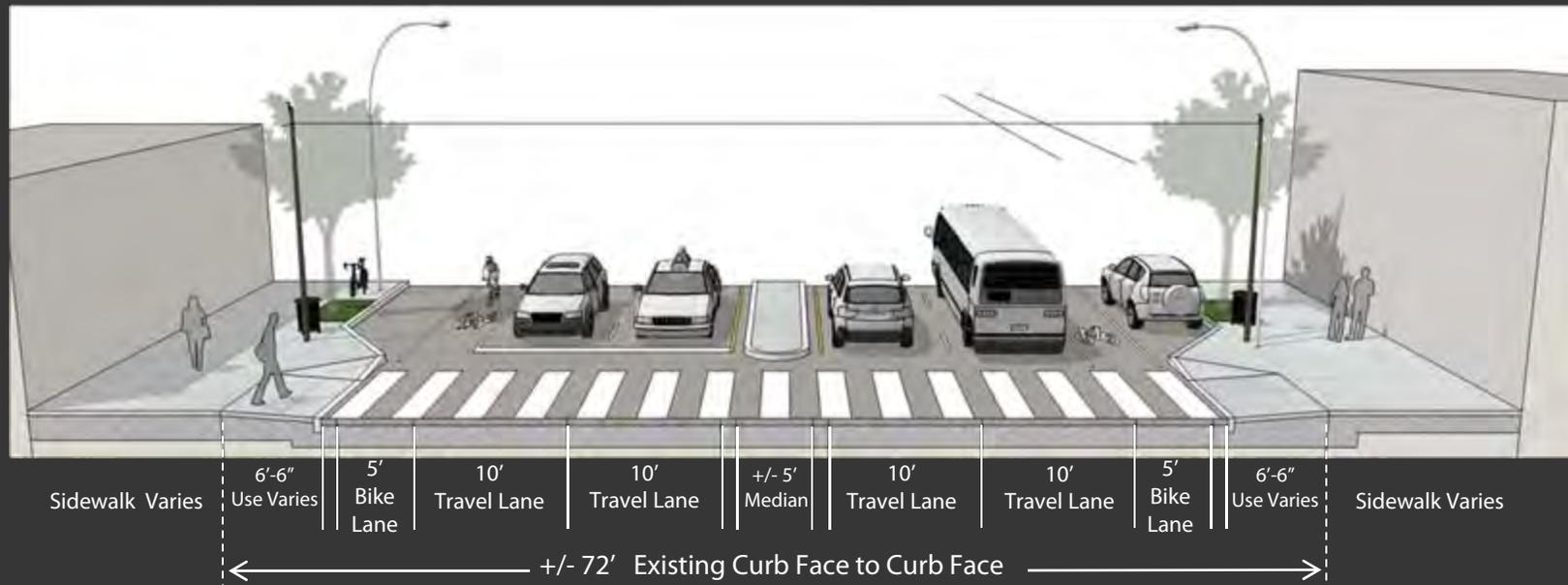


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Curb Extensions

Proposed Roadway Section at Curb Extensions (Typical)

- Roadway width narrows at curb extensions (curb face to curb face dimension varies)
- Sidewalk widens at curb extensions
- Crosswalk shortens at curb extensions



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MBTA Bus Stops

- Review distribution/locations of existing bus stops
- Review opportunities to provide additional benches and/or bus shelters at bus stop locations



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II. SUPPORT THE DIVERSITY OF BUSINESSES AND LOCAL SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES



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- Curb Uses
- Seating
- Lighting

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Curb Uses

- Credit card meters
- Curb regulations
 - Metered Parking
 - Loading Zones
 - Bus Stops
- Parking space size/consolidate spaces
- Bike parking
 - Locations to add single & multiple bike racks
 - Bike share program at Porter Square is an option



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Seating



- Café Seating
- Seasonal café seating/
- Benches
- Bus shelters



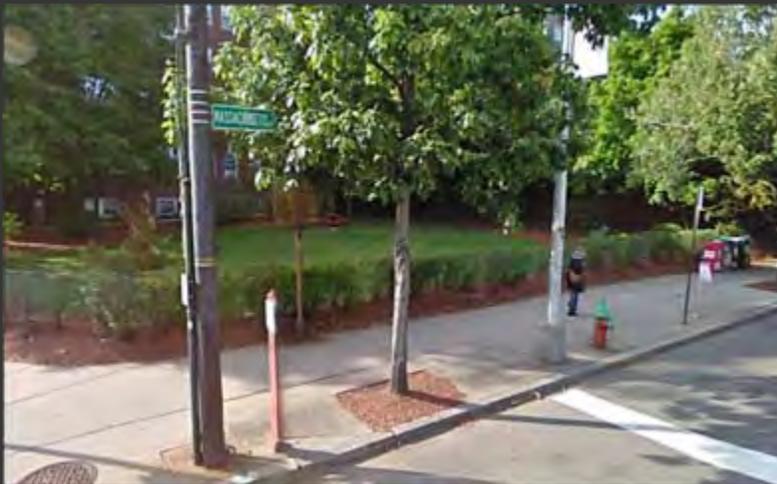
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III. PROMOTE NEIGHBORHOOD STREET CHARACTER

- Sidewalk & Street Furnishings
- Lighting
- Street Trees
- Landscape Enhancement Opportunities
- Landscape Improvements

Improve Safety for all Modes of Transportation

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Sidewalk & Street Furnishings

- Create aesthetic continuity
 - Sidewalk pavement/accent paving
 - Furnishings (benches, trash cans)
 - Planters
 - Bike racks



Improve Safety for all Modes of Transportation

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Lighting

- Cobrahead
- 1907 Teardrop Replica
- Acorn
- Review LEDs



Cobrahead



1907 Teardrop Replica



Acorn Post Top



LED

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Street Trees

2011 Tree Field Survey Results

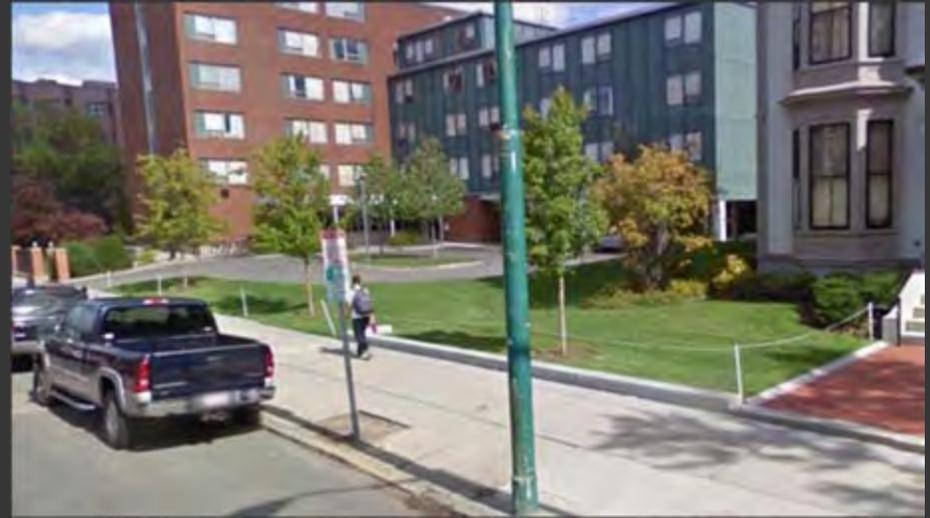
- 125 Existing Trees
- 9 Empty Tree Pits
- 25 Trees with potential to remove & replace
- 32 Potential new tree locations



Improve Safety for all Modes of Transportation	Support Diverse Businesses	Promote Neighborhood Street Character	Enhance Sense of Place and Identity
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Street Trees

- Increase quantity of large canopy trees
 - Plant trees in existing empty tree pits
 - Identify & create new tree pit locations to plant more trees within sidewalk zone
 - Plant trees at back of sidewalk/private property
 - Remove and replace diseased/dying trees



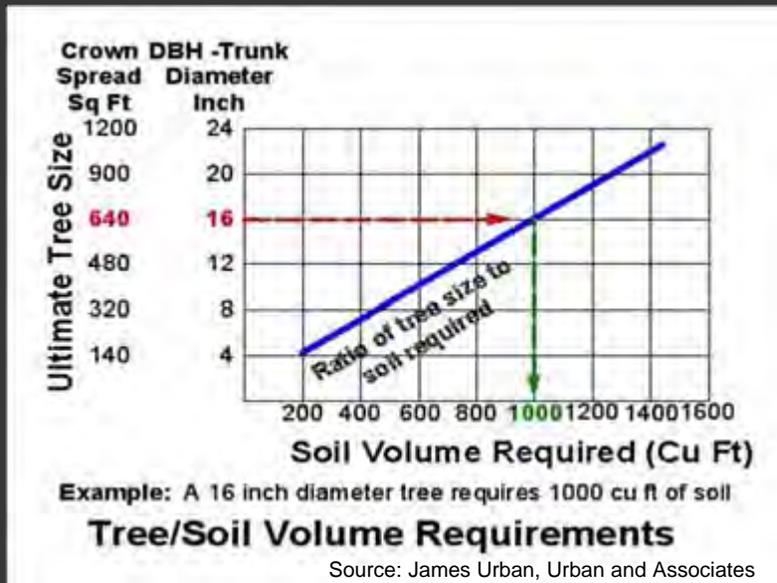
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Street Trees



Soil volume relationship to healthy street trees

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Street Trees

This report focuses on increased soil volumes as one of the best ways to enable larger and healthier trees in cities. Soil volume recommendations range from a minimum of 400 cubic feet to more than 1000 cubic feet based on the sidewalk width.

estimated crown spread =
10 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 120 cubic feet

estimated crown spread =
21 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 500 cubic feet

estimated crown spread =
30 feet diameter



Soil Volume = 1000 cubic feet

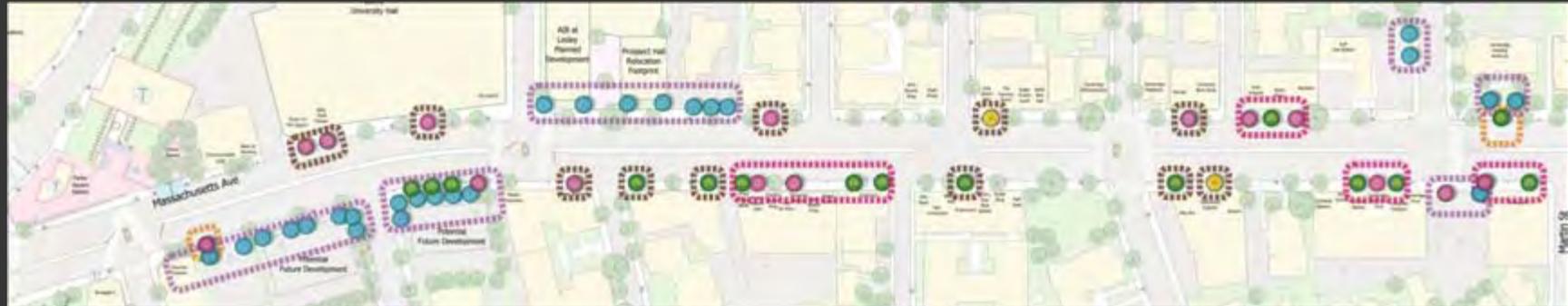
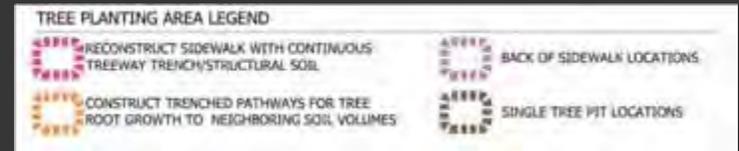
Source: Casey Trees – Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box, 2008

Increase planting spaces/soil volume for tree roots to promote healthier, longer-lived trees.

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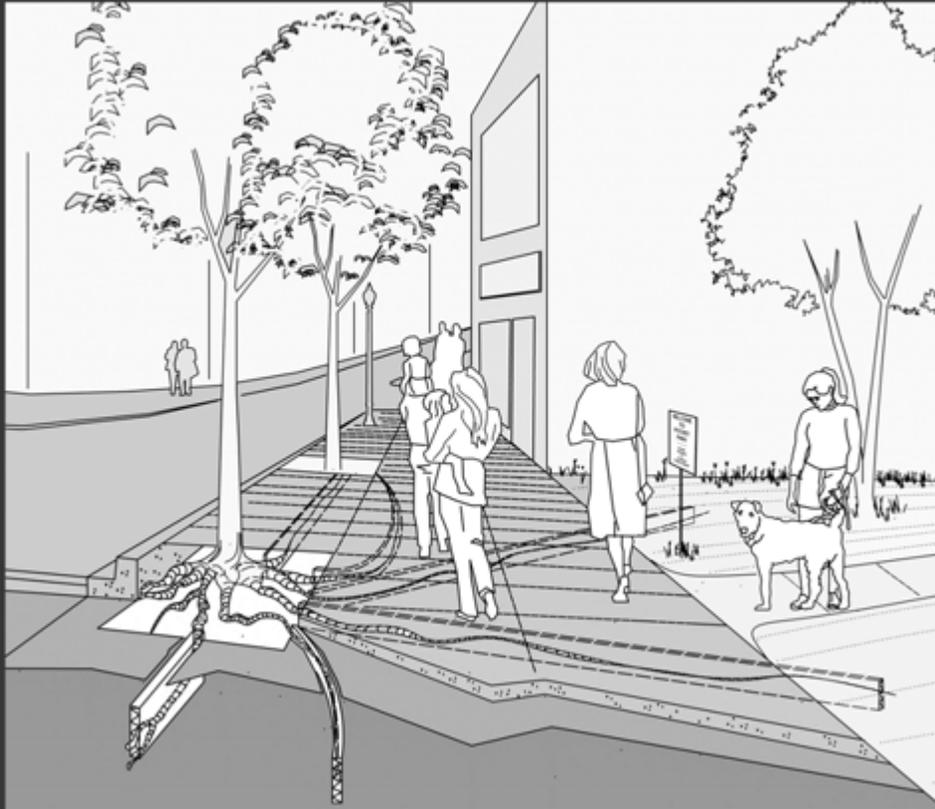
Street Trees

- 4 planting area conditions
 - Single isolated tree pits
 - Back of sidewalk locations
 - Tree pits close to larger soil volumes
 - Multiple tree planting opportunities within a whole block



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Street Trees



Root paths

- Roots follow trenched channel under sidewalk to neighboring soil volumes

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Street Trees



Sand-based Structural Soil

- Growing medium that can be compacted to support sidewalk pavements

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Street Trees



Silva Cells

- Structural supports carry sidewalk loads
- Tree soil medium is not compacted
- Expense may be cost prohibitive

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Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

Potential locations include:

- Porter Square Plaza (MBTA)
- Area in front of North Hall (Harvard)
- Area in front of Cambridge Housing Authority
- North corner of Linnaean St (private property)
- Area across from Harvard Law School (Little Mass Ave, city-owned)



Porter Square

Corner of Linnaean St



North Hall



Cambridge Housing Authority



Across from Harvard Law School (Little Mass Ave)

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Landscape Improvements

- Identify locations for possible buffer/screening plantings
- Identify locations for possible greenwalls
- Potted planter program



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Multiple street identities

- Historical signs/ pavement markings
- Opportunities for more arts and culture
 - Performances/opportunities for space and programming
 - Permanent public art
- Consistent signage (wayfinding, district, historical, streets)



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BREAKOUT GROUPS



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