

Harvard Square Kiosk & Plaza

Additional Safety Measures

December 5, 2019



Agenda

- Review Kiosk and Plaza Process and Design (25 minutes)
- Review Additional Safety Measures (20 minutes)
 - Changes to crosswalks, plaza, bike facilities, and vehicular travel lanes.
- Next Steps (10 minutes)
 - Harvard Square Neighborhood Association Sunday December 8, 2019
 - Historical Commission Meeting January 2, 2020
- Q & A and Discussion Groups (35 minutes)

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Project Background

In conjunction with the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza Working Group process, the City of Cambridge has been developing design concepts for renovating the historic Harvard Square Kiosk. The project involves carefully restoring architectural details, adapting for future use, and redesigning the Plaza to improve accessibility and enhance the flexibility of the space.

Public Process

In 2017, the City established a Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza Working Group to create a vision for the future use, operation, and governance of the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza.

The Working Group process has involved broad public input, including surveys, community meetings, pop-up workshops, and a Call for Ideas.

Based on this community feedback and regular meetings, the Working Group developed a set of recommendations for the future of this space in the heart of Harvard Square.

Summary of Vision and Recommendations for the Kiosk and Plaza

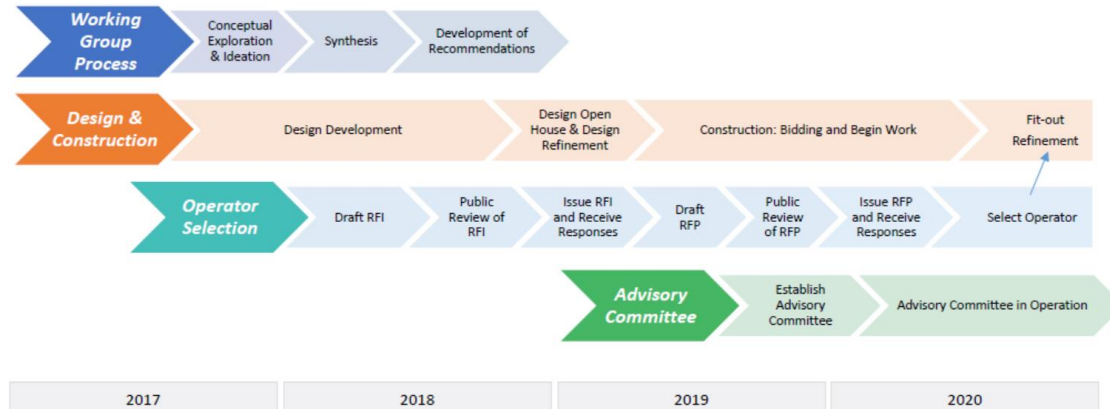
The Working Group envisions the Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza to be flexible, dynamic, and welcoming community assets that enhance the everyday life of Harvard Square, act as platforms for community gatherings, including civic, artistic, and social activities, and attract and serve a broad range of people, including residents, students, visitors, etc.

The interior of the Kiosk would function as a flexible space accommodating permanent and temporary community uses:

- Permanent uses would feature a Visitor Information Center with displays focused on Cambridge history and happenings and the provision of news, brochures, and other materials.
- Temporary programming would occur inside the Kiosk and around the Plaza intermittently throughout the span of a typical week, which could include functions such as: small performances, historical exhibits, interactive installations, family oriented activities, voter registration, sampling of goods or services, and other entertaining, educational, festive, civic, and community-oriented activities.

More detail on the Working Group process and recommendations is featured in a report available at www.cambridgema.gov/harvardsquarekiosk.

Project Timeline



"Original" Kiosk



Harvard Square Kiosk - estimated 1977



Harvard Square Kiosk - estimated 1960's



Harvard Square Kiosk - today

"Original" Kiosk

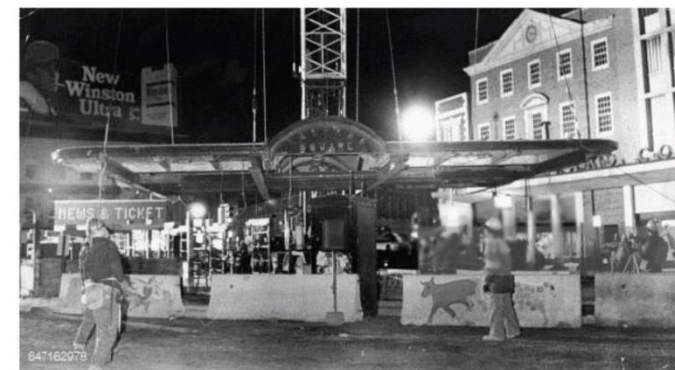
Steel Windows - circa 1938



"Original" Kiosk - circa 1966



Relocated Kiosk - circa 1983 "...all original material that remained after the conversion to a newsstand in 1983 should be preserved to the greatest extent possible, and that there should be no additional enclosure of the structure."



1983 relocation of kiosk roof & structure (photo credit: Boston Globe)
 HARVARD SQUARE KIOSK - CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
 MAY 02, 2019 P. 11

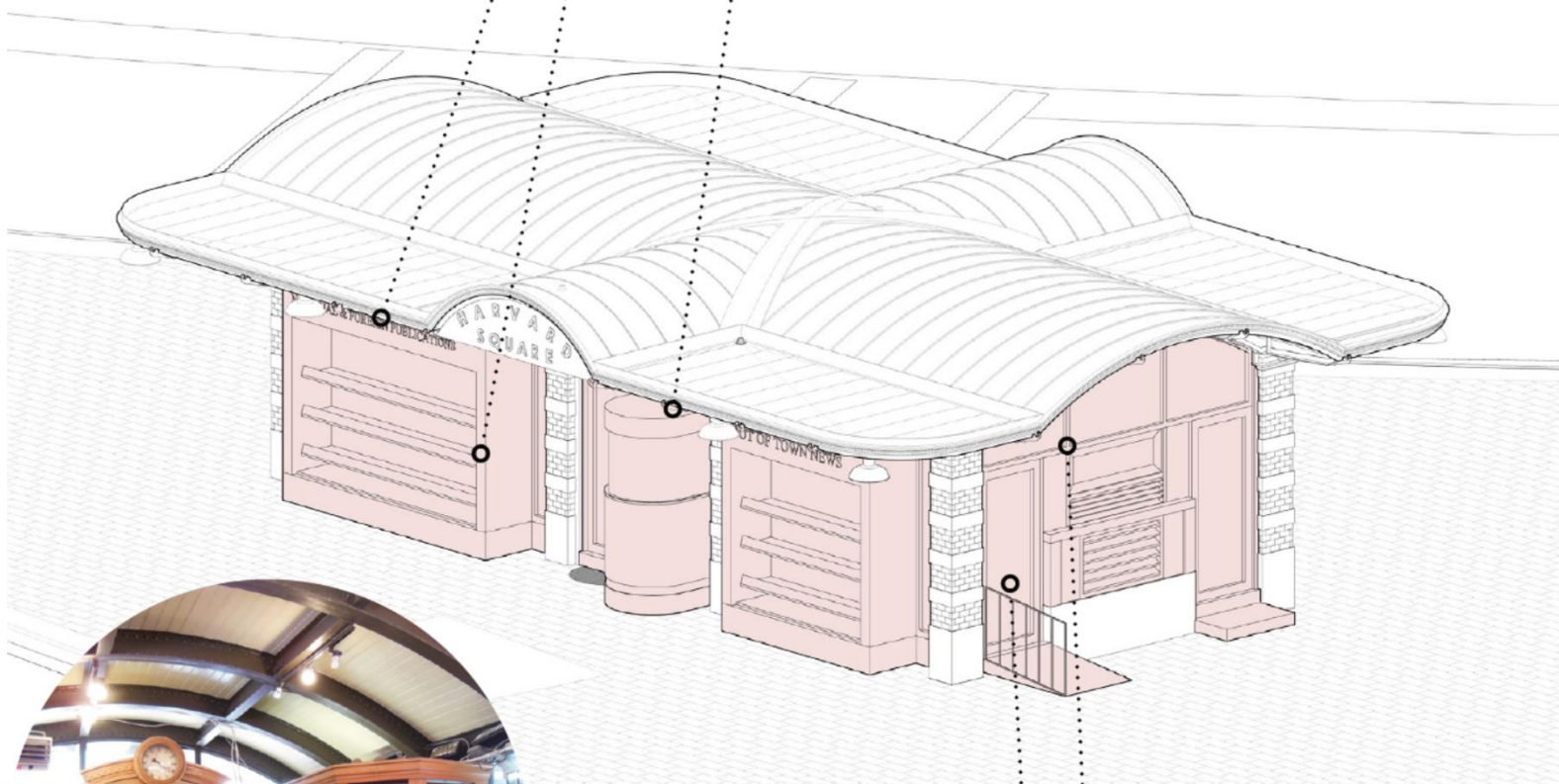
moving of kiosk roof & structure (photo credit: Boston Globe)
 HALVORSON DESIGN PARTNERSHIP
 CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



southwest
HARVARD SQUARE KIOSK - CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 02, 2019 P. 12

Kiosk Today

- "Out of Town News" signage
- news stands, magazine racks & ticket booth
- exterior suspended curtain tracks



present day kiosk - exterior



- interior
- interior casework & electrical room
 - select interior light fixtures
 - interior heating & cooling systems

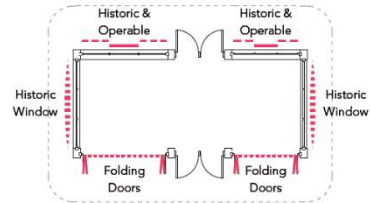
- aluminum framed storefronts
- south elevation fenestration, vents, doors & ramp



present day kiosk - exterior

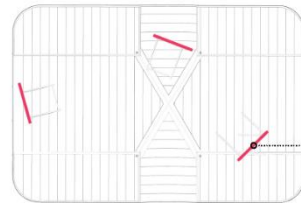
present day kiosk - interior

Proposed Kiosk



Key Floor Plan

Signage Panels: 4'-0" tall x 6'-0" wide (approx.)



Key Roof Plan

8 digital signage



View looking Southwest



View looking Northeast

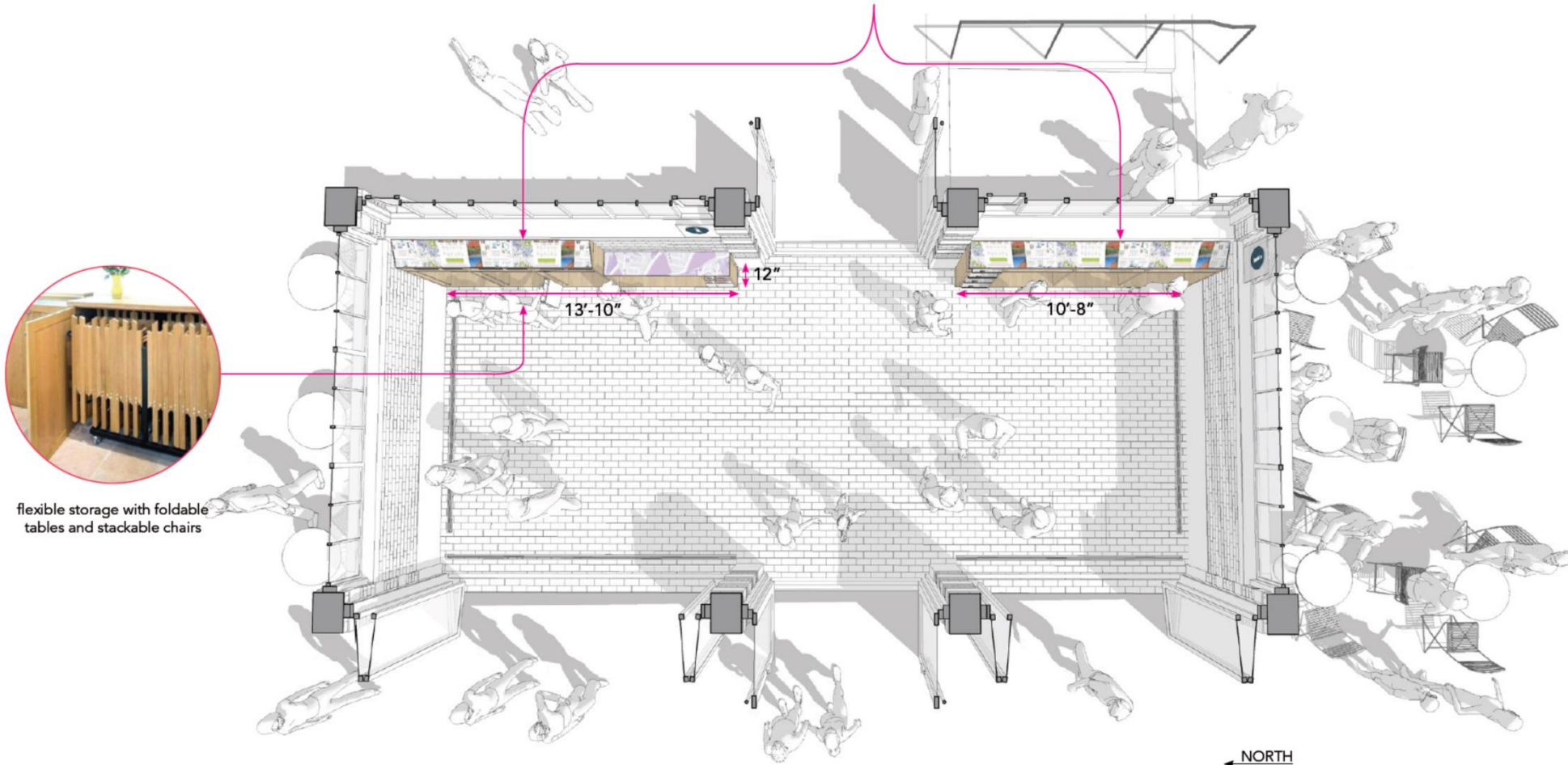
- 1 historic lights
- 2 restored vacuum formed signage
- 3 accessible entry doors
- 4 folding glass doors
- 5 indoor / outdoor brick flooring
- 6 historic windows
- 7 restored south facade with signage

Design Proposal

Daily Uses - Visitor Information



Visitor Information

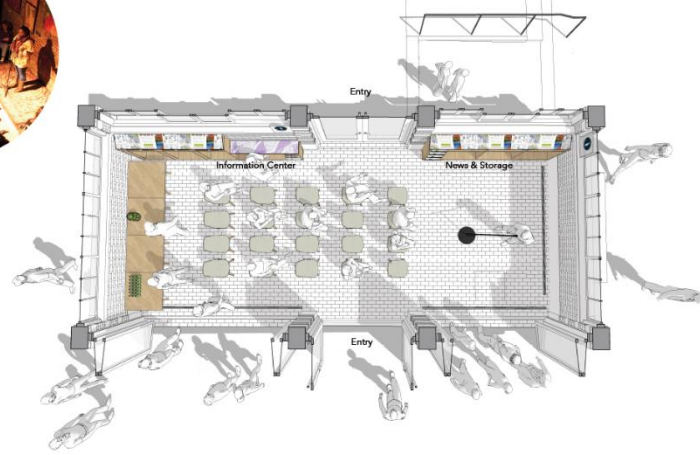


flexible storage with foldable tables and stackable chairs

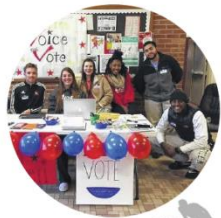
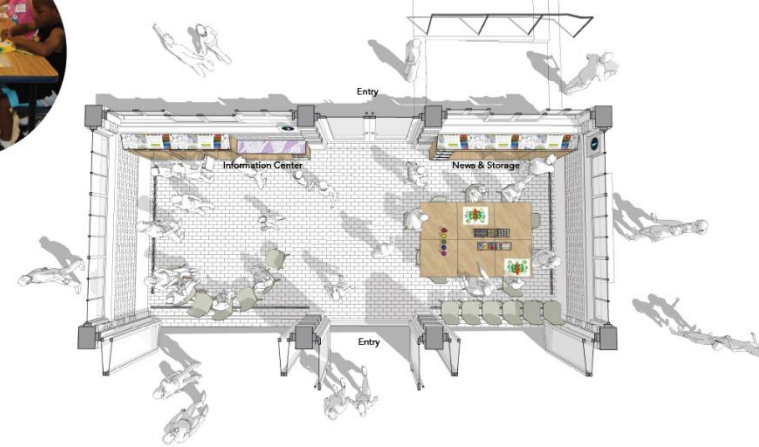
Kiosk Sample Days



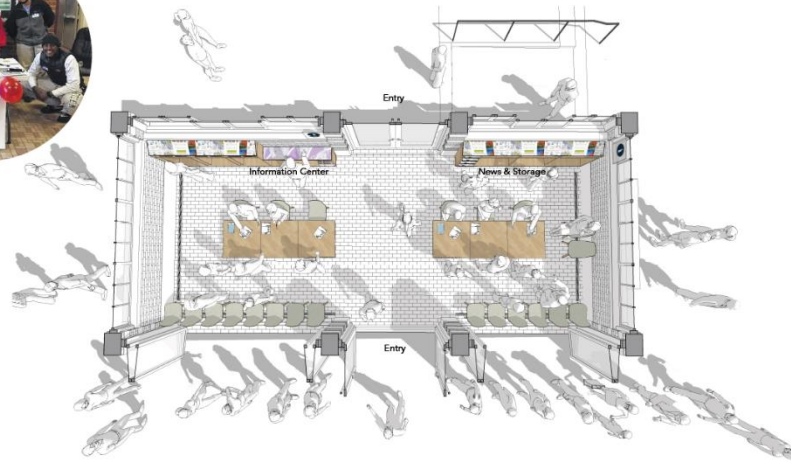
Performance Venue



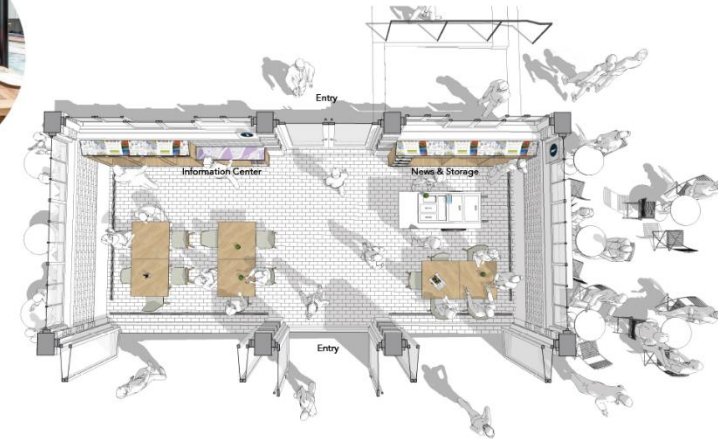
Family Activities



Civic Functions



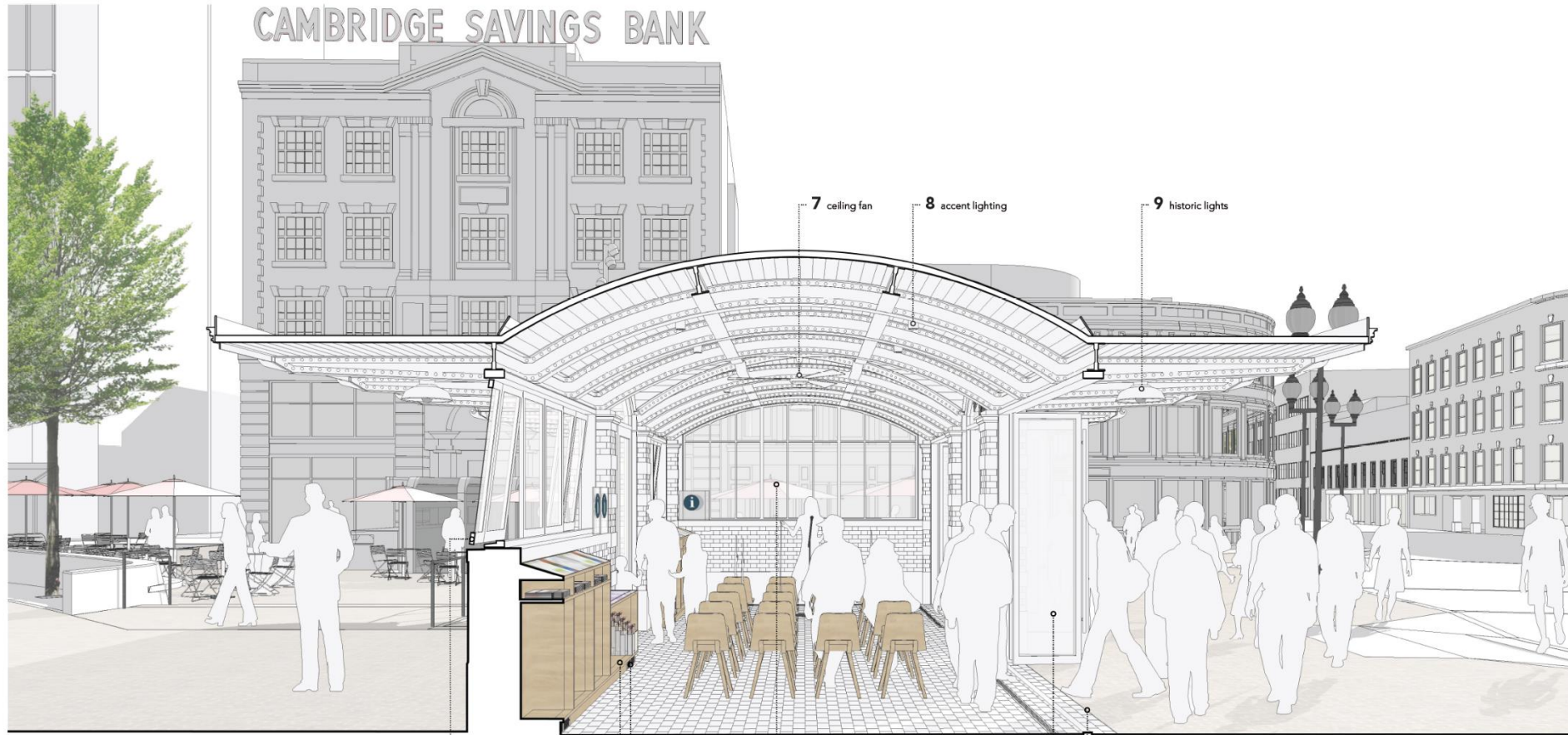
Social Seating



Plans (500 Sq.Ft.) - Diagrams

← NORTH

Folding Glass Doors with Operable & Historic Windows



Section - East/West

- 1 awning window
- 2 visitor information casework
- 3 baseboard heat
- 4 historic windows
- 5 folding glass doors
- 6 indoor / outdoor brick flooring
- 7 ceiling fan
- 8 accent lighting
- 9 historic lights

Character of the Place



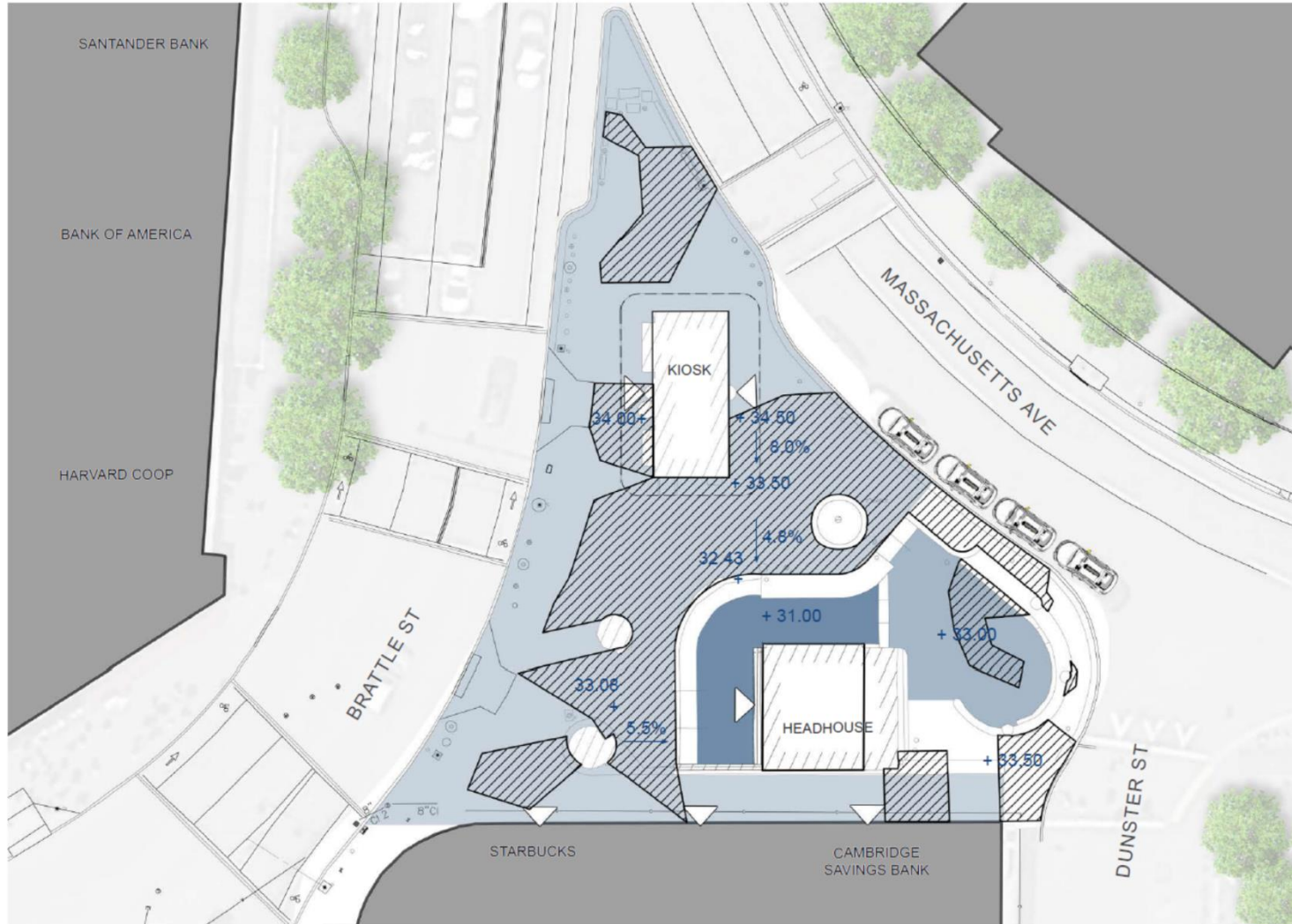
EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY DIAGRAM



EXISTING ELEVATION

- UPPER
- INTERMEDIATE
- LOWER
- NON-COMPLIANT ADA ACCESSIBILITY
> 2% PLAZA SLOPES
> 2% CROSS SLOPES
> 5% RUNNING SLOPES

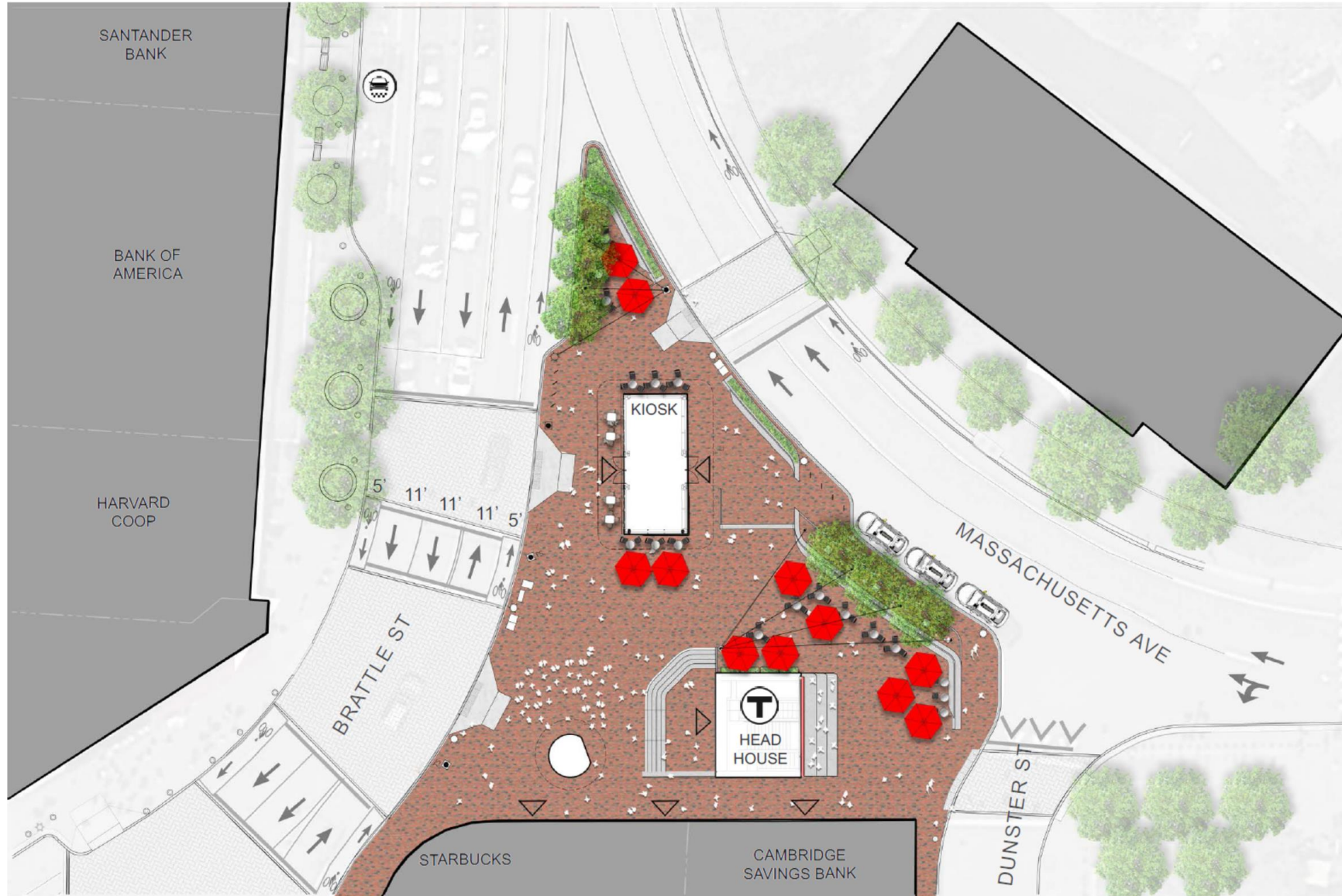
PLAZA IS SUBDIVIDED INTO THREE LEVELS LIMITING CIRCULATION AND USAGE

WEST SIDE OF KIOSK IS 6" HIGHER THAN EAST SIDE RESULTING IN A STEP DOWN OUT OF KIOSK

EXISTING PLAZA SLOPES ARE NOT COMPLIANT WITH CURRENT ADA/MAAB REGULATIONS



SITE PLAN



PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM DUNSTER STREET - PLAZA AT NIGHT



PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM DUNSTER STREET - PLAZA



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF NORTHERN PLAZA SPACE





- Working with MBTA on permits.
- Waterproofing detail.
- Goal of bidding over winter / spring.
- Construction begin June 2020.





Harvard Square's iconic 'Out of Town News' kiosk closes for good

masslive.com - Tanner Stening

The iconic news kiosk in the middle of Harvard Square is reportedly closing for good this week. Out of Town News stand in Cambridge, Massachusetts — a ...

 **CultureHouse** October 18 · 🌐

🔔 EXTRA! EXTRA! CultureHouse is coming to Harvard Square! 🔔 We will be popping-up in the Out of Town News Kiosk starting in early December with the support of the City of Cambridge.




CultureHouse Current
CAMBRIDGE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019
CULTUREHOUSE COMES TO HARVARD SQUARE
What Happens Next Will Shock and Amaze You!

CultureHouse has place remains active entered into an agree- and vibrant in the ment with the City of approxi mately Cambridge to activate six-month interval the Harvard Square prior to the start of Kiosk as a community construction. Culture-gathering space prior House aims to open to the start of con- the space in early struction of the kiosk December and will and plaza redevelop- provide a free gather- ment project. The city ing space with public intends to issue an programs. "CultureHouse is RFP for a long-term operator for the kiosk excited to be coming this winter. However, to Harvard Square and with the current tenant activating this historic (Out of Town News) Cambridge landmark. slated to leave at the We are glad the City end of October 2019, has recognized the and importance of public anticipated to begin in gathering spaces in Spring/Summer 2020, sustaining equitable the City and Culture- communities. We look House want to ensure forward to expanding

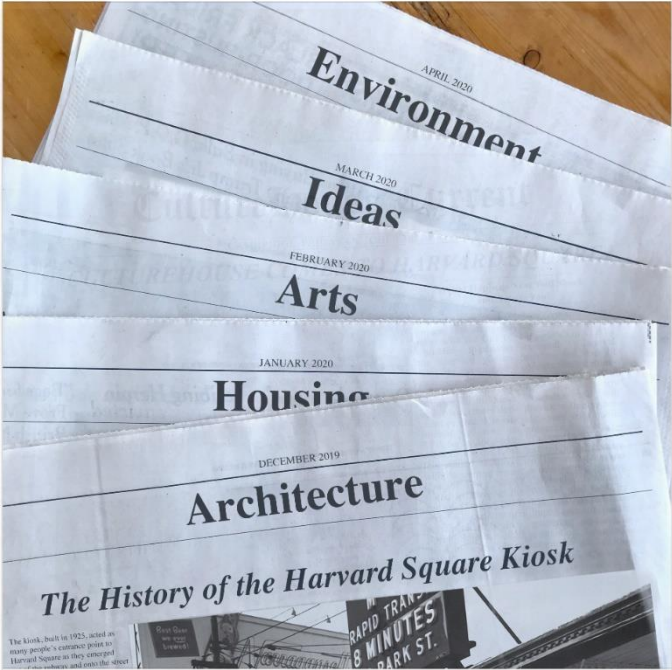
👍❤️👎 You and 47 others 7 Comments 6 Shares



 **CultureHouse** is at Harvard Square. 22 hrs · 🌐

🌟 Its ALMOST TIME 🌟 We are opening the doors to our Harvard Square pop-up on December 3rd at 12pm. That will kick off the Architecture Section, the first of five themed month-long "Sections" at CultureHouse Harvard. We will be talking about sense of place and how the built environment affects the way we interact with cities.

Our other Sections will be Housing, Arts, Ideas, and Environment. If you want to collaborate in any of these areas, send us a message!





7 of 10

CAMBRIDGE, MA - OCTOBER 31: Mohammad Rahman, left, who has worked for Out of Town News in Harvard Square for 22 years, waits to tur over the building keys to a city official on October 31, 2019 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Staff Photo By Angela Rowlings/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)



7 of 10

CAMBRIDGE, MA - OCTOBER 31: Mohammad Rahman, left, who has worked for Out of Town News in Harvard Square for 22 years, waits to tur over the buildings keys to a city official on October 31, 2019 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Staff Photo By Angela Rowlings/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)



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September 17, 2019

Sharon Hamer killed in Harvard Square while crossing Brattle St.

After any pedestrian or cyclist fatality, staff review location.

With the Kiosk project about to go to bid want to prioritize any additional changes.

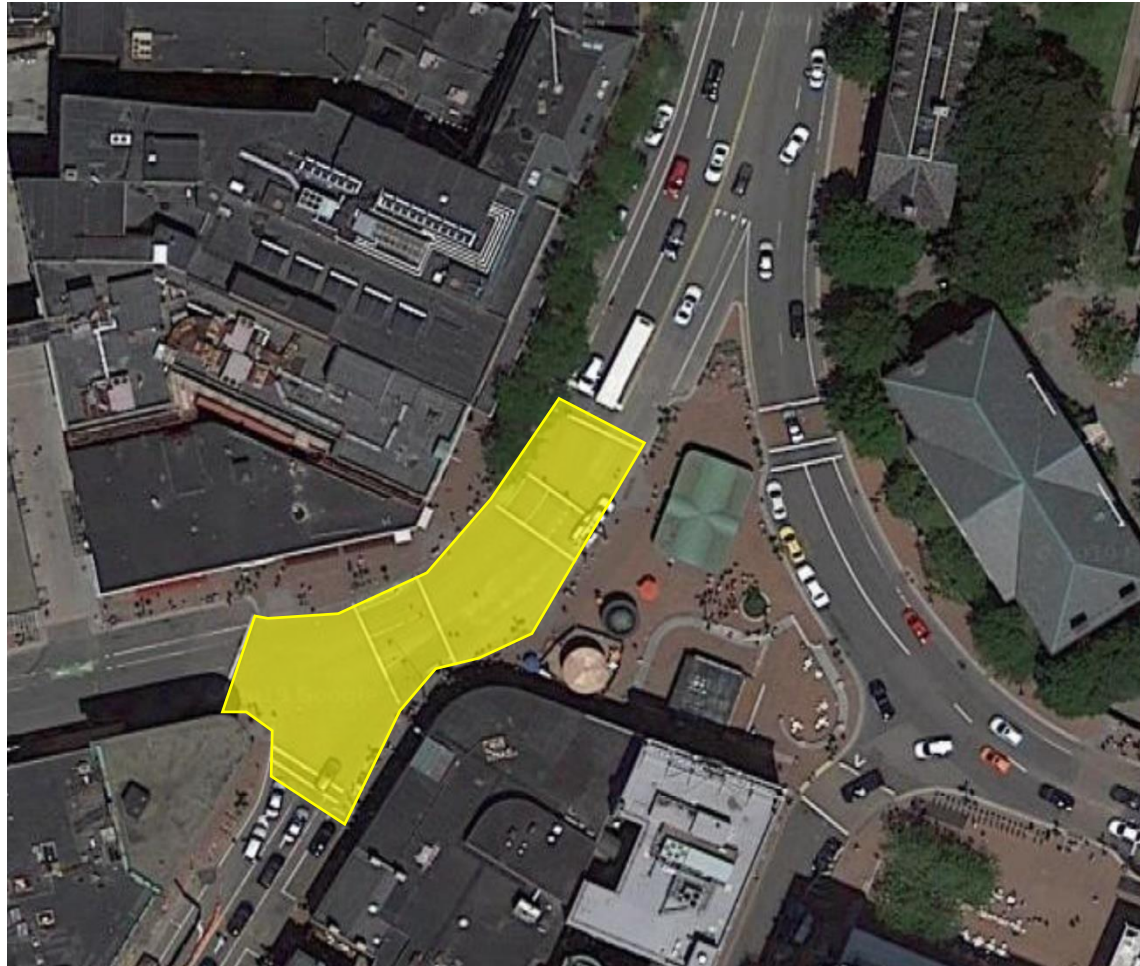


COMPLETE STREETS & VISION ZERO

Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for *all* users – regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation (2016).

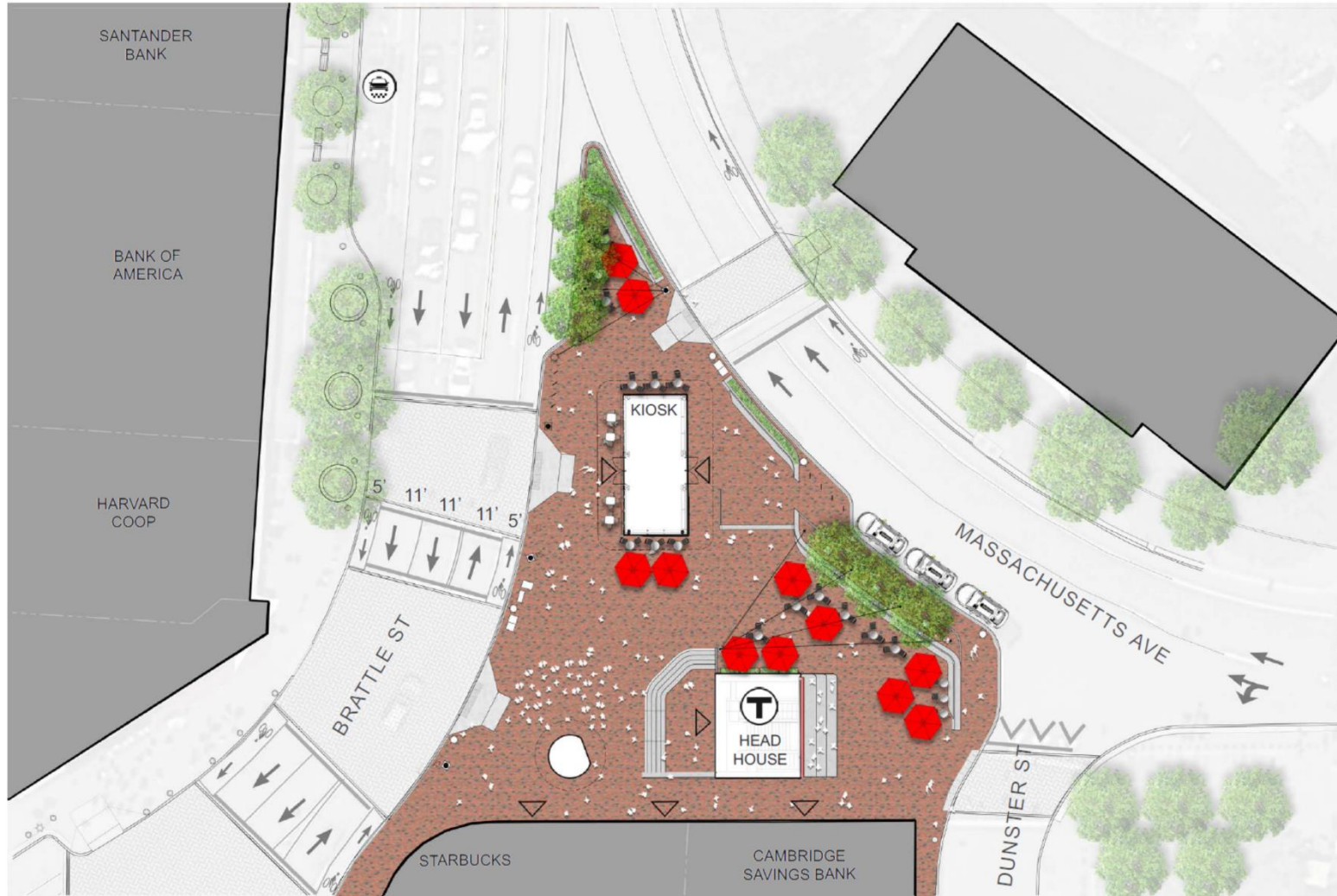
Vision Zero calls for the elimination of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes, and emphasizes that they can, and should be prevented (2016).

What about additional safety improvements?



Key Issues Identified

SITE PLAN

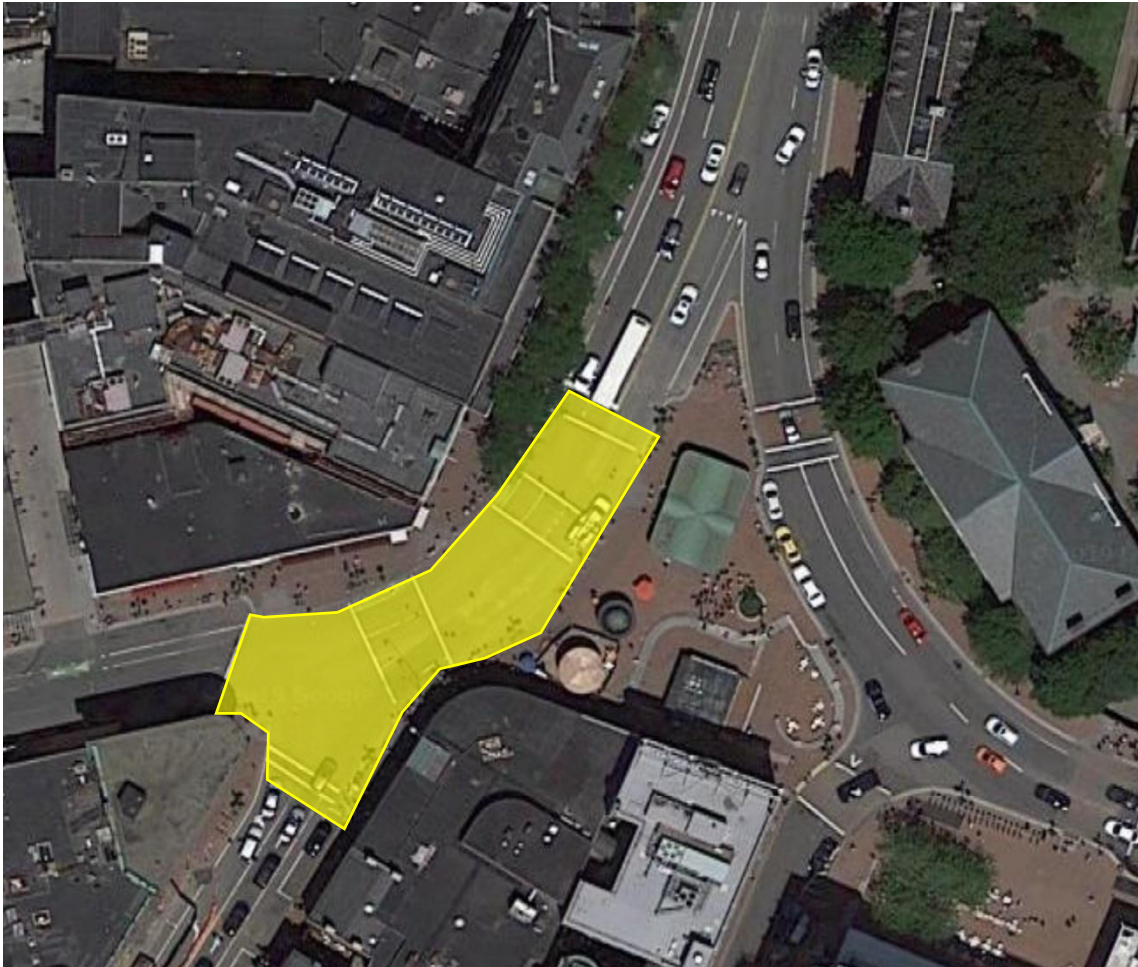


- Existing traffic patterns.
- Not clear crosswalk markings.
- Long crosswalk from Kiosk to Coop (43').
- Multiple vehicular lanes.
- Awkward merge for cyclists and drivers going towards Porter Square.

0 5 10 20

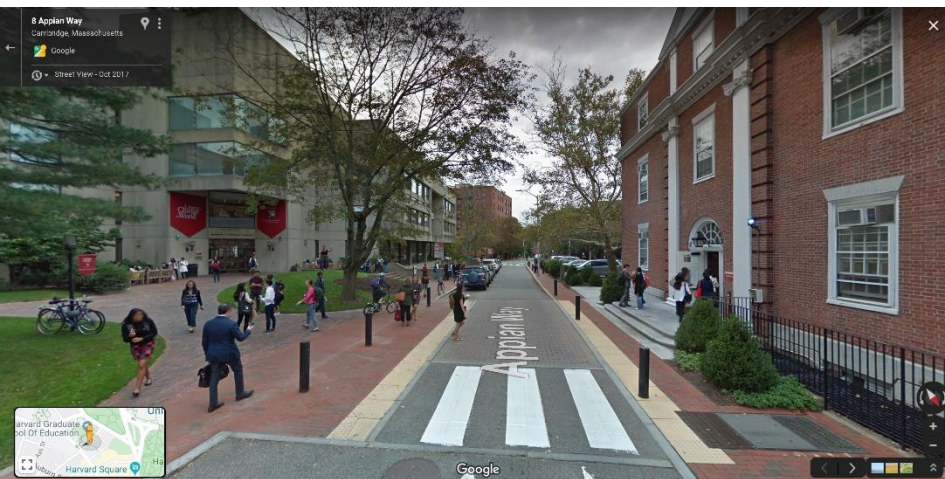


What about raising intersection?



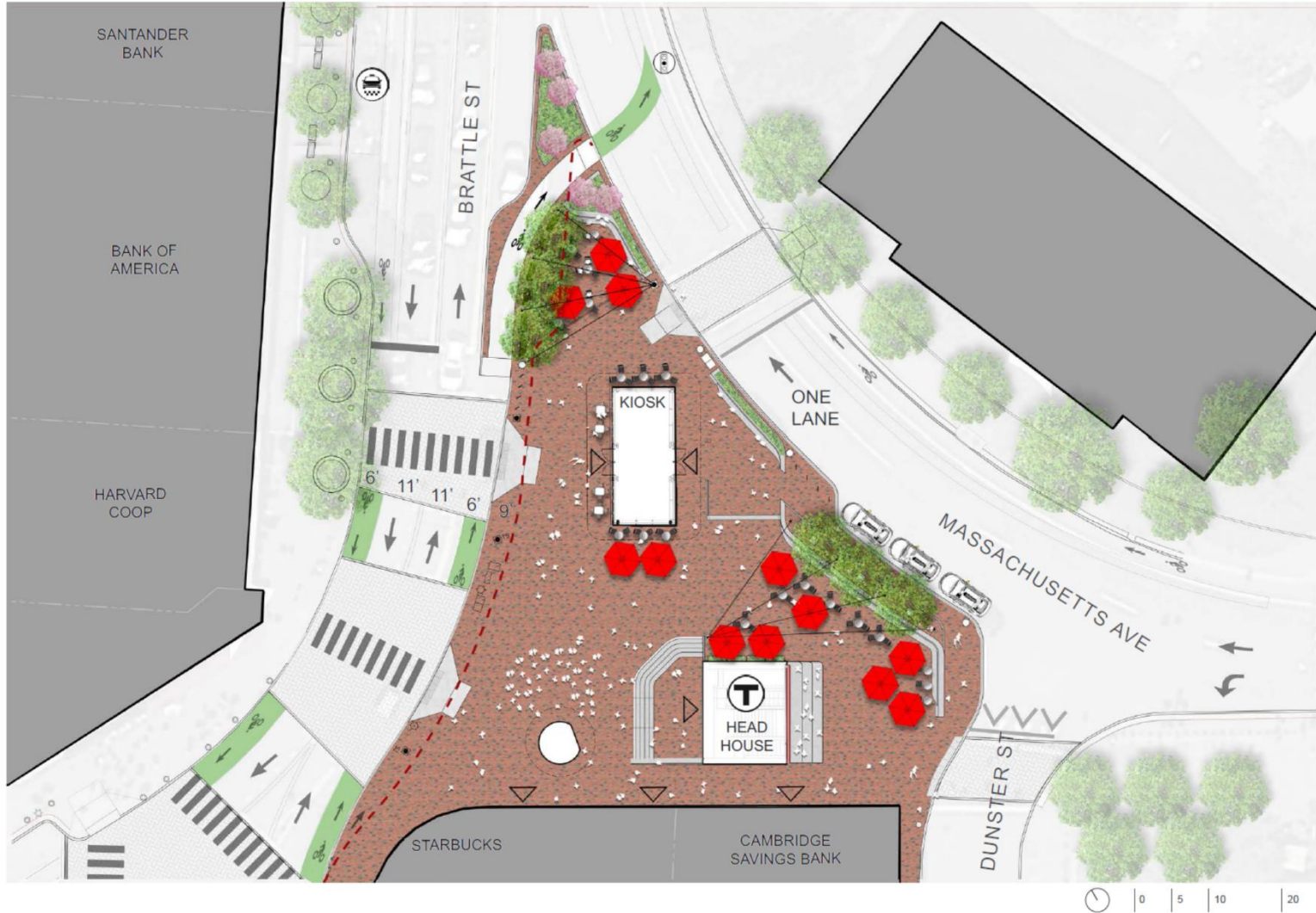
- Raised intersections typically used at non-signalized intersections for traffic calming.
- Doesn't send clear message to people to wait for signal. Potentially encouraging peds to cross against the light.
- Not a square typical layout, radius. Difficult wayfinding for pedestrians with disabilities.
- With no curb reveal for this long section of roadway and on a radius, bollards and trench drains would be required along entire edge.
- Do not see this as a safer alternative.

Crosswalk Markings



Proposed Plan Slide

SITE PLAN - MODIFIED



- Reduce travel lanes to 1 lane in each direction.
- Expand plaza area.
- Provide clear crosswalk markings.
- Shorten crosswalk from Kiosk to Coop (from 43' to 34').
- Reduce pedestrian delay with shorter cycle length.
- Eliminate merge for cyclists and drivers going towards Porter Square.
- Provide protected connection for northbound cyclists.

How do you eliminate the travel lanes?

SITE PLAN - MODIFIED

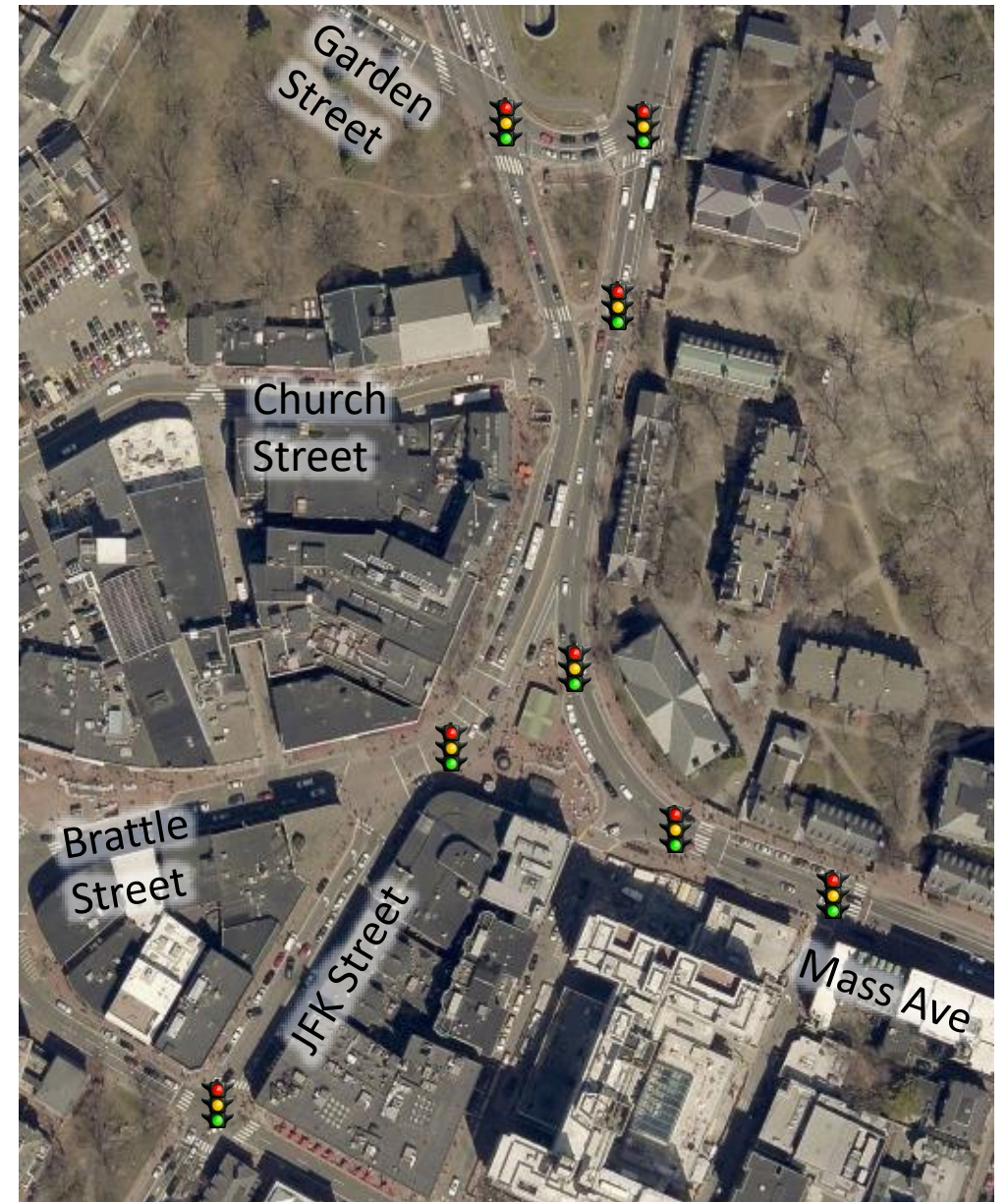


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Traffic Operations

- Signal timing improvements
 - One lane for Northbound Mass Ave means that JFK and Mass Ave can move simultaneously
 - Reduce cycle length by 15 seconds during all time periods
 - Peak Periods – 90 seconds now, 75 seconds future. 8 additional pedestrian phases per hour
 - Off Peak– 75 seconds now, 60 seconds future. 12 additional pedestrian phases per hour
 - More frequent pedestrian signals reduce jaywalking
 - Coordinated signals on Mass Ave northbound
 - Holyoke Street -> Dunster Street -> Kiosk
- Traffic operations show minimal changes
 - Delay remains approximately the same as existing. Reduced delay on Mass Ave due to improved signal coordination
 - Queues are longer but will be processed during a single signal phase



What about closing Harvard Square to Traffic?

- 300 year old radial street network brought most major routes through Harvard Square
 - Cambridge Street
 - Broadway
 - Massachusetts Avenue (State Route 2A)
 - Mount Auburn Street
 - Concord Avenue/Garden Street
 - JFK Street
- Bus routes (66 and 86) and Harvard Shuttle.
- Diverting major streets is likely to have disproportionate impact on local streets in abutting neighborhoods



Summarize Improvements

SITE PLAN - MODIFIED



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Next Steps

- Reviewed with Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Committees
- Meeting tonight – get feedback.
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Q&A

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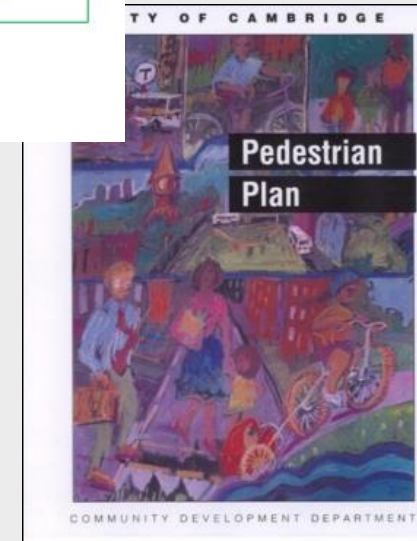
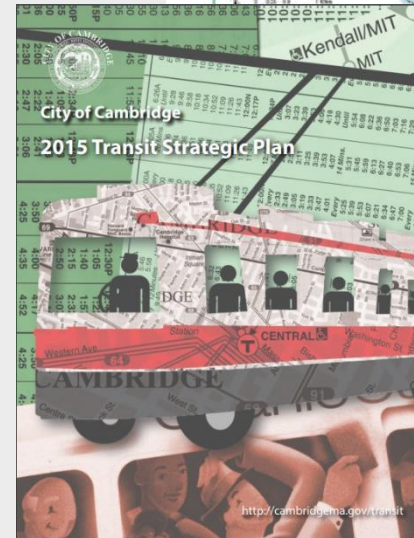
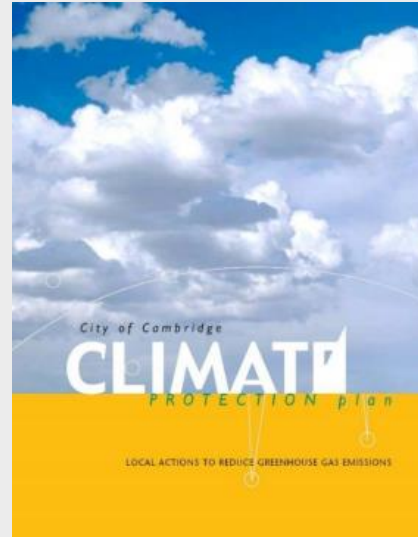
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Extra Slides

Guiding Plans

City of Cambridge, Massachusetts
Urban Forest Management Plan

Current State of the Urban Forest



INTRODUCTION | BICYCLE ORDINANCE

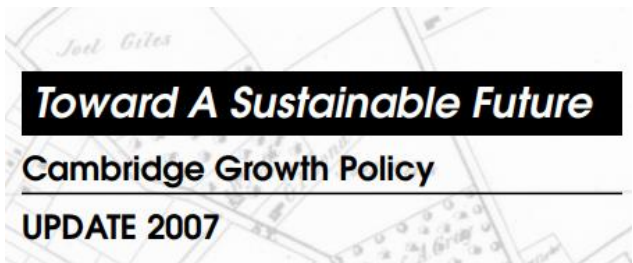
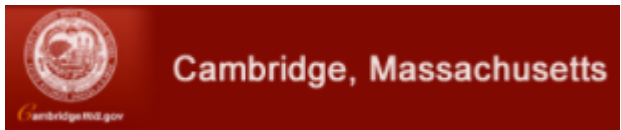
On April 8, 2019, the Cambridge City Council passed a **Cycling Safety Ordinance** (12.22.) to support the City's commitment to Vision Zero and the construction of a connected network of permanent separated bicycle lanes across the City.

Under the Ordinance, whenever improvements are made under the City's Five Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan, **the improvements shall be consistent with the Cambridge Bicycle Plan**. If improvements are made to a segment of the separated bicycle network, a permanent separated bicycle lane shall be installed along that segment.

Improvements do not include routine maintenance, repairs, restriping of the road surface, or emergency repairs to the surface of the roadway.



Municipal Policies



Vision Zero calls for the elimination of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes, and emphasizes that they can, and should be prevented (2016).

Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for *all* users – regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation (2016).

Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance established programs to encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel (1992).

Cambridge Growth Policy emphasizes sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, biking and using transit and low-emission vehicles, which promote livability and help to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (1993/2007).

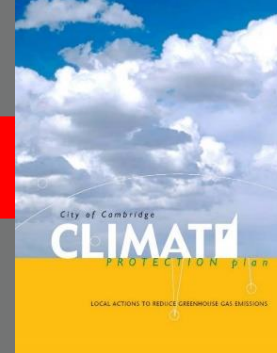
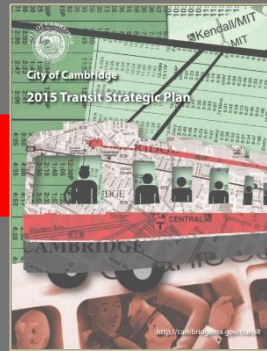
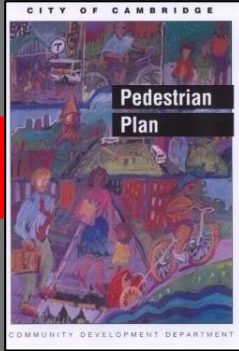
"Original" Kiosk

Rooftop Signage - circa 1961



GUIDING PLANS AND POLICIES

In addition to Complete Streets and Vision Zero



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