

AGENDA

- **Staff Introductions**
- **Project Objectives**
 - **What is a shared Street?**
- **Resident Q&A**

City Staff:

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****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 is the purpose of the video on the project page?

The video was prepared to provide an overall background on how design decisions will be made by introducing the policies that guide them. The purpose of the video was not to present a streetscape design; that will come through resident participation at a series of on-site community meetings.

What are the project goals?

- Fully reconstructed roadway/shared street
- Improved roadway drainage conditions
- New tree plantings if/where feasible
- Safety improvements for pedestrians

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

- The Kirkland Rd Reconstruction Project is part of the City's Five-Year Plan (cambridgema.gov/fiveyearplan). 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.

Kirkland Rd will be designed as a shared street. What is a shared street?

- Shared streets provide the pedestrian the right of way. By removing the formal distinctions between spaces dedicated to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorized vehicles, the street is shared by everyone, with each user becoming increasingly aware and respectful of the others.
- These streets are typically found in low-volume residential neighborhoods, especially in older cities.
- Often, they lack sidewalks or have narrow and crumbling ones.
- Residents and children share the roadway with drivers, creating a natural space for play and socializing.

- Design enhancements can transform these streets into shared spaces that prioritize pedestrians and recreation.

Existing Public Shade Trees –

- 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.
- As part of the design process the City Arborist, or one of his designers, will evaluate the existing tree health on Kirkland Rd prior to final design completion.

Project Website

- cambridgema.gov/departments/publicworks/cityprojects/2024/kirklandroadreconstructionproject
- *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.*

