



## City of Cambridge Press Release

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### For Immediate Release :

#### **City Hosting Listening Session on Proposed Pilot Project to Remove Several Downtown Traffic Signals in 2024**

Cambridge, MD (November 17, 2023). The City of Cambridge is hosting a community listening session on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 305 Gay Street. This listening session will provide the public another chance to learn more about this proposed pilot program under consideration for next year, as well as to offer a forum for residents and stakeholders to offer suggestions or raise concerns.

The proposed pilot project the City of Cambridge is considering will involve the temporary disabling of several traffic signals downtown and replacing these signals with stop signs. This pilot program has been analyzed by consulting engineers and holds the promise of improving pedestrian safety and the flow of traffic throughout the downtown.

The Commissioners of Cambridge will decide whether to move forward with the pilot project at their December 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. If they proceed, the Commissioners will decide later in 2024 whether to make the stop signs permanent and remove the traffic signals based on the results of the pilot program.

As proposed today, the pilot program will be rolled out in four phases next year.

Phase 1 will start at the intersections of Spring and Gay Street as well as Muir and Race Street. Phase 1 will involve removing the traffic lights, installing stop signs, and remarking the pedestrian crosswalks.

Phase 2 will occur approximately one month later and will complete the same changes to the intersection of Muse and Gay streets.

After giving motorists approximately a month to adjust to the changes made in Phase 1 and 2, the same process will be repeated at two more intersections: High and Glasgow and High and Locust. However, because of the features of these two intersections, the pilot will involve installing 3-way stop signs, moving stop bars to increase visibility, installing new crosswalk locations, and adjusting travel lanes for the new traffic pattern.

The final phase of the pilot program will be to perform similar changes to the intersections of Gay Street, Poplar, and Race a month after phase 3 is completed. The

final phase also involves installing 3-way stop signs, reconfiguring lanes, moving stop signs to increase visibility, and moving the crosswalk locations to protect pedestrians. The slip lane that exists today for cars turning right from Gay onto Poplar will be eliminated for the safety of pedestrians.

Once the pilot is fully implemented, the City will evaluate how these improvements performed and seek additional resident and business owner feedback. The Commissioners will then decide whether to end the pilot and return these intersections to their current alignment with traffic lights or proceed with making some or all the pilot changes permanent.

To review the traffic study that serves as the foundation for this, [click here](#).

If you are unable to attend the listening session on November 30<sup>th</sup> but would still like to offer feedback, please email the assistant city engineer Bucky Jackson at [CBJackson@ChooseCambridge.com](mailto:CBJackson@ChooseCambridge.com). Any comments, suggestions, or concerns will be shared with the Commissioners prior to the December 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

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