

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Al-Zubi, Co-Chair
Councillor Nolan, Co-Chair
Vice Mayor Azeem
Councillor Flaherty
Councillor McGovern
Councillor Simmons
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
Councillor Zusy
Mayor Siddiqui

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The meeting was Called to Order at 12:00 p.m. by the Co-Chair, Councillor Al-Zubi. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, this public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

At the request of the Co-Chair, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Councillor Al-Zubi – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
Vice Mayor Azeem – Present/Remote
Councillor Flaherty – Absent
Councillor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
Councillor Nolan – Present/Remote
Councillor Simmons – Present/Remote
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
Councillor Zusy – Present/Remote
Mayor Siddiqui – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Present – 8, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi noted that the Call of the meeting was to review and discuss the Capital Budget and Public Investment Planning in advance of the FY27 budget season. Present at the meeting was City Manager, Yi-An Huang, Deputy City Manager, Kathy Watkins, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs, Claire Spinner, and Budget Director, Taha Jennings.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi offered opening remarks and read from the following statement (not verbatim):

The order of today’s meeting will be quick opening remarks from myself and Co-Chair Nolan if she wishes, presentation from the Finance team, public comment and then Council discussion. As we jump into today’s meeting, I want to remind us that today’s meeting is a part of a series of meetings that will help Council inform long-term planning of our city. The material you have on

the presentation shares more about the capital budget conversation. It's important for us to hold this with our operating budget. For me, I will be focused on how we can navigate our capital budget so that it is reflective of how we can invest in public good especially when it comes to topics like how we can do more to treat things such as housing as a human right in partnerships with organizations, state-level work and beyond.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Co-Chair Nolan who offered opening remarks and shared that she looks forward to the conversation.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Kathy Watkins who gave a presentation titled "FY27 Capital Budget". The presentation was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. Claire Spinner reviewed upcoming Finance Committee meetings that are being planned for the FY27 Budget Hearings. Taha Jennings shared information on educational community meetings being held for the public.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi opened public comment.

Young Kim, 17 Norris Street, Cambridge, MA, urged the City to provide information and be transparent on capital funding and bonding costs.

Heather Hoffman, 213 Hurley Street, Cambridge, MA, urged the City to prioritize open space rather than spending money on certain projects during fiscal uncertainty.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who asked for more information related to the street capital expenditure and what is included under streets, noting that some may think the costs are used primarily for bike lanes. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler added that street maintenance and bike improvements usually happen at the same time. Kathy Watkins shared that the City is making more effort to be transparent with capital budget project funding. Kathy Watkins explained that most bike lane projects themselves are low-cost but are usually done at the same time as street paving because the City would need to improve them at some point, noting that much of the costs are for maintaining and rebuilding the street, not specifically for bike lanes. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler agreed that being more transparent with the community about where project funding is going would be beneficial. Councillor Sorbinho-Wheeler explained that for future projects, it may be ok to go for the "silver standard" rather than the "gold standard" to help with budgeting. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler added that when the City chooses to do more expensive capital projects, it takes away from other resources, such as homelessness services. Kathy Watkins agreed that going forward the City can be more thoughtful on design choices and their associated costs. Kathy Watkins clarified that capital projects are usually a one-time expense, even if they are paid over multiple years, noting that saving money on one project does not mean that same amount would become available in the operating budget.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Councillor McGovern who shared he had similar concerns as Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler related to the Cycling Safety Ordinance, bike lanes, and Massachusetts Avenue spending. Councillor McGovern shared a brief overview of why the project had a cost of \$50 million, and suggested renaming it a Complete Streets project, rather than CSO project. Councillor McGovern agreed that going forward, projects should be scaled

down in order to save money. Councillor McGovern asked for more information on renovations to DePasquale Playground in Danehy Park. Kathy Watkins clarified that renovations would not be happening to the new playground. Councillor McGovern suggested adding ADA accessible bathrooms near the all-inclusive playground area. Kathy Watkins shared that a fully accessible Portland Loo restroom has been approved to be installed. Kathy Watkins added that bids will be going on in the next couple of months with the hopes of construction starting in the fall.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Councillor Zusy who spoke in support of spending on infrastructure, noting that addressing infrastructure needs early will prevent high costs later, which is why it is important for the City to plan ahead. Councillor Zusy agreed with previous comments related to transparency with total project costs, sharing that the priorities listed in the presentation on page 22 should have the costs associated with them available. Councillor Zusy also questioned why some priorities were not listed, such as social housing and municipal broadband. Councillor Zusy offered suggestions related to municipal projects and bids. Councillor Zusy asked for more information related to costs on street improvements in the upcoming FY26-FY30 budgets and BEUDO. Kathy Watkins explained that street improvements are funded by multiple sources, such as sewer revenues. Kathy Watkins stated that street improvements will include addressing neighborhood streets as well as the main corridors and that the Department of Public Works will be updating the five-year plan and looking at more cost-effective approaches. Kathy Watkins added that much of the street work will also be addressing Massachusetts Avenue. Kathy Watkins agreed that it is important to plan and address infrastructure needs sooner than later.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Co-Chair Nolan who pointed out that Cambridge is more expensive due to high labor and environmental standards, while also being a dense city, and that previously, the City did not have to pay such close attention to costs. Councillor Nolan added that the City Council passed the CSO without a good sense of what total costs were going to look like, noting that having a better understanding of the tradeoffs may have helped with the implementation. Councillor Nolan asked if the City has ever approached a project with a maximum cost and asking contractors what options would be available with that number. Councillor Nolan added that projects in Cambridge are higher than surrounding communities, and that it will be important going forward to have financially feasible projects. Kathy Watkins shared that improvements with Massachusetts Avenue are being made with budget restraint and that proposed designs are being evaluated to help decide what can be achieved with the budget. Kathy Watkins noted that unexpected cost increase can still happen, but the City is having difficult conversations with staff, project teams, and the community related to the budget and project costs. Councillor Nolan asked for more information related to spending on open space and parks. Kathy Watkins explained that open space and park projects are included in the bond schedule and because they are split between multiple years, the budget numbers do not look as high. Councillor Nolan noted the importance of decarbonization and that it is something that can pay for itself over time through reduced operating expenses.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Mayor Siddiqui who shared that she agrees with a lot of what has been said already. Mayor Siddiqui raised concerns about the bond schedule for the FY26-FY30 budget years, noting that Cambridge has been fortunate to have the opportunity to do important capital project work. Mayor Siddiqui asked if the City needs anything from the City Council to

help support the sequencing and how it is managed. Kathy Watkins shared that many of the projects are established and will continue to show in the capital budget. Mayor Siddiqui asked how the City is planning on being transparent with the City Council and the many projects that need prioritizing, noting that having a timeline in place helps the City Council respond to questions and concerns from residents. Kathy Watkins explained that many projects in the next five years are already planned which leaves limited short-term flexibility. Kathy Watkins noted that more opportunities to prioritize and discuss new projects will happen in the later years of the capital plan. City Manager Huang shared that he looks forward to continuing conversations with the City Council and added that each budget cycle provides a clear view of the City's long-term capital plans. City Manager Huang noted that each budget shows the broader planning process and that projects would need to be prioritized carefully. Claire Spinner emphasized the importance of balancing investments across different areas, which helps make decisions and projects to move forward.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi asked for additional information on the timeline between when a project is approved, completed, and when debt service payments begin. Co-Chair Al-Zubi also asked about bond authorizations, maintaining debt levels, and how capital-related work funded through operating channels, such as nonprofit grants, is reflected in the budget. Co-Chair Al-Zubi highlighted the importance of understanding project costs, scope, and prioritization, and added that she and Co-Chair Nolan will be working with City Councillors to clarify Council priorities. Kathy Watkins provided an overview of the timeline and shared the process of what happens after the City Council approves a project. Kathy Watkins noted that bonds may be spread over multiple years for large projects, and most of the funds need to be spent within a certain timeframe. Kathy Watkins shared that the debt service payments begin after the bonds are issued and can vary over time. Claire Spinner provided additional information related to bonds, noting that for large projects the City tries to have the full project approved so the City Council understands the total cost. Co-Chair Al-Zubi had clarifying questions related to information on page 15 of the presentation. Kathy Watkins responded and shared that the goal is to align the debt growth with the operating budget growth, while still making investments in infrastructure. City Manager Huang added that the City supports nonprofit projects through cash grants, which is funded through the operating budget, not the capital budget. Co-Chair Al-Zubi thanked City staff for their responses and shared that she looks forward to having more discussions to gain a better understanding on how investments are reflected in the City's financial planning.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Councillor Zusy who shared concerns about the City's debt levels and having a target of 5%. Claire Spinner provided information related to the 5% target, noting that it refers to the annual growth in the debt services costs, and not reducing debt to 5% of the operating budget. Claire Spinner added that the goal is to not reduce the debt service to 5%, but to keep its annual growth around 5%.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi thanked staff for their presentation and shared she looks forward to future discussions.

Co-Chair Al-Zubi recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Councillor Al-Zubi – Yes
Vice Mayor Azeem – Absent
Councillor Flaherty – Absent
Councillor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Simmons – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Siddiqui – Yes
Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent 2. Motion passed.

The Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 1:47p.m.

Attachment A – Communications from the public.

Clerk’s Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:
<https://cambridgema.v3.swagit.com/videos/374905>

From: Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 12:44 PM
To: Al-Zubi, Ayah; Nolan, Patricia; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Azeem, Burhan; Flaherty, Timothy; McGovern, Marc; Simmons, Denise; Sobrinho-Wheeler, Jivan; Zusy, Catherine
Cc: Huang, Yi-An; Jennings, Taha; Wu, Lois
Subject: My Oral Comment today

Young Kim, 17 Norris Street

I sent the Committee a detailed email yesterday with supporting documentation, so I will not repeat those details today. Thank you, Co-Chairs, for outlining the Committee's updated budgeting approach. I was not previously aware of that framework, and I view it as positive news. I hope my comments today will dovetail constructively with that direction

The unfulfilled Public Records request I submitted last year limits my ability to comment to you on total capital exposure as you prepare to advance the next capital cycle in a constrained fiscal environment with growing tax-supported debt service, as reflected in the agenda packet materials. Because the Committee is not reviewing a draft FY27 Capital Budget today, this is the appropriate moment to request a consolidated accounting of existing authorizations, bonds, expenditures, and remaining obligations before additional commitments are advanced.

In a year when departments are being asked to locate savings and limit growth, lifecycle transparency is not an optional refinement. It is a prerequisite to informed fiscal stewardship.

Let me further expand on the Cycling Safety Ordinance implementation example I described in the letter I sent you. As you may recall, the Ordinance was adopted without a defined budget or schedule, and it was only through a later amendment that a strict timeline was introduced.

The engineering design contract for the four Mass Ave segments—often referred to as “MassAve4”—plus Eliot Street was originally \$1,1M. It was subsequently amended to \$5,8M, inclusive of the original contract value.

If engineering costs alone increased nearly fivefold—including reworking quick-build segments—one must ask what the financial impact would have been had similar escalation occurred in partial roadway reconstruction. In the current fiscal environment, that magnitude of variance underscores why the City Council must exercise more structured oversight at the front end of major initiatives, not after costs have compounded.

Because funding is dispersed across multiple program names and fiscal years, the total authorized cost of a major initiative is not visible in any single adopted budget document. It only becomes visible when budgets are examined longitudinally across time and reconciled program by program.

In a constrained fiscal environment with rising debt service, that lack of lifecycle visibility limits the Council's ability to assess full capital exposure before layering on new commitments. Good governance requires clarity not only about annual appropriations, but about cumulative obligations and remaining liabilities.

This is not a request to halt ongoing projects. It is a request for reconciliation before expansion.

Accordingly, I respectfully ask FinCom to require, prior to FY27 capital approval, a concise and authoritative lifecycle reconciliation for major initiatives presenting:

- Total capital appropriated to date, by fiscal year and project name;
- Bond authorizations and bonds issued;
- Expenditures to date;
- Committed but unspent balances;
- Estimated cost to completion; and
- Explicit reconciliation where scope descriptions or project naming change across fiscal years.

If such consolidated reconciliations already exist, I would welcome being directed to them. If they do not, this is the appropriate stage in the FY27 process to require them.

Thank you.

On Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 1:28 PM Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Co-Chairs Al-Zubi and Nolan and Members of the Finance Committee,

Because the Committee is not yet reviewing a draft FY27 Capital Budget, this is the appropriate moment to require a consolidated accounting of what has already been authorized, bonded, expended, and remains to complete across major capital initiatives. The Cycling Safety Ordinance work along Massachusetts Avenue from Harvard Square to Alewife Brook Parkway is one concrete example I analyzed, but the same reconciliation discipline should apply broadly so FY27 assumptions are not built on unresolved prior-year commitments.

The attached email correspondence with the Budget Director (Attachment 1) illustrates why this reconciliation cannot be inferred from the approved budget books alone: while the Council votes on Appropriation Orders, project descriptions, scope narratives, and cross-year context may be corrected or revised post-adoption without a consolidated lifecycle view being presented back to the Council. For that reason, I am writing to request the Finance Committee's (FinCom's) attention to unresolved capital budget governance and reconciliation issues as the City enters the FY27 capital budget cycle.

Following the City's transition from the legacy City Calendar to OneMeeting, I reviewed the FY27 Capital Budget staff presentation for the February 11, 2026 FinCom meeting, which underscores the City's constrained fiscal environment, including the growth of tax-supported debt service relative to the operating budget and the increasing need to prioritize capital commitments.

In that context, proceeding into FY27 capital planning without first reconciling prior authorizations, funding structures, and remaining obligations presents a material governance risk. The FinCom, sitting as the full City Council, is uniquely positioned to ensure that capital assumptions are grounded in a clear, consolidated understanding of what has already been authorized, bonded, expended, and remains to be completed across the capital program as a whole.

As one concrete example, I reviewed the approved FY23–FY26 capital budgets, beginning with FY23. The City Council approved plans for four Massachusetts Avenue segments as defined in the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO), which the Community Development Department referred to collectively as "MassAve4."

Approximately one week later, the City Manager submitted the proposed FY23 budget, and through City Council adoption of the expenditure portion of that budget, the implementation scope of those four

segments was expanded to include two previously completed quick-build segments. Because the expanded MassAve4 implementation has been funded under two capital budget items and program categories, the total authorized cost of the work is not readily visible in any single approved budget document. That review surfaced recurring traceability issues that only become visible when budgets are examined across time, including::

- identical physical scope appearing under different project names across fiscal years;
- CSO “Partial Build Bicycle Lanes” embedded within broader “Complete Streets” programs without a published mapping back to the ordinance;
- references to fractional funding (e.g., one-half or one-third funding) without disclosed denominators or reconciliation to a complete funding structure;
- earlier corridor-level authorizations not explicitly reconciled when later CSO-specific appropriations appear; and
- the absence of a CSO-specific, multi-year capital plan, resulting in fragmented implementation across multiple programs.

While this example is specific, the underlying issue is general: the approved capital budget books do not consistently provide an ordinance- or initiative-level lifecycle view that allows Councillors to readily determine total authorized exposure, funding sources, or remaining cost to completion.

Compounding this concern, my public records request seeking appropriations, bond authorizations, issuances, and expenditures for the Mass Avenue CSO segments remains outstanding beyond the statutory response period. As a result, records directly relevant to capital oversight are not yet available. Attachment 2 is the letter I submitted to the Supervisor of Records requesting that the City be required to produce the outstanding documents.

Approving FY27 capital assumptions without first reconciling existing commitments risks layering new decisions on top of unresolved ones. This request is not intended to halt ongoing work, but to ensure that the Council has a clear understanding of existing capital exposure before additional approvals are granted. Accordingly, I respectfully ask FinCom to require the City Manager to produce, prior to FY27 capital budget approval, a concise and authoritative capital lifecycle reconciliation for major initiatives. Attachment 3 provides an illustrative draft matrix compiled from adopted FY23–FY26 budgets. At minimum, such a reconciliation should present:

1. total capital appropriated to date, by fiscal year and project name;
2. bond authorizations and stated purposes;
3. bonds issued;
4. expenditures to date;
5. committed but unspent amounts;
6. current estimated cost to completion; and
7. explicit reconciliation where scope descriptions or project naming change across fiscal years.

If such consolidated reconciliations already exist, I would welcome being directed to them. If they do not, that absence itself represents a governance gap the FinCom is positioned to address at this stage of the FY27 process.

Respectfully,

Young Kim
17 Norris Street
Cambridge, MA

508-982-7339

Attachments:

1. Email correspondence with the Budget Director regarding capital budget adoption and post-adoption corrections
2. Letter to Supervisor of Records – Demand for Production of Overdue Public Records (PRR P252067-092925)
3. MassAve4 Capital Funding Plan (FY23–FY26, illustrative lifecycle matrix)

Erwin, Nicole

From: Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Al-Zubi, Ayah; Nolan, Patricia; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Azeem, Burhan; Flaherty, Timothy; McGovern, Marc; Simmons, Denise; Sobrinho-Wheeler, Jivan; Zusy, Catherine
Cc: Huang, Yi-An; Jennings, Taha; Wu, Lois
Subject: Cross-Year Reconciliation Before Draft Capital Budget Assumptions Are Set
Attachments: Email chain with Budget Director.pdf; SRO Demand for Overdue Public Records – PRR P252067_092925.pdf; MassAve4 Capital Funding Plan.pdf

Dear Co-Chairs Al-Zubi and Nolan and Members of the Finance Committee,

Because the Committee is not yet reviewing a draft FY27 Capital Budget, this is the appropriate moment to require a consolidated accounting of what has already been authorized, bonded, expended, and remains to complete across major capital initiatives. The Cycling Safety Ordinance work along Massachusetts Avenue from Harvard Square to Alewife Brook Parkway is one concrete example I analyzed, but the same reconciliation discipline should apply broadly so FY27 assumptions are not built on unresolved prior-year commitments.

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Young Kim
17 Norris Street
Cambridge, MA

508-982-7339

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3. MassAve4 Capital Funding Plan (FY23–FY26, illustrative lifecycle matrix)

Inconsistency or typo on Capital Budget

Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>
To: "Jennings, Taha" <tjennings@cambridgema.gov>

Thu, Jun 5, 2025 at 2:21 PM

Thank you for your clarification. I used our email thread as a basis for my comments to the City Councillor. And when I found out that the budget was passed, I did some more research and came up with the attached. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you any comments/explanation/clarification you care to share.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Best Regards,
Young

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 1:03 PM Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Hi Young

The Appropriation Orders are the Budget. Everything else in the *book* is backup information (as well as policies outlined in Section III). Typographical and clerical information is not really directly linked to the Appropriation Orders, so it would be difficult for a typo to impact them. We do spend a lot of time and effort making sure the appropriation Orders are correct and represent a balanced budget.

There will be an *Adopted* Budget Book (with any clerical edits and text corrections) available after the budget is adopted, which we do distribute to Council and will be available online.

-Taha

From: Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 12:02 PM

To: Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov>

Cc: Nolan, Patricia <pnolan@cambridgema.gov>; Zusy, Catherine <czusy@cambridgema.gov>; Hayes, Patrick <phayes@cambridgema.gov>; Pereira, Erika-Leigh <epereira@cambridgema.gov>; Toner, Paul <ptoner@cambridgema.gov>

Subject: Re: Inconsistency or typo on Capital Budget

Thank you for your explanation. I noticed that in her recent newsletter, Councillor Nolan wrote: "*On Monday night the Council will vote to adopt the FY26 Budget. The top lines of the budget are a \$992 million Operating Budget and a \$41 million Public Investment (Capital) Budget.*" She did not specify that the Council votes only on the Appropriation Orders (Section VII).

To clarify: are you saying that your office may revise any portion of the proposed FY26 Budget except for Section VII after the Council adopts it? If so, how are Councillors informed of any changes made post-adoption?

Additionally, what safeguards are in place to ensure that typographical or clerical errors do not unintentionally carry over into the Appropriation Orders? I raise these questions in the interest of promoting transparency, accountability, and accuracy in the budget process.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Young Kim (He/Him/His)

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 8:43 AM Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Hi Young

Thanks. Hope you had a great weekend as well. The Council only votes on the Appropriation Orders (Section VII), and loan orders which are correct. We will make sure any other text in the book is updated with corrections for the Adopted Budget Book.

-Taha

From: Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:57 AM
To: Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Inconsistency or typo on Capital Budget

Dear Budget Director Jennings,

I trust you had a great weekend with your loved ones.

The proposed FY26 budget with some amendments are set to be adopted tonight. Will the City Council be aware of the typo in the FY26 Project Description for the Mass Ave - Waterhouse Street to Alewife Brook Parkway before they vote and if so how?

Thank you for your response in advance,

Best regards,

Young

On Fri, May 16, 2025 at 11:55 AM Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Hello

That is a typo in the text. We will correct this in the Adopted Budget Book. Thanks

-Taha

From: Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 8:49 AM
To: Jennings, Taha <tjennings@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: Nolan, Patricia <pnolan@cambridgema.gov>; Zusy, Catherine <czusy@cambridgema.gov>; Pereira, Erika-Leigh <epereira@cambridgema.gov>; Hayes, Patrick <phayes@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Inconsistency or typo on Capital Budget

Dear Budget Director Jennings,

There seems to be inconsistency between the FY26 Project Description for the Mass Ave - Waterhouse Street to Alewife Brook Parkway and Status of Prior year Projects as shown on the attached document.

Is there an additional \$60M FY26 appropriation on top of previous appropriation of \$60M for total of \$120M appropriation for this project?

Thank you for your clarification

Respectfully,

Young Kim

508-982-7339

2 attachments



Kim_Oral Comment to CC 6_6_25.pdf

99K



Seriously Flawed Adopted Budget.pdf

366K



Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>

Demand for Production of Overdue Public Records – PRR P252067-092925

Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 1:04 PM

To: SEC-DL-PREWEB <sec-dl-preweb@sec.state.ma.us>

Cc: Public Records <publicrecords@cambridgema.gov>, "Bayer, Megan" <mbayer@cambridgema.gov>, Seah <slevy@cambridgema.gov>, "Siddiqui, Sumbul" <ssiddiqui@cambridgema.gov>, "Al-Zubi, Ayah" <aal-zubi@cambridgema.gov>, "Nolan, Patricia" <pnolan@cambridgema.gov>

Supervisor of Records
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Public Records Division
McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place, Room 1719
Boston, MA 02108

Via email

Dear Supervisor of Records,

I am writing to request your immediate intervention regarding the City of Cambridge's failure to produce records responsive to **Public Records Request P252067-092925**, submitted on **September 28, 2025**.

On **October 14, 2025**, the City acknowledged the request and invoked a **25-business-day extension** pursuant to G.L. c. 66, §10(b)(vi), citing complexity. That extended response deadline expired in **mid-November 2025**. As of today—more than **four months** after the request was filed—the City has produced **no records**, neither partial nor final, and has provided no further explanation for the continued delay.

I followed up directly with the City on **February 2, 2026, and again today**, requesting a status update. I received no response.

The requested records concern **appropriations, bond authorizations and issuances, and expenditures** for multiple Mass Ave capital projects across **FY22–FY26**. These records are directly relevant to the **Finance Committee's public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026**, at which the Committee will review and discuss capital budgeting and public investment planning in advance of the FY27 budget season.

Given the elapsed statutory timeframe and the complete absence of production, I respectfully request that the Supervisor of Records:

- **Order the City to immediately produce all responsive records located to date;**
- **Require the City to identify any categories of records that remain outstanding**, with a specific explanation for the continued delay; and
- **Require the City to state the statutory basis for any records being withheld**, if applicable.

Absent intervention, records central to the City Council's oversight of capital appropriations and expenditures will remain unavailable to the public during a critical budget review period, despite the City's stated extension having long since expired.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. I am happy to provide any additional documentation or context that may be helpful.

Best regards,
Young Kim
508-982-7339

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Young Kim** <ycknorris@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 8:02 AM

Subject: Demand for Production of Overdue Public Records – PRR P252067-092925
To: Seah <slevy@cambridgema.gov>

Dear PRAO Levy,

This note constitutes a demand for production of long-overdue public records responsive to **PRR P252067-092925**, submitted on September 28, 2025.

More than four months have elapsed since the request was filed. The City's October 14, 2025 response identified a 25-business-day extension due to complexity, which has long since expired. To date, no records—partial or otherwise—have been produced.

I am preparing public comments for the **Finance Committee's public hearing on Wednesday, February 11, 2026**, to review and discuss the Capital Budget and Public Investment Planning in advance of the FY27 budget season. The records requested in this PRR are directly relevant to that hearing.

Accordingly, I am requesting the following **by noon today**:

1. Immediate production of all responsive records that have been located to date;
2. Identification of any categories of records that remain outstanding, with a specific explanation for the continued delay; and
3. If any records are being withheld, a clear statement of the statutory basis for withholding.

Absent a substantive response, I will note during the Finance Committee hearing that records central to the Committee's review of capital appropriations and expenditures remain unproduced despite the expiration of the City's stated response timeframe.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Best regards,
Young

On Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 8:00 AM Young Kim <ycknorris@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Seah,
Trust you had a relaxing weekend.
Could you let me know what happened to this PRR?
Thank you for your attention to this matter,

All the best,
Young

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **City of Cambridge Law Department** <cambridgema@mycusthelp.net>
Date: Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 3:54 PM
Subject: Kim Public Records Request Response::: P252067-092925
To: ycknorris@gmail.com <ycknorris@gmail.com>

--- Please respond above this line ---

RE: Public Records Request of September 28, 2025, Reference # P252067-092925.

Dear Young Kim,

I write in response to your request:

I request records related to the projects referred to as "MassAve4" and budgeted under "Mass Ave – Harvard Sq to Alewife Brook Parkway (Partial Build)," "Mass Ave – Waterhouse to Alewife," and Complete Streets Construction Projects – "Mass Ave – Plympton to Garden." For each Fiscal Year FY22 through the approved FY26 Budget, please provide:

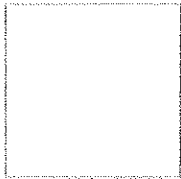
1. Appropriations – All appropriations approved by the City Council, including exact amounts, fiscal year, and project title/description.
2. Bond Authorizations and Issuances – All bond authorizations approved, and actual issuances (series, amounts, and dates).
3. Expenditures – Records showing how much has been expended to date, broken down by fiscal year where possible. If available, please also provide:
 - Relevant excerpts from the City's Capital Improvement Program, annual budget books, and bond offering / debt service reports, and
 - Any project expenditure or accounting ledgers maintained by the Department of Public Works or Finance Department.

The City is treating your inquiry as a public records request pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10.

Due to the complexity of searching for the requested documents the City hereby identifies a reasonable timeframe to respond to your request of 25 business days from the date of receipt of your initial request, pursuant to G.L. c. 66 §10(b)(vi).

You have a right to appeal this time extension to the Supervisor of Public Records under 950 CMR § 32.08(1) and have a right to seek judicial review of an unfavorable decision by commencing a civil action in the superior court.

Sincerely,



Seah Levy
Public Records Access Officer
City of Cambridge, Law Department
City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
phone: 617.349.4121 • fax: 617.349.4134
publicrecords@cambridgema.gov

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Project Name	Fiscal Year	Description	CSO Segment Name	FY23 (\$M)	FY24 (\$M)	FY25 (\$M)	FY26 (\$M)	FY27 (\$M)	FY28 (\$M)	FY29 (\$M)	FY30 (\$M)	FY31 (\$M)	Sub Total
Streets Mass Avenue - Waterhouse to Alewife Brook Parkway	FY26	improvements on Mass. Ave. between Waterhouse Street and Alewife Brook Parkway	(c)Massachusetts Avenue between Waterhouse Street and Roseland Street; and (d)Massachusetts Avenue between Beech Street and Dudley Street + added scope of redo quick build of Roseland Street to Beech Street and Dudley Street to Alewife Brook Parkway					9.5		\$ -	\$ -		9.5
	FY25					\$ -	\$ -	9.5		\$ -	\$ -		9.5
	FY24				50.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
STREETS - MASS AVENUE - HARVARD SQ TO ALEWIFE BROOK PARKWAY (PARTIAL BUILD)	FY23	improvements on Mass. Ave. between Harvard Square and the Alewife Brook Parkway.		0.0	40.0								40.0

STREETS - COMPLETE STREETS RECONSTRUCTION		MassAve4 -- Harvard Sq Bus Stops (1/2 funding) Plympton Garden		5.0									5.0
		Mass Ave. -- Harvard Sq Bus Stops (1/3 funding)	(a)Massachusetts Avenue between Plympton Street and Dunster Street;		6.0								6.0
		Mass Avenue- Partial Build Bicycle Lanes Waterhouse to ABP	(b)Massachusetts Avenue/Peabody Street northbound from Church Street to Garden Street;			0.35							0.35
		No FY25 Allocation					0.0						0.0