

AGENDA

- **Staff Introductions**
- **Project Objectives**
 - **Complete Streets Approach**
- **Resident Q&A**

City Staff:

Community Relations Manager*	Kristen Kelleher – kkelleher@cambridgema.gov
Project Administrator for Community Relations*	Saunders, Karim-Ben – ksaunders@cambridgema.gov
Project Manager/Supervising Engineer	Melissa Miguel – mmiguel@cambridgema.gov
Traffic Calming Manager	Juan Avendano – javendano@cambridgemg.gov

****Please send all questions/comments/concerns/feedback to the Community Relations staff listed above. The staff will then triage the request internally before providing response back.***

What will this reconstruction project address and how are design decisions made?

- The Haskell St Reconstruction Project is part of the City’s Five-Year Plan ([Five Year Plan for Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction - City of Cambridge, MA \(cambridgema.gov\)](#)). The Five-Year Plan is a comprehensive plan for designing streets that safely accommodate all users, of all ages and abilities - pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and public transportation users. The plan is developed with many priorities in mind: existing street and sidewalk conditions, proximity to destinations such as, but not limited to, parks, major squares, senior centers, and schools.
- The City Council adopted a complete streets policy in 2016 for redesigning streets in Cambridge. Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all users who need them.



What other policies guide the design?

- Vision Zero
- City of Cambridge Pedestrian Plan
- Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO)
- Urban Forestry Master Plan
- Clean Water Act / City's MS4 permit

These policies and plans provide a basis for our design.

How do all these plans and policies translate to specific street and sidewalk designs?

Starting with accessibility. Why is Accessibility important?

- **It's the law!** Both Federal and State regulations cover the construction of new sidewalks and require newly constructed sidewalks to be accessible.
- **It's the right thing to do!** The City wants its sidewalks to be as inviting and usable for people of all ages and abilities, i.e., people using wheelchairs, walkers or pushing strollers for example.
- As sidewalks are being redesigned, the team needs to identify and address existing deficiencies in the layout. Federal ADA regulations require that at existing pinch points (such as at street trees, hydrants, utility poles) a 36" minimum compliant sidewalk clearance must exist between these fixtures and the back of public sidewalk right of way. In locations where achieving this minimum clearance is not attainable, the City may be required to construct a new 48" compliant sidewalk around this obstruction. This is achieved by constructing a bump out around the obstruction and into the roadway. **Currently there are NO proposed bump outs required for Haskell Street.**

Will this project reverse the traffic flow of Haskell St between Mass Avenue and Rindge Avenue?

- The scope of work for this project does not include the reversal of traffic flow on Haskell Street. A larger process, through the Traffic Department, is needed to evaluate the impacts of traffic flow reversal. This project does not prevent the Traffic Department from evaluating the feasibility of traffic flow reversal in the future. This feedback has been provided to the traffic department.

Can I get brick sidewalks?

- City policy is to replace sidewalk materials in kind. Existing brick sidewalks will be replaced with brick and the same for existing concrete sidewalks. However, at the



start of the project property owners will receive a Sidewalk Material Selection form. This form gives the property owner the option of keeping their existing sidewalk material or changing. Property owners can also opt to “buy up” from existing concrete sidewalks to new wire cut, brick sidewalks at the contractor’s cost. Typically, pricing the City has seen to “buy up” to brick is approximately \$250/sy. Interested residents should complete the form once received to indicate their sidewalk material choice.

Public Shade Trees – Can I get a different one?

- Public street trees in Massachusetts are protected under Mass General Law (MGL). Healthy, existing street trees will not be removed or replaced as part of this contract. The City Arborist is the only person authorized to remove a healthy street tree. All new street tree planting locations will be identified as part of this design process.

Non-Resident Parking

- This is an enforcement issue and will be brought to the attention of the Traffic Dept and CPD.

Project Website

- [Haskell Street Reconstruction Project - City of Cambridge, MA \(cambridgema.gov\)](http://cambridgema.gov)
- *To sign up for email notifications please visit the project page above. Under the “Contact” tab please click “Sign Up Now” to enter your email address to be added to the list.*

