

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking, and Transportation
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joe Barr, Director
FROM: Dana Benjamin, Traffic Engineer
Cc: Brooke McKenna, Assistant Director for Street Management; Patrick Baxter, Engineering Manager; Stephen Meuse, Traffic Engineer
DATE: December 7th, 2017
RE: Cambridge Street Data

The Cambridge Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department installed separated bike lanes (supplemented with flexible delineators and segments with parking protection) on Cambridge Street between Quincy Street and Fayette Street in late-August / early-September. Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATR) collected speed, volume, and classification data (midblock, between Dana Street and Ellery Street) before and after the implementation to evaluate the operational effects. The results are outlined below.

ATR data were taken June 20th-21st & October 11th-13th before and after the addition of the buffered bike facilities. The pre-construction 85th and 95th percentile speeds were 31 mph and 35 mph, respectively. The post-construction 85th and 95th percentile speeds were 25 mph and 28 mph, respectively, suggesting that the bike facilities contributed to a significant reduction in vehicle speed. Figure 1 shows the data outlined above.

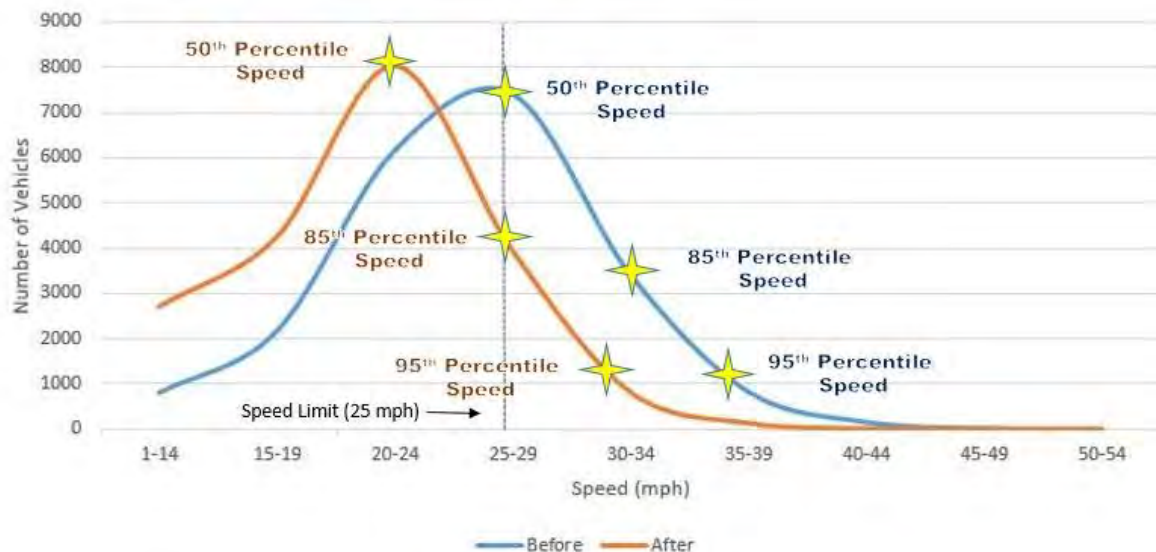


Figure 1: Cambridge Street Speeds

The data shows a slight reduction in truck traffic along Cambridge Street, more pronounced in the westbound direction, following the project. ATR classification counts taken in June show seven percent of total eastbound traffic as cars/heavy trucks. October classification counts for the eastbound direction show six percent heavy trucks. Westbound, the June data has a breakdown of eleven percent trucks. Post-construction, westbound, the October counts show six percent trucks.