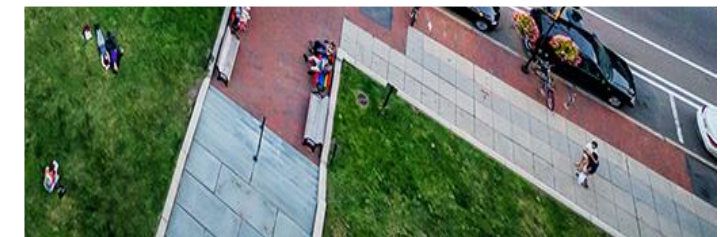


City of Cambridge  
Community Development Department



# Pedestrian Committee Meeting

October 24, 2024



# Meeting Agenda

**Agenda Review, Zoom Protocol, Introductions, Minutes** (10 minutes)

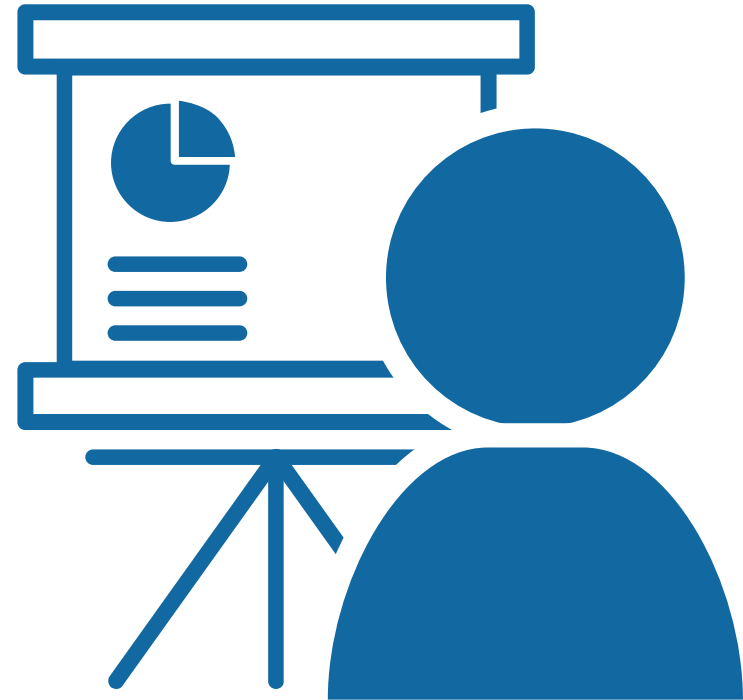
**City Plaza Project Updates** (20 minutes)

**Breakout Discussions: Ped Committee 2025 Work Plans** (30 minutes)

**Report: Breakout Discussions** (10 minutes)

**Updates: Other City, Committee Updates** (15 minutes)

**Public Comment** (5 minutes)





# City Plaza Project Updates

# Central Square construction

- Current work at Carl Barron Plaza in Central Square
  - Work has been going on in the plaza to install structural soil in the plaza and install drainage
  - To do this work there are pedestrian detours and changes to roadways
  - Photos showing a couple of weeks ago with work at the transit terminal



# Bus Terminal Area Proposed Condition

*The ribbon color in perspective renderings is a placeholder and will not be the final design*

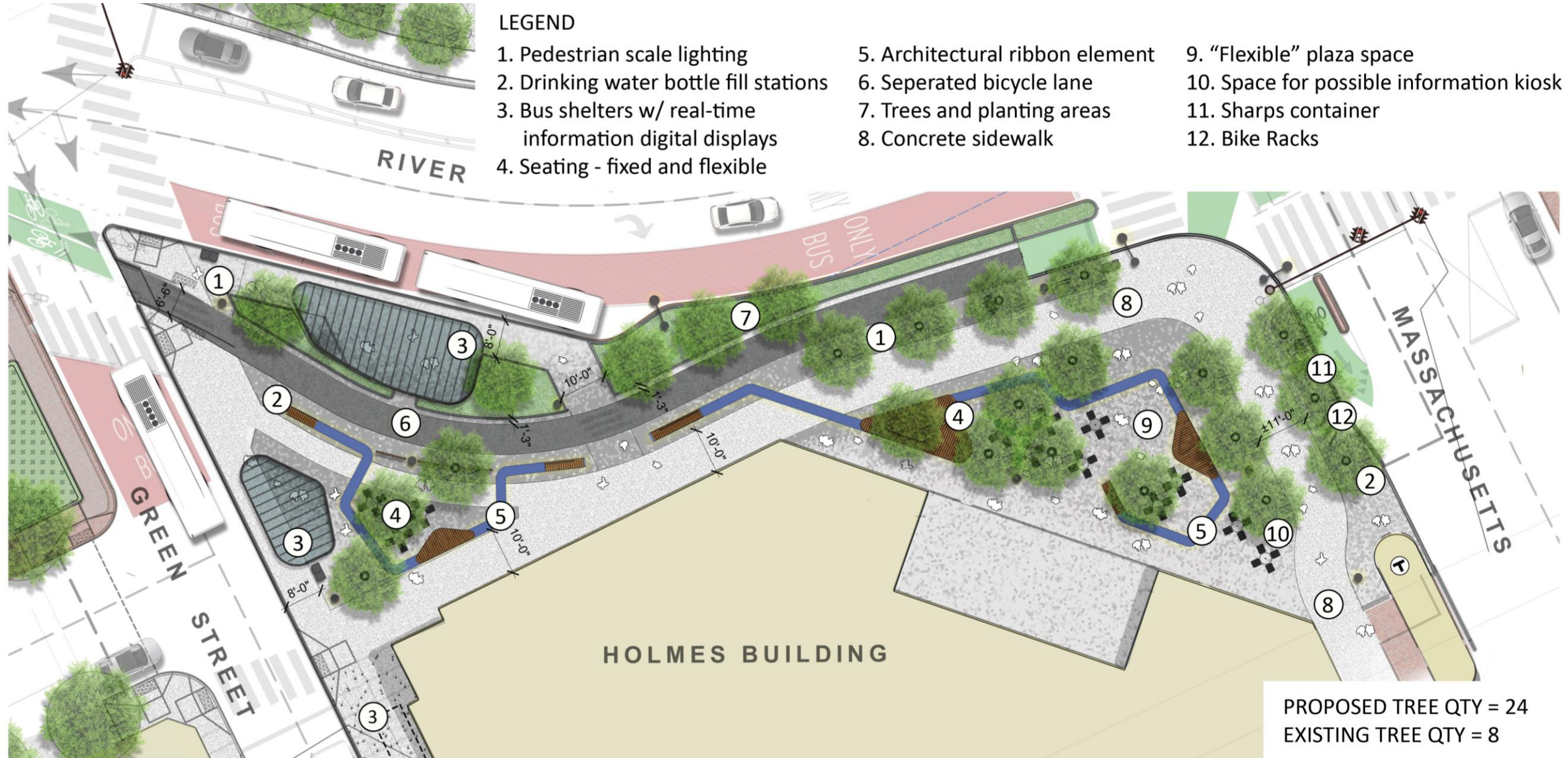
The Green street plaza offers new outdoor gathering opportunities.



# Carl Barron Plaza and Bus Terminal Overview

## LEGEND

- |   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Pedestrian scale lighting                              | 5. Architectural ribbon element | 9. "Flexible" plaza space                |
| 2. Drinking water bottle fill stations                    | 6. Separated bicycle lane       | 10. Space for possible information kiosk |
| 3. Bus shelters w/ real-time information digital displays | 7. Trees and planting areas     | 11. Sharps container                     |
| 4. Seating - fixed and flexible                           | 8. Concrete sidewalk            | 12. Bike Racks                           |



PROPOSED TREE QTY = 24  
EXISTING TREE QTY = 8

# Carl Barron Plaza Proposed Condition

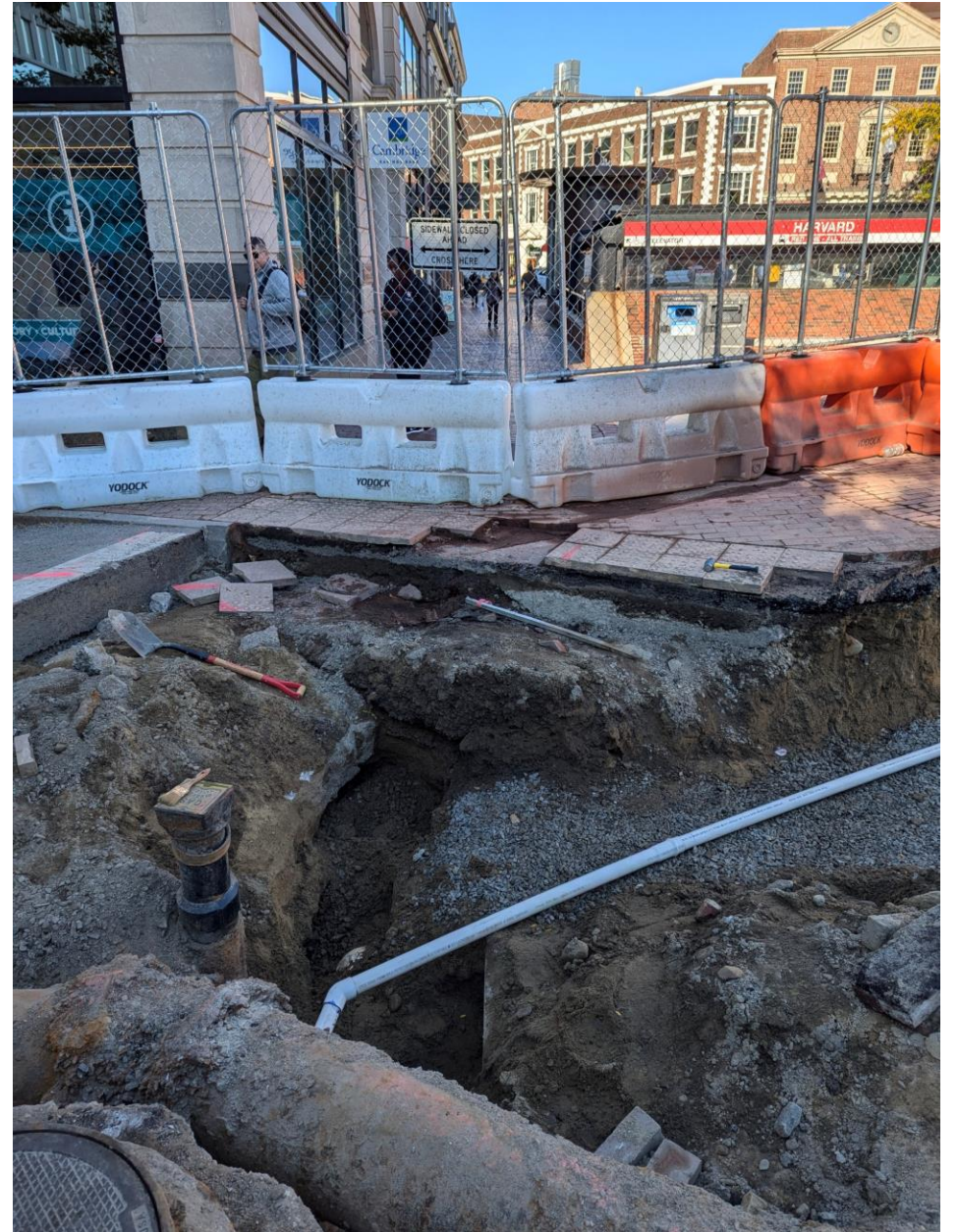
*The ribbon color in perspective renderings is a placeholder and will not be the final design*

The ribbon alignment was adjusted to create a powerful gateway facing Massachusetts Ave sidewalk, while increasing flexible seating opportunities.



# City Plaza Projects

- Current work at Harvard Square Plaza and Kiosk
  - Closure of Dunster Street
  - Pedestrian detours with temporary ramps
  - Photo showing a couple of weeks ago at the location of the raised crosswalk







# **Committee Work Plan Discussion + Report**



# Recall in May...we wondered together

*What would encourage people to walk in Cambridge?*

- You wrote a sticky note with ideas answering the question
- Four others wrote a suggestion, a question, or a comment on your idea
- You then restated your original idea with modifications
- We then brought similar ideas together to create four groups

Evan K

Walking City Trail, Cambridge edition: Long-er, mapped out urban "hiking" trail through a big chunk of Cambridge and its neighborhoods <https://www.bostontraills.org/>

This is lovely. How does the Boston one designate the trails? Are they exclusively marked on the Internet, or are there IRL signage, etc.?

Are the trails "themed" in some way, or just interesting walking routes?

Love this - we could use the wayfinding idea and would encourage walking through areas outside of the main corridors. So many beautiful side streets!

Thomas

Work with local businesses and institutions for self guided walking tours like breweries, coffee shops, museums, independent retail etc

So these are accessible re: income barriers, any way we can work to provide discounts, free entry/freebies, etc.?

I'm curious about the word "tour" do you mean the type of tour with a guide or do you envision it being self-led to assist in the discovery of new places?

The committee did something similar in 2017ish(?) with cuisine in Kendall Square and it went really well & was well attended. It does take a lot of work to coordinate

This is a great way to incentivize businesses to think about how valuable non-drivers are for them!

"What would encourage people to walk in Cambridge?"

Kevin

Open Streets (a la Newbury): A chance for people to walk through some of our main corridors without car traffic. Start as a pilot (times/days)

I love this idea. What would be good neighbourhoods to start in?

Would love to see more pedestrianized street days around; is this something that's possible with a street like Mass Ave? Are there restrictions on state vs city roads?

+++ Love this so much! I imagine this doesn't have to be confined exclusively to the commercial corridors! Memorial Drive would be a great candidate :)

Maybe some areas of Harvard square?

Sean

In depth study of poss. improvements in Alewife & Kendall. Focus on changes from new developments & new travel patterns. Highlight ped trouble spots. Identify smallscale

Great idea! Are there some specific questions we're trying to answer? Specific problem areas to focus on or patterns of behavior we're looking to understand?

What is missing? Safe crosswalks? Walking paths?

Agreed with Alex's comment, I'd love to see this more generally too, esp improving our squares!

There are a lot of places I imagine would benefit from improvement. I am curious why you want to highlight Kendall and Alewife specifically

Alex

Build more public restroom facilities.

What are the current barriers? Space? Funding?

This would be so nice - are there specific areas you think we should prioritize first?

So much yes to this! Many areas are lacking in restrooms especially after libraries/coffee shops close

Central, Harvard, Porter, etc. are definitely prime targets; can we work with the MBTA to improve access?



# **Tonight we would like to breakout into each of the four groups**

- City Walking Trail
- Wayfinding
- Study the city
- Informational or other campaigns



# Breakout Groups Detail (1 of 4)

- City Walking Trail
  - Walking City Trail: Cambridge version. Route/theme - scenic spots natural or built
  - Event walking city trail : Perimeter trail - NYC "The Saunter"
  - Self guided tours - institutions, businesses, historic buildings
  - "Free library" walk
- Wayfinding
- Study the city
- Informational or other campaigns



# Breakout Groups Detail (2 of 4)

- City Walking Trail
- Wayfinding
  - Wayfinding signage for pedestrians - Visitors, especially - Scenic routes - Friendly branded
  - Cambridge map for walkers in Google/Apple Maps ("Guides") online or in app
- Study the city
- Informational or other campaigns



# Breakout Groups Detail (3 of 4)

- City Walking Trail
- Wayfinding
- Study the city
  - Feel safe: Study pedestrian crossing times and phasing plans: More consistent and longer crossing times.
  - Study of neighborhoods: Alewife + Kendall where a lot of development has happened - not totally integrated planning - infra investments, operational challenges
  - Build more public restrooms
- Informational or other campaigns



# Breakout Groups Detail (4 of 4)

- City Walking Trail
- Wayfinding
- Study the city
- Informational or other campaigns
  - Giving people reasons to walk instead of another mode
  - PSA/Campaign: "Why not walk?"
  - Business "punch card" - RL Shutdown related - consider walking instead - Discount
  - Open streets in Cambridge - Like Newbury Open Streets in Boston - more people want to walk if they can be away from motor vehicles
  - RL shutdown: Scavenger Hunt in different neighborhoods (weekly?) (topics: Art/Architecture, Plant, History, Food)
  - RL Closure: Infographic - walking estimates between stops - snap shots of potential destinations in different areas





# Questions during breakout sessions

- What would each of the groups do for their sub-committee
  - Is this an event an activity? Is this a research project?
  - What would happen at the event?
  - What would be required?
  - What time would be required to complete the project?
- When could the events happen or a committee project be completed?
- Who will take the lead on the project?



# TP&T Updates

*Andreas Wolfe (TP&T), [awolfe@cambridgema.gov](mailto:awolfe@cambridgema.gov)*



# DPW Updates

Melissa Miguel (DPW), [mmiguel@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mmiguel@cambridgema.gov)



# CDD Updates

*Andy Reker*

*[areker@cambridgema.gov](mailto:areker@cambridgema.gov)*



# Upcoming Committee Meetings

- Transit Advisory Committee November 7
  - Update on general planning for Alewife Quadrangle, Triangle area
- Joint Meeting November 13 - TBC
  - Virtual-only
  - Flexible Parking Corridors
- Ped Committee November 21 - TBC
- Joint Meeting - December 11 TBC
  - In-person / 344 Broadway
  - Holiday party and celebrating Cara Seiderman's retirement



**Thank You**