

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Cambridge Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan final adoption. (CM25#26) [[text of report and Order](#)]

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to investigate safety improvements such as signalization to the intersection of Cardinal Medeiros Avenue, Cambridge Street, and Warren Street, and to implement these changes as soon as possible. Councillor Azeem, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan (PO25#11)
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with appropriate departments to prepare a communication to DCR Commissioner Arrigo, urging that a study of traffic conditions at the intersections of Western Avenue and River Street at Memorial Drive and Soldiers Field Road (commonly referred to as "the box"), be included in their FY26 Capital Plan. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Toner, Councillor Nolan (PO25#12)
3. That the City Manager is requested to create a plan with a schedule and milestones to move forward with the creation of a Municipal Broadband Network and present it for consideration by the Council at a Finance Committee meeting in the context of capital projects for coming years. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Wilson (PO25#13)
4. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the relevant departments about exploring how the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department can advance protection of Cambridge students and other bus riders as authorized by the two new Massachusetts laws. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Azeem, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#14)
5. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate department to put up a lawn sign every year a week before International Mother Language Day to commemorate. Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (PO25#15)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to Ordinance 2025 #1 Multifamily Zoning Petition-Part 1. [Passed to 2nd Reading Jan 27, 2025; Amended Feb 3, 2025; Eligible to be Ordained Feb 10, 2025; Expires Feb 17, 2025] (ORD25#1)
2. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to ORDINANCE 2025 #2 Multifamily Zoning Petition-Part 2. [Passed to 2nd Reading Jan 27, 2025; Eligible to be Ordained Feb 10, 2025; Expires Feb 17, 2025] (ORD25#2)
3. Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to Animal Commission Ordinance 2025 #3 Changes - Fees. [Passed to 2nd Reading Jan 27, 2025; Eligible to be Ordained Feb 10, 2025] (ORD25#3)

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from David Randa representing StretchMed, requesting permission for a projecting blade sign at the premises numbered 425 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter response with proof of mailing has been provided. (AP25#7)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Linda Moussouris, regarding PO24#163 & ORD25#1 Multi-Family Zoning Proposal.
2. Amy Baron-Evans, regarding Multi-Story Rezoning Petition.
3. Andrew Ray, regarding Municipal Broadband.
4. Charles Norris, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
5. Christine Bulman, regarding Zoning.
6. Daniel Heller, regarding Danehy Park bike path.
7. Diana Yousef, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
8. Diane R Fingold, regarding Cambridge Up-Zoning Proposal.
9. Earl K. Miller, regarding Support for bike lanes on Broadway.
10. Helen Walker, regarding Proposed Amendments to Multi-family Housing Zoning Petitions.
11. Jacquelyn Smith, regarding Broadway Proposal.
12. Karen Falb, regarding Neighbors not trusting City Councillors.
13. Lee Farris, regarding CHJC Supports MF Amendment Requiring Community Meeting.
14. Omar Eton, regarding Increasing opposition to the zoning petition vote in 2 weeks.
15. Pattie Maes, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
16. Russell Windman, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
17. Tom Klein, regarding Garden Street.
18. Winifred Stopps, regarding Expanded City Council Comment on PO25#1 - Multifamily Housing Zoning Petitions.
19. Caroline Bruzelius, regarding Inclusionary zoning.
20. Miah Ebels-Duggan, regarding please vote against CPD's request for additional surveillance tech.
21. Ben Diamond, regarding Support for Broadway Bike Plan.
22. Irena Manukian, regarding Cambridge PD surveillance technology proposals.
23. Asia Korkmaz, regarding Reject CM25#9, #10, and #11.
24. Richard Solomon, regarding public comment tonight.
25. Adam Manacher, regarding Suppressing our voice.
26. Shannon Finley, regarding Broadway Bike Lane.
27. Alyssa Chen, regarding Conflict of Interest re_ Councillor Azeem.
28. Jeremy Koo, regarding Support for 4+2 Multifamily Zoning Proposal.
29. Heather Hoffman, regarding electricity needs in Cambridge.
30. Marilee Meyer, regarding comment_ multifamily council.
31. Ash Inglis, regarding Opposition to CM25#9-11.
32. Wendy Jacob, regarding vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
33. Helen Abraham, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.

34. Cameron Sanders, regarding CM25#11.
35. Susan Ringler, regarding Support PO#1 - Linear Park Signage.
36. Sara George, regarding Against CM25#11.
37. Carolyn Magid, regarding Charter Right #3 and CM25#11.
38. Ariel, regarding Public Comment CM25#9-11.
39. Theodore Live, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
40. Marianne Jacobbi, regarding Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
41. Ariel Smith, regarding Public Comment CM25#9-11.
42. Andy Nash, regarding Multifamily zoning and drone surveillance.
43. Annie Moriondo, regarding Support for 4+2 Multifamily Zoning Proposal.
44. Young Kim, regarding Calander Item #3 and related MFH Petitions.
45. Jim Gray, regarding multifamily zoning Process suggestion.
46. Ira Gorodetskaya, regarding Support passing the multifamily petition.
47. Young Kim, regarding Pls Do Not pass 2nd Reading of MFH Petitions to be Ordained.
48. Aydin, regarding BBN Letter.
49. Nyla, regarding BBN Letter.
50. Clementine Gia, regarding BBN Letter.
51. Sydney, regarding BBN Letter.
52. Rosemary, regarding BBN Letter.
53. Mark, regarding BBN Letter.
54. Linda Moussouris, regarding City Council Meeting re: Ordinance Committee Recommendation and CM report on Multifamily Housing Zoning Petitions - PO25#1 (1/6/25).
55. Crystal Leslie, re: Please vote NO on citywide upzoning petition.
56. John Wofford, re: Rezoning - Last minute plea and plan.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra on their 50th anniversary. Councillor Azeem
2. Condolences on the death of Josephine Tuccinardi. Councillor Toner
3. Congratulations to Nelson Carneiro on his retirement from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
4. Congratulations to Diego Matho on his retirement from the Cambridge Public Schools. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
5. Congratulations to Nancy Smith on her retirement from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
6. Thanks to the volunteers from the Visitor Information Center for their dedication. Councillor Toner
7. Congratulations to Cambridge Author Omo Moses, on his memoir titled "The White Peril." Councillor Wilson, Councillor Siddiqui

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Transportation and Public Utilities Committee** held a public hearing on Jan 28, 2025 to discuss inter-jurisdictional projects that are in play that may impact mobility in Cambridge. The discussion was focused on the

Community Development Department's report of Nov 14, 2024 to the City Council, Awaiting Report 24-36. [[text of report](#)]

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#18)

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Feb 10

3:00pm **Special Meeting of the City Council** to go in to Executive Session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically the City Manager. There will be public comment.

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Feb 11

12:30pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the update to the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Annual Report.

Thurs, Feb 13

3:00pm The **Special Committee of the Whole** will hold a public meeting to resume the review and discussion of recommendations from the Charter Review Committee and any additional suggestions from the full City Council pertaining to the Cambridge City Charter. This is a continuation of the public hearing that began on Dec 9, 2024, that reconvened and recessed again on Jan 27, 2025.

Mon, Feb 24

10:00am The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the launch of the Cambridge Net Zero Transportation Plan (NZTP).

5:30pm **Roundtable/Working Meeting with the Cambridge City Council and the School Committee** to discuss FY26 Cambridge Public Schools budget priorities

Tues, Feb 25

11:30am The **Economic Development and University Relations Committee** will hold a public hearing with the City Solicitor and the Community Development Department, Economic Opportunity Division, to discuss concerns with vacant store front in Cambridge, and prior efforts and possible options such as new policies, taxes, and/or fines to reduce the number of vacant store fronts in Cambridge.

3:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public meeting to discuss tenant-paid broker fees and other housing fees and the options that the city and state government have to regulate them.

Wed, Mar 5

3:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to receive an update on the state of the arts in Cambridge and discuss how the City is currently supporting artists and art organizations through grant programs and funding, with a focus on the Central Square Cultural district.

Thurs, Mar 20

3:00pm The **Economic Development and University Relations Committee** will hold a public meeting from 3:00pm-5:00pm. This meeting will be a Cannabis Roundtable with cannabis businesses to discuss issues facing the retail cannabis industry in Cambridge and discuss potential changes, including adjustments to the current 1,800 foot buffer zones and introduction of social consumption.

Thurs, Mar 27

1:00pm The **Finance Committee** will hold a public meeting to receive a status update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in Cambridge, as well as to review and discuss the Police Department budget for FY26 before it is submitted to the City Manager, as required under Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 2.74.040.

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Feb 10, 2025

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that the intersection of Cardinal Medeiros Avenue, Cambridge Street, and Warren Street has experienced a number of unsafe and dangerous traffic incidents; and

WHEREAS: This intersection has long been dangerous, particularly because vehicles moving across Cambridge Street onto Warren Street have limited visibility into oncoming traffic, with no limitation on throughway traffic on Cambridge Street; the intersection is close to Cambridge public schools and frequently used by children; and there is limited traffic calming on Cambridge Street aside from crosswalks and a crossing guard posted at certain times of day; and

WHEREAS: Signalization would improve traffic safety at the intersection while creating additional opportunities for recreation, pedestrian and bicycle access; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to investigate safety improvements such as signalization to the intersection of Cardinal Medeiros Avenue, Cambridge Street, and Warren Street, and to implement these changes as soon as possible; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on these matters as soon as possible.

O-2 Feb 10, 2025

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR TONER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: Heavy traffic on Memorial Drive at the intersections of Western Avenue and River Street during rush hour causes significant delays, frustrates residents, and contributes to air pollution; and

WHEREAS: The Transportation and Public Utilities Committee recently held a public hearing to discuss ongoing and planned inter-jurisdictional projects that may impact mobility in Cambridge, including the MassDOT Allston I-90 Multimodal Project; and

WHEREAS: This project will remove the aging highway viaduct, rebuild roadways at ground level, create a new multimodal West Station, expand parklands and reconnect residents to the Charles River; and

WHEREAS: This \$2.8 billion project will open up 35 acres of new development area in Allston for Harvard, offering significant large development potential, with final environmental permitting expected in 2026 and construction to begin as early as 2027; and

WHEREAS: The traffic congestion at the intersections of Western Avenue and Memorial Drive, and River Street and Memorial Drive, is expected to worsen during construction, as detours will

direct more commuters across the river, and after project completion, as additional development in Allston continues to impact traffic patterns; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) had previously included a study of these intersections in its Capital Plan; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with appropriate departments to prepare a communication to DCR Commissioner Arrigo, urging that a study of traffic conditions at the intersections of Western Avenue and River Street at Memorial Drive and Soldiers Field Road (commonly referred to as “the box”), be included in their FY26 Capital Plan, with the goals of improving efficiency and safety at these intersections; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with an update on these efforts by early April.

O-3 Feb 10, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: The City commissioned Municipal Broadband Feasibility Study, the results of which were received in March 2023, concluded that a Municipal Broadband Network was feasible in the City of Cambridge, and

WHEREAS: A statistically valid survey of Cambridge residents done as part of the Feasibility Study showed that 87% felt that Cambridge needed another ISP, 56% agreed or strongly agreed that “funding and construction of City-owned broadband infrastructure a top City spending priority” and that 66% agreed or strongly agreed that “the City should facilitate building a fiber broadband network, even if this requires a tax subsidy from the City;” and

WHEREAS: The Feasibility Study found that Cambridge remains an effective monopoly for Comcast, the highly limited instances of competition insufficient to provide incentives for better service or pricing, and that the economics of the marketplace will dissuade others to enter the Cambridge market without government intervention; and

WHEREAS: Municipal Broadband Service would bring the benefits of increased competition including reduced pricing, improved speed, reliability, and customer service for both residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS: Municipal Broadband Service would include discounted internet access for those who cannot afford to pay the increasingly higher costs of access. This is a critical component of the city’s efforts to address digital equity; and

WHEREAS: The city where the internet was invented deserves a “gold standard” network, a citywide fiber optic network to each premises, net neutrality, and infrastructure that would create a future proof network utility that would provide a competitive advantage to the City for decades to come; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to create a plan with a schedule and milestones to move forward with the creation of a Municipal Broadband Network and present it for consideration by the Council at a Finance Committee meeting in the context of capital projects for coming years; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-4 Feb 10, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts legislature [recently passed two bills](#)

signed into law by Governor Healey authorizing municipal governments to curb illegal parking in bus boarding areas and prevent vehicles from illegally passing stopped school buses; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has previously unanimously supported [policy orders](#) and [home rule petitions](#) in support of various types of traffic enforcement that does not require a physical police stop, such as the “SafetyStick” parking enforcement currently employed in Somerville; and

WHEREAS: Vehicles blocking bus stops create serious safety hazards for passengers with disabilities, slow the pace of public transit, and increase traffic and danger for all road users, and passing stopped school buses puts the lives of students in danger; and

WHEREAS: There have been more than 100 [crashes](#) between other vehicles and buses reported over the last decade, including more than 50 crashes of other vehicles with school buses; and

WHEREAS: Since 2016, Cambridge has adopted [Vision Zero](#) as a “strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all;” and

WHEREAS: Studies suggest that automated enforcement can help [improve traffic safety](#) and [improve equity](#) by conducting traffic enforcement at rates more in line with the community’s racial makeup than policing and by reducing interactions with police over minor traffic infractions; and

WHEREAS: With input from the ACLU, the legislature took care to protect the privacy of motorists by ensuring the information collected through automated enforcement technologies can only be used for that purpose, except in cases where a court order is present, and not collected on vehicles other than illegally blocking bus stops or passing stopped school buses; and

WHEREAS: In its exploration of automated enforcement, the City should work to ensure that fines are not designed primarily as a revenue generating mechanism or replacement for street design improvements and utilize the guidelines of groups such as the ACLU and the Fines and Fees Justice Center to ensure equity; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the relevant departments about exploring how the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department can advance protection of Cambridge students and other bus riders as authorized by the two new Massachusetts laws; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-5 Feb 10, 2025

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: International Mother Language Day is celebrated around the world on February 21, to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism; and

WHEREAS: International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999, and the idea was initiated by Bangladesh; and

WHEREAS: Languages hold cultural significance and 45% of estimated 7,000 languages spoken in the world are endangered and less than 100 languages are used in the digital world; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is a multilingual city where more than 90 languages are spoken in Cambridge Public Schools and 33.3% of Cambridge residents speak another language at home; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge launched a new Multilingual Helpline pilot in April 2024 accessible by calling 617-865-2273 on weekdays during business hours; and

WHEREAS: The Language Justice Program embodies the high value that the City of Cambridge places on linguistic diversity and seeks to treat all languages with equal respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS: On Nov. 29, 2024, bilingual street signs in the Massachusetts Language went up on numbered streets — First through Eighth — in East Cambridge, in recognition of the continuous presence of indigenous people and languages in our city; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate department to put up a lawn sign every year a week before International Mother Language Day to commemorate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing the importance of International Mother Language Day every February 21st.