

# City of Cambridge Department of Public Works

Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner

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July 21, 2014

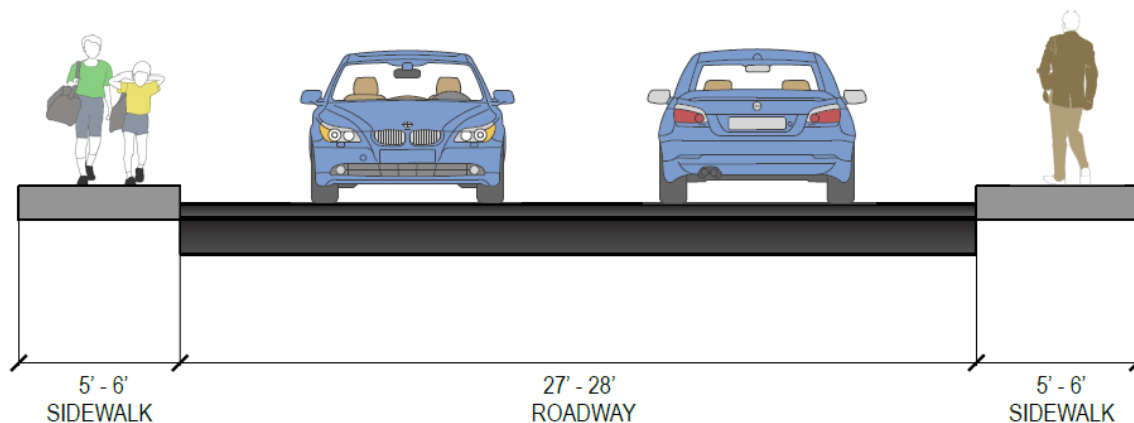
To: Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager

From: Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner, DPW  
Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager, Community Development Department  
Susan Clippinger, Director, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department

Re: Council Order O-6, dated June 2, 2014 regarding New Street Improvements

## Existing Conditions on New Street

New Street is a two-way public street with a roadway width of 27-to-28-foot with 5-to-6-foot sidewalks on either side of the road. The sidewalks are narrow, do not provide sufficient width for street trees and are in generally poor condition. There are currently no bicycle lanes on the street.



## Changing Uses on New Street

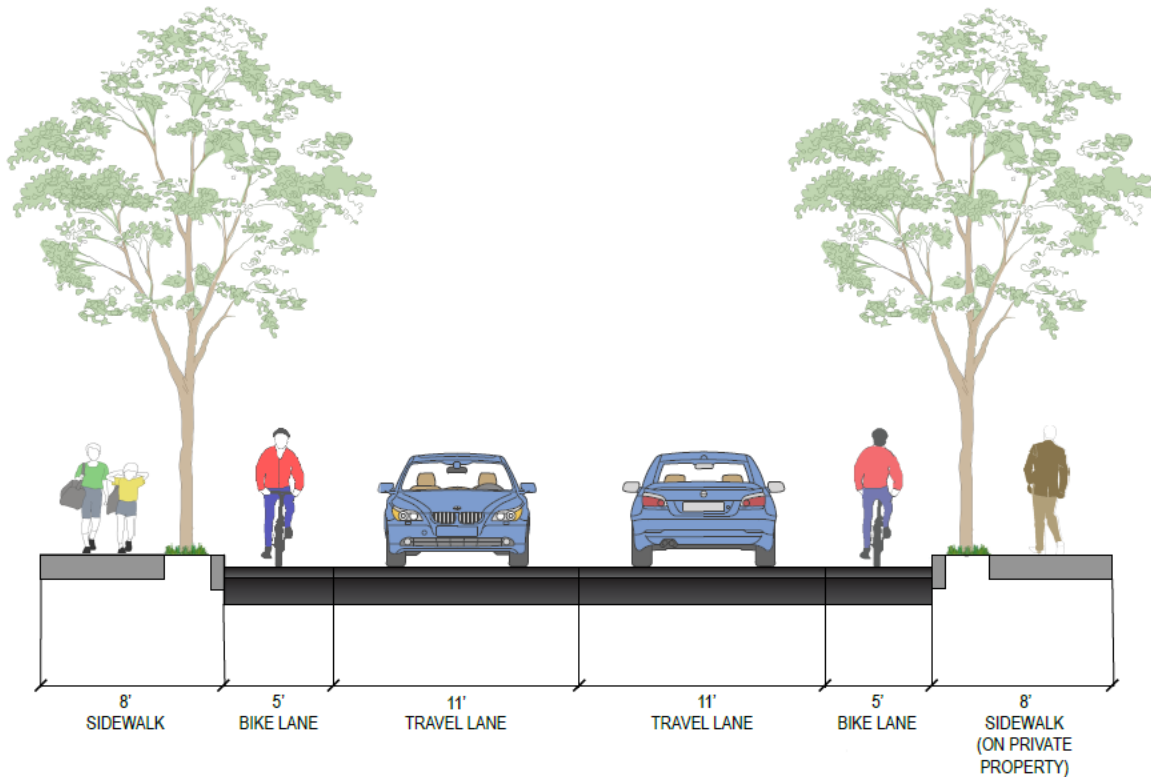
Through the 1970s, New Street was part of a larger industrial area that included the Concord-Alewife “Triangle” and “Quadrangle” and the present site of Danehy Park, which was the site of the City Dump until that time. New Street itself was primarily an access road serving the dump and other industrial uses along the railroad line. As the uses in the area have changed – more residential development, completion of Danehy Park, increased pedestrian and bicycle usage – the layout and design of New Street no longer meets the needs of the users.



## Improvements on New Street

The design of New Street has been evaluated in conjunction with individual development projects, but it is important that the full length of New Street be thought of more comprehensively. To that end, City staff will begin a community process this fall for New Street. The focus will be developing a design for the street which includes enhancements for pedestrians and cyclists, street trees and vehicular access. A series of meetings will be held to identify concerns, solicit ideas, develop concepts and finalize a design for the entirety of the street. City staff will work collaboratively with residents, property owners and the larger community throughout the process.

To initiate the discussion about how New Street could be improved, city staff developed a concept plan, which includes wider sidewalks (8'), bike lanes and street trees.



This layout assumes that the 8' sidewalk on the even side of the street is on private property. The lots are much deeper on this side of the street and the improvements would be implemented in conjunction with future development projects. The section of sidewalk adjacent to Danehy Park would be constructed between the existing trees and the methane trench, in the open space outside the fence.



## **Implementation of Improvements**

Similar to other streets undergoing redevelopment, the public infrastructure improvements would be phased to leverage private investment.

- Developer of 75 New Street will construct sidewalk improvements in front of 75 and 87 New Street.
- City will construct sidewalk improvements adjacent to Danehy Park.
- Through the community design process, City staff will determine how best to provide a continuous pedestrian connection to Fresh Pond Parkway (likely on the non-Danehy Park side).
- As future developments proceed on New Street, additional improvements will be constructed.

