

AGENDA

- **Staff Introductions**
- **Project Objectives**
 - **Complete Streets Approach**
- **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.***

The Shepard Street 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.

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?

- Reconstructed ADA compliant sidewalks
- Fully reconstructed roadway
- Improved roadway drainage conditions
- New street tree plantings
- Safety improvements for pedestrians

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 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.
- As sidewalks are being redesigned, the team needs to identify and address existing deficiencies in the layout. Federal ADA regulations require that at existing pinch points (such as at street trees, hydrants, utility poles), a 36" minimum compliant sidewalk clearance must exist between these fixtures and the back of public sidewalk right of way. In locations where achieving this minimum clearance is not attainable, the City may be required to construct a new 48" compliant sidewalk around this obstruction. This is achieved by constructing a bump out around the obstruction and into the roadway.

Sidewalk Material

- City policy is to replace sidewalk materials in kind. Existing brick sidewalks will be replaced with brick and the same for existing concrete sidewalks. However, at the start of the project, property owners will receive a Sidewalk Material Selection form. This form gives the property owner the option of keeping their existing sidewalk material or changing. Property owners can also opt to “buy up” from existing concrete sidewalks to new wire cut, brick sidewalks at the contractor’s cost. Typically, pricing the City has seen to “buy up” to brick, is approximately \$250/square yard. Interested residents should complete the form once received to indicate their sidewalk material choice.

Traffic Related Concerns

- ***Vehicle Speeds***
 - As part of the design process, the City is collecting volume and speed data. This information will help guide the final design of Shepard St.
- ***Wrong Way Cycling / Micromobility devices***
 - **Shepard St is a low speed/low volume street on the Bicycle Network Plan**
 - <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/communitydevelopment/2020bikeplanupdate>
- ***Sight lines***
- ***Compliance at Shepard/Walker and Avon Shepard Intersections***

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.

Project Website

- www.CambridgeMA.gov/ShepardStreet
- *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.*

