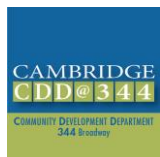


City of Cambridge

# Net Zero Transportation Plan: Advisory Group Meeting #14

July 31, 2024





# Welcome!

**Check-in question: What is a favorite book, movie, show, etc. that you have enjoyed this year?**

Meeting purpose:

- Review options for actions to include in the Plan and get advisory group feedback



# Agenda

- Welcome and check-in
- Community engagement update
- Review and improve strategies to incorporate in the Net Zero Transportation Plan
  - City Planning
  - Parking
- Public comment
- Wrap up



# Big-picture reminders on why we're making this plan

**1. If we don't get rid of emissions from transportation and other sources, climate change impacts will make people's lives harder and cost more.**

- Extreme heat / worse air quality (learning loss, more childhood asthma, death)
- Worse weather emergencies (floods, dangerous storms, sea-level rise)
- More economic struggles (increased demand for public services, like emergency response, food assistance, health insurance)

**2. City of Cambridge is committed to eliminating emissions – we can influence how that happens. We want a plan that is based on**

**your advice.**

- In cases where change is hard, how can we reduce the harm or the discomfort of that shift?

**3. We want to improve and expand people's transportation options.**

- We believe we can create a plan that allows everyone to contribute in some way. Not every action or option works for every person, so we need a variety of options.
- "Don't punish me for owning a car. Make it easier for me not to."

# Community engagement





# Community engagement updates

- We'd like to share highlights from the following engagements since last time (\* indicates City of Cambridge committees):
  - CET@CDD focus group (May 16)
  - Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board\* (June 13)
  - Cambridge Arts River Festival (June 15)
  - Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee Staff focus group (July 12)
  - Fresh Pond Apartments Summer Party (July 25)
- Reach out to Meira if you would like to set up a community event/info session



# Community engagement updates: some of the important points

- Buses, trains, and shuttles:
  - Need to make them more reliable, drawing on examples from other countries
- Reducing car ownership:
  - Families will need cars for weekend trips
  - We should make it easier to live without a car by improving buses & trains, etc.
  - Some personal concerns about safety of other transportation modes vs. cars
- Active transportation:
  - Amplify health benefits of walking and biking (in addition to climate benefits)
  - Some concerns around bike theft
  - Desire for safer bike lanes throughout the city, especially in lower-income neighborhoods
- Electric vehicles:
  - Need to ensure charging is available for people who need it in Cambridge (given that parking is limited) and potentially maximize fast chargers

# Updates to actions from recent meetings







# Updates to recent actions

## Revised language for CE and AT actions

- **AT-1** ~~Allocate more funds to~~ Improve and maintain ~~pedestrian walking~~ infrastructure
- **AT-3** Continue adding Bluebikes stations ~~network~~ until all Cambridge residents live within a 2.5-minute walk of a Bluebikes station ~~network is complete~~
- **AT-4 Previous Version:** Better advertise and support signing up for Income Eligible Bluebikes Membership Program
  - **AT-4 New Language:** Collaborate with existing organizations to increase access to bikes and bike repair and other micromobility
- **CE-1 Previous Version:** Provide direct individual support to enroll in income-eligible programs and other opportunities (make available remotely/via phone and also go to where residents are to offer support. Tie this to assistance in enrolling in other services. Improve communication about transportation options that are available, including better support for signing up for income-eligible MBTA passes and Bluebikes memberships
  - **CE-1 New Language:** Provide a high degree of support and encouragement to help residents access and navigate transportation options and discounts.

# Potential NZTP Actions for consideration and discussion



# Action Categories for Today's Discussion

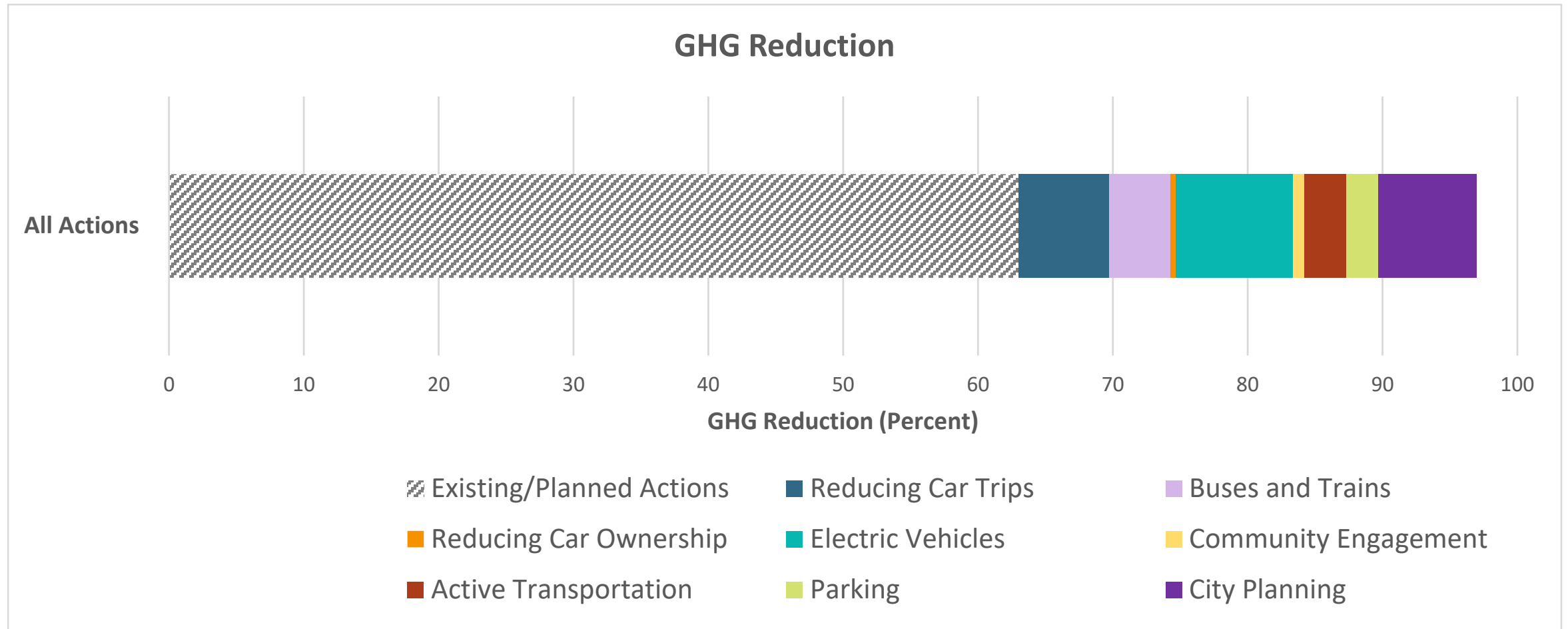
Buses, Trains, & Shuttles	<b>City Planning</b>	<b>Parking</b>	Community Engagement
Electric Vehicles	Reducing Car Trips	Reducing Car Ownership	Active Transportation

- **City Planning** actions address how the built environment (buildings, streets, public spaces, the places in between) can be more supportive of or compatible with low-emissions travel.
- **Parking** actions change parking rules to reduce how much people drive.

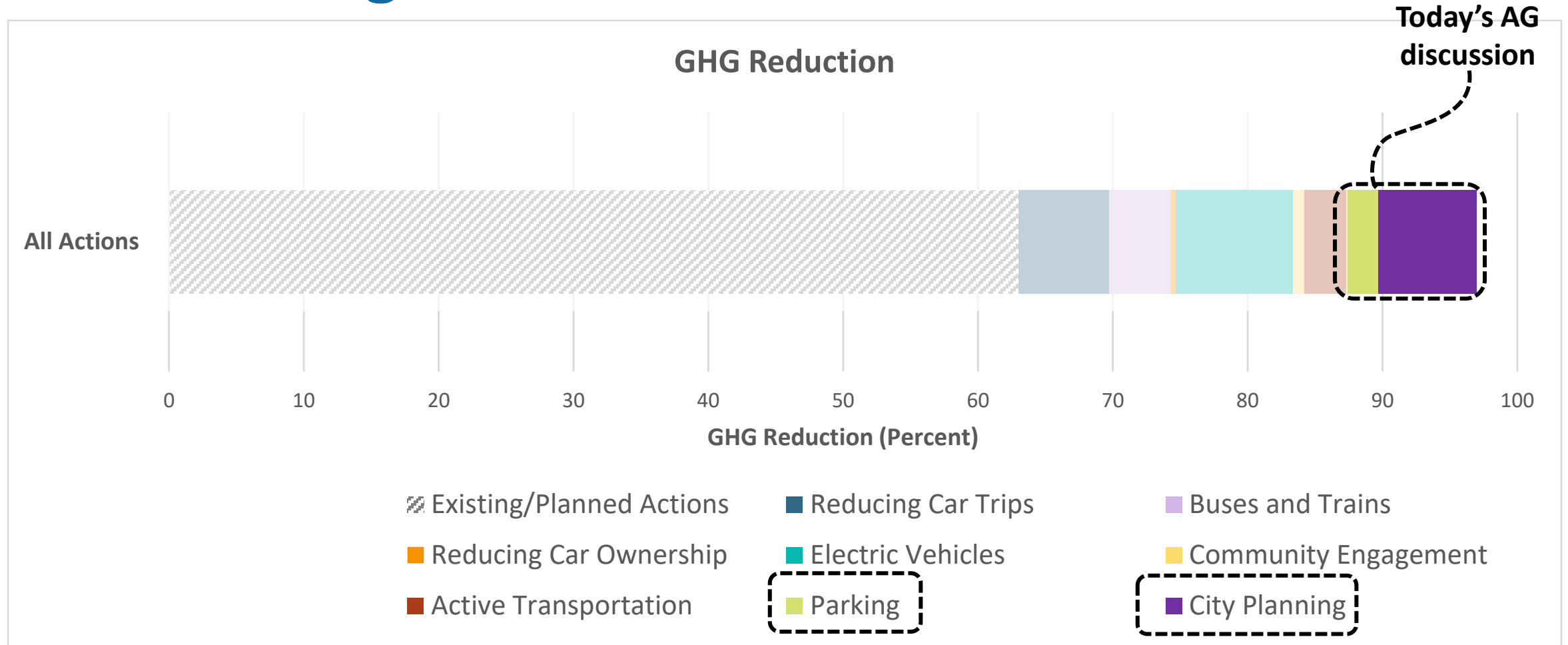
Our focus for today:

- In the context of the whole suite of actions we are considering, can you support including the actions we are discussing today?
- What improvements or alternatives can you suggest for other actions to be able to support them?

# We need to get to 100% emissions reduction



# We need to get to 100% emissions reduction



# City Planning

## Proposed Action

5.6% GHG  
Reduction

**CP-1. Maintain a policy of allowing and promoting mixed-use development near transit stops including more affordable housing.**

### What This Could Look Like

- More housing and mixed-use development would be built in squares and along bus routes
- There would be more affordable housing, due to current roles for inclusionary zoning and the Affordable Housing Overlay
- Having more schools, businesses and housing closer together would make it easier to walk and bike between destinations and drive less.

*Remove climate pollution from transportation*

*Make moving around Cambridge more convenient and enjoyable*

*Improve economic opportunity and address historic injustices*

*Create a stronger and more connected community*

# City Planning

## Proposed Action

1.8% GHG  
Reduction

### CP-2. Create better physical connections between transportation modes.

#### What This Could Look Like

- There would be more secure bike/scooter parking, Bluebike availability and carshare parking along bus route and at train stations
- Residents could more easily switch between different types of transportation
- Could reduce the number of on-street parking spots along bus routes

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# City Planning

## Proposed Action

**CP-3 (Formerly RCT-2) .Charge developers a fee for new development relative to a project's traffic impacts, to be used to support non-car infrastructure and traffic safety improvements**

### What This Could Look Like

- There could be more communication between neighboring cities, such as quarterly meetings with representatives from municipalities
- This could result in unified advocacy to state officials on policies needed for the region
- Could expanding connections to multi-use paths and better bus services
- Better coordination could lead to:
  - Less traffic on Cambridge streets when fewer people commute alone in cars
  - Reduced air pollution
  - Increased traffic safety
  - Fewer pass-through car trips in Cambridge

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# City Planning - discussion: What could an action focused on large institutions' greater contribution to net zero transportation look like?

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# Parking

## Proposed Action

Less than  
1% GHG  
Reduction

**P-1** Increase residential parking permit fee, with discounts for people with low incomes

### What This Could Look Like

- Fee would be increased from current amount of \$25 per year. Current calculation increased it to \$300 per year.
- Car ownership could become slightly more expensive for Cambridge residents who don't qualify for low-income discount
- Some people might decide to not own a car, although the cost that could make a difference in car ownership or parking demand is likely higher than the cost the City would charge

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# Parking

## Proposed Action

1.9% GHG Reduction

**P-2** Increase fees at parking meters, with discounts for people with low incomes

### What This Could Look Like

- Meter parking could cost more in some locations. Currently fees are \$1-1.50 per hour, and the current calculation show them increasing to \$3 per hour.
- Some people might decide to arrive by another mode, decide to park farther away, or decide to go to a different destination
- If higher meter prices cause people to change where they park, there could be more availability of on-street parking, which helps reduce emissions from people circling the block looking for parking
- A system would be in place to allow people with low incomes to easily access a lower parking rate (e.g. via placard, sticker, or status associated with license plate, etc.)

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# Other changes and improvements to actions to discuss

- **RCT-3:** Provide a mobility wallet to residents with low-incomes - *discuss question of paying for gas*
  - Note: we shared some examples from other cities
- **RCT-4:** Participate in State and regional discussions about a Greater Boston congestion or emission pricing scheme (road-pricing)
  - *Estimating emissions reduction to be approximately 5% (conservatively)*
- **EV-1:** Create public-private partnerships that significantly increase the availability of publicly accessible EV and micromobility devices (e.g. scooters) charging and fast charging, either curbside or following “gas station” model – *discuss potential opportunities to ramp up charging capacity to increase emissions reduction*
- **Potential action related to police interactions**

# Checking in on the Process





# Feedback on AG process so far

How has this AG process been for you so far?

- How has this compared to other City processes you've been involved in?
- If it has been better, in what ways?
- What could we improve?

# Public Comment





# Public comment

- Public comments are welcome
  - Share thoughts in Zoom Q&A or verbally
  - To comment verbally, **raise your virtual “hand”** (or actual hand if in person)
  - Please limit your comments to **2 minutes** (we may reduce this time if the queue fills up)
- Please keep all comments...
  - **Relevant to the topics discussed today**
  - **Respectful**
  - **Focused on issues (not individuals)**



# Check-out and Next Steps





## Next steps

- ✓ We will share follow-up materials and a draft meeting summary
- ✓ Next meeting: **Wednesday, July 31 @ 8:45 AM\***
  - Continue reviewing, refining, and incorporating draft actions

Check-out question: **What is one thing you are taking away from this meeting or a question you want to keep discussing next time?**