

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC EVENT 3

MAY 6-7, 2022



WHAT WE DID

The planning team held two in-person events on May 6th and 7th at the Valente Branch Library on Cambridge Street. The input exercises were also translated to an online tool that was available for the entire month of May. We solicited feedback on the draft Vision Statement for Cambridge Street and for draft ideas to achieve that vision.

WHO WE SPOKE TO

In all, about 350 participants shared their thoughts on the draft ideas for the plan either in person or online. 85% of participants identified as being near neighbors to the street, from East Cambridge, Inman Square or Wellington-Harrington.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Across all activities, there was general support from participants for the vision and the preliminary ideas presented during this round of engagement.

Some of the common themes from prior engagements came through once again - above all, supporting a diverse mix of small local businesses on Cambridge Street.

From those who expressed concerns, they were about how affordability, a potential loss in parking due to the proposed separated bike lanes, as well as how additional density might impact the character of the street.

1 Our CAMBRIDGE STREET VISION

Our Cambridge Street is a model for a 21st century Main Street. It's inviting, local, affordable, accessible and resilient.

Inviting

Continue to welcome diversity and celebrate our history as a destination for culture while embracing change.

Local

Support a mix of vibrant, local, and small businesses that serve the everyday needs of nearby residents, workers, students, and visitors alike.

Affordable

Support families, seniors, children, immigrants, people of color, those with disabilities, and from all economic and educational backgrounds in continuing to call this street home.

Accessible & Resilient

Create a truly safe and sustainable public realm, and a healthy, walkable environment that serves as the heart of our community.

88% of participants supported the suggested vision for Cambridge Street!

Of those that provided critical feedback, common themes included more specificity on the ideas to achieve these statements, or general comments on the design of the street.

Inviting

This board contained ideas for continuing to welcome diversity, and celebrate our history as a destination for culture while embracing change.

94%

of participants supported **bringing the community together** and **celebrating diversity**. There is a love for maintaining the current events that happen on the street, with excitement for more events that brings the community together (mostly with food!) and celebrates local music and art.

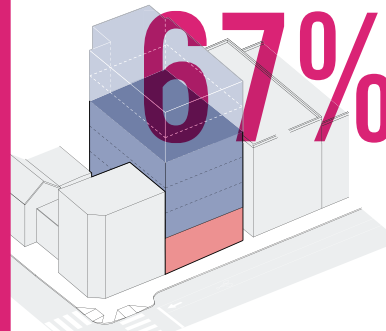
Additionally, participants would like to display the **history of the neighborhood through public art**, and maintaining and promoting a **diversity of restaurants and food options** along the street.

Local

This board contained ideas for supporting a mix of vibrant, local, and small businesses that serve the everyday needs of nearby residents, workers, and visitors alike.

83%

of participants generally supported maintaining a supply of **affordable commercial spaces** for local businesses.



would support or somewhat **support additional development** to subsidize more affordable storefront spaces for local businesses

Additionally, participants desired to see more **"daily needs" stores, community spaces, retail condos and rent subsidies** for businesses, **outdoor seating and dining**, and **sidewalk improvements** for a better pedestrian experience.

Affordable

This board contained ideas for families, seniors, children, foreign born residents, people of color, those with disabilities, and from all economic and educational backgrounds being able to continue to call this street home.

80%

of participants supported or somewhat supported encouraging **higher density mixed use development** and **more housing units** along Cambridge Street. Of those that had concerns about more density, they cited the importance of maintaining the street's character, limits to density (no more than 5 or 6 floors) and that new development should be well designed.

Additionally, others would favor additional **open spaces and greening/trees**.

Accessible & Resilient

This board contained ideas for creating a truly safe and sustainable public realm, and a healthy, walkable environment that serves as the heart of our community.

87%

of participants support or somewhat support the ideas to making the street safer for people walking, biking, and using transit on the street. Loss of on street parking continues to be a common concern among some residents and businesses.



Additionally, respondents desired to have **improved sidewalks, safer crosswalks**, more **street trees**, more **public green space**, and **better bus service**. Many suggested **restricting delivery times** to early mornings and/or late evenings. Finally, many stated the need for parking along Cambridge Street with several suggesting **parking meters with dynamic pricing** to encourage turnover.