
CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE RENOVATION PROJECT

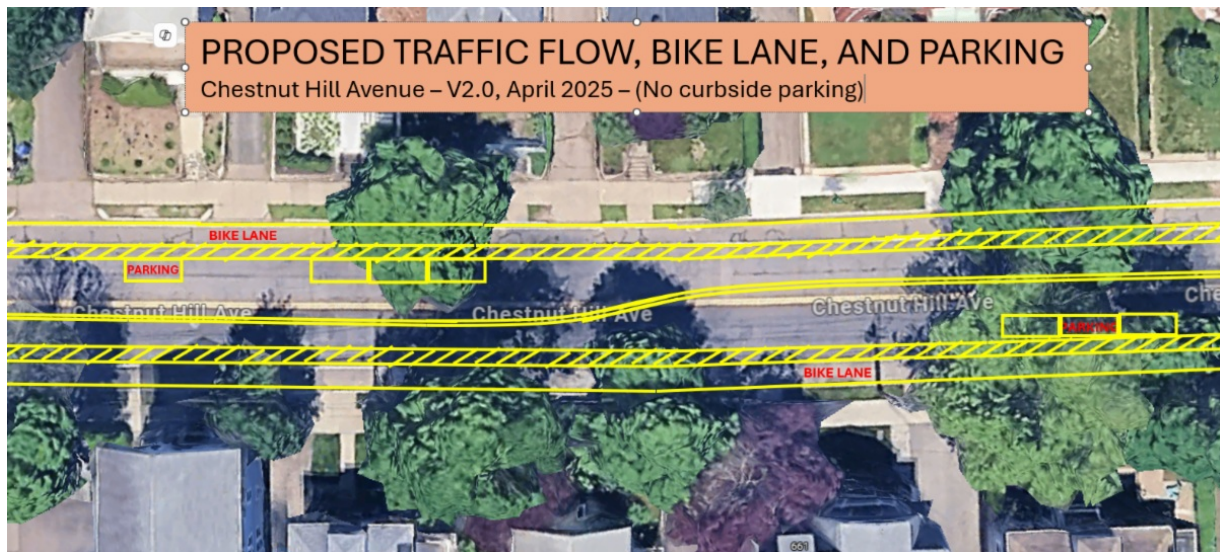


"An important Brookline street with a neighborly feel..."

Brookline Engineering Department – April 2025

Based upon feedback from several members of our street neighborhood in March, the Town Engineer is proposing a different model for designing Chestnut Hill Ave that involves placing some parking spots along the traffic lanes on alternating sides of the street outside of the bike lanes. This results in narrowing the travel lanes and removing all curbside parking.

The travel lane will now shift back and forth as you drive down the street. See the attached **sample** drawing. Our group objects to this proposal and is looking for you to help us respond via letters and public comments at upcoming public hearing opportunities.



National Grid Begins Survey/Street Marking - April 2, 2025

The Town has contacted National Grid to begin surveying all the gas lines between homes and the main line under the entire length of the street to ensure that the street-level valve controls are accessible and repaired where broken. You will see plenty of white markings now along the sidewalks and yellow and red paint markings along the street from Boylston to Cleveland Circle. This is normal work to be done before the street surface is replaced.

Nevertheless, it does seem surprising that this work is starting before the design for the street surface has been approved.

Select Board Votes to Save \$118K on Traffic Contract - April 1, 2025

The Select Board considered approving a contract with a traffic consulting company (Kittleson and Associates) in the amount of \$118,518 to create a "Bicycle Network Implementation Plan" for Brookline.

Jesse Hefter spoke at Public Comment before the Board in opposition to spending these funds for this purpose. His main point was that the lack of true neighborhood involvement in decisions about future street improvements and the low level of bike use for commuting in Brookline in general (about 4% of commuters) suggests that we pause further consultant planning.

The Select Board deliberated and determined that Brookline has to increase its pace of repaving roads to support the general public rather than developing more plans that affect a narrow demographic. The Board voted 3 (No), 0 (Yes), and 2 (Abstentions).

NEXT STEPS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next Steps:

Write a letter about your opposition/concern to the proposed street traffic and parking changes and send it to transportation@brooklinema.gov (cc: jesse.hefter@gmail.com so that we can place these letters on our website, https://jessehefter.com/CHA_project)

Talking Points:

If you would like to write a letter about this situation and need some talking points, here are several:

- Elimination of curb-side access for drop-off, pick-up, and parking (resident, contractor, landscaping, visitors, etc...)
- Installation of flexposts/bollards
- Narrowing of the traffic lanes, considering large trucks and emergency vehicle transit
- Impact of street painting and posts on the visual landscape
- Impact on morning and evening rush hour traffic
- Repositioning of the new bike lane from Chestnut Hill Ave to Eliot St

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Public Hearing at Bicycle Advisory Meeting – Early May
2. Public Comment at Transportation Board Meeting – Later in May
3. Public Comment at Select Board – Every Tuesday night

We will continue to send you updates about when these meetings will take place and if the topic of the Chestnut Hill Avenue Renovation Project is on the agenda. When the project does come up for discussion, we will ask you to consider participating so our voices are heard!

Thanks for reading to the bottom!

Jesse and Brenda

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