



**River Street  
Reconstruction**



# Public Meeting #1

March 26, 2019

# Today's Agenda

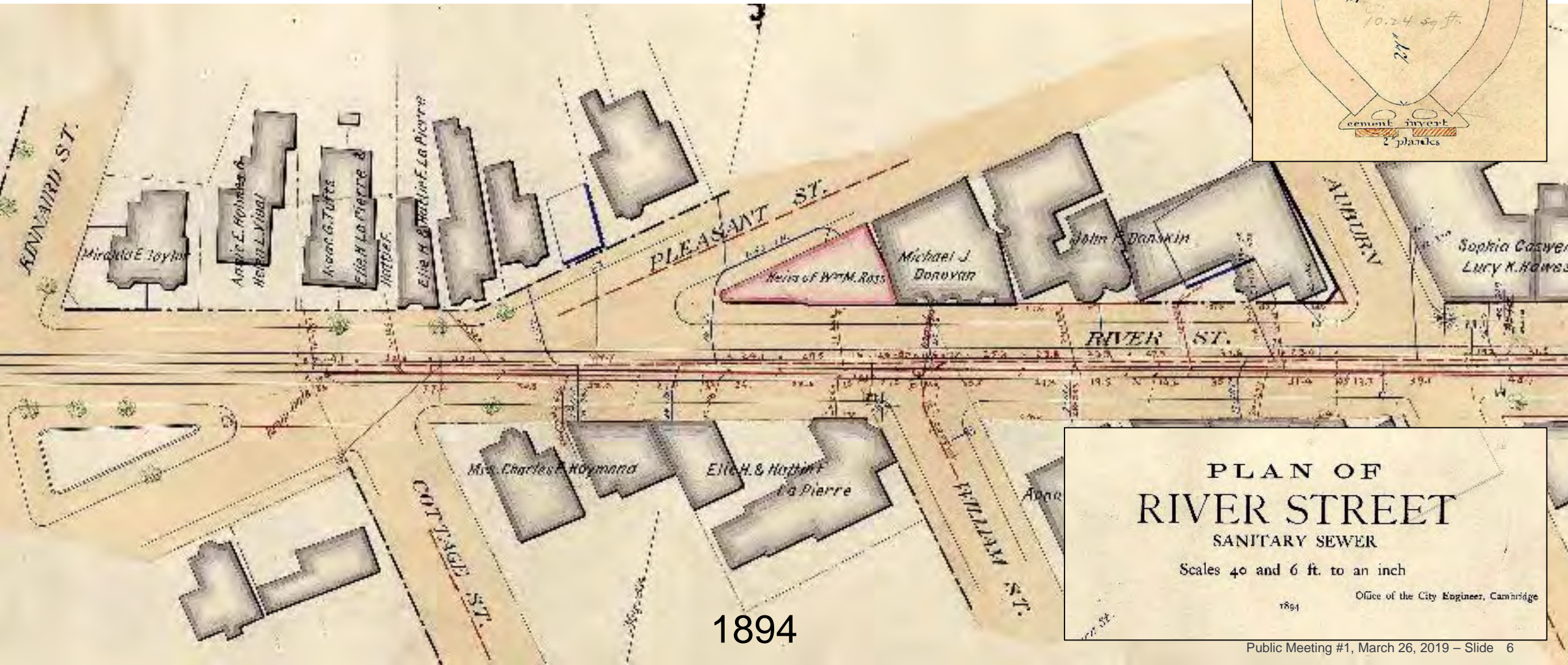
- **Welcome** 5 min.
- **Project Description and Timeline** 10 min.
- **Public Process Overview and Working Group** 5 min.
- **Related City Planning & Policies, Early Themes** 10 min.
- **Engagement Tools and Next Steps** 5 min.
- **Existing Conditions Highlights** 5 min.
- **Breakout: *Existing Conditions & Public Input Stations*** 75 min.
- **Closing** 5 min.

# **Project Description and Timeline**

# River St Reconstruction Project Area



# Project Purpose: Infrastructure Renewal



# Tidal Mill History



1854



1873



1886

# Ponding





# Roadway Damage



# Sidewalk Damage



Plan for greater electricity, natural gas, and telecom needs

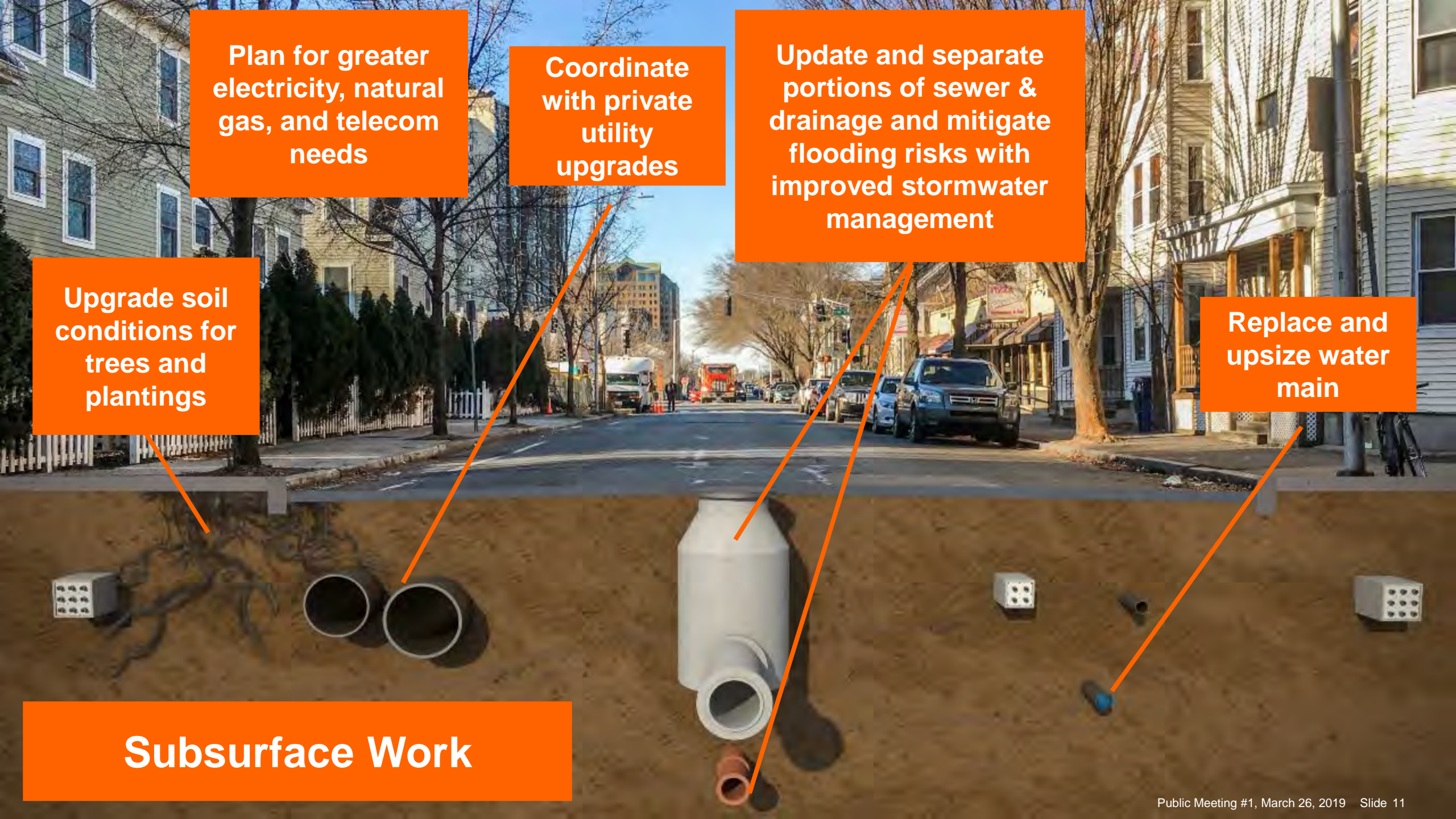
Coordinate with private utility upgrades

Update and separate portions of sewer & drainage and mitigate flooding risks with improved stormwater management

Upgrade soil conditions for trees and plantings

Replace and upsize water main

## Subsurface Work



Plant trees to enlarge canopy

Make the street (including sidewalks) more inviting and pleasant

Move buses more reliably and efficiently and make bus stops more comfortable

Designate curbside space to maximize benefits and support businesses

Install new sidewalks and more crosswalks

Provide new separated bicycle facility

Replace all street lights and traffic signals

Reduce speeding & maintain appropriate vehicle operations

## Surface Work



Maintain and create inclusive spaces

Incorporate play and art into the public realm

Update and add street furniture and landscaping where needed

Improve “edge quality” and how people get to and move through spaces

Design to support activities like performances and street vendors

- Locations include:
- Carl Barron Plaza
  - Tubman Square
  - All of River Street’s edges

# Urban Design Work

# The Design Process

## Collect Data & Identify Issues

- Survey
- Counts (all users)
- Level of service, level of comfort (multi-modal)
- Parking/Vehicle Storage
- MBTA bus data
- Sewer & drain
- Utility connections
- Flow-metering
- Soil & tree
- Urban design
- Identified by Public



## Establish Vision

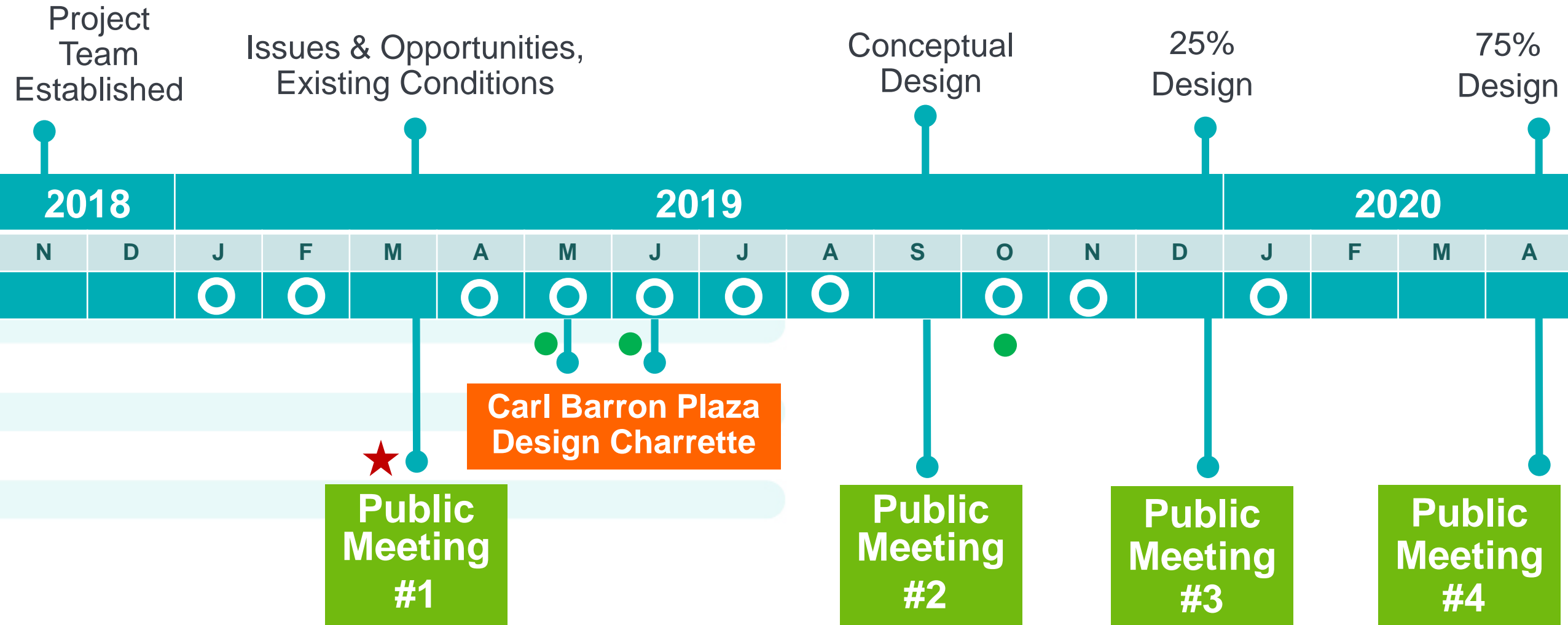
- Review existing planning & policies, adapt to local context
- Gather community goals, ideas, and aspirations through a broad and inclusive process

## Complete Design

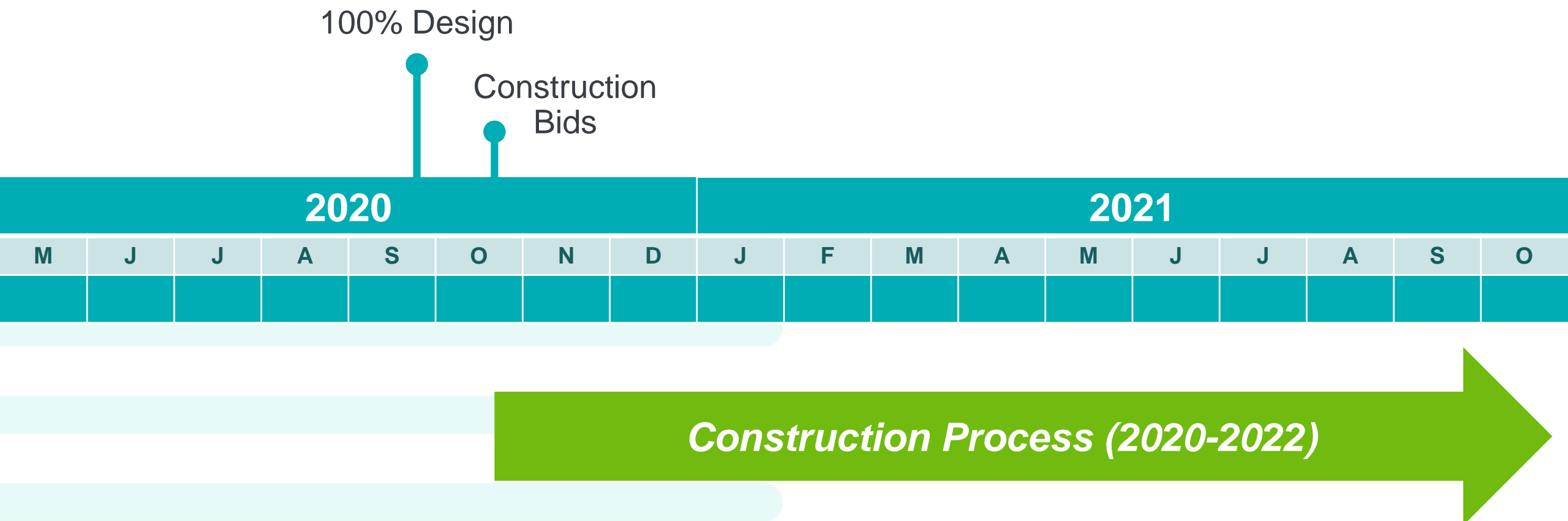
- Develop design alternatives
- Analyze alternatives
- Select alternative
- 25%, 75%, and 100% design
- Construction documents & permitting

# Expected Timeline

-  Working Group Meetings
-  Public Walks
-  Today



# Expected Timeline





# Project Team

## City Team

- **Jerry Friedman**  
Public Works
- **Tegin Teich**  
Community Development
- **Patrick Baxter**  
Traffic, Parking & Transportation

## Consultant Team

- HDR Engineering
- Halvorson Design Partnership
- McMahon Associates
- Project for Public Spaces
- GEI Consultants
- BSI Engineering
- Feldman Land Surveyors

# Public Process Overview and Working Group

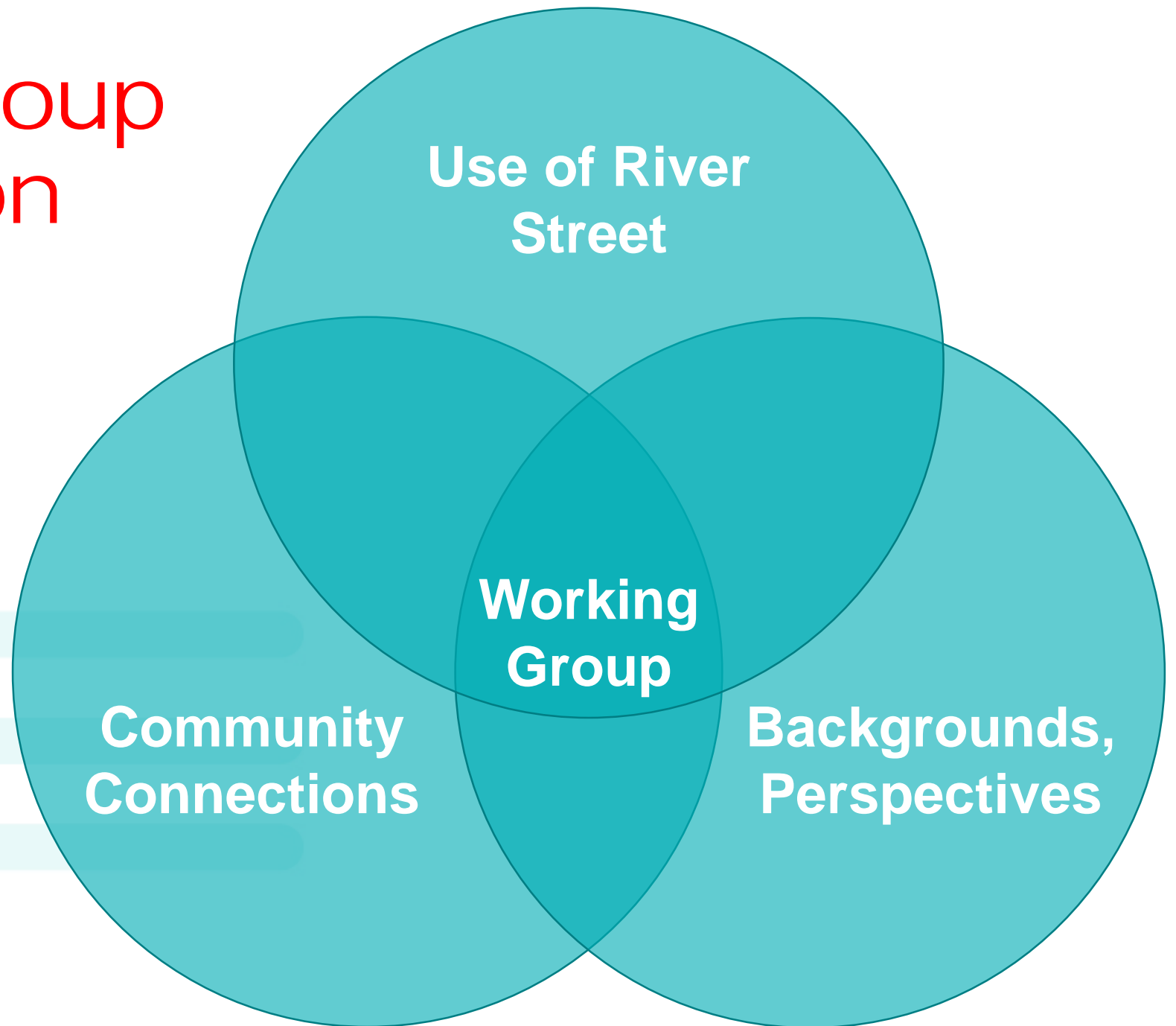
# Public Process

- Public meetings (up to 5)
- Public walks (3 total: May, June, and one in the fall)
- Two-part Carl Barron engagement/charrette process (May and June)
- Attendance at events (Farmer's Market, Riverfest, etc.)
- **Approximately monthly Working Group meetings**
- Online survey, comment form, and Wikimap

# The Working Group

- Patrick Barrett
- Dan Beaulieu
- Seanna Berry
- Sai Boddupali
- Valerie Bonds
- Matthew Ciborowski
- Gabriel Cira
- Abby Duker
- Samuel Gebru
- Melissa Greene
- Kai Long
- Neil Rodriguez
- Randy Stern
- Andrew Tarsy
- Christopher Tassone
- Annie Tuan
- Olivia Turner

# Working Group Composition



# Balancing Diverse Needs

**Needs and goals need to be balanced to lead to good outcomes. Considerations:**

- Many needs, limited space
- Respect all needs, even if not completely fulfilled
- Solutions must reach beyond individual preferences
- Count people (regardless of the way they choose to travel)

# City Policies and Past Planning

# River Street is a.....

- Infrastructure spine *and*
- Regional roadway *and*
- Neighborhood street *and*
- Retail district *and*
- Place to be *and*
- Front yard.



# Existing City Policies



***Toward A Sustainable Future***

Cambridge Growth Policy

UPDATE 2007



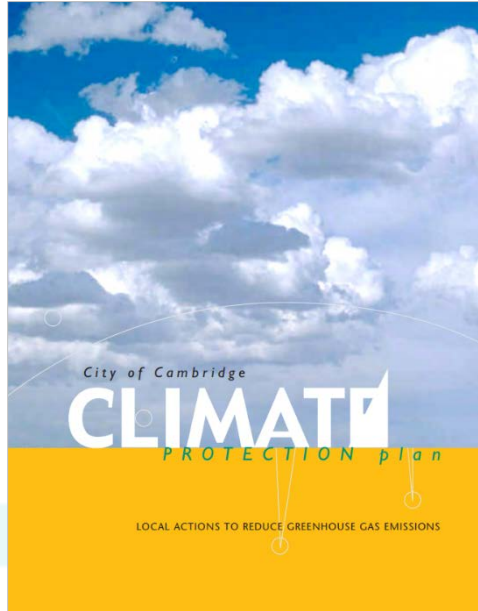
**Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance (1992)** prioritizes alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel.

**Cambridge Growth Policy (1993/2007)** emphasize walking, biking, transit, and low emission vehicles and establishes urban design and open space objectives.

**Complete Streets (2016)** emphasizes designing city streets for users of all ages, abilities, or modes of transportation.

**Vision Zero (2016)** eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries through prevention strategies.

# Climate and Environment



2002  
Climate



Ongoing  
Climate Change Preparedness &  
Resilience



Ongoing  
Urban Forest  
Master Plan

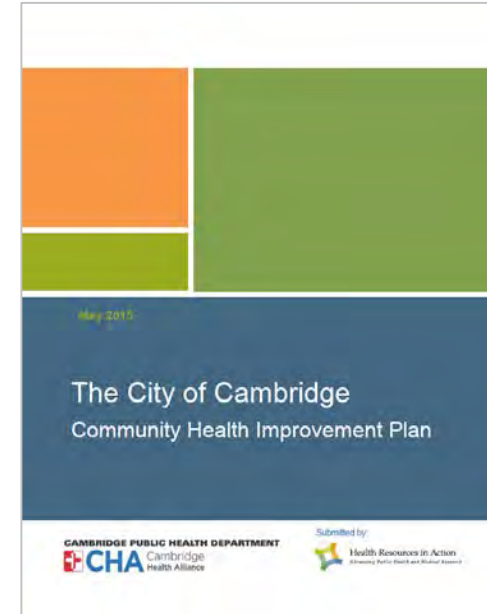
# Open Space and Health



2000 and 2010  
Open Space

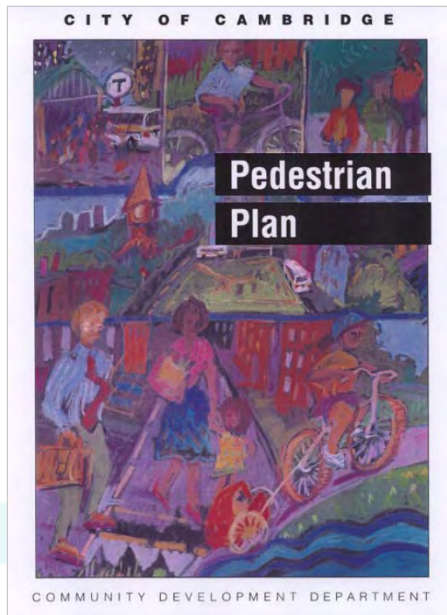


2014  
Playing in the Public Realm



2015  
Health

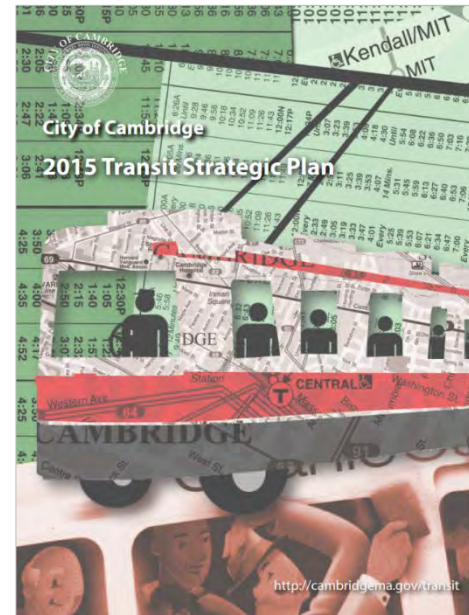
# Transportation



2000  
Walking



2015  
Cycling



2015  
Transit

**COMING SOON**

Ongoing  
Future of  
Mobility Plan

# Infrastructure Reconstruction Plans

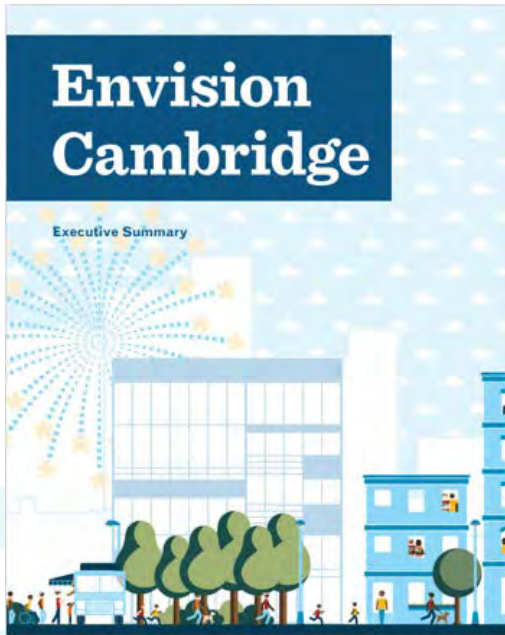


- Living documents
- Incorporate several city policies and plans



- River Street is one of many projects planned

# Other Ongoing Planning



Envision  
Cambridge

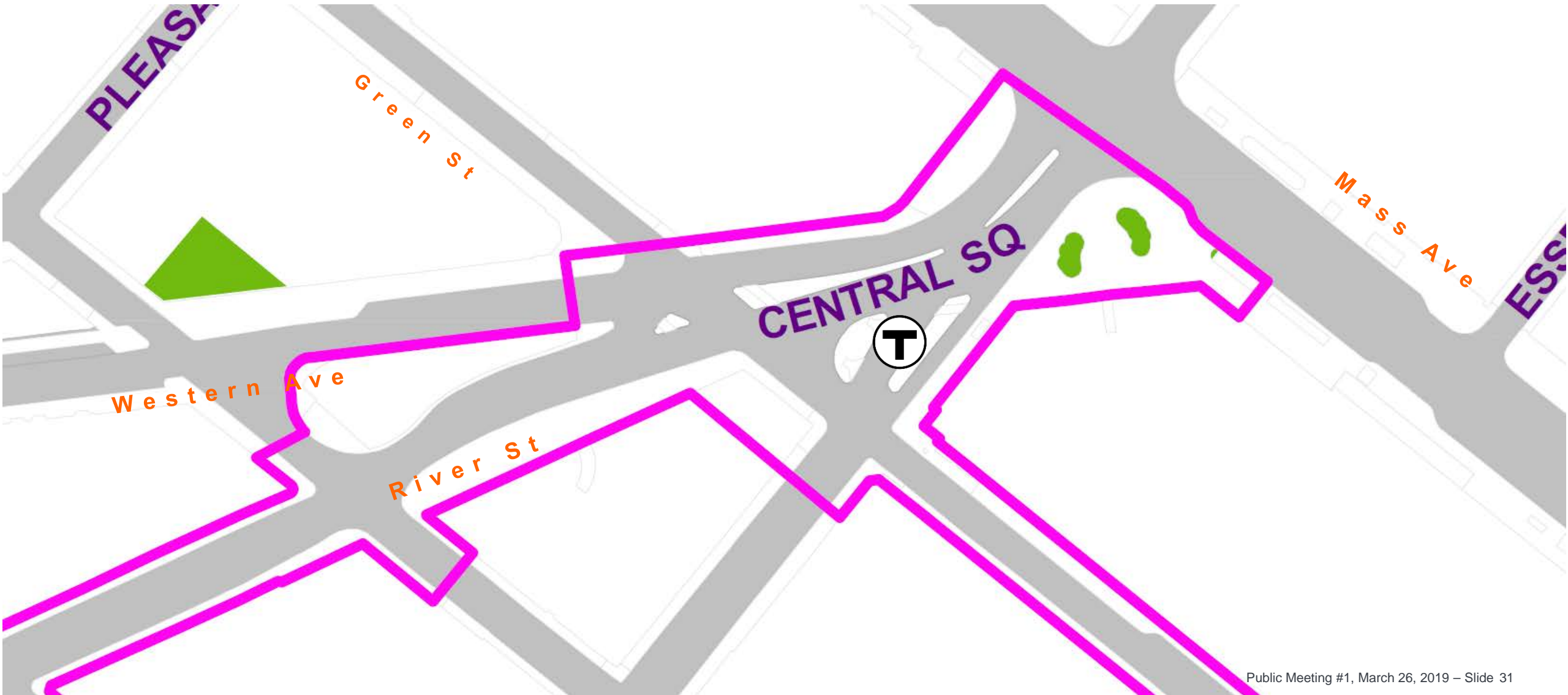


MBTA: Better  
Bus Project

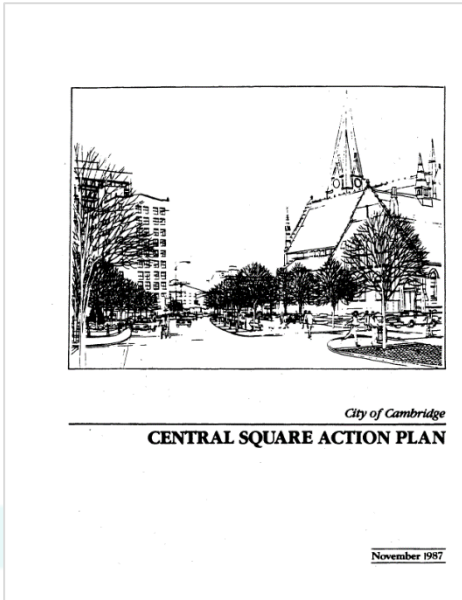


MassDOT  
I-90  
Interchange

# Carl Barron Plaza and MBTA Busway

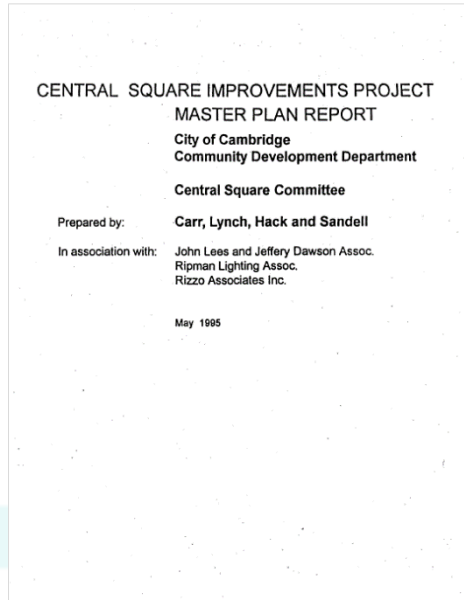


# Central Square Planning



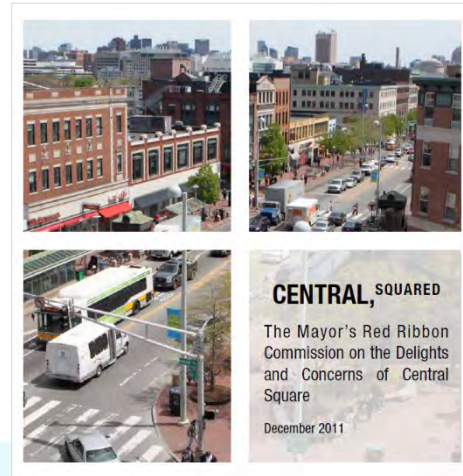
1987

Central Square  
Action Plan



1995

Central Square  
Master Plan  
Report



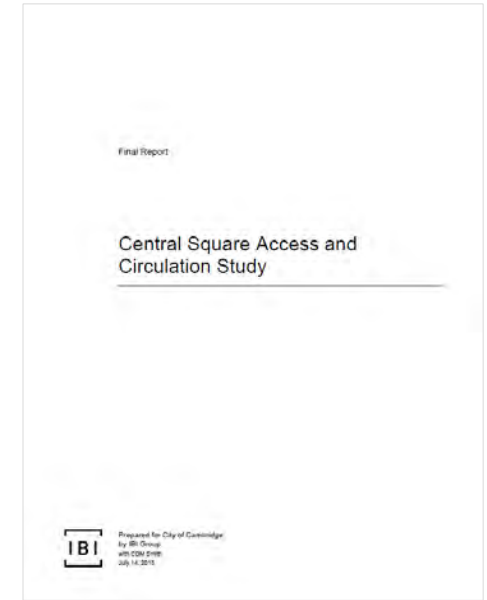
2011

Central, Squared  
Red Ribbon  
Commission



2013

K2C2 Central  
Square Report



2015

Central Square  
Access and  
Circulation Study



# Carl Barron Plaza Evolution



1920s



1970s



1990s



2010s

# Early Themes

# Early Working Group Themes for Your Input

- Improve safety / lower speeds
- Improve accessibility
- Enhance public space
- Support businesses
- Make transportation / movement of *people* more efficient



# Engagement Tools and Next Steps

# Cambridgema.gov/RiverStreet



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ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

CDD > Projects > River Street Reconstruction

## River Street Reconstruction

The River Street Reconstruction project will upgrade the sanitary sewer, stormwater and water subsurface infrastructure while developing a new surface design for River Street, the bus terminal area at River and Magazine Streets near Central Square, and Carl Barron Plaza. The project aims to create a streetscape design that meets the needs of all the various users and in a way that engages the local community, contributes to overall enhancement of the neighborhood, and meets the City's goals related to infrastructure, transportation, and urban design.

The concurrent design of Carl Barron Plaza, the significant open space at the heart of Central Square will include consideration of public art, fixed and/or unfixed furniture, access, plantings, and landscaping. The design must also consider the complexity of transportation needs related to the bus bays adjacent to the Plaza and people moving through the plaza.

The community outreach and design processes will occur throughout 2019 and into early 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020.

[Click here to sign up for email updates on this project.](#)

[Click here to provide general comments and feedback.](#)

**Please use this Public Input Map to provide your input on issues and opportunities along River Street and in Carl Barron Plaza.**

The Latest

Schedule

Description

Community Process

Documents

Contact

### March 2019

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### Quick Links

I'd like to learn more about...

Select a Topic

Neighborhood or Square

Select One

Current Projects...

Select One



Click the Map to Explore Cambridge

A 5-STAR Community and National Leader in Sustainability



# Online Comment Form



## Let's talk about the River Street Reconstruction project!

The River Street Reconstruction Project will upgrade sanitary sewer, stormwater and water subsurface infrastructure, while developing a new surface design for River Street, the bus terminal area at River and Magazine Streets near Central Square, and Carl Barron Plaza.

The project aims to create a streetscape design that meets the needs of all users in a way that engages the local community, contributes to the overall enhancement of the neighborhood, and meets the City's goals related to infrastructure, transportation, and urban design.

To learn more about the project and sign up for email updates, visit:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/riverstreet>

To share your thoughts about the project, please use the form below.

You can get information about how we use the data we collect by viewing the City of Cambridge privacy statement at: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/privacystatement>

**Name \***

**Comment/Issue \***

What is the issue you would like to bring to the attention of the River Street Reconstruction Project team? (max 4000 characters)

**Email**

If you would like someone to follow up with you on your comment, please provide your email address.

**Thank you for your feedback!**

You can scroll to the bottom of this page to submit your comments.

# Cambridgema.gov/RiverStreet



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# Online Public Input Map



Where do you see issues and opportunities for change on River Street?

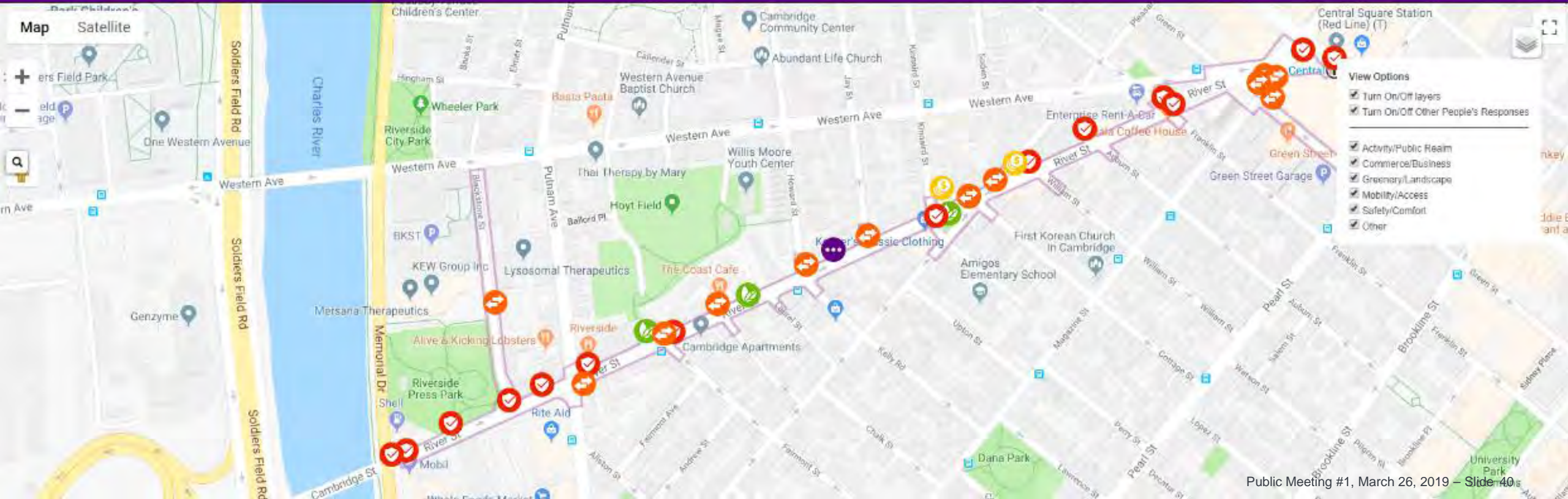
Click **"Add Points"** to add to the map.

ADD AS MANY POINTS AS YOU WOULD LIKE

- Activity/  
Public Realm
- Commerce/  
Business
- Greenery/  
Landscape
- Mobility/  
Access
- Safety/  
Comfort
- Other
- Project Limits



Instructions & Help   Add Points   Project Website



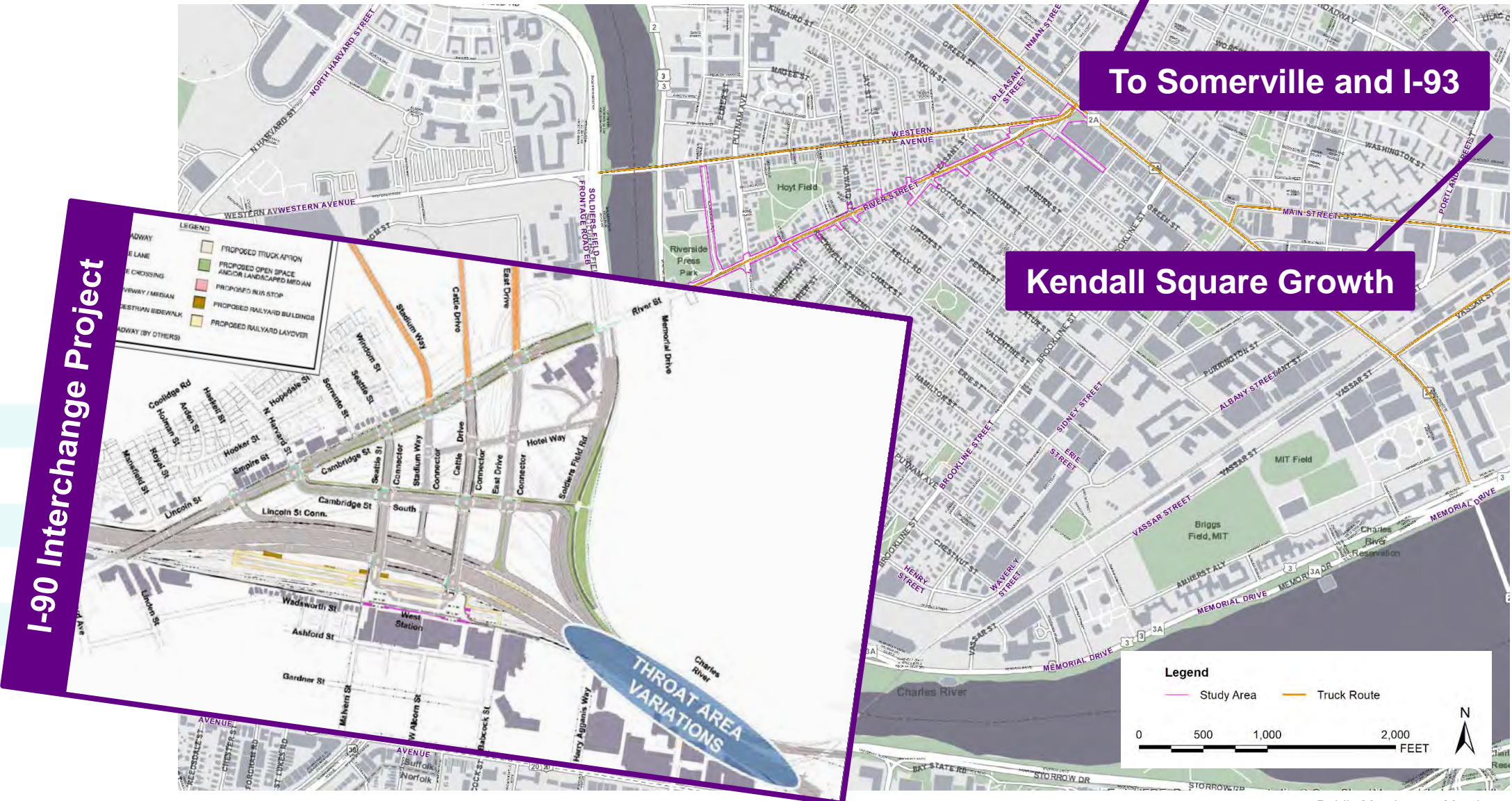


# Next Steps

- Post materials from this meeting online at [cambridgema.gov/riverstreet](http://cambridgema.gov/riverstreet)
- Continue to collect in person (e.g. at Riverfest, June 1) and online input
- Continue regular Working Group meetings (next one April 23)
- Public/community walks in May and June (and one more in the Fall)
  - Topics: transportation and urban design
- Carl Barron Plaza engagement process/design charrette in May and June
- Next public meeting expected in September

# Existing Conditions Highlights

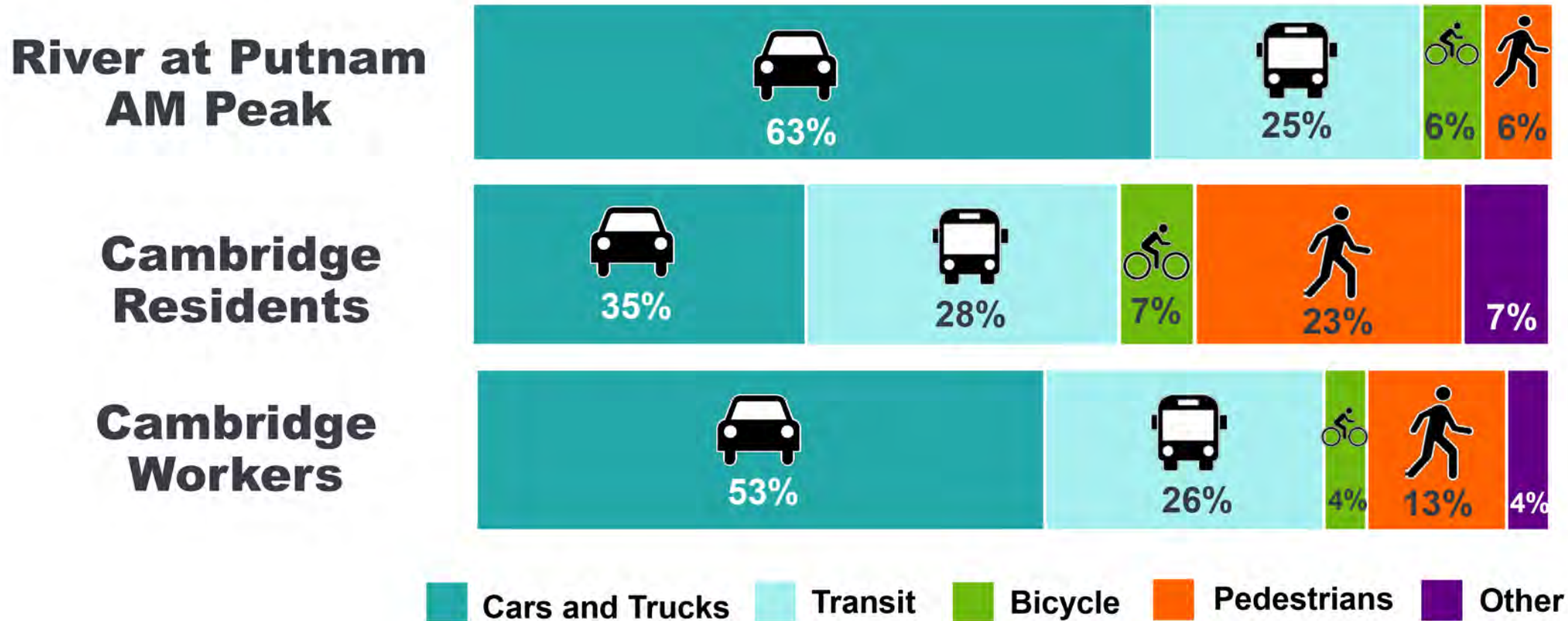
# Regional Context



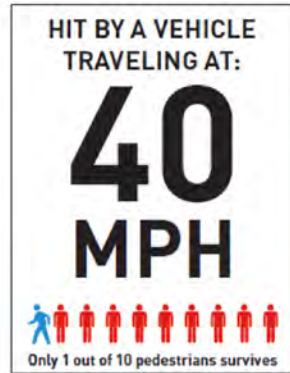
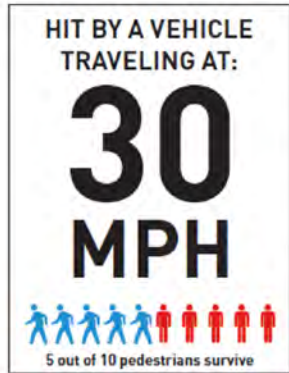
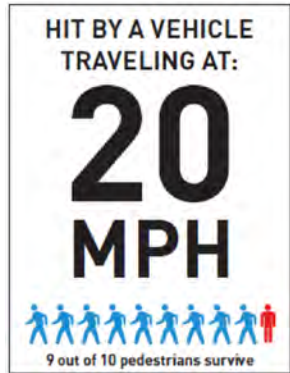
# Typical Existing Cross Section – Looking Toward Memorial Drive



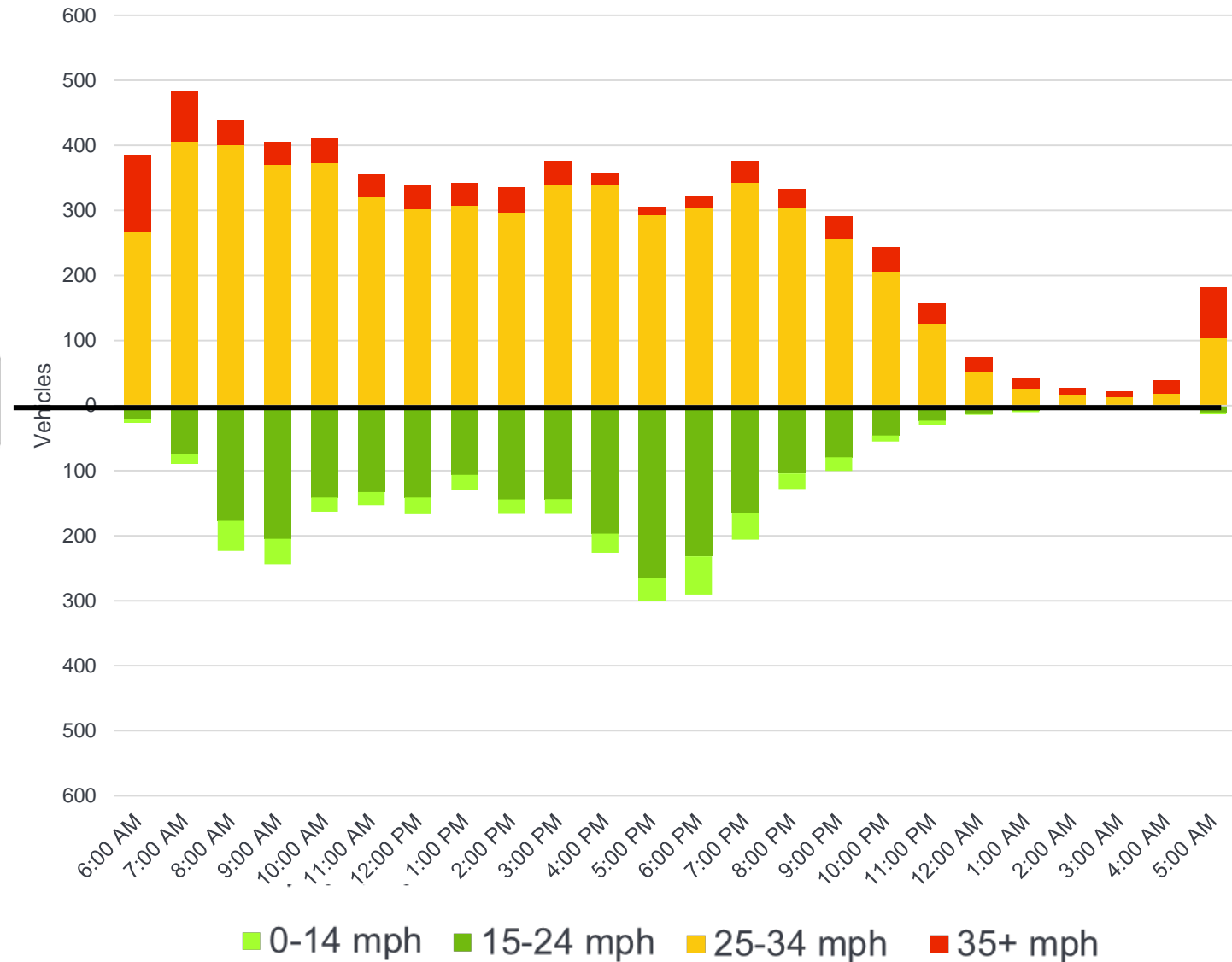
# How do users of River Street compare to Cambridge-wide?



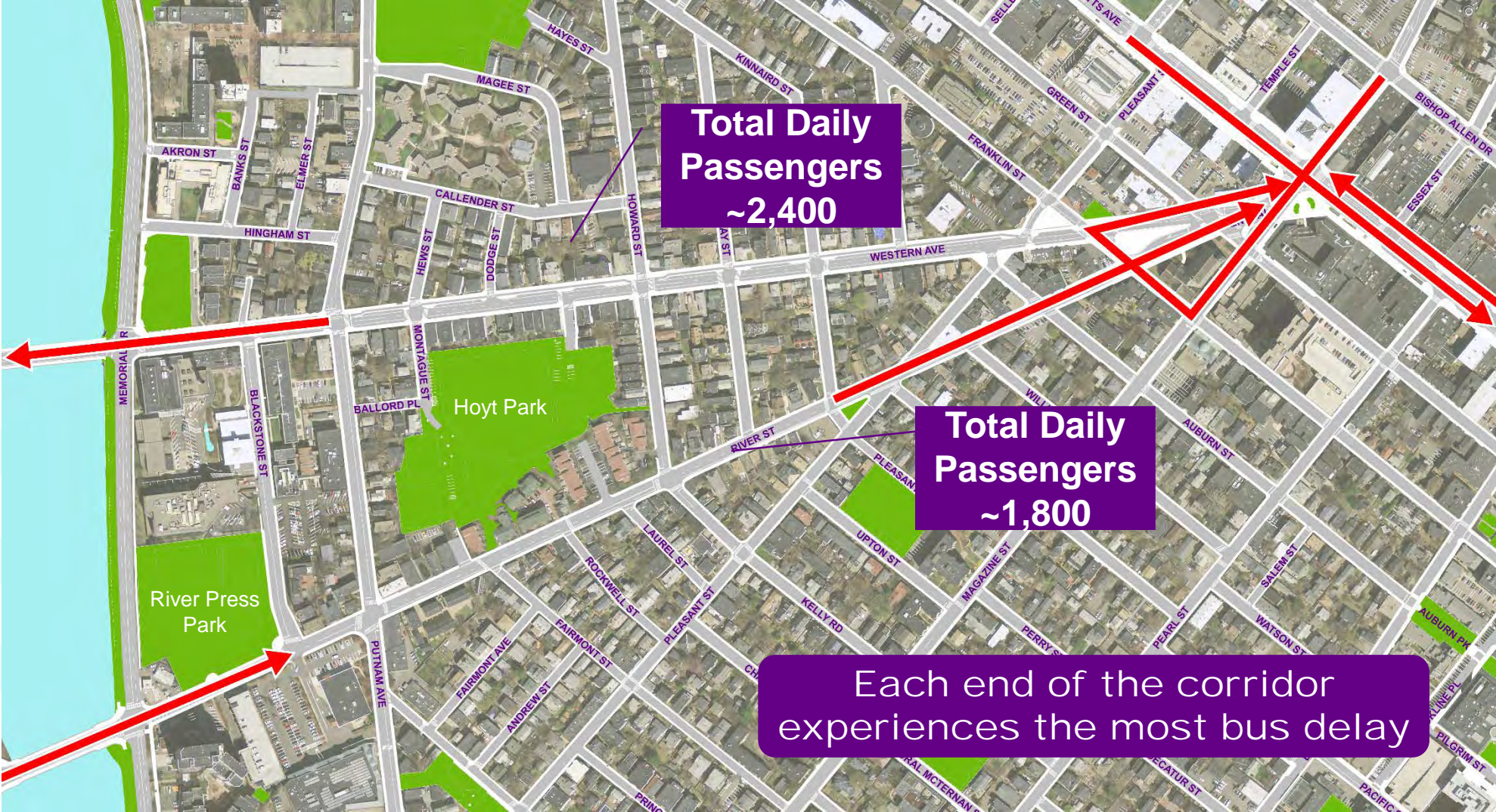
# Vehicle Speeds



At Pleasant Street, more than half the vehicles are speeding, with more than a hundred vehicles between 6am and 7am traveling at over 35mph



# Highlight – Transit Operations



➔  
Significant bus delay and reliability issues

# Highlight – Existing Curbside Uses



Parking



Bus Stop



Bike Lane



Loading Zone



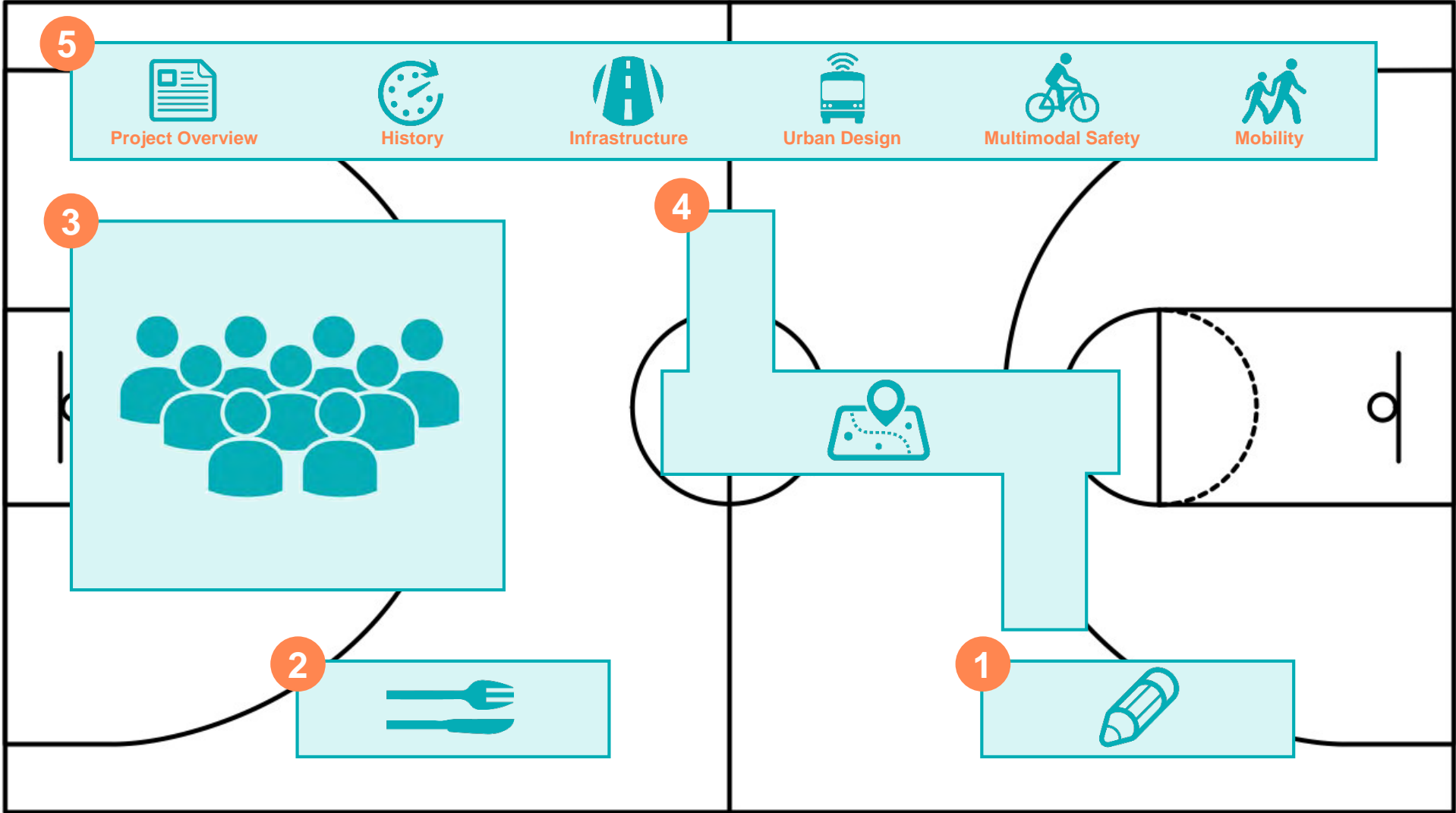
Tow Zone

Diverse uses compete for curbside space



# Breakout: Existing Conditions & Public Input Stations

# Breakout Session Map



## LEGEND

- 1 Sign in
- 2 Food
- 3 Presentation (gather at 6:30pm)
- 4 Public Input Map (view & comment)
- 5 Existing Conditions (view & comment)

# Cambridgema.gov/RiverStreet

## riverstreet@cambridgema.gov

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Neighborhood or Square

Current Projects...



[Click the Map to Explore Cambridge](#)

THANK YOU!

[riverstreet@cambridgema.gov](mailto:riverstreet@cambridgema.gov)

# Sample Envision Cambridge Goals

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Climate Change Preparedness:** Protect the lives and livelihoods of the Cambridge community from the impacts of climate change

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING

- **Sense of Belonging:** Strengthen our social connections and provide a safe and welcoming community

## URBAN FORM

- **Open Space:** Create a connected network of high-quality open spaces that links all residents to local and regional natural assets, provides a range of activities and experiences, is inclusive of all people, and encourages social connections

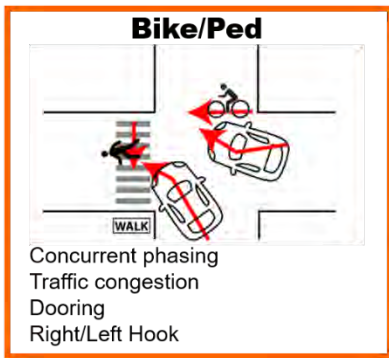
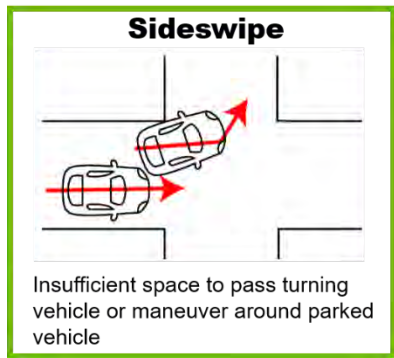
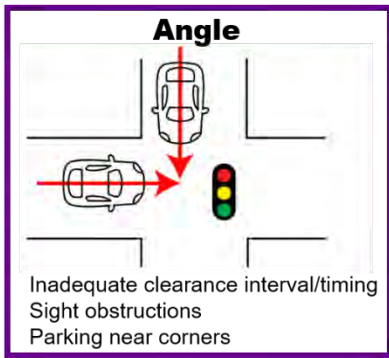
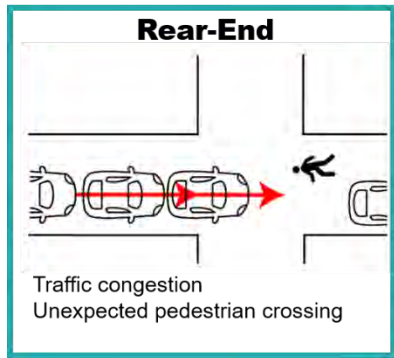
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Great Commercial Districts:** Preserve and enhance the distinctive character of Cambridge's commercial districts, especially its major squares and mixed use corridors

## MOBILITY

- **Reliability and Efficiency:** Ensure people and goods can reliably move within Cambridge and around the region, and encourage space-efficient transportation choices like walking, biking, transit, and carpooling.
- **Safe and Active Transportation:** Eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries while encouraging active living and improving comfort for people of all ages and abilities

# Crash Type



Other

# Crash Types at High Crash Locations



Source: CPD, 2016-2018

# Bus Stop Boarding and Alighting



**Fewer riders use stops on River Street, but bus routes carry almost 3,000 daily riders through the corridor**

