





**River Street
Reconstruction**

Working Group Meeting 2

February 26, 2019

Today's Agenda

- Welcome 5 min.
- History of River Street 20 min.
- Review of input/themes 15 min.
- Existing Conditions Progress 40 min.
- Carl Barron Process Preview 15 min.
- Questions & Comments 10 min.
- Next Steps 5 min.

Please note: Doors open at 5:45pm, meeting starts at 6pm on the dot!

Welcome Back

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

The Working Group

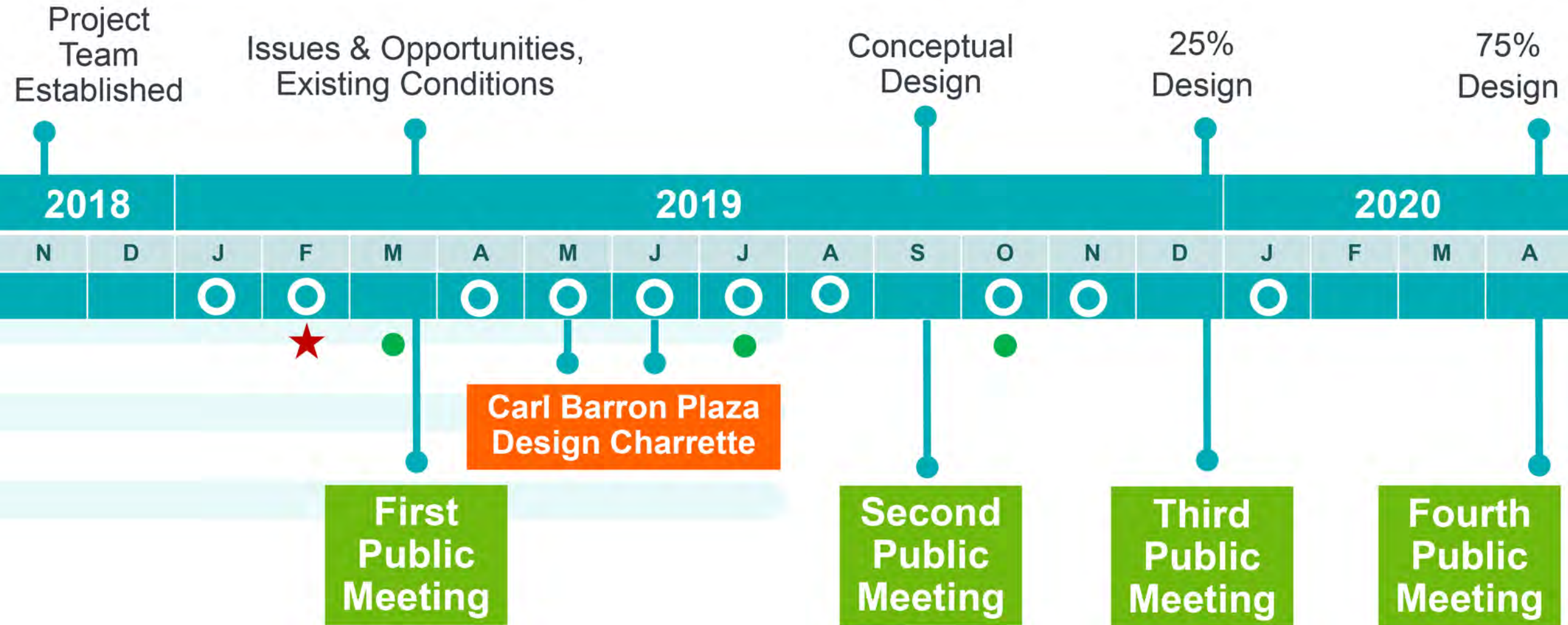
- Patrick Barrett
- Dan Beaulieu
- Seanna Berry
- Sai Boddupali
- Valerie Bonds
- Matthew Ciborowski
- Gabriel Cira
- Abby Duker
- Samuel Gebru
- Melissa Greene
- Kai Long
- Neil Rodriguez
- Randy Stern
- Andrew Tarsy
- Christopher Tassone
- Annie Tuan
- Olivia Turner

Project Limits Expanded



Expected Timeline

- Working Group Meetings
- Community Walks
- ★ Today





History of River Street

River Street

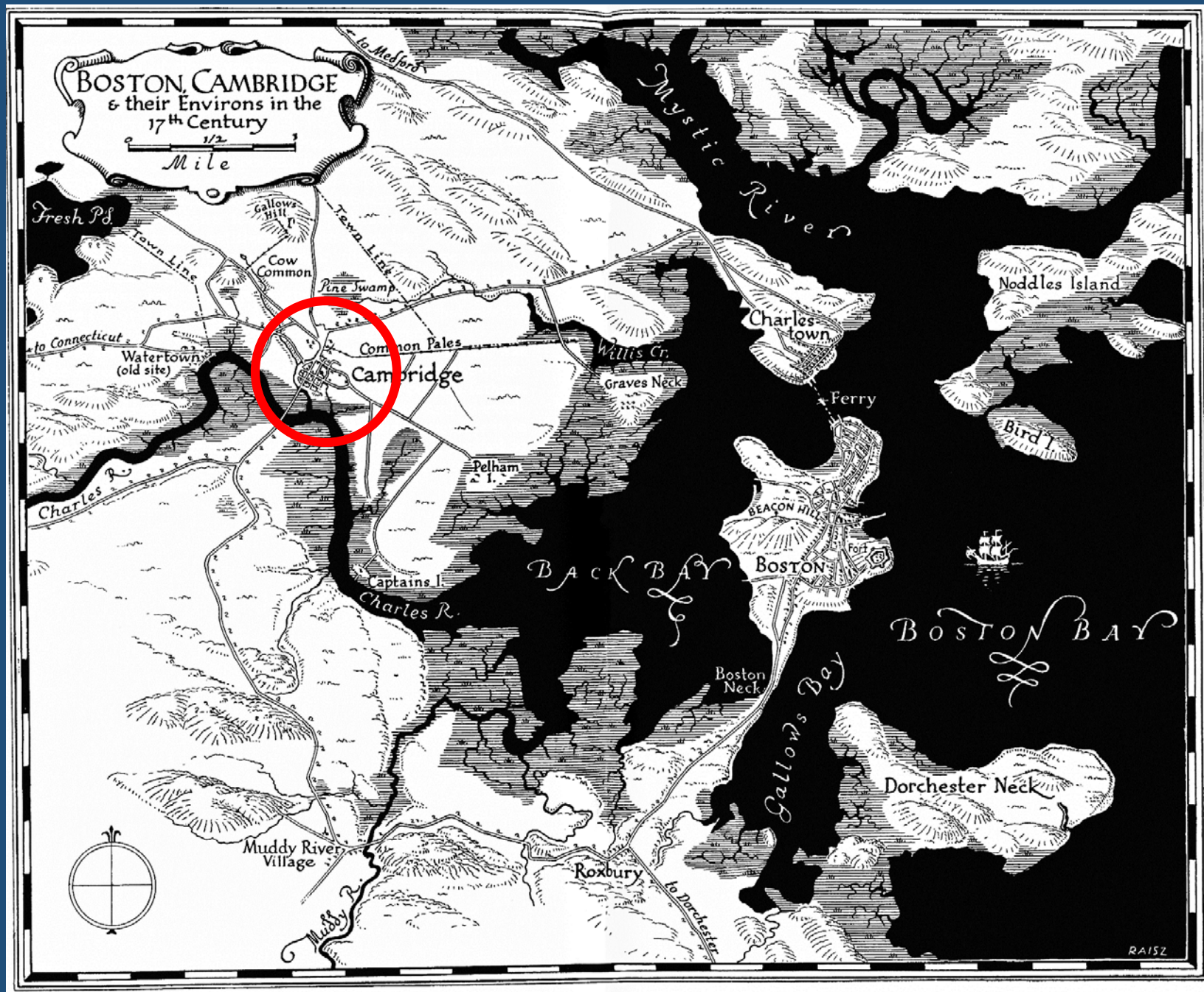
from Central Square
to
Memorial Drive

Cambridge Historical
Commission

February 26, 2019



Central Square, ca. 1950



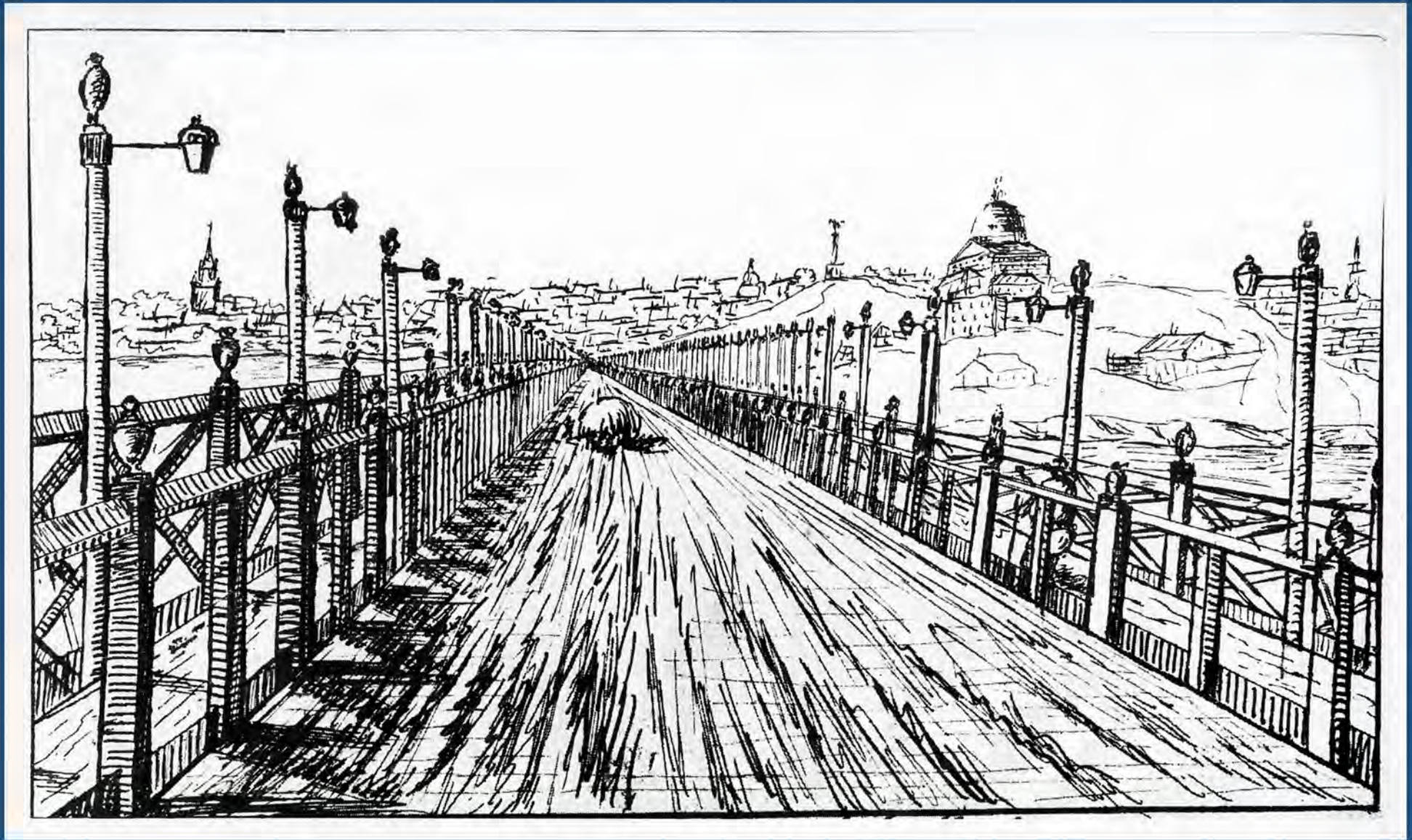
Reconstructed plan of Cambridge and environs in the 17th century



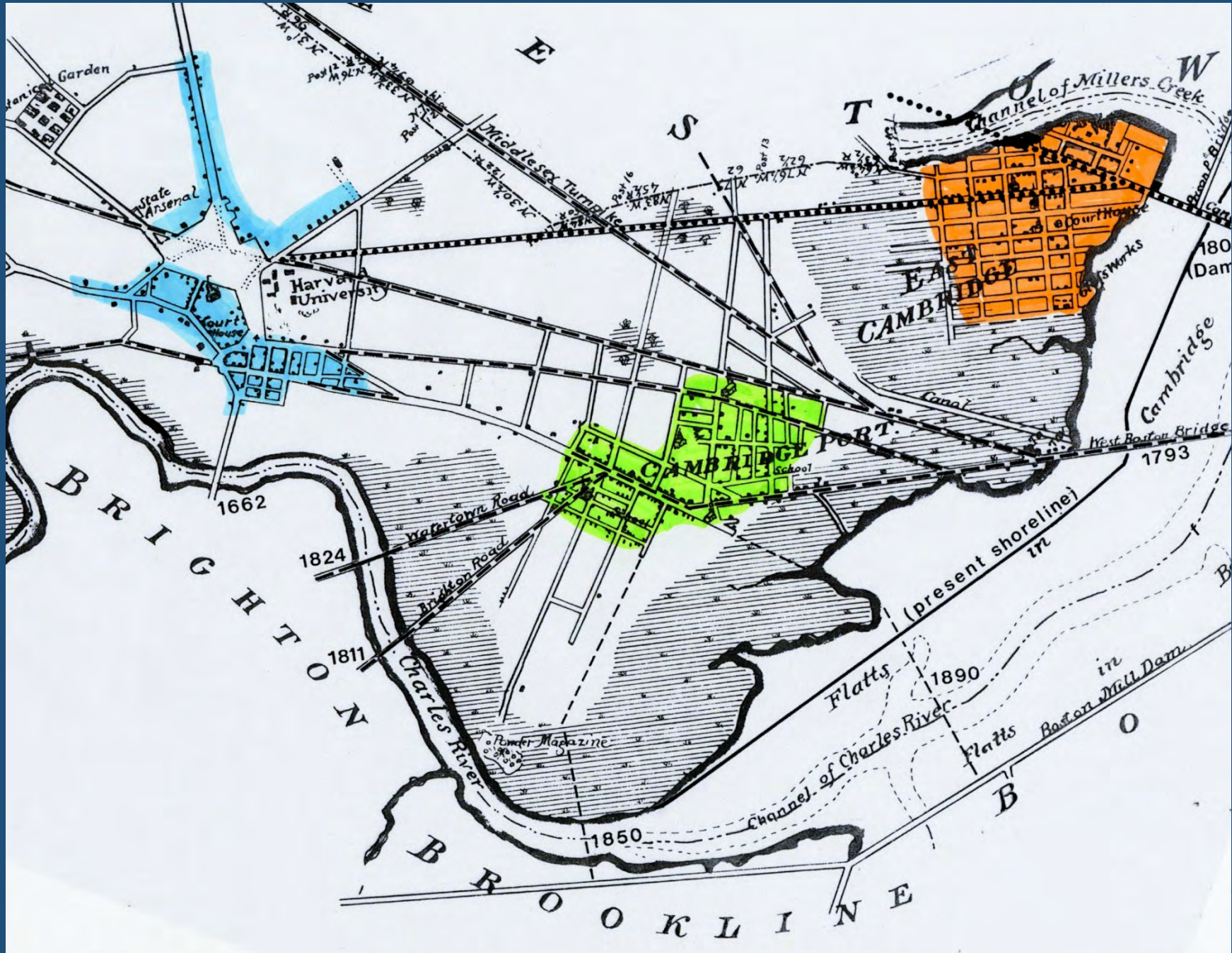
Cambridge roads in 1775



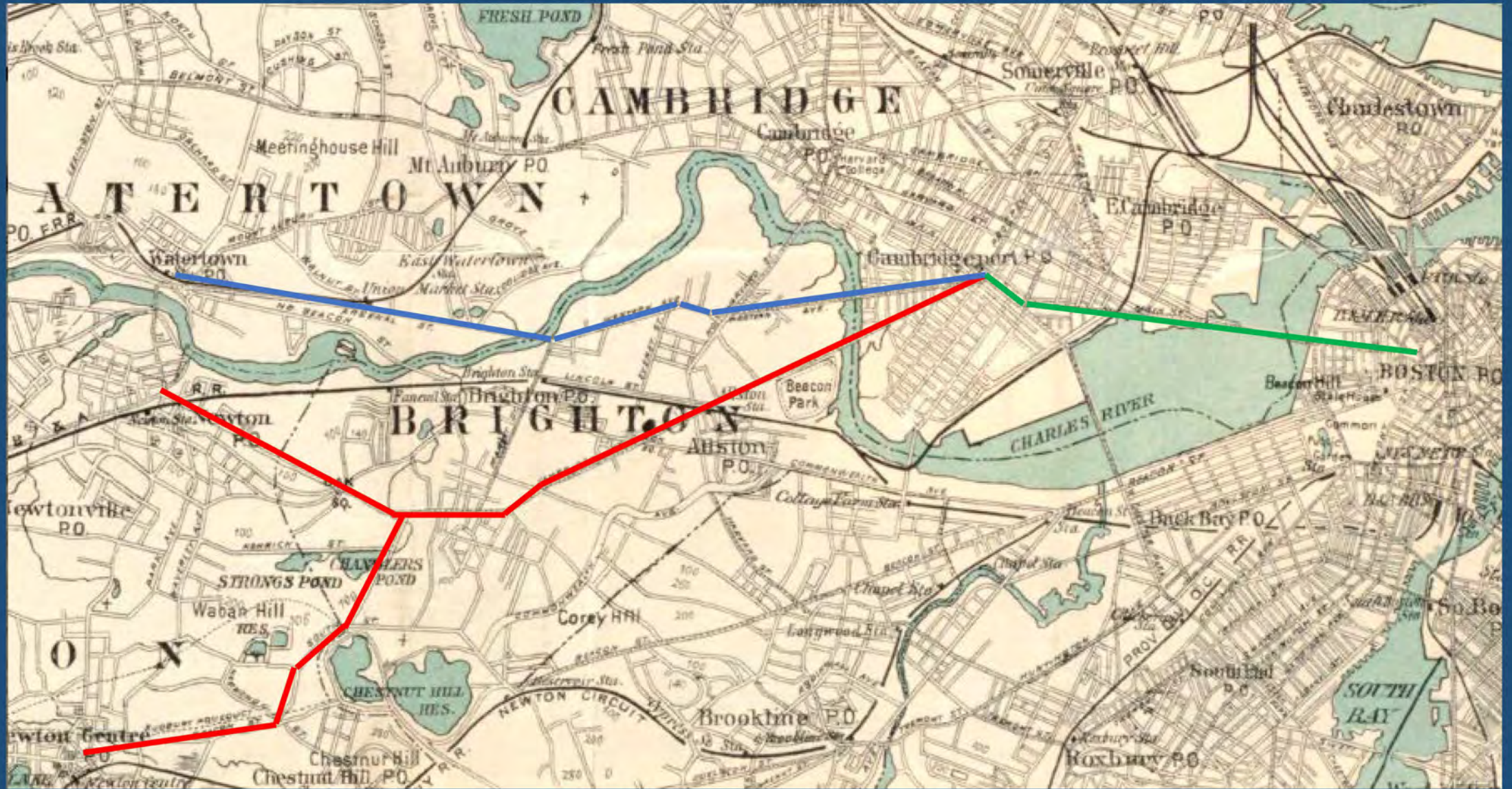
Cambridge roads in 1775



West Boston (Longfellow) Bridge, 1793



Bridges and Turnpikes,
1830



River Street (1811) and Western Avenue (1824) catchment areas

George H. Walker & Co. "Map of the Roads of Wellesley and Vicinity", ca. 1894



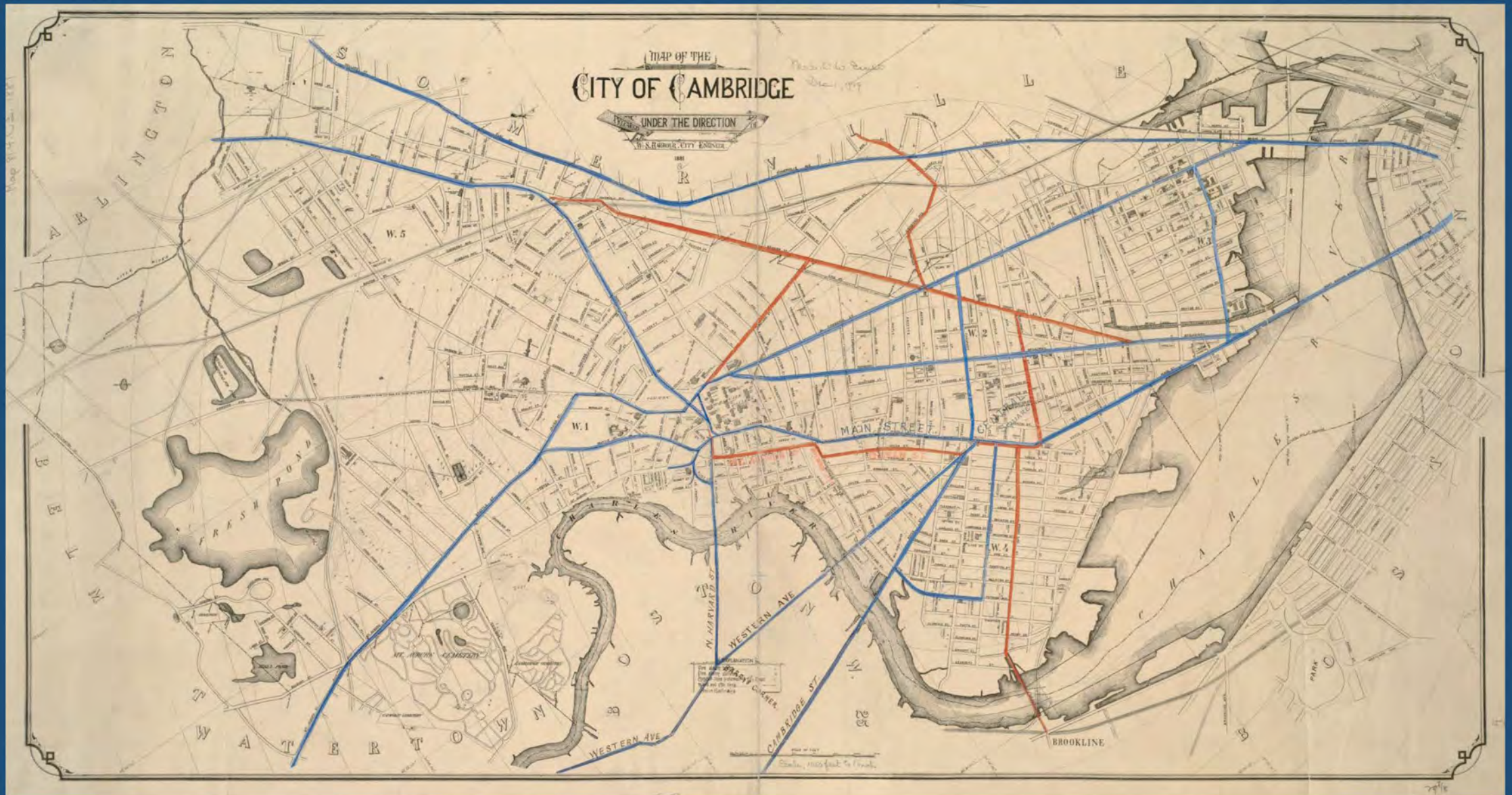
U.S. Coast Survey,
Boston Harbor, 1857
as surveyed in 1847

sacred music, which was pursued with great zeal and spirit, good judgment and taste; and it was resolved, that as "music was the handmaid to devotion, no piece should be admitted, but of a character suited to the solemnity of the sanctuary, and to that holiness which becometh the house of God forever."

We were now terribly annoyed by the tide-waters, which would break through the dikes, or overflow sufficiently deep for a boat to ride with ease. Cellars and kitchens full, and every thing afloat. At one time the waters were four feet deep in the first story. The waters at the ebbing of the tide, would return as suddenly as they came, but the dampness would remain for a long time. Thinking our health would suffer if we remained, we determined to remove as quickly as possible, but upon making inquiry, found it was impossible to obtain a

house, with the exception of the Phipps or Boardman house; and that being such an old castle, we thought it would not be advisable. But, upon reflection, as the bridge would soon be built, and, in the rear, a road cut through to the colleges, it would be far more pleasant and convenient; we therefore secured it.

On February 2nd, 1809, the Cambridgeport Meeting-house Corporation conveyed by agreement and indenture, the meeting-house, organ, bell, etc., to the Cambridgeport parish, at which time the corporation became extinct. From the time of the dedication of the house, in 1807, to 1809, divine service had been constantly performed, at the expense of the corporation. In March, an embargo was issued by authority, prohibiting all vessels from leaving the port. "Hard times" was now the universal cry.

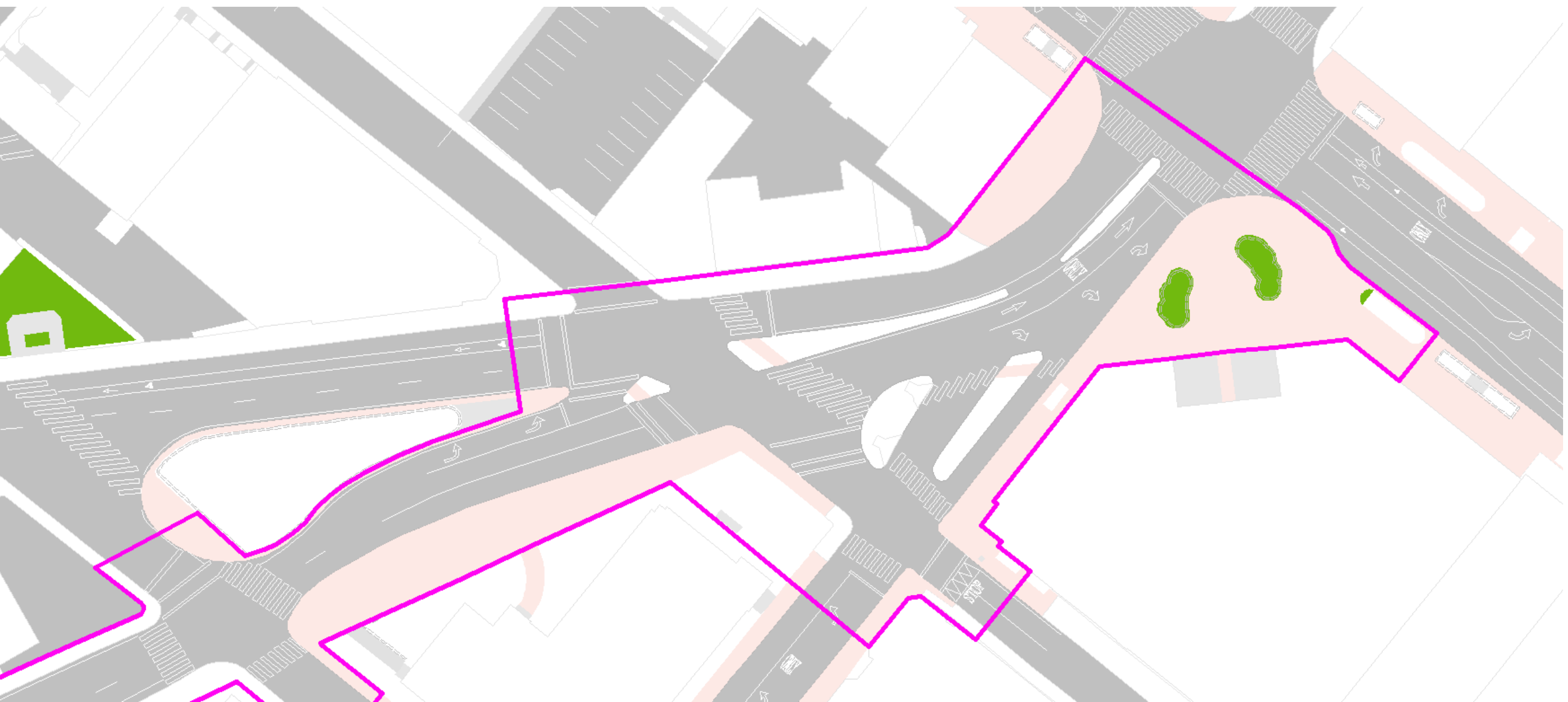


Cambridge Street Railways in 1881

blue = Cambridge Railroad

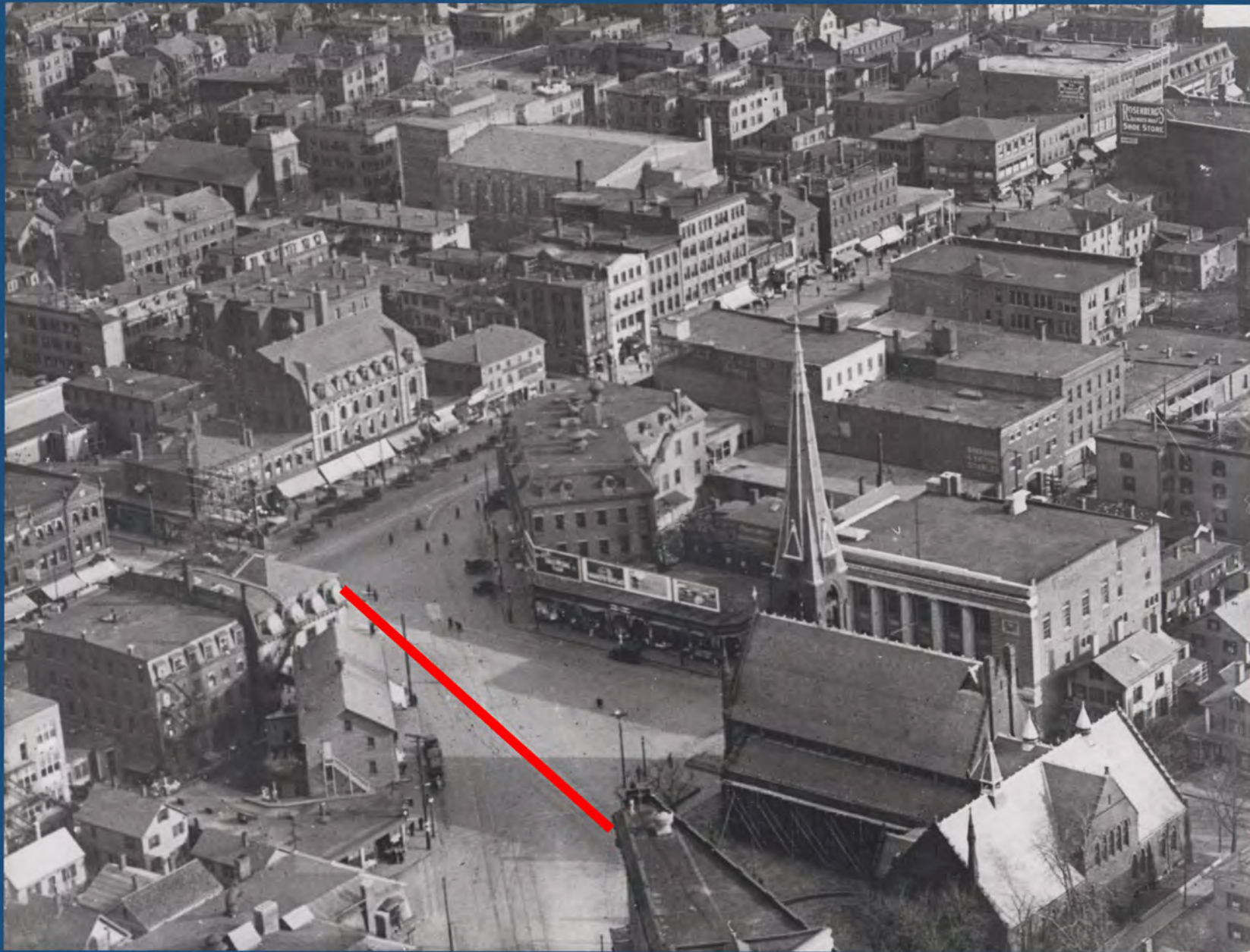
red = Charles River Street Railway

Project Limits – Carl Barron Plaza

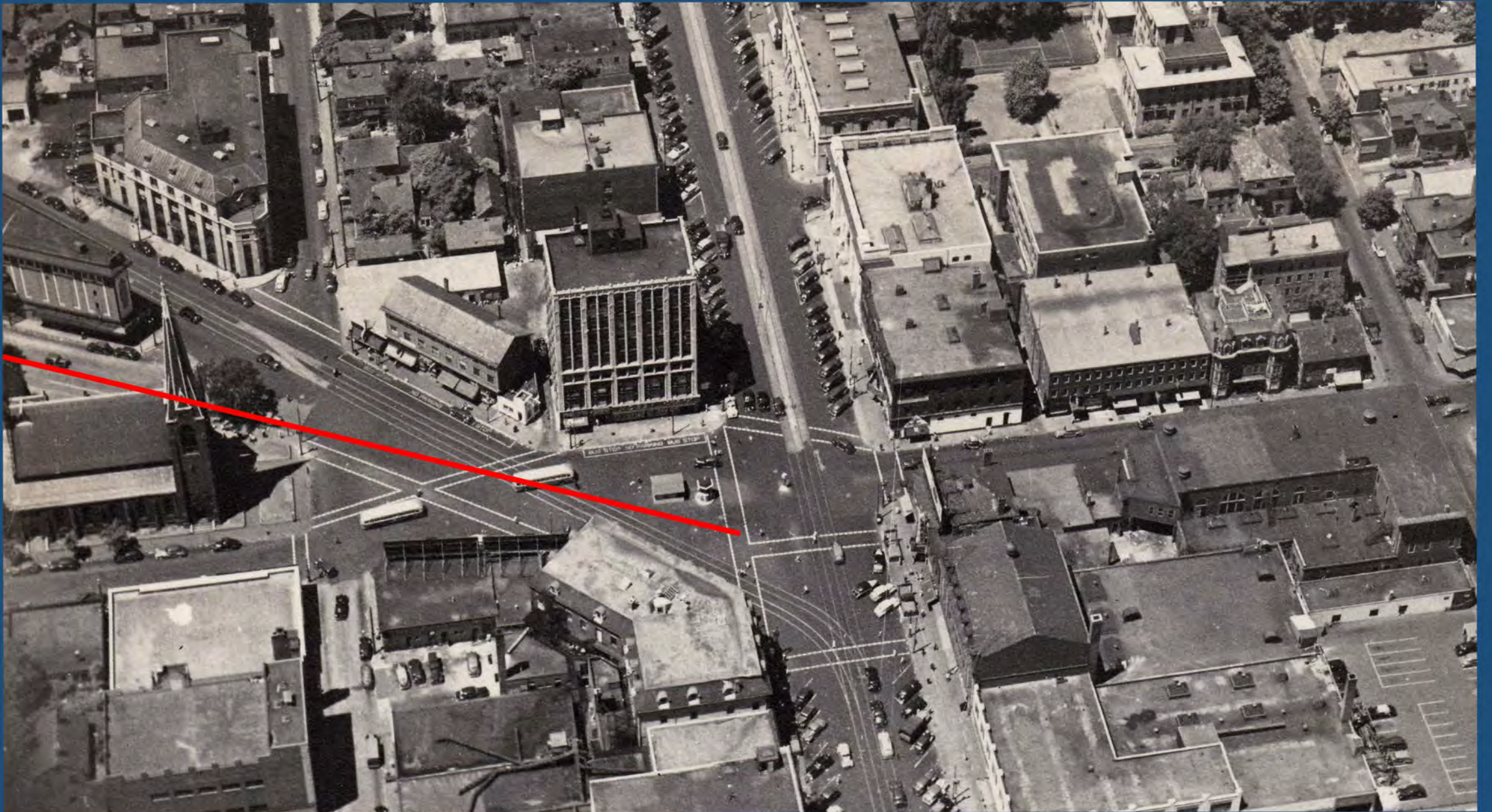




Central Square, 1854



Central Square, 1916



Central Square, 1946



Central Square, ca. 1958



TREES IN CENTRAL SQUARE: - Pedestrians stare in wonderment at trees planted in heart of Central square as part of beautification program financed by city and federal funds. Like New York City, Cambridge will soon have its own "Central Park." Three maples and foundations for benches are shown in triangular plot, left foreground. At extreme right, sidewalk has been widened, trees have been planted and benches installed for weary shoppers. Traffic tower will eventually be removed. City's new "Mini Park" is conversation piece for miles around. (Photo by Ed Pacheco)

Cambridge Chronicle
Nov. 7, 1968

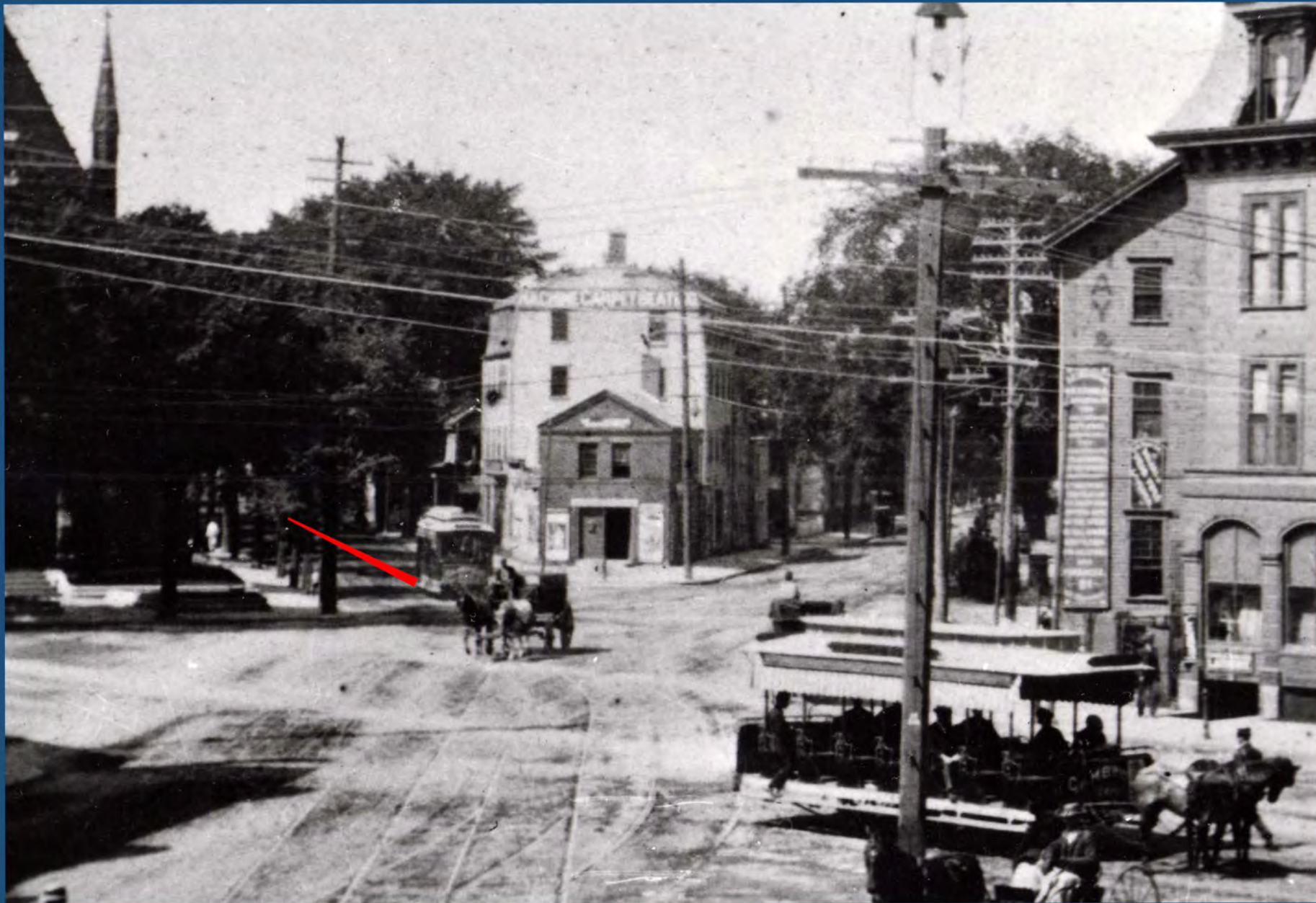




Central Square, 1989



Central Square, 2014



Central Square, ca. 1890



Olympia Theater (1910);
razed 1954. Photo ca. 1954



River Street looking north from Franklin Street, ca. 1925



Olympia Theater site, ca. 1980

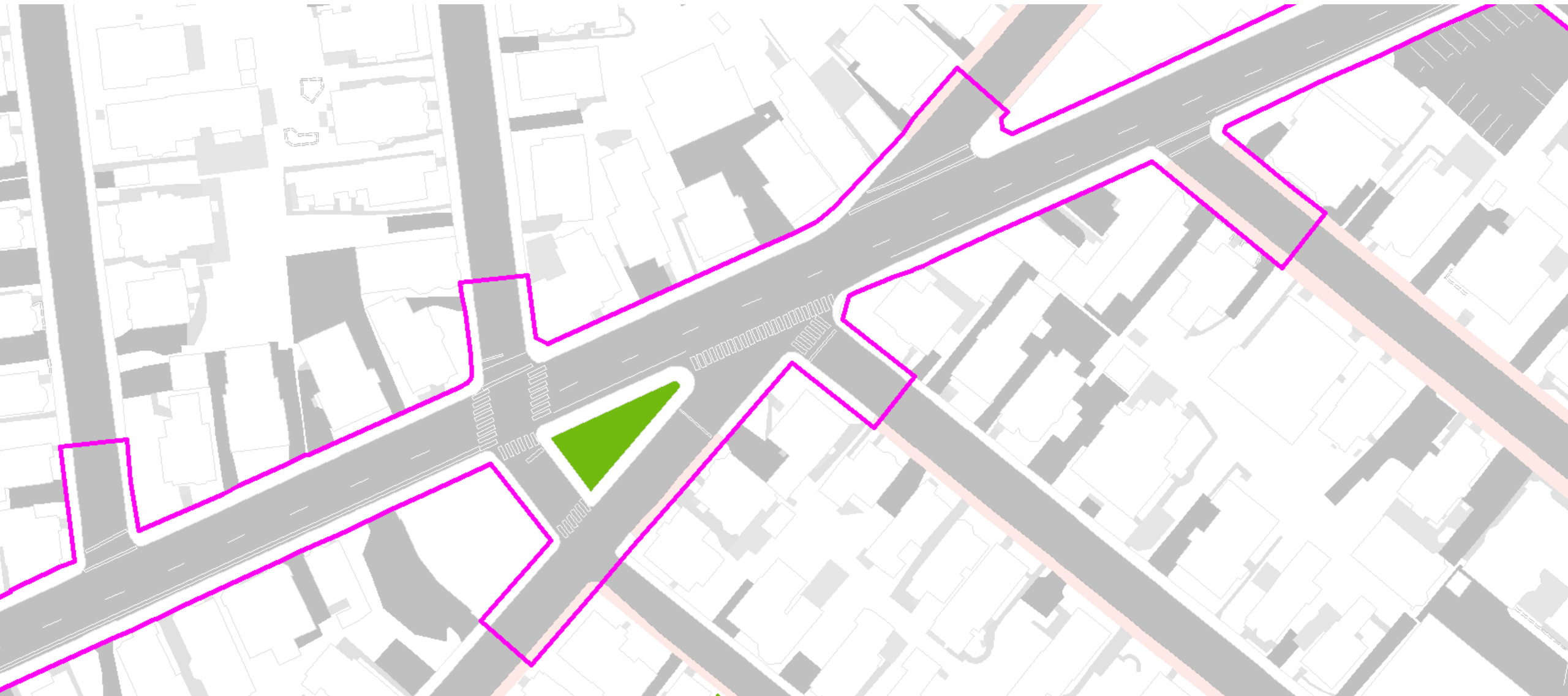


Olympia Theater site, 2014



River Street looking south
from Green Street, ca, 1925

Project Limits – Tubman Square





River Street looking north at Pleasant Street, ca. 1933



Tubman Square, ca. 1950



123 River Street (1881), photo ca. 1900



123 River Street, with former store added 1920

Project Limits – Hoyt Field and Riverside Press Park





1847

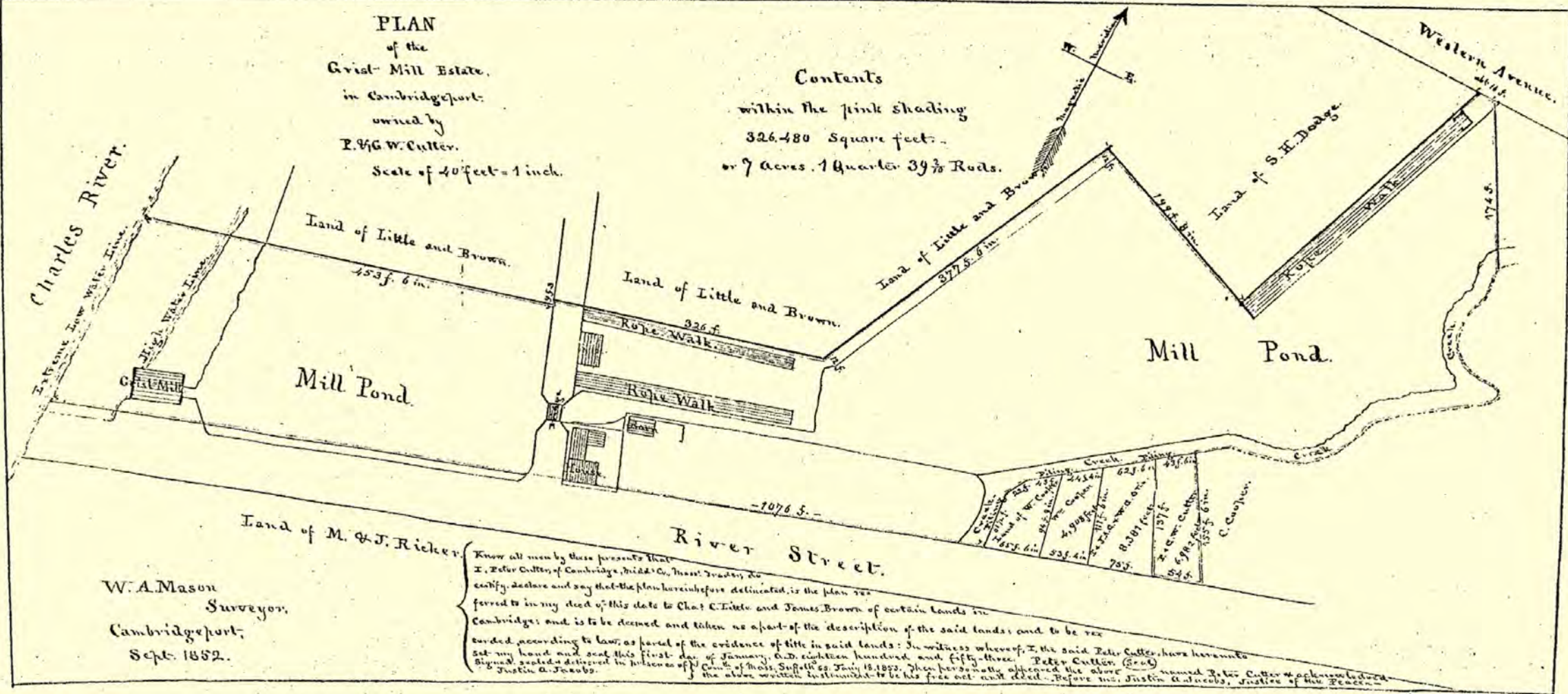


Henry F. Walling,
"Map of the City of
Cambridge ...
Massachusetts," 1854

PLAN
of the
Grist Mill Estate,
in Cambridgeport,
owned by
P. G. W. Cutter.

Scale of 40 feet = 1 inch.

Contents
within the pink shading
326.480 Square feet -
or 7 acres, 1 Quarter, 39 3/8 Rods.



W.A. Mason
Surveyor,
Cambridgeport,
Sept. 1852.

Land of M. & J. Ricker.

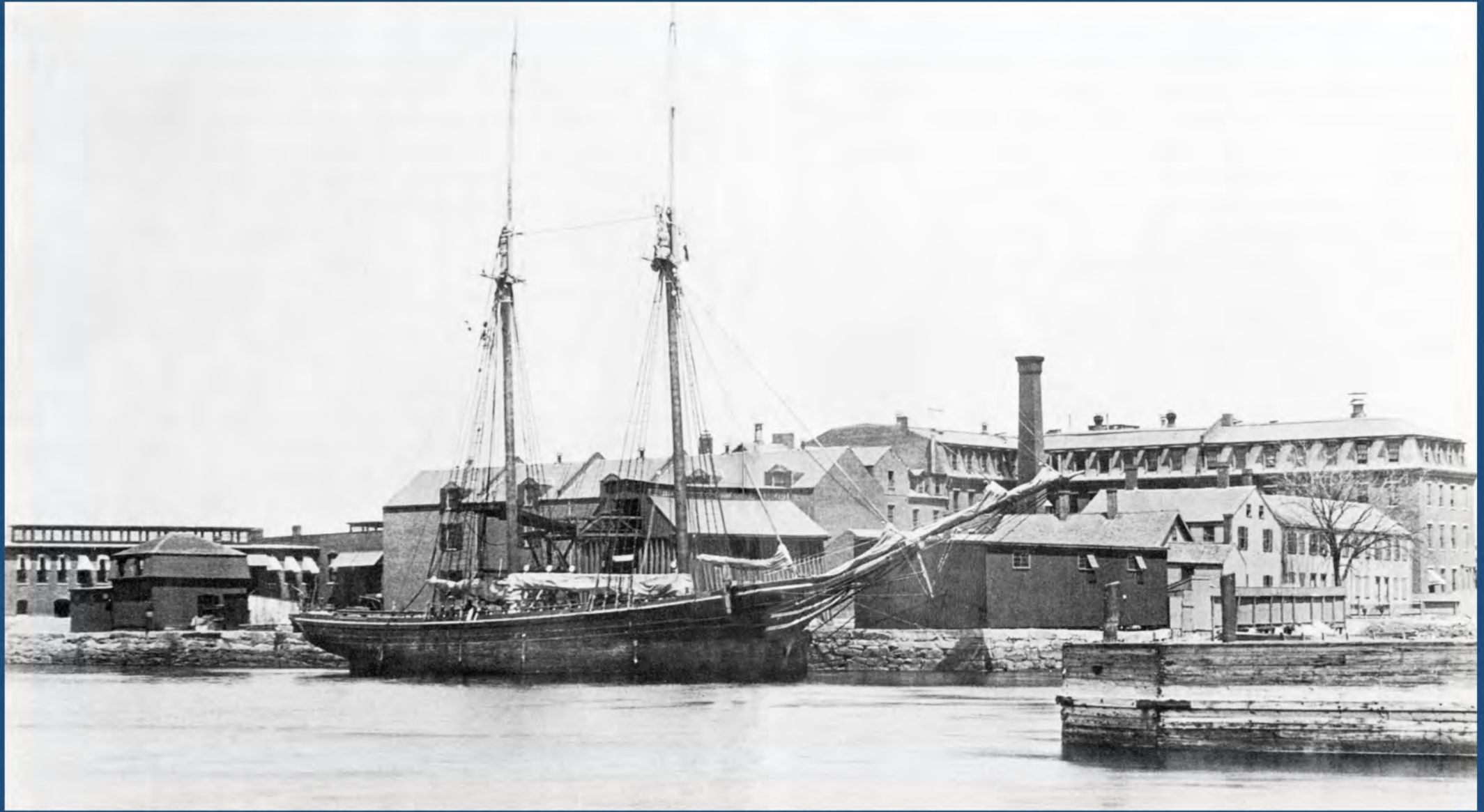
Know all men by these presents that I, Peter Cutter, of Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, do certify, declare and say that the plan hereinafore delineated, is the plan referred to in my deed of this date to Chas. C. Little and James Brown of certain lands in Cambridge; and is to be deemed and taken as a part of the description of the said lands; and to be recorded according to law, as part of the evidence of title in said lands: In witness whereof, I, the said Peter Cutter, have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of January, A.D. eighteen hundred and fifty-three. Peter Cutter (Seal)

Signed sealed delivered in presence of Justin A. Jacobs, Justice of the Peace.

W.A. Mason, Plan of the Grist Mill Estate in Cambridgeport, 1853



1873



A schooner at the Riverside Press wharf, ca. 1890, as seen from the River Street Bridge



1886



Natural outlet of the millpond creek, ca. 1895



River Street Carbarns, ca. 1895

current site of CVS
and Whole Foods



Charles Eliot's plan for public reservations on both banks the Charles River, 1894



1903



River Street looking toward Central Square from Putnam Avenue, ca. 1920



Victory Diner, 360 River Street (site of Rite-Aid store), 1948
traffic is two-way until 1964



1925



1965



2011



Central Square, ca. 1915



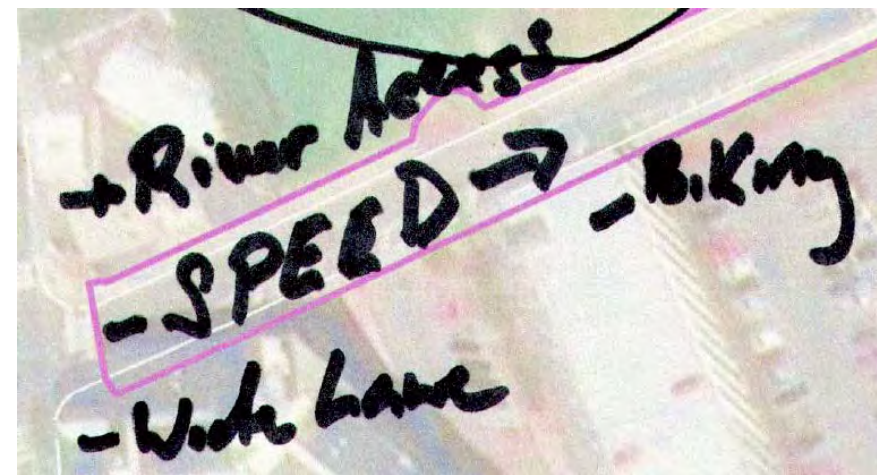
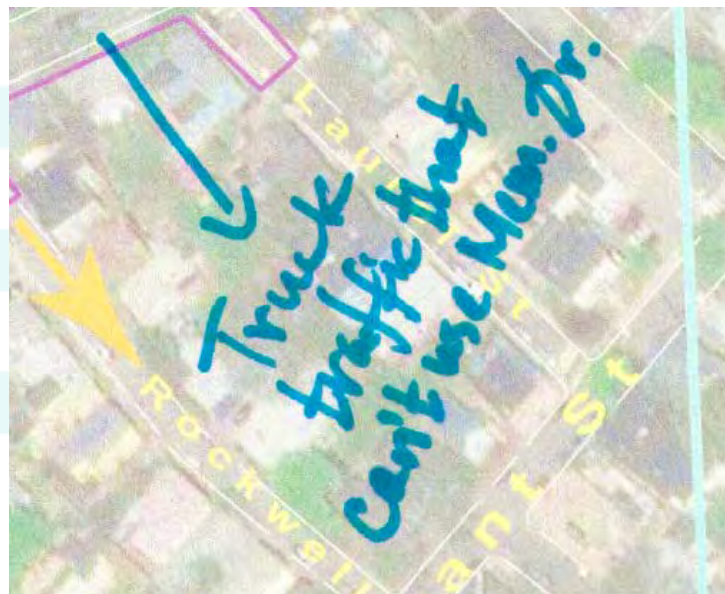
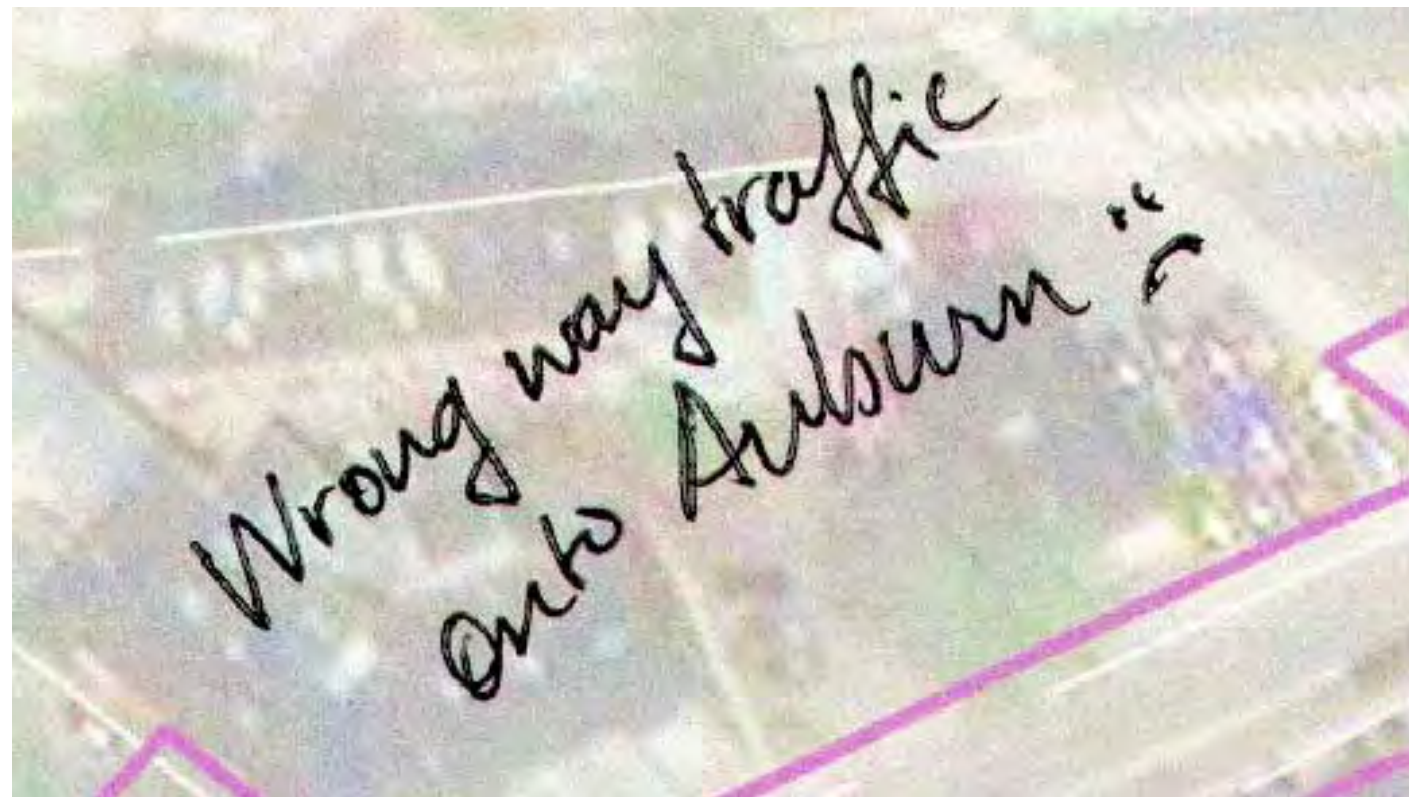
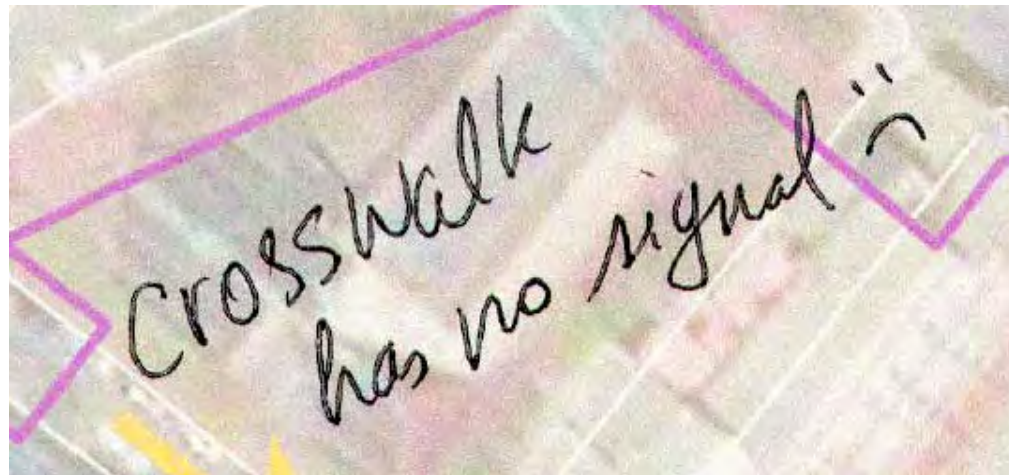
Review of input & emerging themes

Summary of Themes We Heard

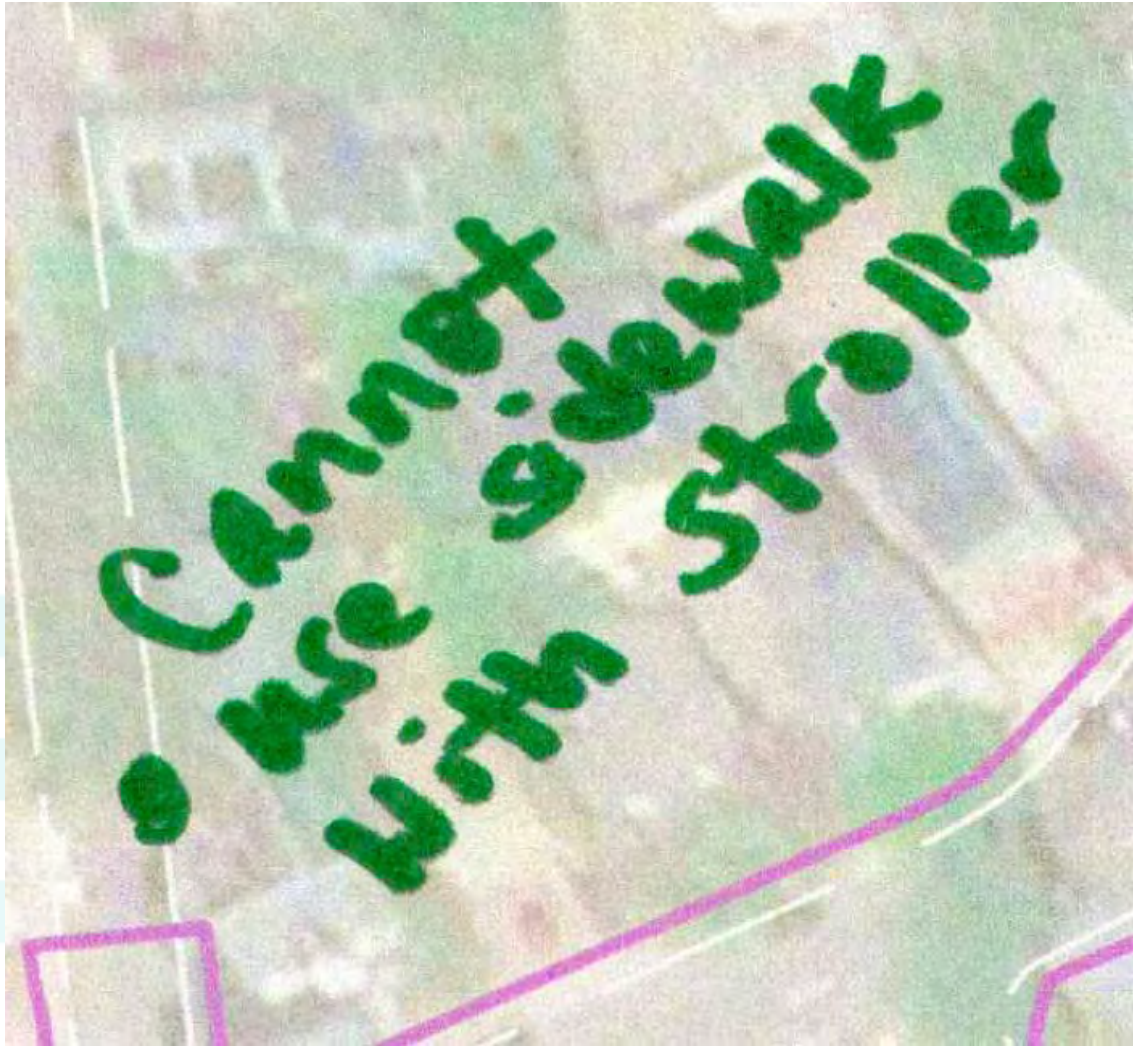
- Safety / Calm
- Accessibility
- Public space enhancements
- Supporting businesses
- Efficient transportation



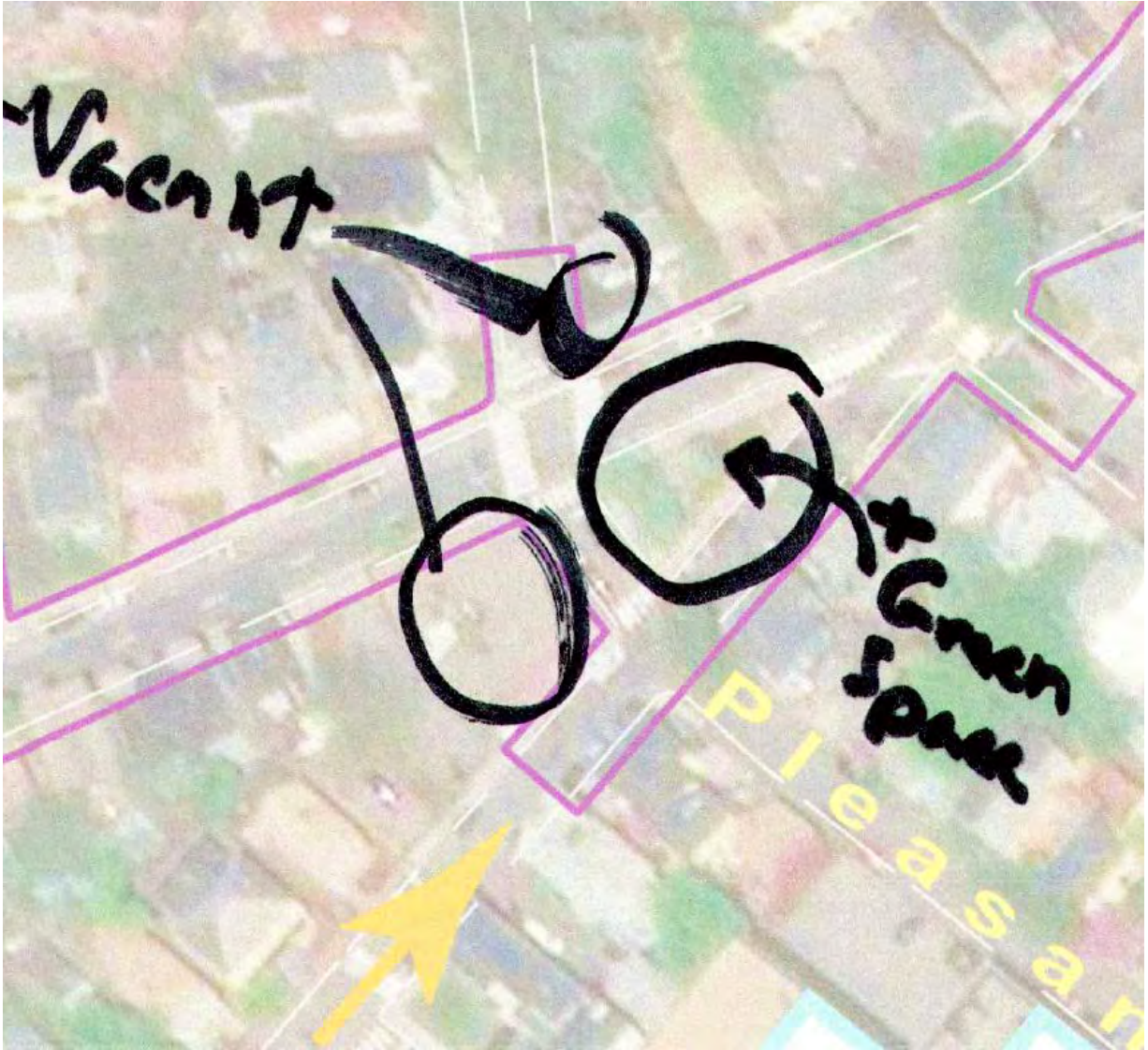
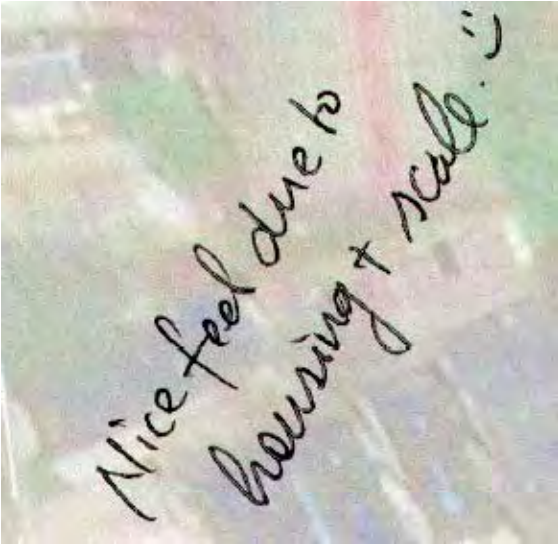
Safety & Calm



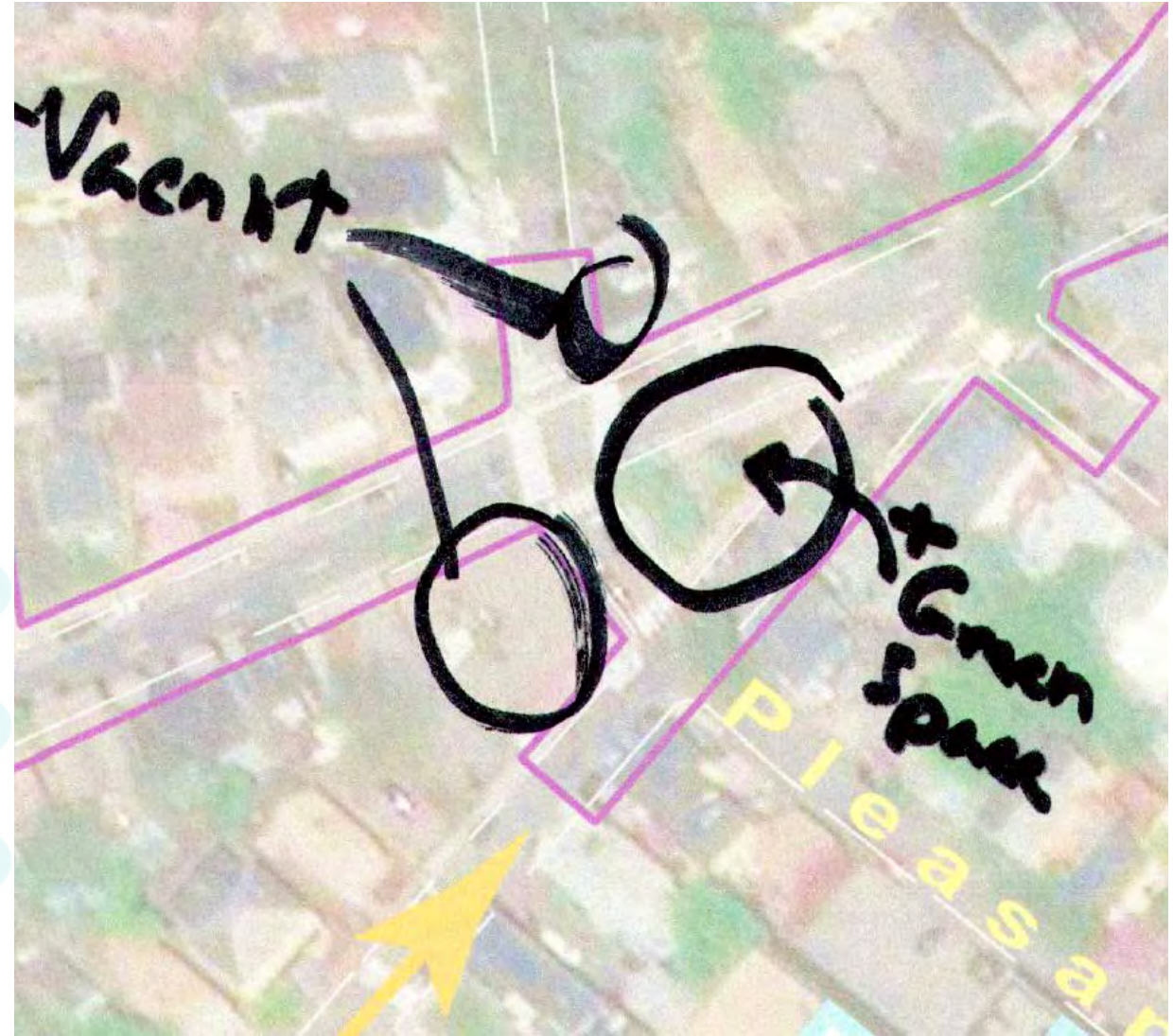
Accessibility



Public Space Enhancements



Supporting Businesses



Efficient Transportation



Sample Envision Cambridge Citywide 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



Existing
Conditions
Progress

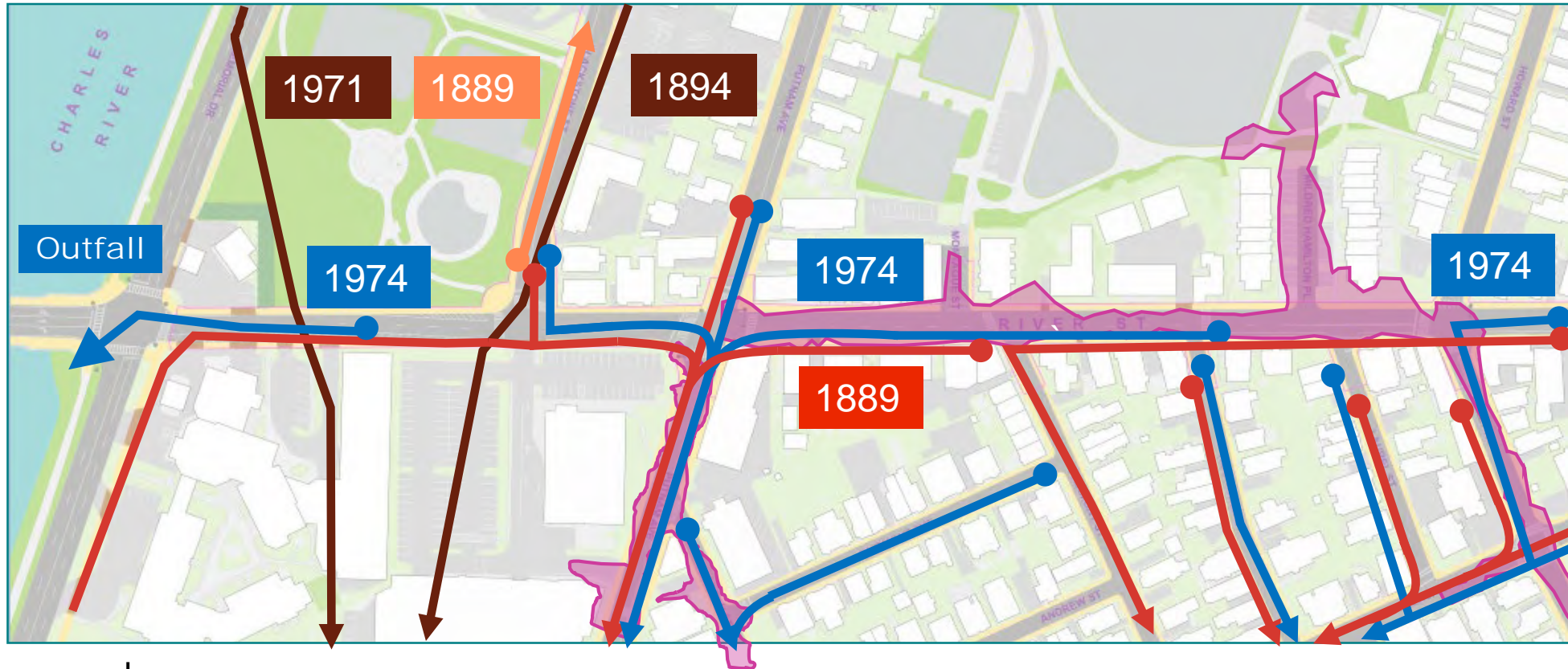
River Street is a.....

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






River Street Bounded by Water (1880)



Existing Sewer/Stormwater -- West



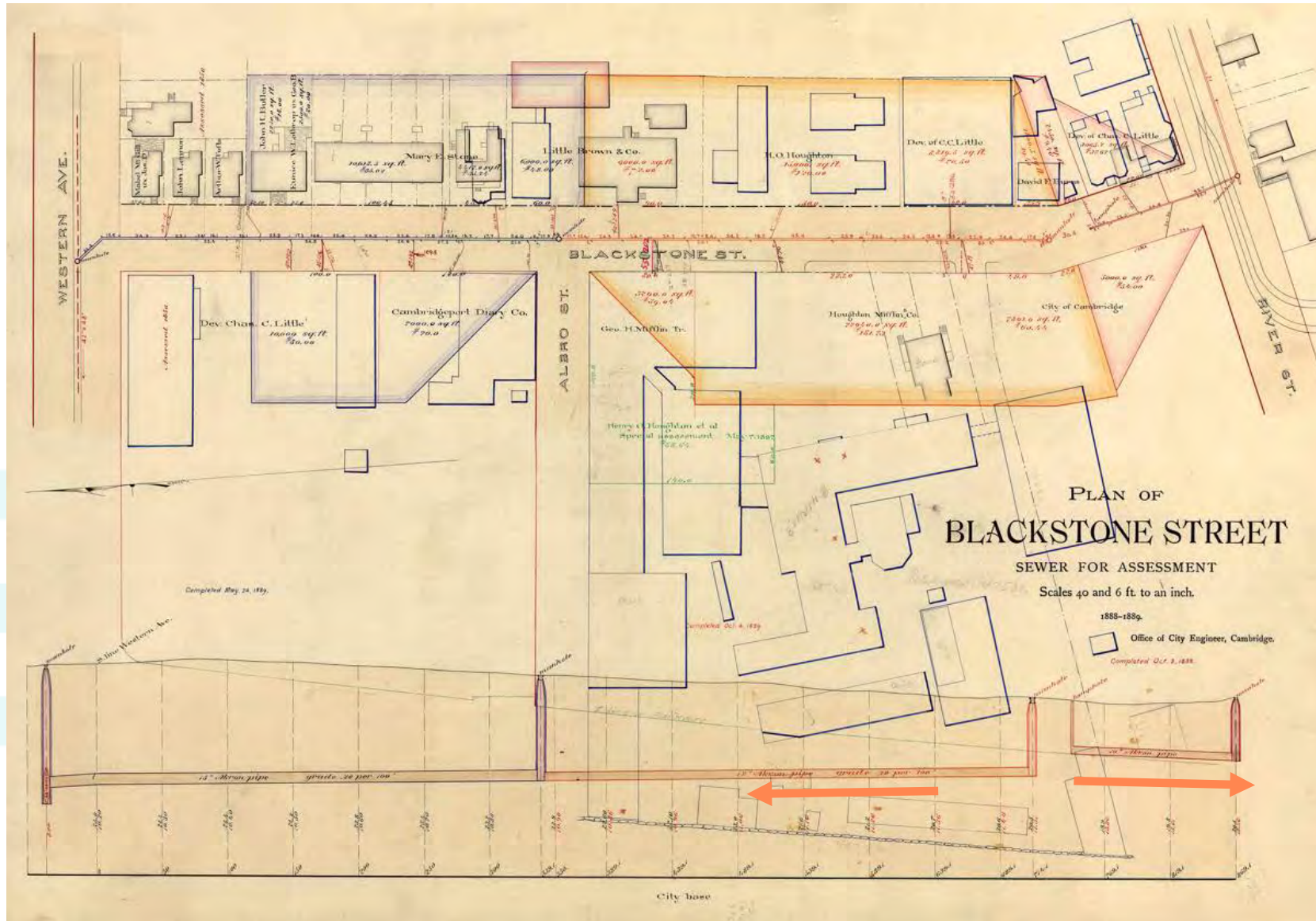
Legend

- Stormwater 
- Sewer 
- Combined Sewer 
- MWRA Sewer 
- 100 Year Precipitation Flood Limits 

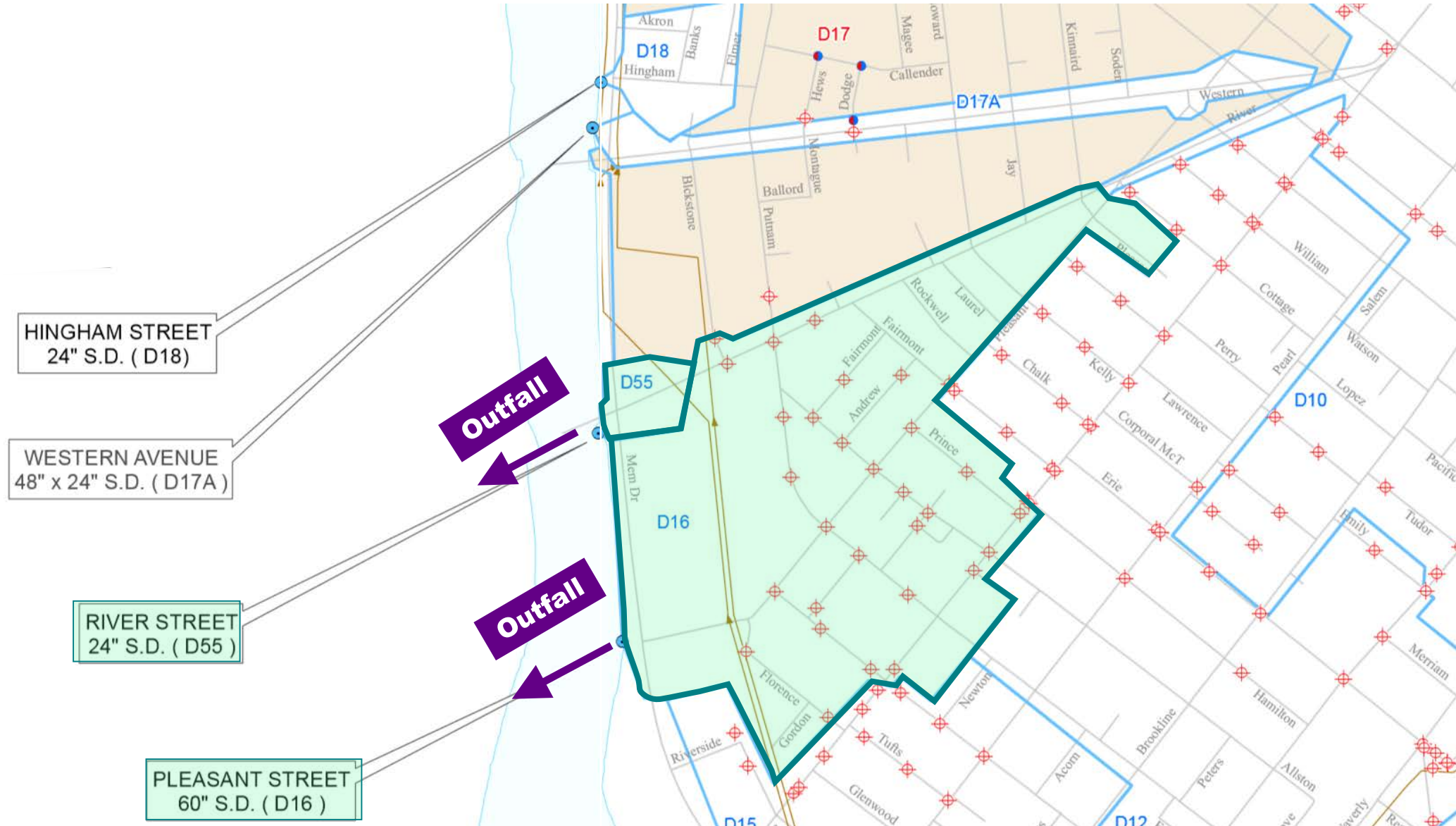
- Separate combined sewer systems
- Reduce flooding
- Investigate and upgrade where needed

100 Year Precipitation Flood Limits – Present Day Conditions

1889 Blackstone Street Sewer



Stormwater Catchment Areas today



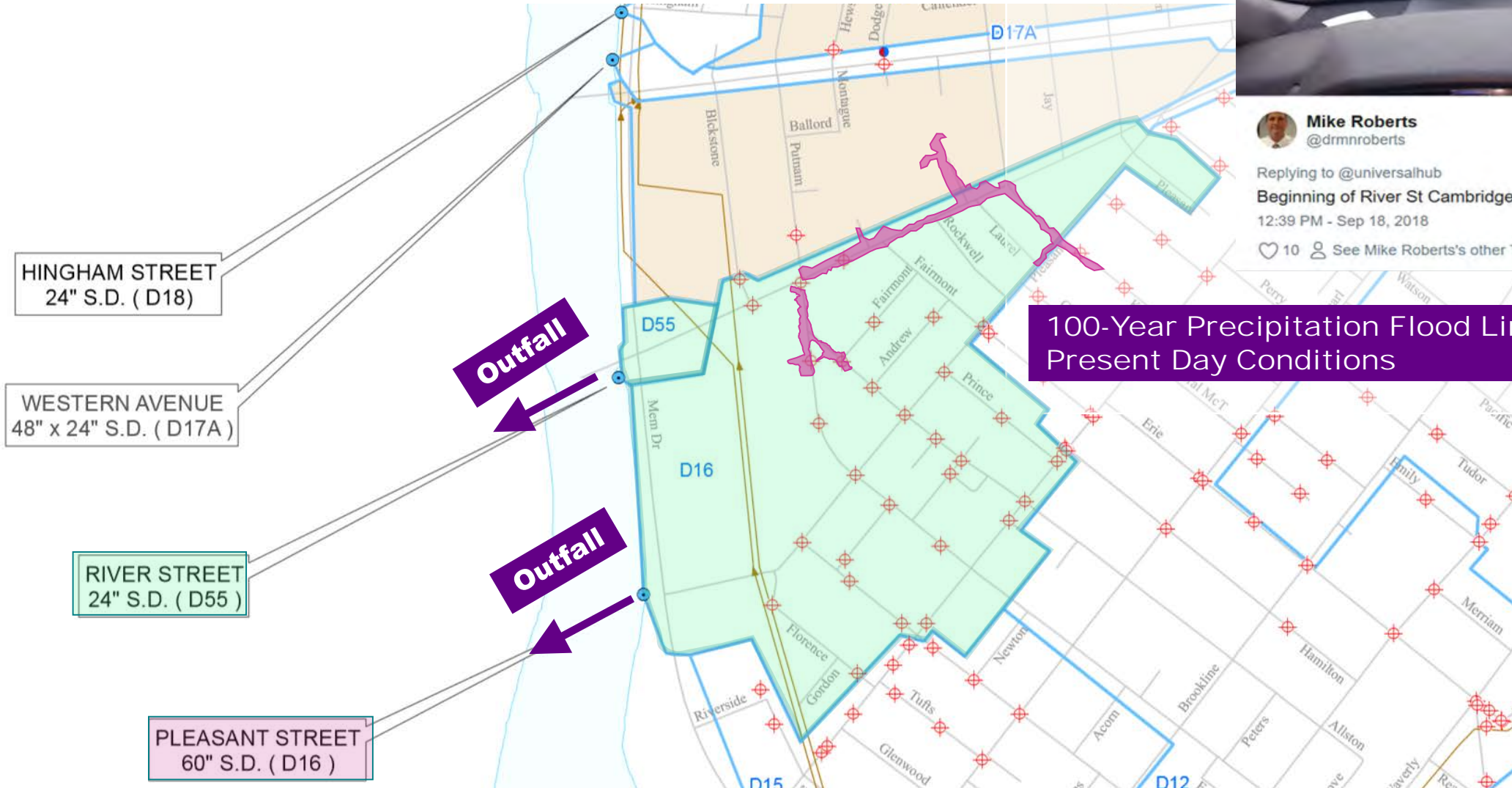
100-Year Precipitation



Mike Roberts
@drmnroberts

Replying to @universalhub
Beginning of River St Cambridge approx 1130
12:39 PM - Sep 18, 2018

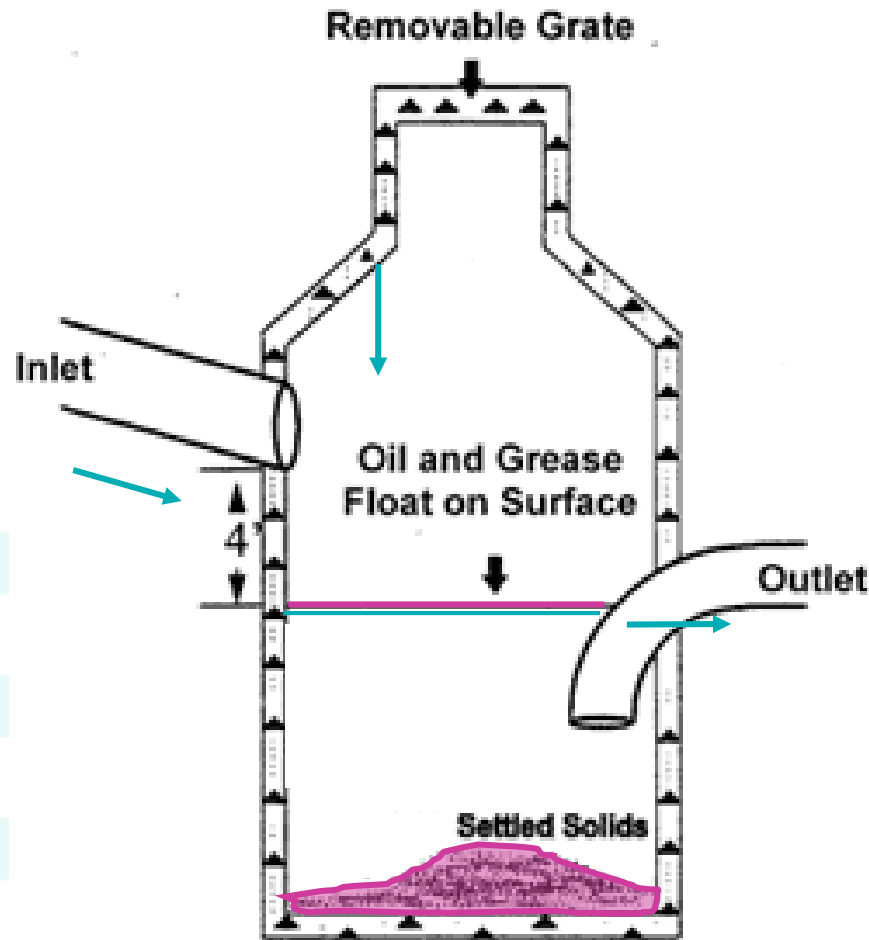
10 See Mike Roberts's other Tweets



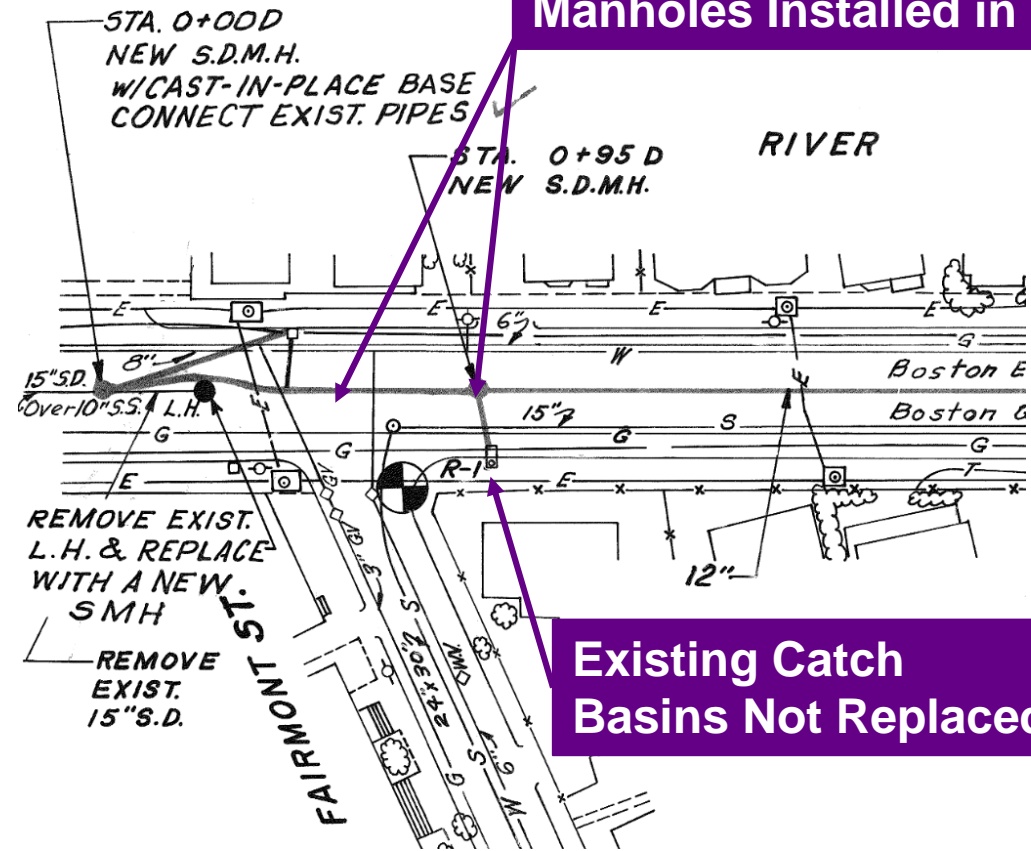
Ponding



Water Quality Issue: Existing Catch Basins Lack Sumps



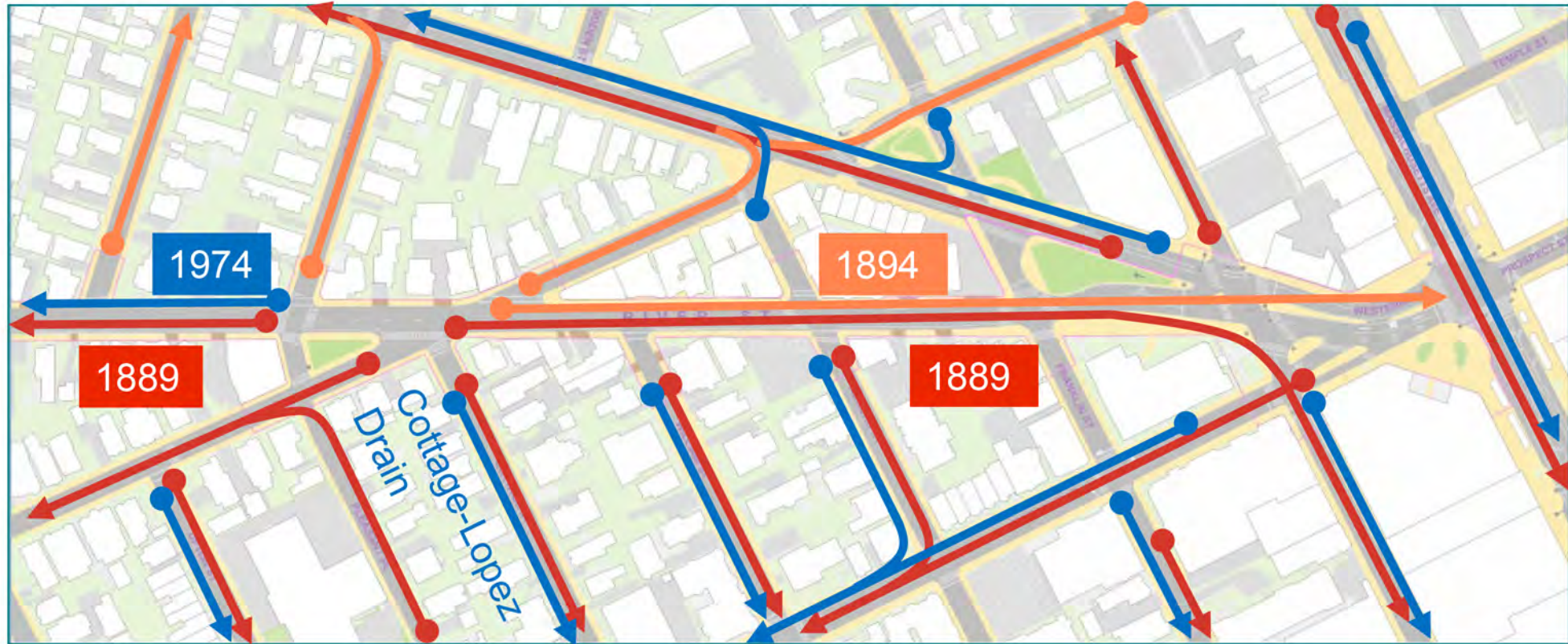
Modern Deep Sump Catch Basin



Stormwater Pipes and Manholes Installed in 1974

Existing Catch Basins Not Replaced

Existing Sewer/Stormwater -- East

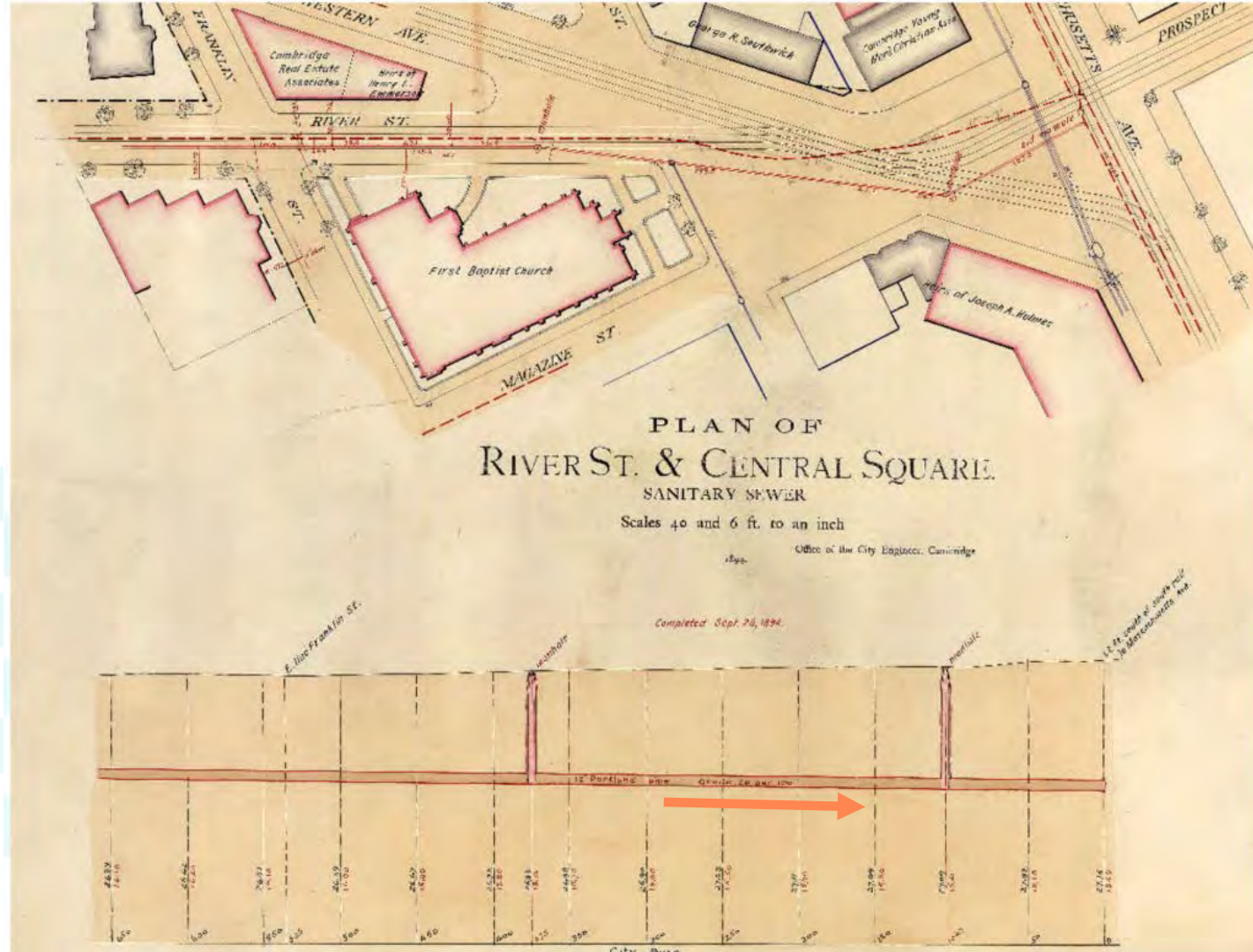
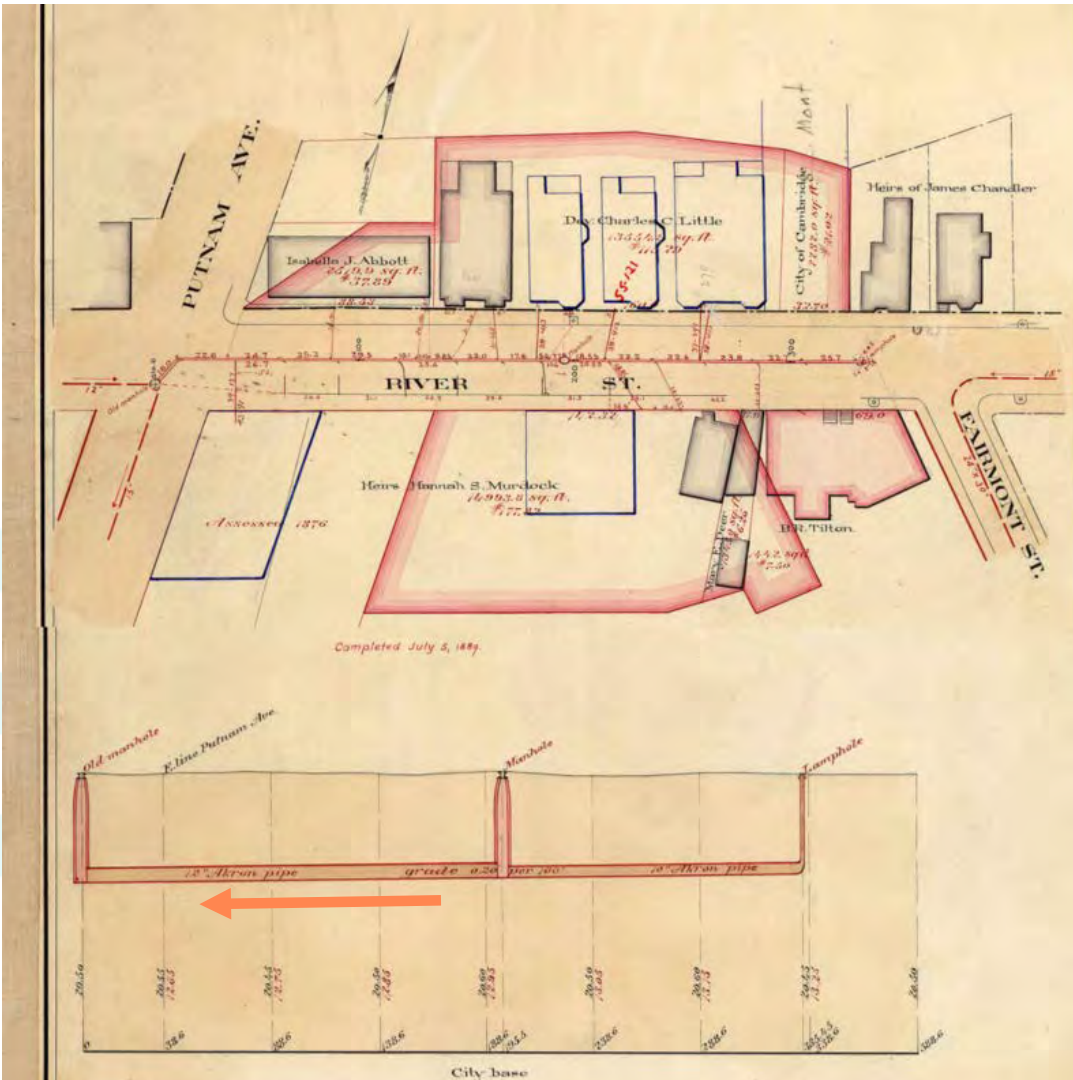


Legend

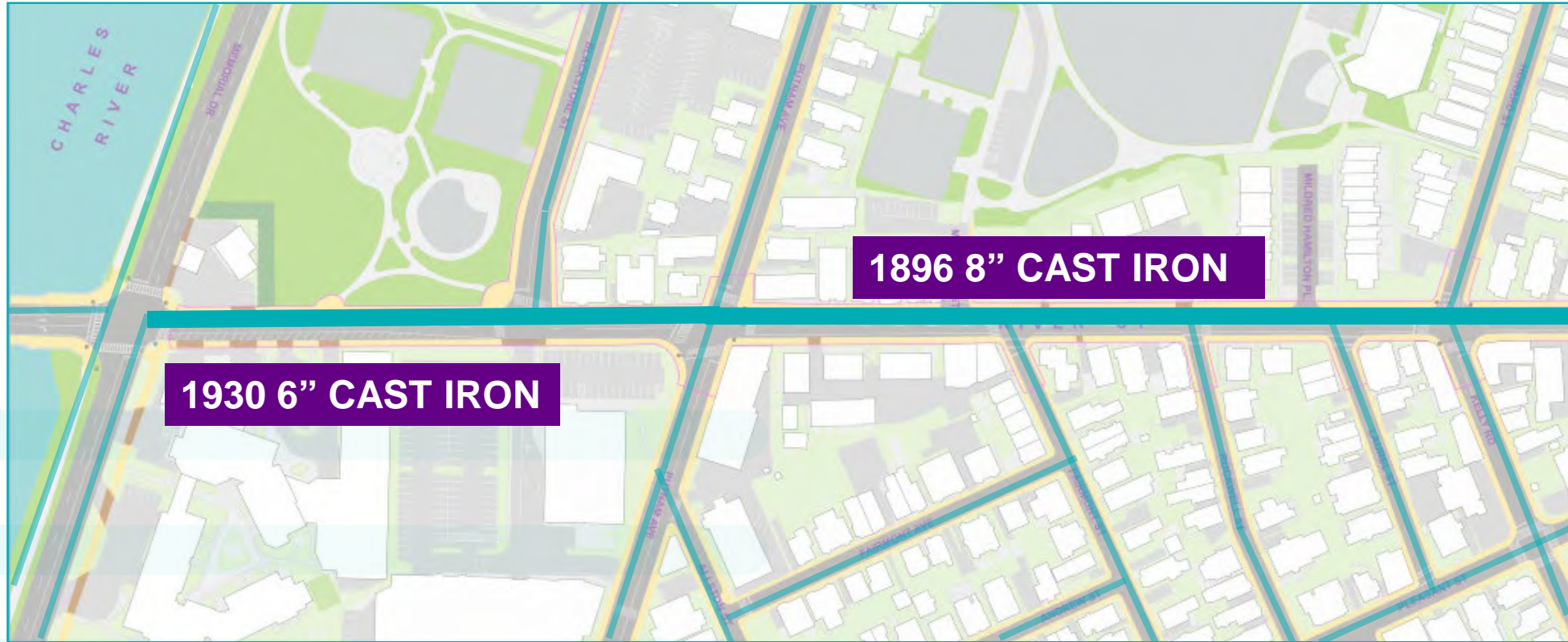
Stormwater	
Sewer	
Combined Sewer	

- Separate combined sewer systems and route to upgraded Cottage-Lopez Drain
- Reduce flooding
- Investigate and upgrade where needed

1889 River Street Sewer

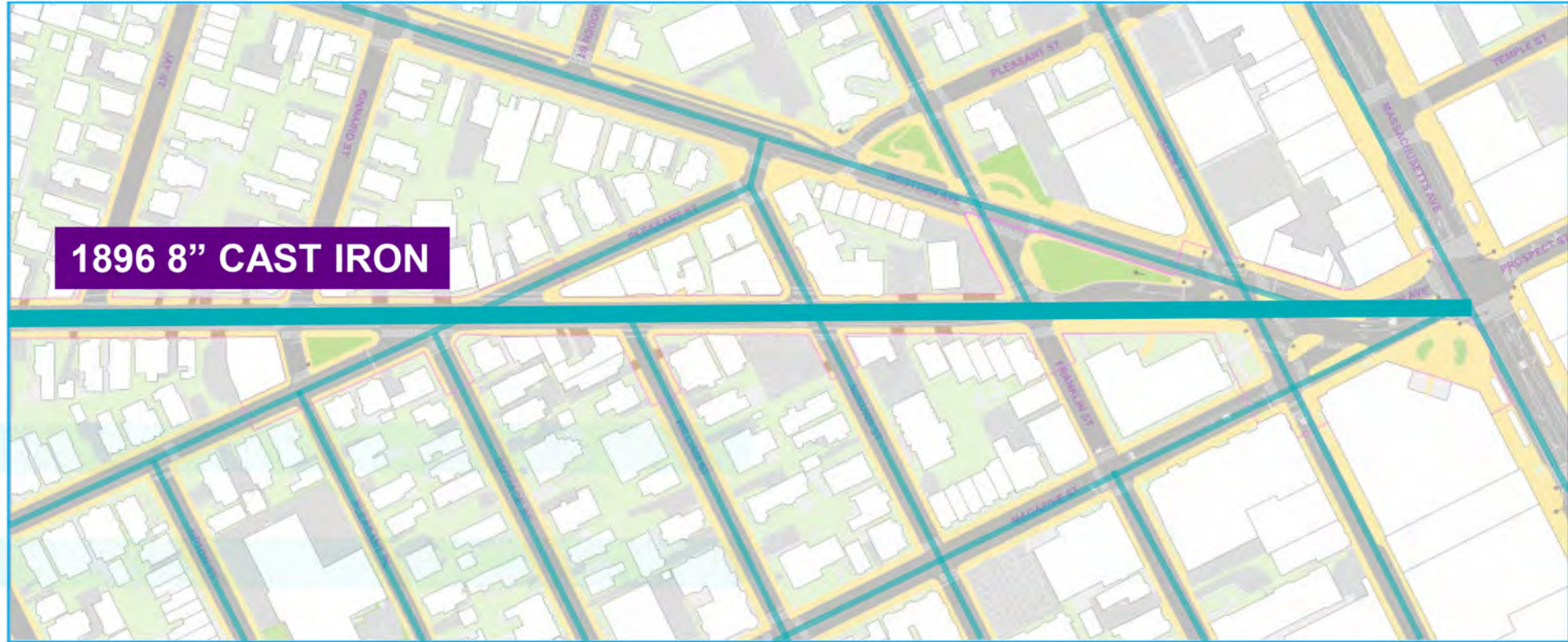


Water Supply System -- West



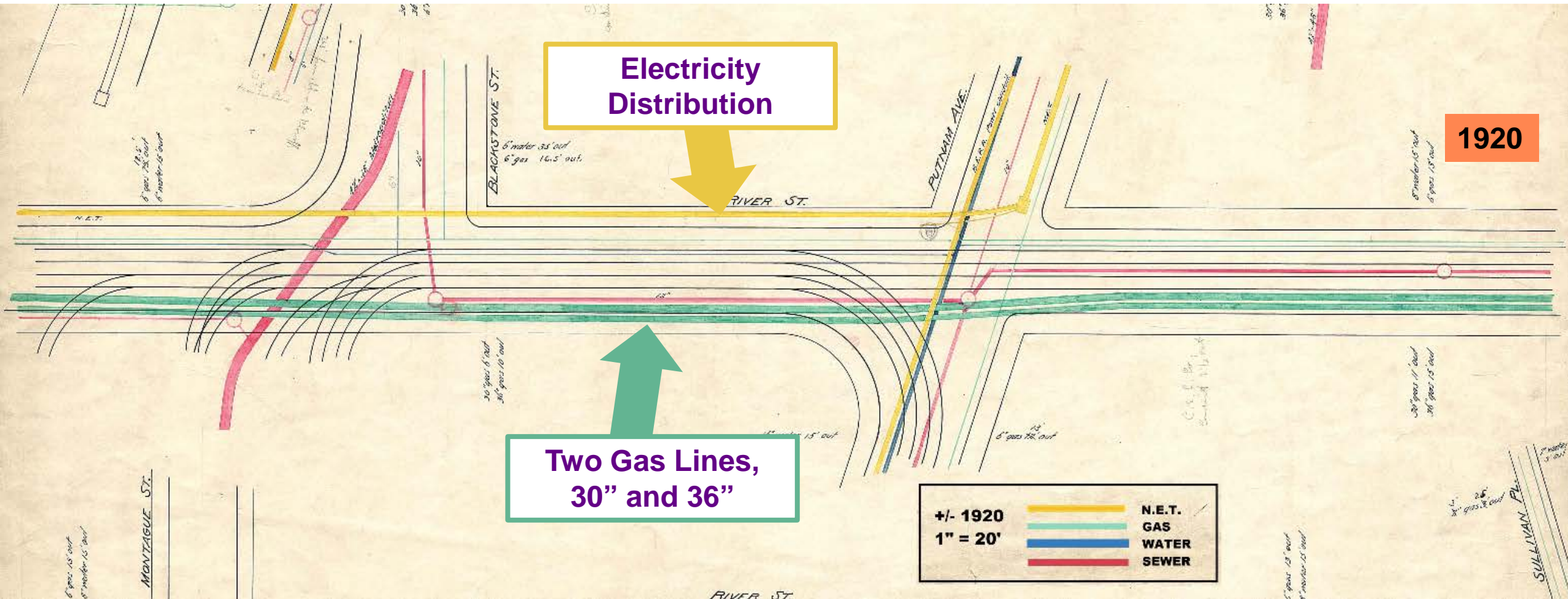
Water Line 

Water Supply System -- East



Water Line ———

Gas & Electric



Accessibility & Crossing Issues



ADA Non-Compliant
Ramp

Potholes

Roadway Damage



Sidewalk Damage



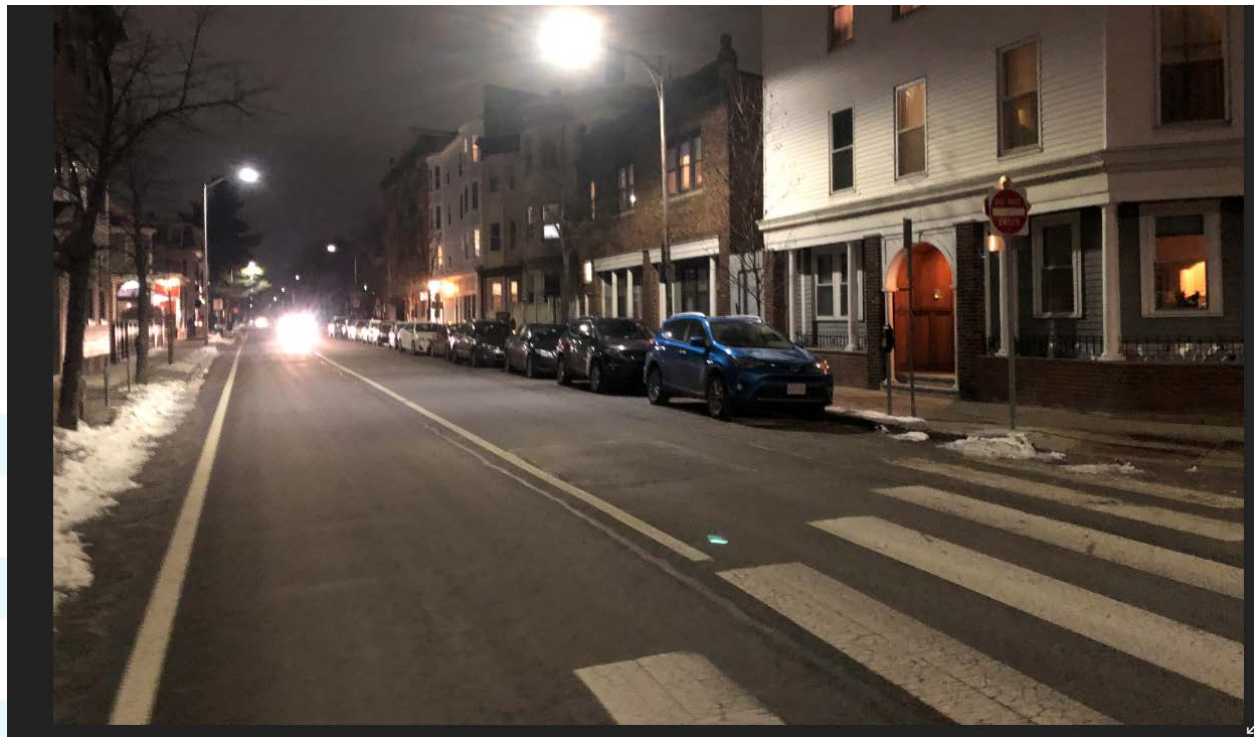
Brick Damage & Empty Tree Pits



Tree Roots Lifting Sidewalks



Existing Street Lighting



Tree Evaluation -- West

TREE LEGEND



Good



Fair



Poor



Dead



Private
Property
Trees

Tree Evaluation -- East

TREE LEGEND



Good



Fair



Poor



Dead



Private
Property
Trees

Tree Summary Data

QTY.	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
6	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
1	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
1	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
1	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree
1	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
9	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash
3	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Maidenhair Tree
1	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honeylocust
4	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree
12	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> 'Bloodgood'	London Plane
5	<i>Malus</i> cultivar Dwarf Variety	Crabapple Cultivar
2	<i>Malus</i> sp.	Crabapple Species
1	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak
4	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak
1	<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Linden
27	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden
1	<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Valley Forge'	Valley Forge Elm
6	<i>Ulmus</i> 'Patriot'	Patriot Elm
6	<i>Ulmus</i> 'Homestead'	Homestead Elm
5	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova
97	Total Trees 20 Types	

TREE CONDITION	QUANTITY
GOOD	54
FAIR	34
POOR	9
DEAD	1
TOTAL LIVE TREES	97



Good



Fair



Poor



Dead



Private
Property
Trees

Urban Design Conditions -- West



LEGEND

- Limit of Work
- Roads
- Sidewalks & Plazas
- River
- Open Space & Parks
- Athletic Courts
- Private Property Landscape
- Private Space
- Driveways & Parking Lots
- Retail / Restaurant
- Churches
- Municipal Buildings / Schools / Community Center
- Curb Cut
- Pedestrian Nodes / Gateway
- Flag Poles
- Bus Stops
- MBTA Stations
- Signalized Intersections
- Pedestrian Connections
- Multi-Use River Paths
- Architectural Significance



RIVER STREET BRIDGE, AUTO DOMINATED



WHOLE FOODS UNFRIENDLY EDGE



RIVERSIDE CAFE & BAR



HOYT FIELD PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION



TUBMAN PARK OPPORTUNITY



RIVERSIDE PRESS PARK W/ WALL @ EDGE



RITE AID UNFRIENDLY EDGE



COAST CAFE - COMMUNITY PLACE



CITY FIRE STATION & LANDMARK



FORMER RIVER GODS (VACANT)



Urban Design Conditions -- East



- LEGEND**
- Limit of Work
 - Roads
 - Sidewalks & Plazas
 - River
 - Open Space & Parks
 - Athletic Courts
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 - Architectural Significance



APEX @ PLEASANT ST & RIVER ST



DYNAMIC RETAIL FRONTAGE



ANDALA CAFE OUTDOOR SEATING AREA



VFW PARK : OPPORTUNITY?



WEST VIEW OF RIVER STREET



UNFRIENDLY EDGE @ PARKING LOT



LARGE CURB CUT @ ENTERPRISE RENTAL CAR



WIDENED PLAZA W/ SEATING @ BAPTIST CHURCH



TRANSIT HUB @ HOLMES BUILDING



CARL BARRON PLAZA



Regional Context



Volpe Redevelopment

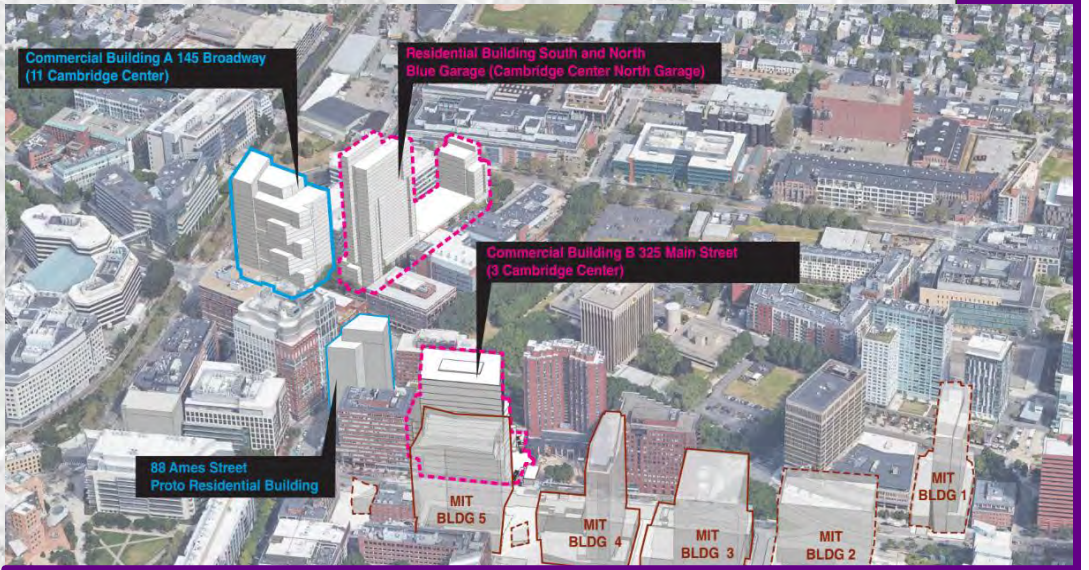
I-90 Interchange Project

THROAT AREA VARIATIONS

LEGEND

- PROPOSED TRUCK APRON
- PROPOSED OPEN SPACE
- PROPOSED LANDSCAPED MEDIAN
- PROPOSED BUS STOP
- PROPOSED RAIL YARD BUILDINGS
- PROPOSED RAIL YARD LAYOUT

Map showing proposed truck apron, open space, landscaped median, bus stop, rail yard buildings, and rail yard layout. Includes street names like Cambridge St, South, and Lincoln St.



Kendall Square Growth

Typical Existing Cross Section



Intersections

River & Putnam



River & Howard



River & Franklin



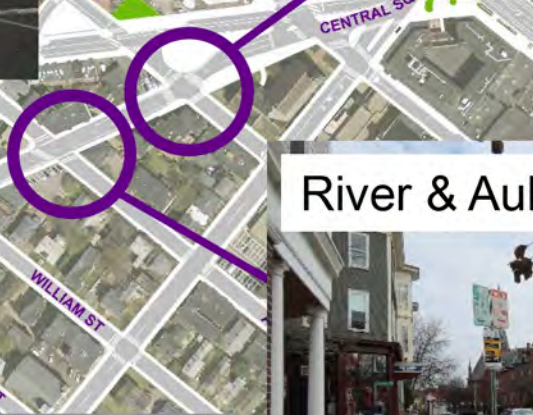
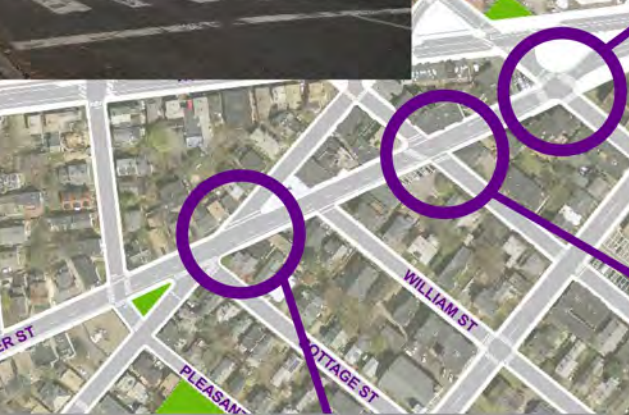
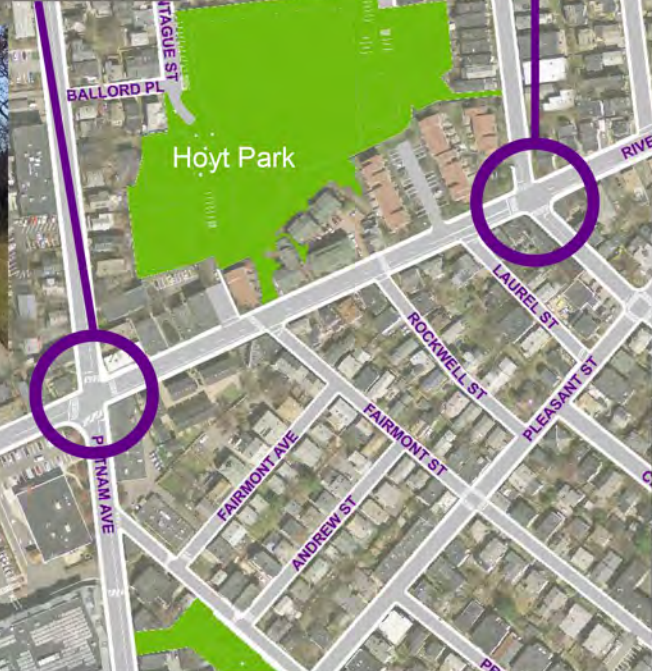
River & Auburn



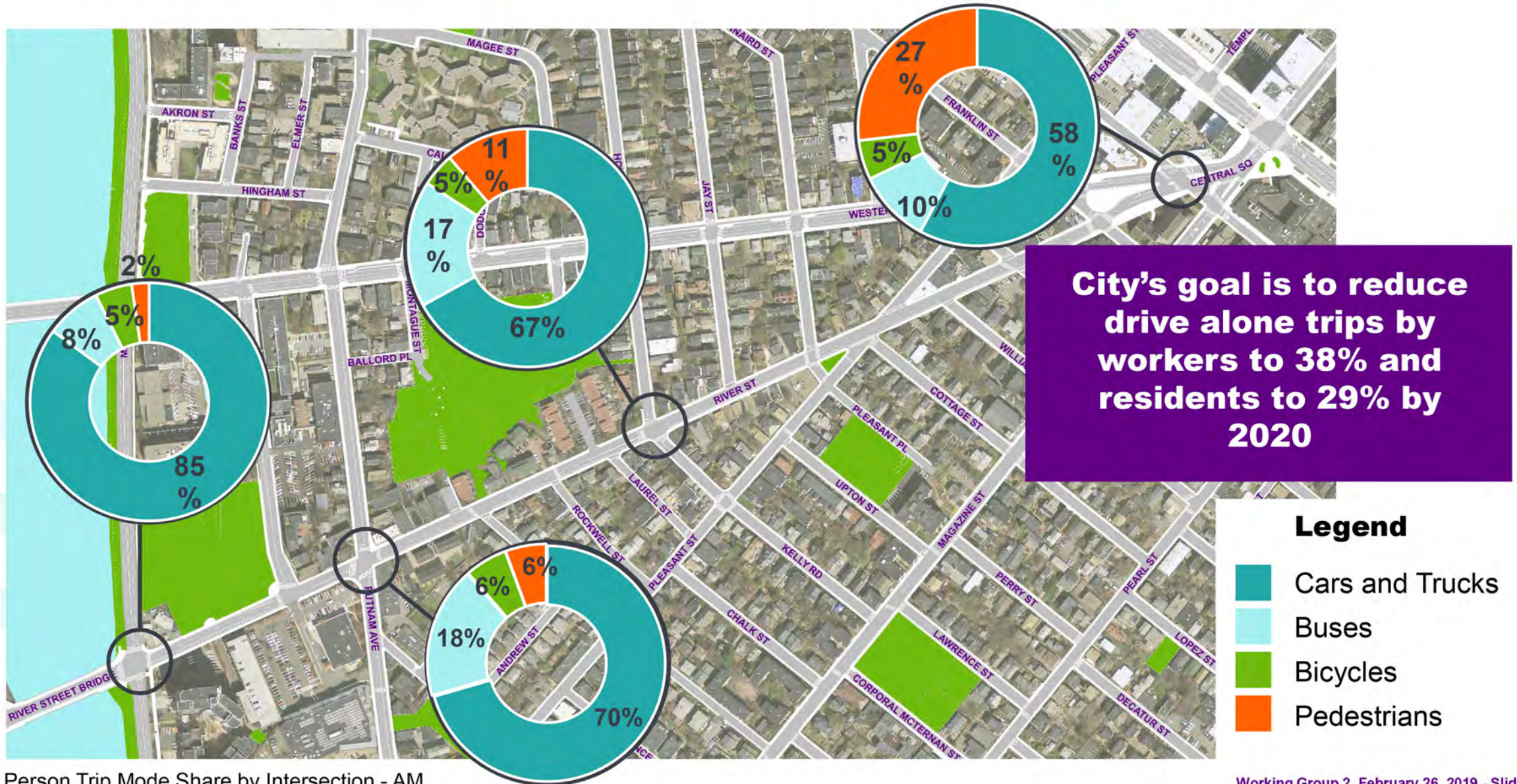
River & Pleasant



River & Mem Dr



People Using River St. Today - AM



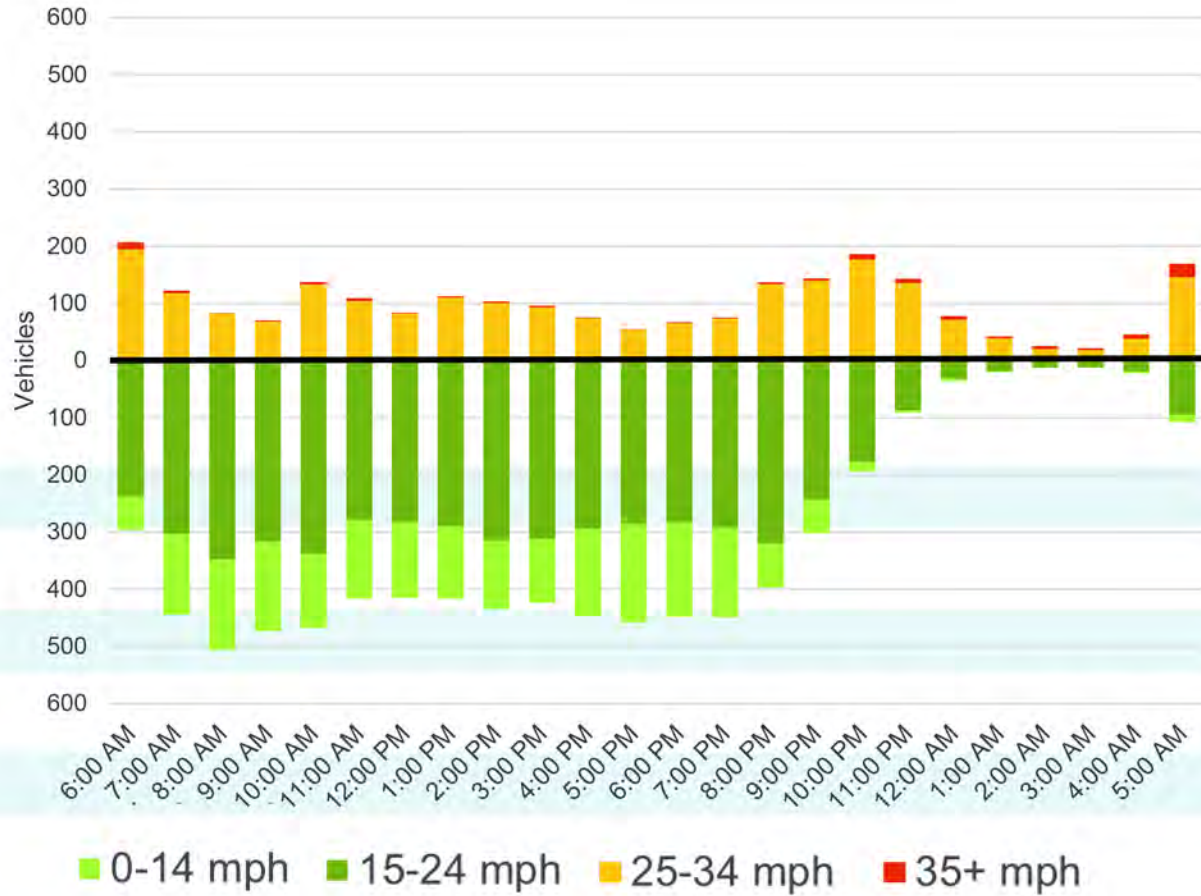
Person Trip Mode Share by Intersection - AM

People Using River St. Today - PM



Person Trip Mode Share by Intersection - PM

Vehicle Speeds



West of Putnam Avenue

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:
20 MPH

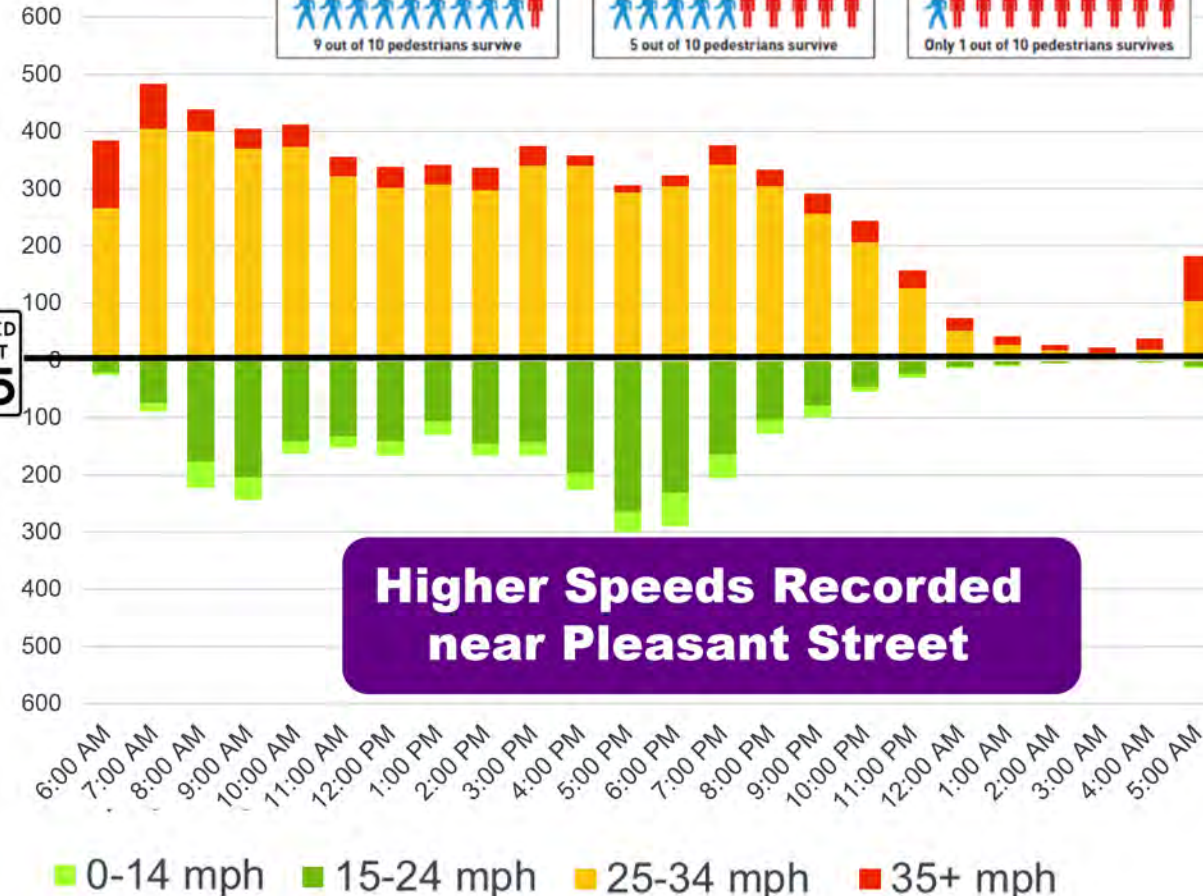
9 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:
30 MPH

5 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:
40 MPH

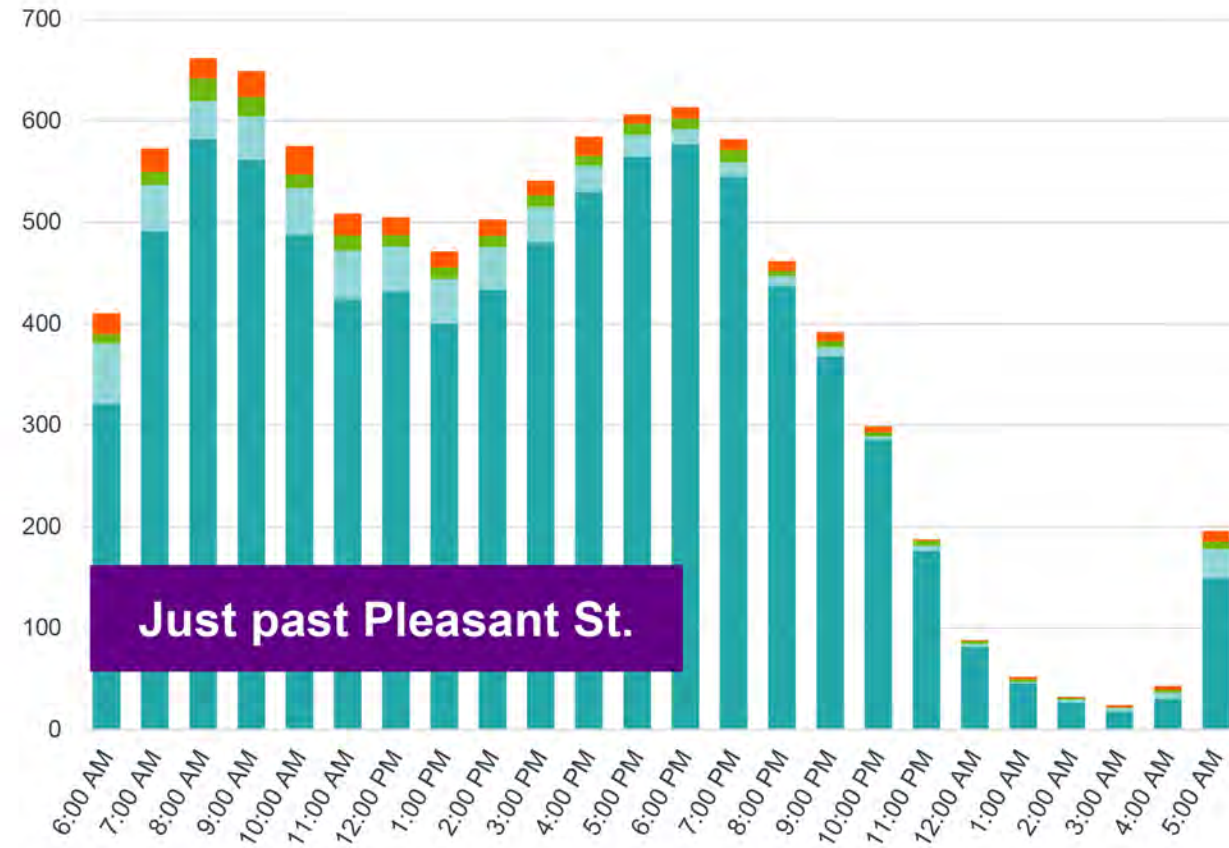
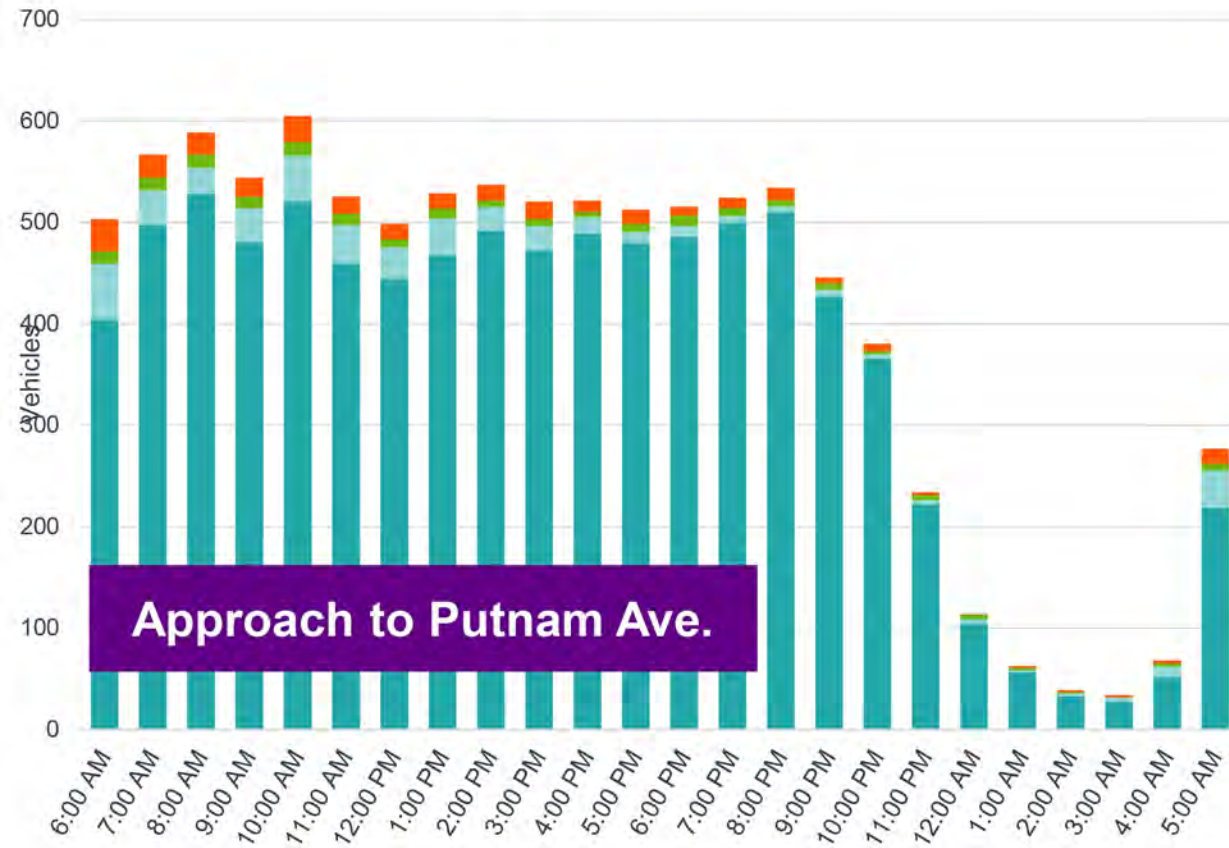
Only 1 out of 10 pedestrians survives



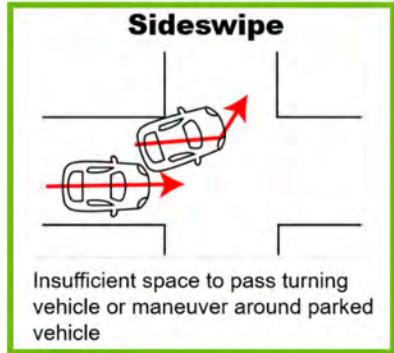
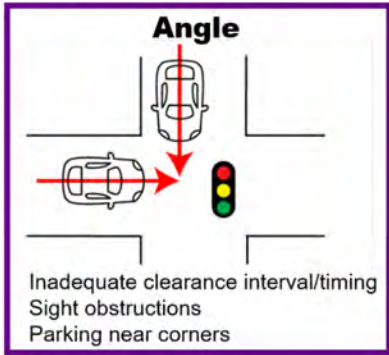
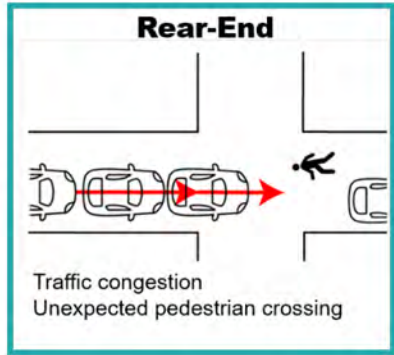
Higher Speeds Recorded near Pleasant Street

East of Pleasant Street

Hourly Vehicle Types

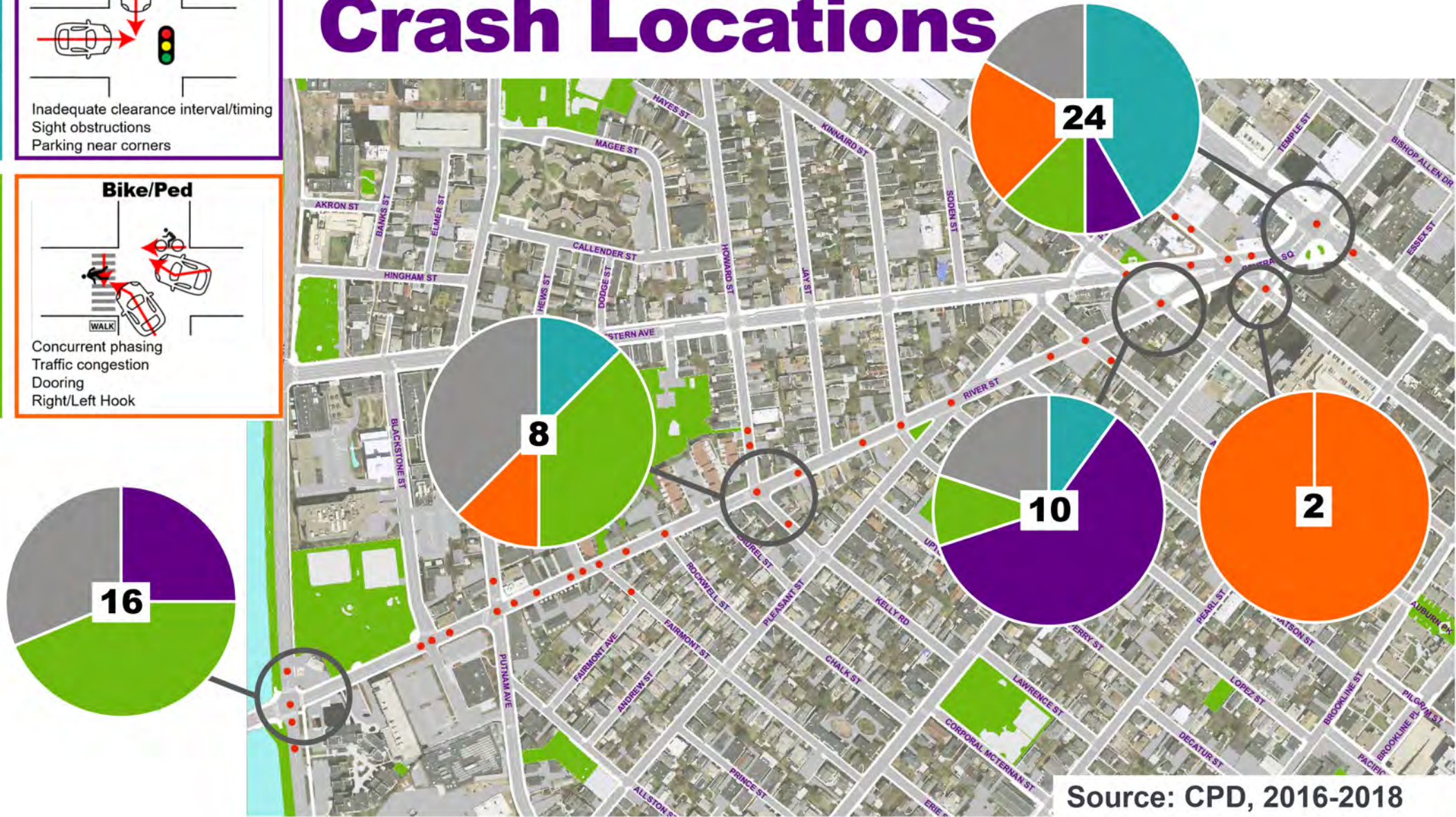


Crash Type



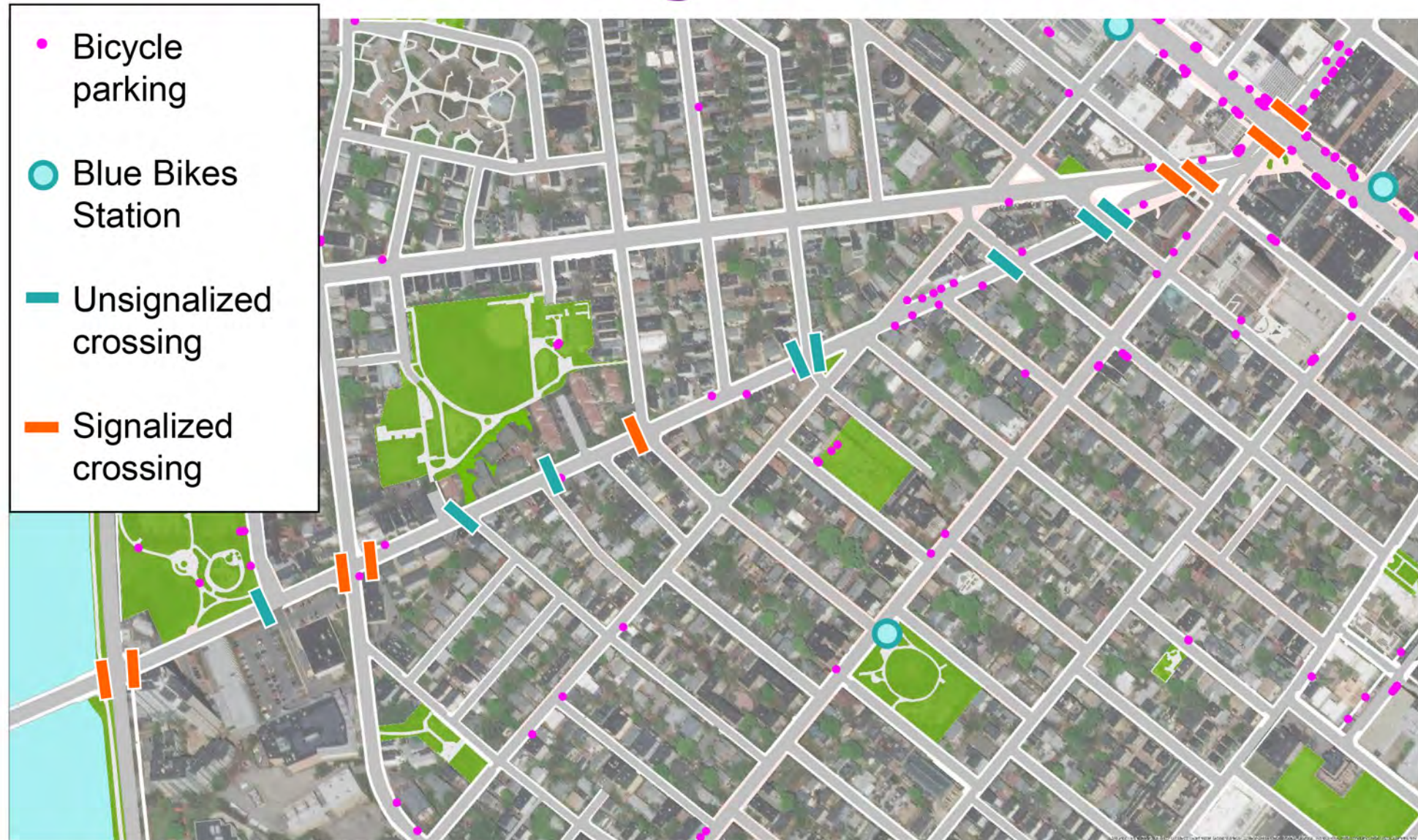
Other

Crash Type at High Crash Locations



Source: CPD, 2016-2018

Pedestrian & Bicycle Amenities



Bicycle Level of Comfort

People have varying levels of tolerance for traffic stress created by volume, speed, proximity of adjacent traffic and on-street parking.

This can be measured as a "Bicycle Level of Comfort" (BLC)

- An all-ages and ability network has BLC of 1 or 2
- Facilities with BLC 1 or 2 are generally safest
- River Street is currently BLC 3 or worse

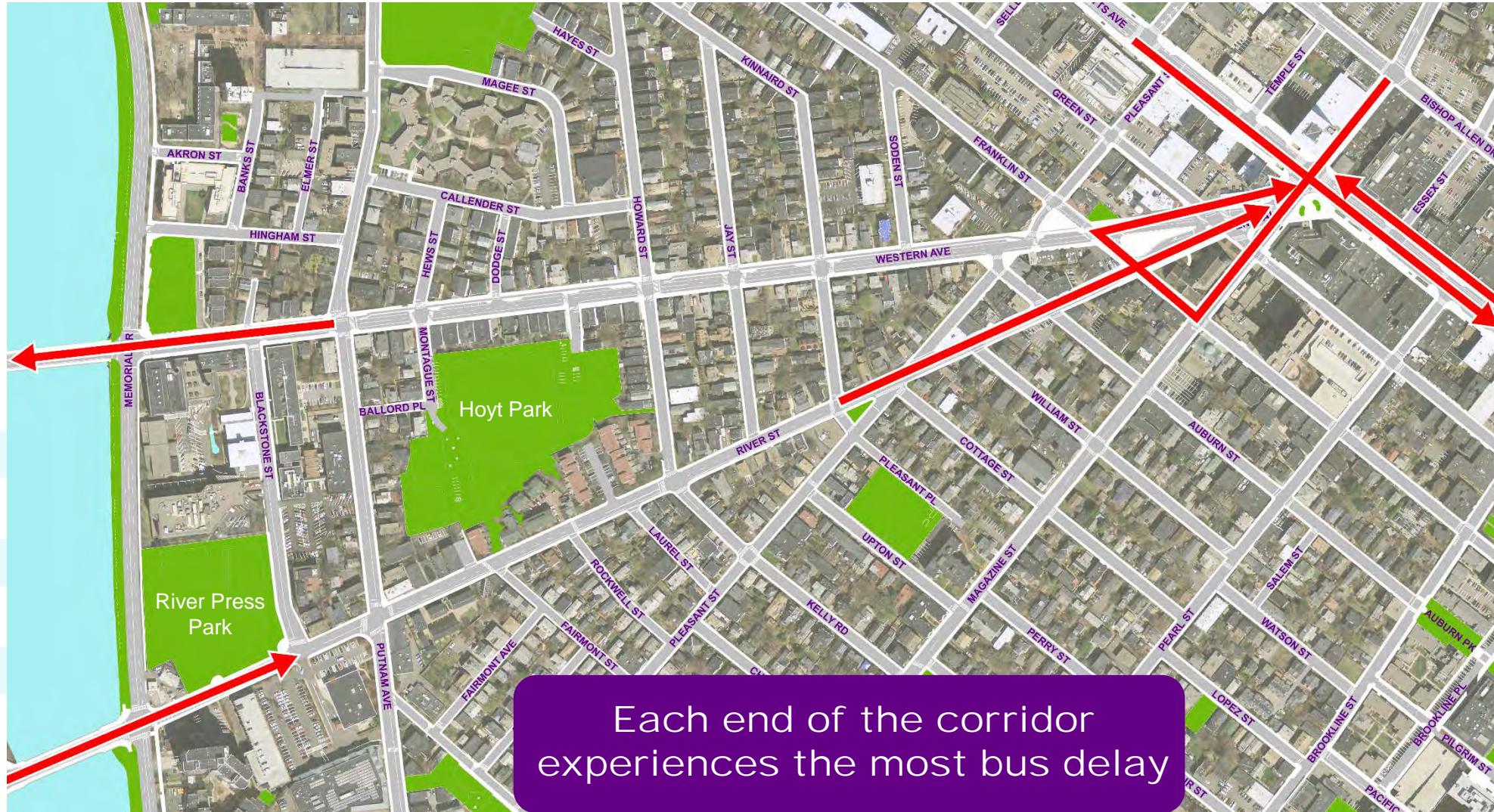


Vehicle Operations



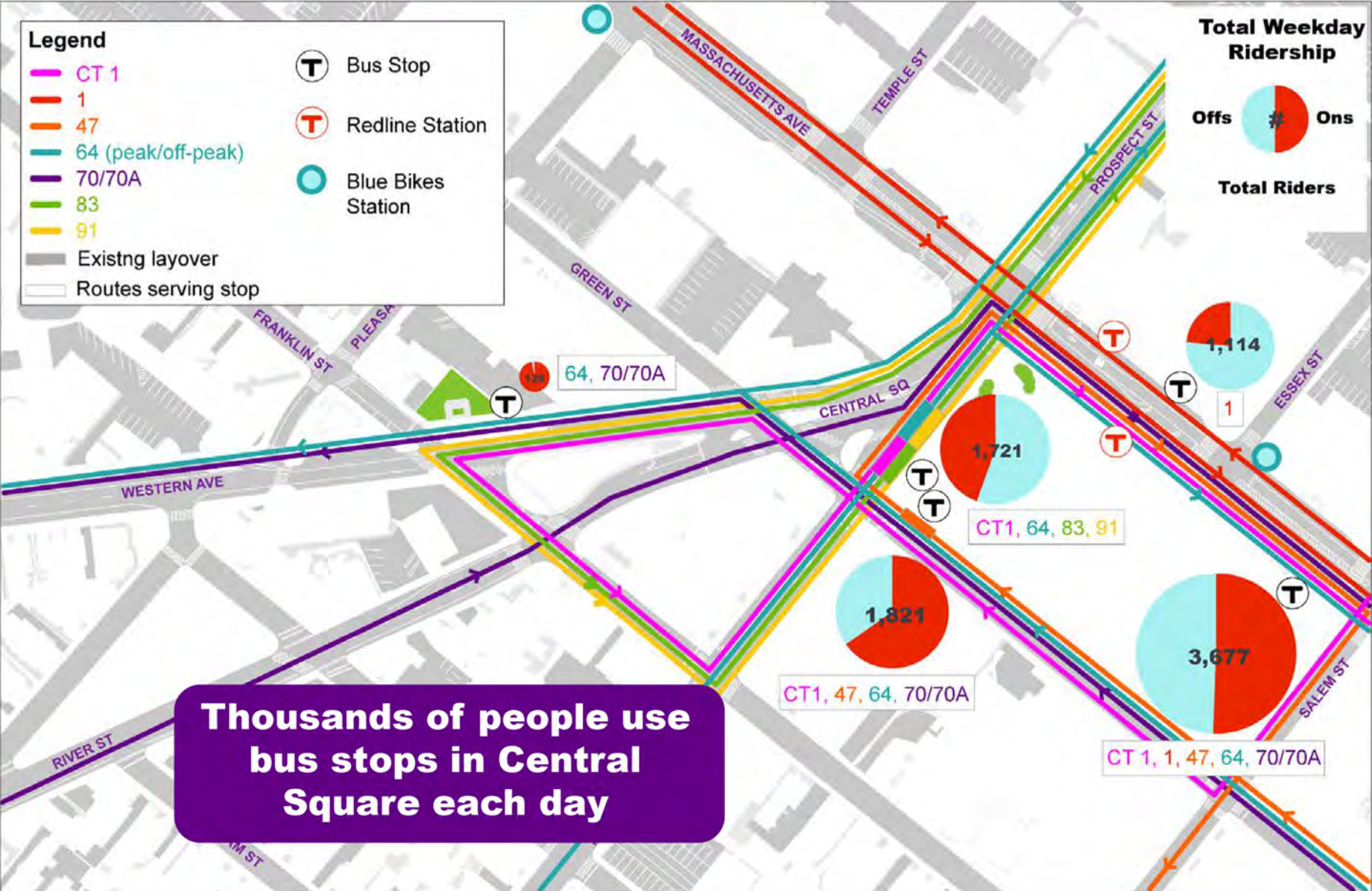
AM and PM traffic queues for all vehicles

Transit Operations



Street segments recorded with the most bus delay and reliability issues in the City

Transit Ridership – Central Square



Transit Ridership - River Street

Western @ Putnam

Western @ Howard

Western @ Kinnaird

Total Weekday
Ridership



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



River Opp Blackstone



River @ Fairmont



River @ Kelly



River @ Pleasant

Curbside Space – Flexible Toolbox

Function	Definition	Examples of Uses
Access for commerce	Goods and services reach their customers	Commercial vehicle loading, truck loading
Access for People	Arrivals, transfers between modes	Bus stops, bike parking, curb bumpouts, pick up/drop off, short-term parking, taxi zones
Activation	Offers vibrant social spaces	Food truck parking, seating, parklets and streateries, public art, street festivals
Greening	Enhances aesthetics and environmental health	Plantings, rain gardens, bio-swales, green infrastructure
Mobility	Moves People & Goods	Sidewalks, bus lanes, bike lanes, travel lanes, turning lanes
Storage (less than 24-hour)	Provides storage for vehicles and equipment	Bus layover, private vehicle parking, reserved spaces (police, govt., etc), construction needs.

Existing Curbside Uses



Parking



Bus Stop



Bike Lane



Loading Zone



Tow Zone

Diverse uses compete for curbside space

Parking/Vehicle Storage

Vehicle storage space is well used in the River St. neighborhood, especially at 6:00 PM and through overnight



**Metered Parking/
Vehicle Storage**

**Other Parking/
Vehicle Storage**

**13 metered spaces
are over 90% full at
6PM and 8PM**

**Unregulated Spaces
are heavily occupied
all day, peaking at noon
and in the evening**



Carl Barron Process Preview

Goals



CARL BARRON CHARRETTE

Develop understanding of the existing conditions of Carl Barron Plaza and surrounding areas--its assets and challenges, and the opportunities associated with the plaza.

Ensure that the community understands the overall process

Hear the community's thoughts, ideas and concerns about the future of Carl Barron Plaza.

Gather ideas for programming and physical improvements to the plaza.

Collaborate with community organizations and local businesses on proposed changes to the space, and its programming and management in the short and long term.

Existing Conditions (March - April)

CARL BARRON CHARRETTE

Activity Mapping: To understand how people are interacting with the space in its current form.

Stakeholder Interviews and Interest Groups: To dive deeper into key assets and challenges associated with the space we will interview individuals and interest groups, including (but not limited to)

- Business owners
- Youth Groups
- Cultural Organizations
- Local advocates
- Building managers
- Service providers

Phase I (May TBD)

CARL BARRON CHARRETTE: OPEN HOUSE

An interactive exhibit inside or outside for the public and invitees with three key elements:

Information Sharing: 2-3 Boards and materials about ‘why are we here and what is the goal of the River Street/Carl Barron Plaza project?’ Key information re. River Street.

Reporting Back: 2 -3 Boards summarizing the information gathered thus far on existing conditions at Carl Barron Plaza with the help of diagrams and key statistics.

Soliciting Input: 2-3 broad activities to gauge people’s perception of the current space and their needs.

+ **Games and food trucks**





Phase II (Thurs. June 20 and Sat. June 22)

CARL BARRON CHARRETTE

A multi-day charrette to generate ideas for the space led by Project for Public Spaces -

Placemaking Workshop: typical agenda includes

- Introductions (if less than 40)
- Overview of the workshop and introduction to placemaking presentation
- Breakout Groups
 - On-site Place Game
 - Brainstorm
 - Report back
- Closeout and next steps



Phase II (Sun., June 23?)

CARL BARRON CHARRETTE

Outdoor Day of engagement: To (quickly) solicit input from people in the space who may not be available for the full workshop. Sample questions:

What types of uses would encourage you to spend time in the space?

What types of public amenities will make this space more usable for you and your family/friends?

One thing you love about the space?

One thing you would like to see improved?

Additional Interviews and Interest Groups



Questions and
Comments?

Next Steps

Project Wikimap



Where do you see issues and opportunities for change on River Street?
Click **"Add Points"** to add to the map.

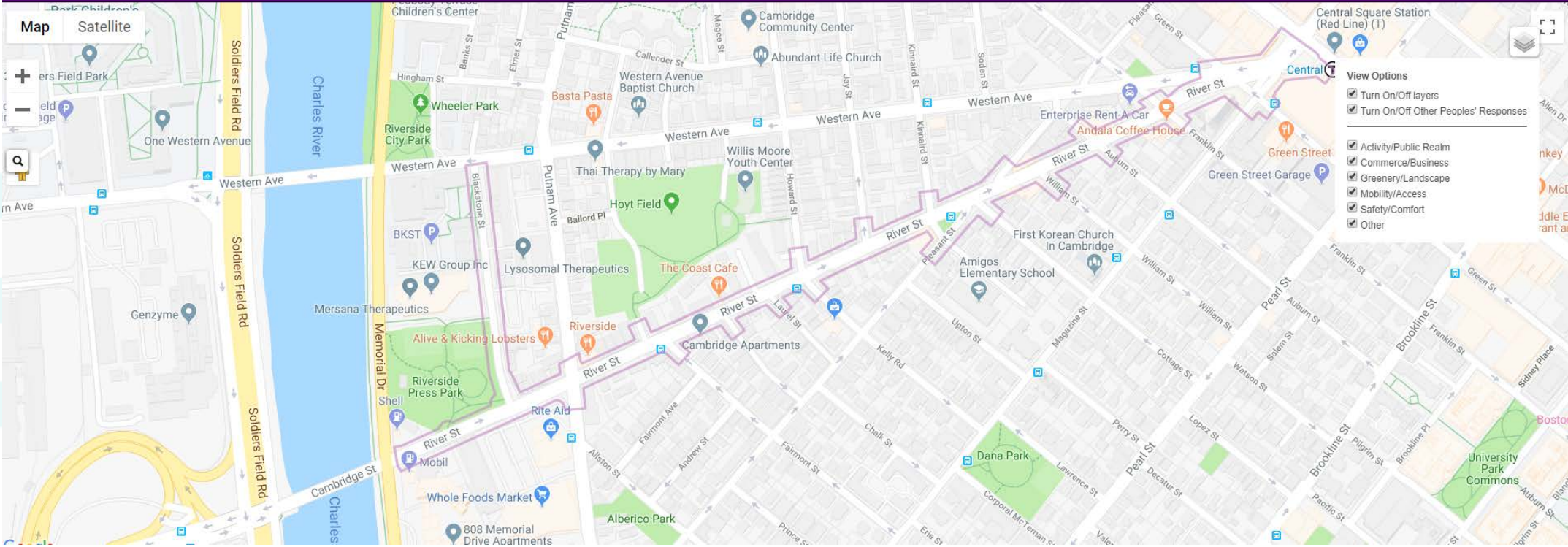
ADD AS MANY POINTS AS YOU WOULD LIKE

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



Instructions & Help Add Points Project Website

Map Satellite



The map shows a street grid in Cambridge, MA, with River Street highlighted in purple. A yellow line indicates the project limits along River Street and Western Avenue. Various colored pins are placed on the map, corresponding to the categories in the legend. Landmarks like Wheeler Park, Hoyt Field, and Dana Park are visible. The Charles River is on the left. A search bar and map controls are in the top left. A 'View Options' panel is on the right, showing checkboxes for the legend categories and 'Turn On/Off layers' and 'Turn On/Off Other Peoples' Responses'.

View Options

- Turn On/Off layers
- Turn On/Off Other Peoples' Responses
- Activity/Public Realm
- Commerce/Business
- Greenery/Landscape
- Mobility/Access
- Safety/Comfort
- Other

Project Wikimap

R River Street Reconstruction
Public Input Map

Instructions & Help Add Points Project Website

Map Satellite

Where do you see issues and opportunities for change on River Street?
Click "Add Points"

Welcome ✕

INSTRUCTIONS

The City of Cambridge wants your input to help begin the process of redesigning River Street. Writing your comments on this map will let the City's project team know what you see as issues and opportunities along River Street and in Carl Barron Plaza (at the corner of River Street and Massachusetts Ave in Central Square). For more information on the River Street Reconstruction and the ways the City is engaging people, please visit cambridgema.gov/riverstreet

1. Enter your email below and click "Continue to Map." (You may also "Continue as Guest.")
2. Enter your ZIP code.
3. Click "Add Points" in the purple menu bar above and then select the point type that best matches your comment.
4. Click on the map where you want your comment to appear.
5. Type in your comment (this is required), and click on "Submit."
6. Add as many points as you like by repeating steps 3 to 5.

NOTE: You may also click on an existing point to add a comment and/or agree/disagree.

Use your email address to login and make comments, and to receive project notifications.

Email Address

[Continue as Guest \(no email necessary\)](#)

Project Wikimap



Where do you see issues and opportunities for change on River Street?
Click **"Add Point"**

The screenshot shows the 'River Street Reconstruction Public Input Map' interface. At the top, there's a teal header with the project name and a purple navigation bar with 'Instructions & Help', 'Add Points', and 'Project Website'. Below the navigation bar is a map of the area around the Charles River and River Street. A 'Map' and 'Satellite' toggle is visible. A search bar is on the left. The map shows various streets like Soldiers Field Rd, Western Ave, Memorial Dr, and River St. Several points are marked on the map with different colored icons. A 'Add Points' menu is overlaid on the map, listing various point types with corresponding icons: Activity/Public Realm, Commerce/Business, Greenery/Landscape, Mobility/Access, Safety/Comfort, and Other. The menu is titled 'Add Points' and includes the instruction 'Select point type and then place on map.' The map also shows various landmarks and businesses like Wheeler Park, Riverside City Park, Mersana Therapeutics, and Whole Foods Market.

Add Points

Select point type and then place on map.

- Activity/Public Realm** - Streets, sidewalks, parks and plazas when used for anything other than transportation (e.g. resting, eating, playing, viewing art, dancing, festivals, etc.)
- Commerce/Business** - Anything related to local businesses and their needs (e.g. loading zones, short-term parking, outdoor dining, etc.)
- Greenery/Landscape** - Anything that grows or helps things grow (e.g. trees, rain gardens, bio-swales, green infrastructure, etc.)
- Mobility/Access** - Transportation (by foot, by wheel, by transit, by app, etc.), and accessing transportation (parking, boarding/de-boarding, accessing a sidewalk, crossing a street, etc.)
- Safety/Comfort** - Anything related to safety from any perspective, including transportation safety, personal safety, or otherwise
- Other** - Everything else!

Comment Form Live



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.

To sign up for email updates on this project, [please click here.](#)

To provide comments and feedback on this project, [please use this form.](#)

The Latest

Schedule

Description

Community Process

Documents

Contact

February 2019

The second River Street Reconstruction Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26th from 6:00-8:00pm **at the Manning Apartments, 1st Floor Community Room, 237 Franklin Street.** At this meeting, City and project team staff will provide a history of the project area, present existing conditions in the context of project themes that will inform the design, and provide an overview of the Carl Barron Plaza charrette process anticipated in the spring. **The meeting announcement and the draft meeting agenda are now available.**

January 2019

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



Comment Form Live



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.

Optional: Tell us a little about yourself!

If you are ready to submit your comments or feedback, you can jump to the bottom of

Comment Form Live

Thank you for your feedback!

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

Optional: Tell us a little about yourself!

If you are ready to submit your comments or feedback, you can jump to the bottom of the page and click the "Submit" button to send your feedback along to the project team.

If you have a few extra minutes, the team would appreciate if you could use the following optional survey to give us a little information about you and how you use River Street. Providing the information below will help us better understand the needs and concerns of those who live near, work in and around, and pass through River Street. All information provided below is purely voluntary and will be used to help us make sure that we are collecting feedback from the widest possible range of users of and visitors to the River Street corridor and Carl Barron Plaza.

Where do you live?

If you selected 'Other' above, please let us know the city/town below

Where do you work?

If you selected 'Other' above, please let us know the city/town below

How often do you come to River Street?

What brings you to River Street?

(Please check all that apply)

- I live on/a few blocks from River Street.
- I work on/a few blocks from River Street.
- I visit someone on/a few blocks from River Street.
- I shop on/a few blocks from River Street.
- I pass through River Street on my way somewhere else.
- Other (please provide details below)

How do you use River Street?

Please check all that apply.

Upcoming Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 26

Possible agenda topics:

- Brief presentation on project scope, schedule, policies, themes
- Displays of existing conditions data
- Collect public input on likes/dislikes, existing conditions, themes/goals

Next Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 23

Possible agenda topics:

- Public input and goals
- Most critical challenges in existing conditions
- Toolbox of design options
- Update on Carl Barron Plaza charrette process

