City of Cambridge
Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026-326
IN CITY COUNCIL
November 23, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please see attached a memo from John Nardone, Commissioner of Public Works, conveying a response to Awaiting Report 2026-71 regarding an update on Linear Park construction.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works

John F Nardone, Commissioner

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November 18, 2026

To: Yi-An Huang
City Manager

From: John Nardone
Commissioner

Re: AR 26-71: Update to the City Council on the construction schedule of Linear Park

The Department of Public Works is pleased to report that construction of Linear Park remains on track for reopening to the public by December 31, 2026. At this time, the City continues to target a reopening before year-end and will make every effort to reopen the park sooner if construction progress allows.

The project experienced an initial delay due to litigation, resulting in approximately 77 calendar days of delay to the start of construction. Despite this setback, construction has advanced substantially over the past year, and the remaining work required for reopening is actively underway.

Key items currently in progress include:

- **Final Paving:** Final paving operations will be completed the week of November 16th
- **Lighting Installation:** Installation of light poles and fixtures is ongoing, and the remaining light fixtures have now been delivered to the electrical subcontrctor. Completion of the lighting installation and energizing the system are the primary remaining milestones for repoening the park. DPW is coordinating with the contractor, the City's Electrical Department, and Eversource to complete this work.

DPW staff continue to meet regularly with the contractor through weekly construction progress meetings to maintain momentum, identify potential schedule risks early, and support the project's year-end reopening target.

While the City remains optimistic that the park will reopen by December 31, 2026, some project elements that are not critical to public access may extend into spring 2027. These activities may include landscaping and other finishing improvements. Once the park reopens, the path will remain accessible to the public during this remaining work, although isolated areas may occasionally require temporary coning off of approximately half the path width to safely accommodate construction activities.

At this time, the City is not anticipating a delay to the December 31, 2026 reopening date, although staff will continue to monitor progress and provide updates should conditions change.

The City appreciates the patience of residents and Linear Park users during construction and looks forward to reopening this important community connection.