Agenda

Project schedule and process

Engagement strategy
- Goals for engagement
- Tools for engagement
- What are we hearing and who are we reaching?

Next steps
- Engagement
- Analysis
Project Schedule

2016
Phase I: Establishing a Citywide Vision
- Listening & Researching
  - Visioning
    - Setting Goals & Targets
- Alewife Plan

2017
Phase II: Setting Priorities
- Refining the Vision
  - Areas of Focus
    - Testing Scenarios

2018
Phase III: Developing an Action Plan
- Developing a Strategic Plan
  - Integrating Areas of Focus
- Citywide Plan
  - Integration of Alewife Plan

We are here.
Project Process

Community Priorities and Visioning

Research and Analysis

Vision

Framework
- How do we achieve this vision?

Targets
- How do we track progress?

Testing The Scenarios
- On-the-ground scenarios
- Trade-offs

Action Plan
- Policies
- Recommendations
- Refined vision
Research and analysis is focused around key planning topics.

- Urban Form
- Economic Opportunity
- Community Interaction (formerly social cohesion)
- Climate and the Environment
- Mobility and Transportation
- Housing
What is the purpose of community engagement in this plan?

**Why do engagement?**
- Listening
- Documenting
- Educating and empowering
- Getting input
- Building consensus
- Building awareness
- Reaching audiences not normally involved

**What are we doing?**
- Advisory committee and working groups
- “What’s the Plan” panel
- Newspaper
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Public workshops
- Mobile engagement station
What is the purpose of community engagement in this plan?

**Hard-to-reach populations**
- Seniors
- Teens
- University Students
- American-born Black
- Arabic-speaking
- Bangladeshi
- Ethiopian
- Haitian
- Portuguese
- Spanish-speaking
City formed an advisory committee and working groups.

City put out a call for members of a committee and working groups.
- First working groups are on public engagement and on Fresh Pond / Alewife
- Other working groups to be formed later
- The City received 150+ applications
- Invitations were sent out in April

The Advisory Committee and Engagement and Alewife working groups are convening in May.
We held a “What’s the Plan?” panel to introduce the project.

First large Envision Cambridge event was on February 11 at the Cambridge Public Library.

- Lively discussion of topics ranging from urban agriculture and mobility, to challenges with current development and need to engage with wide range of community members.
- 100+ community members attended

Panelists

- Tim Love, Utile
- Dan D’Oca, Interboro
- Kevin Hively, Ninigret
- Lisa Jacobson, Nelson\Nygaard
- Ariella Maron, BuroHappold
We will be sharing through a newspaper.

First issue will be released in late spring 2016.

- Designed and written in a friendly tone and graphic language
- Updates the public on the planning analysis and process
- Teaches the public about planning and complex policy issues
- Offers in-depth stories about community members and happenings
We organized focus groups to reach underserved groups.

Working with Community Engagement Team (CET) to reach out to underserved populations.
- Linguistic minorities and American-born blacks
- Other focus groups to be formed later

Working with CET, we organized small focus groups to meet with members of these communities.
- Events took place in early April.
We are conducting multiple surveys, in multiple forms.

What have we been asking people?

Survey 01: Listening
(Also administered online and in public workshops, March-April)

Survey 02: Visioning
(May-June)

Survey 01
Envision Cambridge is a community-wide process to develop a comprehensive plan for a more livable, sustainable, and equitable Cambridge. With input from those who live, work, study, or play in our city, Envision Cambridge will create a shared vision for the future of our city. The plan will result in recommendations on a broad range of topics such as housing, mobility, economic opportunity, urban form, and climate and the environment.

Cambridge, today
When you think of Cambridge, what words or phrases come to mind? (Don’t think too hard!)
- Social cohesion (safety and accessibility, community, income inequality)
- Urban form (buildings, open space)
- Environment (climate change, resilience)
- Economy (jobs, training, job sector)
- Other:

What do you love about Cambridge?

What would you change about Cambridge?

What do you hope the plan will address?

Survey 02
Cambridge, in the future
Envision Cambridge will discuss a broad range of issues. Tell us what matters most to you:
- Mobility and transportation (traffic, parking, biking and walking, transit)
- Housing (affordability, tenancy)
- Urban form (buildings, open space)
- Environment (climate change, resilience)
- Economy (jobs, training, job sector)
- Other:

Feel free to elaborate on the issues most important to you in the space below:

City of Cambridge
We held Public Workshops to hear from the community.

Three public workshops

- Thu, Mar 24, Kennedy-Longfellow School Cafeteria
- Thu, Mar 31, Tobin School Cafeteria
- Sat, Apr 2, Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue
- Approximately 130 community members attended

Team listened to community members on what is important to them for the plan

- We solicited top concerns beforehand through an online survey, street teams, and live-polling at the start of the workshop.
We created a Mobile Engagement Station.

What is it?

• The Mobile Engagement Station is a 4’ x 8’ interactive model of Cambridge. The Station has three layers.

1. The top layer is a 3D model of Cambridge showing all the buildings in the city.

2. The second layer is a map of Cambridge color-coded by land use and showing all streets and building footprints.

3. The last layer consists of stools in the shape of each of Cambridge’s neighborhoods.
We created a Mobile Engagement Station.

What have we been asking people to do?

Draw on the model:

- Draw your commute or another frequent route through the city in **black**
- Circle favorite places in **green** and write words that come to mind
- Do same for least favorite places in **red**
- Do same for things you'd like to see in the future in **blue**
We created a Mobile Engagement Station.

Where have we used it?

19 outings over 2 months

- March 1, City Hall Annex (Presidential Primary Day)
- March 5, Harvard Square (Brattle St & Brattle Square)
- March 6, Cambridge Public Library Main Branch
- March 12, The Port (Area IV), Windsor and Harvard Streets
- March 13, Porter Square, Mass Ave & Somerville Ave
- March 14, Kendall Square, 309 Main St
- March 19, Cambridgeside Galleria
- March 20, Inman Square, Vellucci Community Plaza
- March 24, Envision Cambridge Public Workshop, Kennedy Longfellow School March 26, Huron Village Easter Egg Hunt (Huron and Standish St)
- March 30, Alewife Sewer Separation Update Meeting, Tobin School
- March 31, Envision Cambridge Public Workshop, Tobin School
- April 2, Winter Farmers Market, Cambridge Community Center at 5 Callender Street
- April 2, Envision Cambridge Public Workshop, Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave
- April 6, Alewife T Station
- April 11, Story Time at Collins Branch Library, 64 Aberdeen Avenue
- April 15, Lafayette Square
- April 16, Cambridge Science Festival, CRLS Field House, 459 Broadway
- April 27, Cambridge Public Library Main Branch, 449 Broadway
- April 29, Walk/Ride Day Corporate Challenge Kick-Off, Joan Lorentz Park, 449 Broadway
Mobile Engagement Station

**Areas most marked as favorite places**

- The squares, the public library, and open space and walking/biking trails are the most consistently identified locations.
Mobile Engagement Station

Areas most marked as least favorite places (or places that have least favorite qualities)

• The squares and Alewife are marked the most.
Mobile Engagement Station

Areas most marked as places where changes for the future should happen.

- Largest difference between this map and the least favorite places map is that Kendall Square is heavily marked here.
Mobile Engagement Station

Preliminary results

- When you think of Cambridge, what words or phrases come to mind?

Paper survey:

Online survey:
What we heard so far

What matters to you most?

- Housing 22%
- Mobility and Transportation 24%
- Economic Opportunity 8%
- Climate and the Environment 14%
- Social Cohesion 13%
- Urban Form 19%
My priority is people and ensuring that Cambridge welcomes everyone.

More and more, the city feels like two cities.

Opportunities for Cantabrians of all types and education levels.

Regional planning outside of Cambridge has a lot of impact.

The city remains very familiar even after decades, in spite of huge changes.

Pricing out young and middle-income people will make a community boring or unbalanced.

Middle class families are being pushed out and we need to focus on building housing, open space, local retail for them.
Survey write-in comments: suggestions

Plan holistically, not project-by-project.

Having affordable housing available is critical to the fabric of the community.

Each of the plan’s issues are important and interrelated.

Preserve the character of the neighborhood while expanding housing options to keep up with growth.

Beyond housing, the citywide conversation and planning efforts need to be better synthesized in how open space, health, transportation, etc. become collectively woven.

Do not forget about middle-class families.

Make Cambridge a net zero city and model for the nation and the world.

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Do not forget about middle-class families.

Make Cambridge a net zero city and model for the nation and the world.
What have we heard so far?

**Housing**
- Affordability
- Rising costs displace long-time residents
- Minority communities have been hit hard
- Questions over adding housing density versus maintaining neighborhood character

**Transportation**
- Improving pedestrian, bike, and bus infrastructure
- Congestion, especially in Alewife

**Community Interaction**
- Diversity is why people actually want to live here
- Community values city programs and services

**Urban Form**
- “Human” scale of city’s fabric
- The squares are central to Cambridge’s identity

**Economy**
- Questions over how to make new (and increasingly high-paying) jobs accessible to a range of incomes
- A diversity of type and size of retail is important

**Climate and the Environment**
- Parks and open spaces are places where recreation and resilience planning can come together
These activities reach different audiences.

**“What’s the Plan” panel**
- 100+ attendees

**Survey 1**
- ~600 surveys total
- 210 collected by street teams
- 420 collected online

**Focus groups**
- 40 attendees
- American-born Black, Arabic, Bangladeshi, Chinese/Mandarin, Dominican, East African, Ethiopian, French Creole, Haitian and Haitian Creole, Honduran, Peruvian, Spanish

**Public workshops**
- 130 attendees

**Mobile engagement station**
- 1250 people engaged
- 1900 pieces of feedback
Next steps
What’s Next?

Public Workshops
- Visioning Workshops in early summer

Advisory Committee and Working Groups
- Initial meetings happening now

Surveys
- New survey focuses on Visioning and Alewife

Focus groups
- Continued outreach to linguistic minorities, immigrants, and American-born blacks

Engagement Station
- In City Hall
- On the street

Alewife / Fresh Pond Area
- Alewife / Fresh Pond area engagement through the summer, coordinating with the Preparedness Plan
- Street teams, surveys, workshop

Additional forms of engagement
- CET outreach workers
- Mayor’s Summer Youth Program
- Targeted outreach with seniors and youth
Discussion

- What do you see as key challenges and opportunities for the city, in the following areas?
  - Housing
  - Economic opportunity
  - Mobility and transportation
  - Social equity
  - Community health
  - Community interaction
  - Climate and the environment
  - Urban form
  - Other