

IMPORTANT – MARCH 2025

CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE STREETScape RENOVATION PLANNING

Hello:

This note is to inform you of the process, already underway by the Town of Brookline Engineering Department, to execute a complete renovation of Chestnut Hill Avenue from the Brookline Town Line at Cleveland Circle to Boylston St (Route 9).

The key elements of the current plan are:

- Installation of new sidewalks on both sides of the street
- Grinding down the street surface and repaving curb-to-curb
- Widening the bicycle lanes on each side of the road to five (5) feet and including a three (3) foot wide buffer zone
- Installation of Bollards/Flex posts in the buffer zone to prevent cars and trucks from parking in the bicycle lane. In areas where the bike lanes are along homes with driveways, the flex posts will be placed no more than 20 feet apart to enable temporary pickup and drop off at the curb.
- Alternate side-of-the-street “protected parking bike lanes” where the parked vehicles will be located between the bike lane buffer zone and the active traffic lane. This will create a traffic flow where the center, double yellow line will switch back from one side of the street to the other as you travel down the street.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT

In recent discussions with neighbors, the following concerns have been raised:

- 1. After decades of parking being allowed in front of our homes (on both sides of the street), this will no longer be the case. This change directly impacts our activities of daily living (visitors, home health aides, contractors/repair vans). The loss of parking in front of all our homes is an intrusion into our lives as residents of the street.**
- 2. The new traffic plan will impede emergency and first responders as vehicles on the street won't be able to easily get out of the way when ambulances, fire trucks, and police are on their way to an emergency.**
- 3. Residents will find it difficult and dangerous to back in and out of their driveways with flex posts in the street and traffic moving past them.**
- 4. Parking will not be allowed on Chestnut Hill Avenue along Warren Field as visitor parking would block the “new” bike lane. This area is heavily used up to 7 days/week from March to October by Brookline Baseball League players and visitors.**
- 5. The pleasant ambience of the streetscape will be ruined by the amount of paint of different colors that will define the bike lanes, the crosswalks, the buffer zones, and, if installed, the vertical plastic pipes extending on both sides of the lanes in the street.**

IMPORTANT – MARCH 2025

CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE STREETScape RENOVATION PLANNING

Our neighborhood has drafted a petition requesting that the renovation plan reflects our neighborhood's needs and rhythm of life. Specifically, we are requesting that no flex posts are installed on the street and that parking remains as-is. You can send a note to Jesse (jesse.hefter@gmail.com) with your name and address so that we can add your name to the growing list.

There are also opportunities for you to share your concerns with the Transportation Board and the Select Board through the Public Comment process. I can share the details of that process with anyone who wishes to actively support our neighborhood's concerns.

Thank you,

Jesse and Brenda Hefter

653 Chestnut Hill Ave

781-771-2618