



# Arborway Parkway Improvements Project

Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 | 6:30pm - 8pm



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Welcome! Participants  
will be muted on entry.  
The meeting will begin  
shortly.

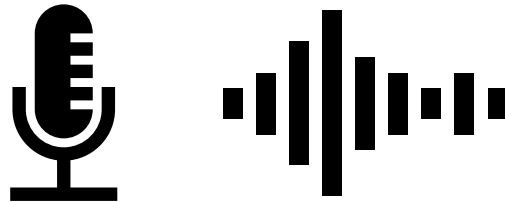
# Notice of Recording



To keep an accurate record and transcript of today's meeting, this video, audio, and chat transcript will be recorded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

By continuing with this virtual meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event. The recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record.

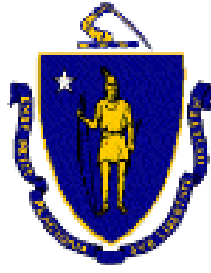
If you do not feel comfortable being recorded, please leave the meeting or turn off your camera and mute your microphone.





# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Project Team
3. Project Background
4. Shared Goals and Values
5. Design and Engagement Process
6. Short-Term Improvement



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Charles D. Baker**

Lieutenant Governor

**Karyn E. Polito**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Kathleen A. Theoharides**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

**Jim Montgomery**





*"To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all."*

# Project People



## DCR

**Jeffrey R. Parenti, PE, PTOE, PTP, ENV SP**  
*Deputy Chief Engineer (Program Manager)*

**Jason Santos, PE**  
*Director of Transportation (Technical Advisor)*

**Mark MacLean, PE**  
*Section Head, Parkways (Project Manager)*

**Jenny Norwood**  
*Director of External Affairs and Partnerships*

**Anne Fiesinger**  
*Director of Public Outreach*

## Howard Stein Hudson

**Matt Jasmin, PE**  
*Project Manager / Senior Civil Engineer*

**Nate Cabral-Curtis**  
*Public Involvement Manager*

**Nate Lash**  
*Public Involvement Specialist*

**Bob Stathopoulos, PE, PTOE**  
*Traffic Engineering Technical Leader*

**Amy Ingles**  
*Active Transportation Leader*

**Richard Houghton, ASLA (Halvorson)**  
*Senior Landscape Architect*



# Project Area





# Kelley Circle





# Inner Arborway and Carriageways





# Murray Circle



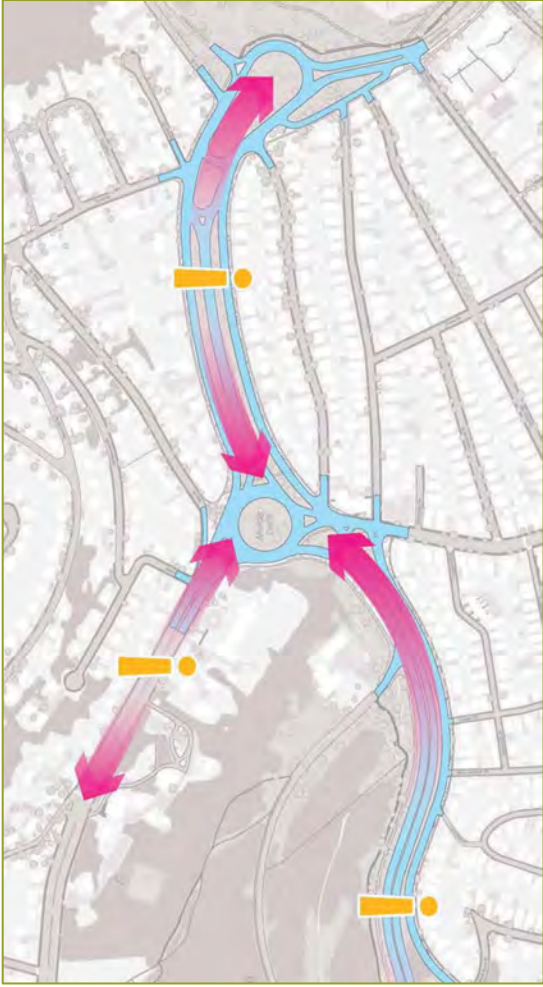
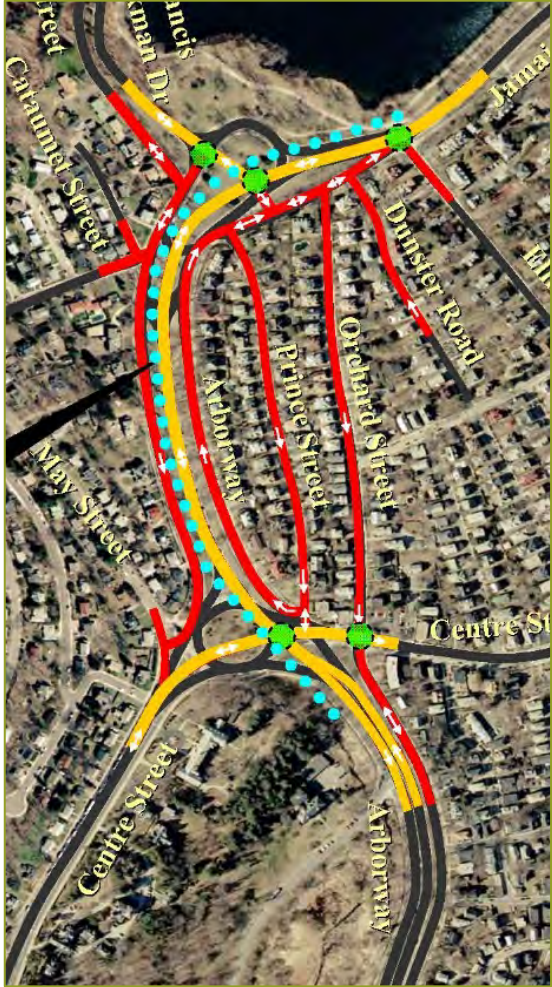
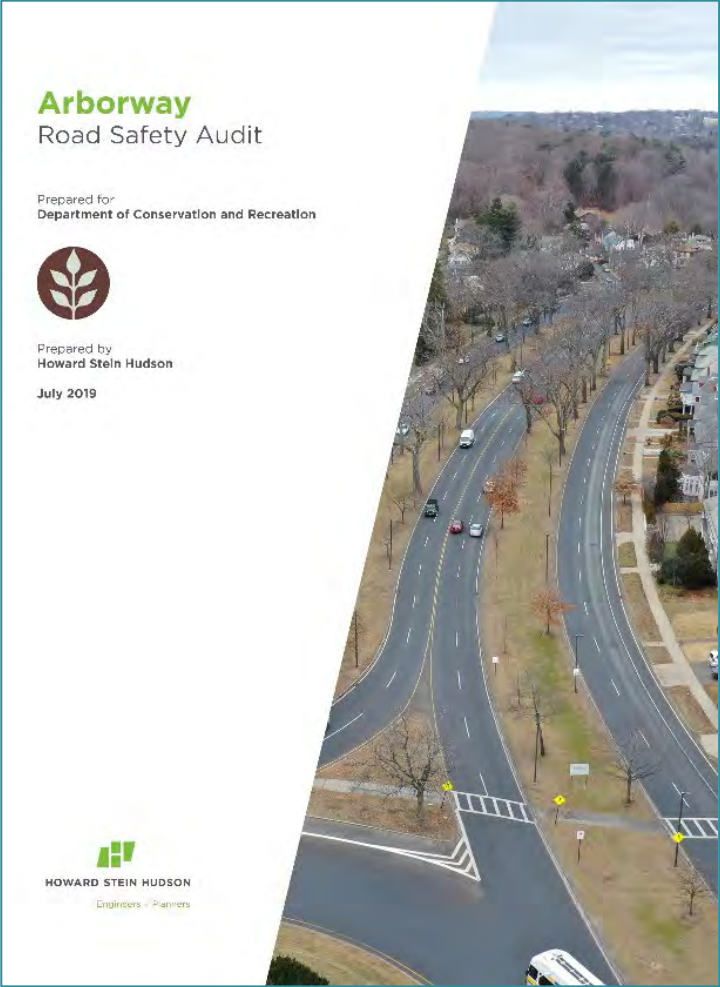


# Arborway and Upper Arborway





# Project Background / Previous Studies





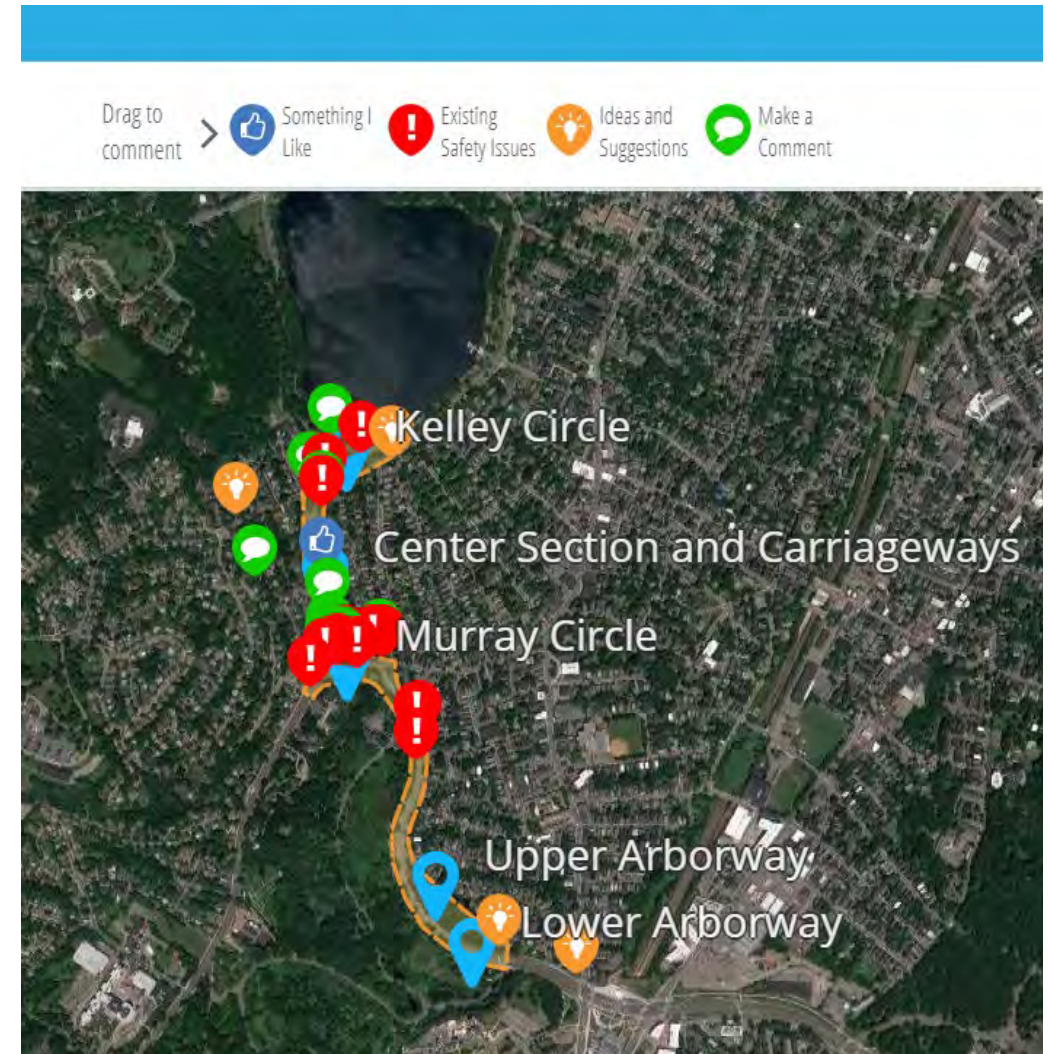


## Fall 2019

- 75+ written comments received after November public meeting

## Spring 2020

- Meeting with elected officials
- Meeting with community stakeholders
- 100+ online comments received on Social Pinpoint

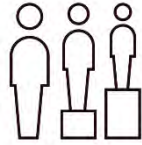


# Shared Values



## Safety

All users should be able to travel through the Arborway safely including people walking, cycling, driving, and using wheelchairs or other personal mobility devices.



## Equity

As a public park and parkway, all Commonwealth residents should be able to access and enjoy the Arborway regardless of physical ability or mode of travel.



## History

The historic and cultural resources and significance of the Arborway will be reflected and highlighted in the new design.



## Environmental Sustainability

The project should improve the environmental sustainability and resilience of the Arborway's natural resources including the landscaping, green spaces, and tree canopy.



## Continuity

The design should fit seamlessly into its surroundings. The project should respond to and reflect the natural landscapes and neighborhood street networks nearby.



## Flexibility

The roadway design will need to be responsive to the different needs and uses on weekdays, weekends, and special events.



## Balance

The new design needs to balance a wide variety of different operations, uses, needs, and travel modes throughout the parkway.

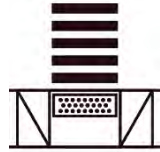


# Shared Goals



**Improve safety** for all users and modes of travel.

- Reduce crashes, and the severity of crashes
- Provide clear lane markings and signage
- Increase comfort levels among all users



**Improve accessibility and connectivity** for all users along Arborway.

- Provide high-quality networks for all users from Forest Hills to Jamaica Pond.
- Improve access and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists traveling between Forest Hills and Jamaica Pond or crossing the corridor
- Maintain mobility for local and regional motor vehicle travelers
- Maintain accessibility of MBTA buses crossing the corridor



**Support Olmsted's vision** for the parkway as a green, recreational space in its own right.

- Provide a connected network for the Emerald Necklace
- Improve and maintain the tree canopy
- Provide improved lighting that reflects the Parkway Context
- Provide contextually sensitive wayfinding, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists to allow enjoyable wandering or quick connections to destinations as appropriate
- Improve air quality with expanded mobility choices



**Embrace opportunities** to make improvements as they arise if possible.

- Short-term improvements may be feasible before the final design is implemented.
- Improvements may be possible in incremental steps as opportunities present themselves and funding is available.



**Balance** the project goals and needs of different users.

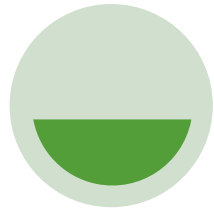
- Ensure that the Arborway can serve the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs of residents, neighbors, commuters, and visitors.

# Project Schedule Overview



**Spring 2020**

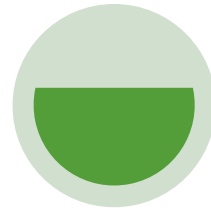
Collect data, raise awareness, and gather public input.



**Summer 2020**

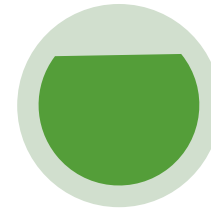
Continue collecting data and raising awareness.

Share conceptual designs and gather public input.



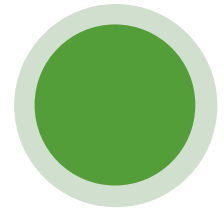
**Fall 2020**

Refine design plans and gather additional public feedback.



**Winter 2020**

Select and advance final design.



**2021**

Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and last two years.



# Data Collection



## Field Observations



Vehicle Path Alignments and Interactions with Residential Streets



Mixed Use with High Speed Traffic



Multimodal Conflict Areas and Vehicle Circulation



## Traffic Volumes

- New counts planned in March 2020
- COVID-19 – No new traffic counts
- Use historical data – MassDOT guidelines
- 2019 Casey Arborway showed volumes decreased on the Arborway
- Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) model used to project future traffic volumes
  - 2016-2020 increase in AM, decrease in PM
  - 2020-2030 expect to see increase





# Public Process Next Steps



We invite you and all members of the public to submit comments on the project during and after this meeting:

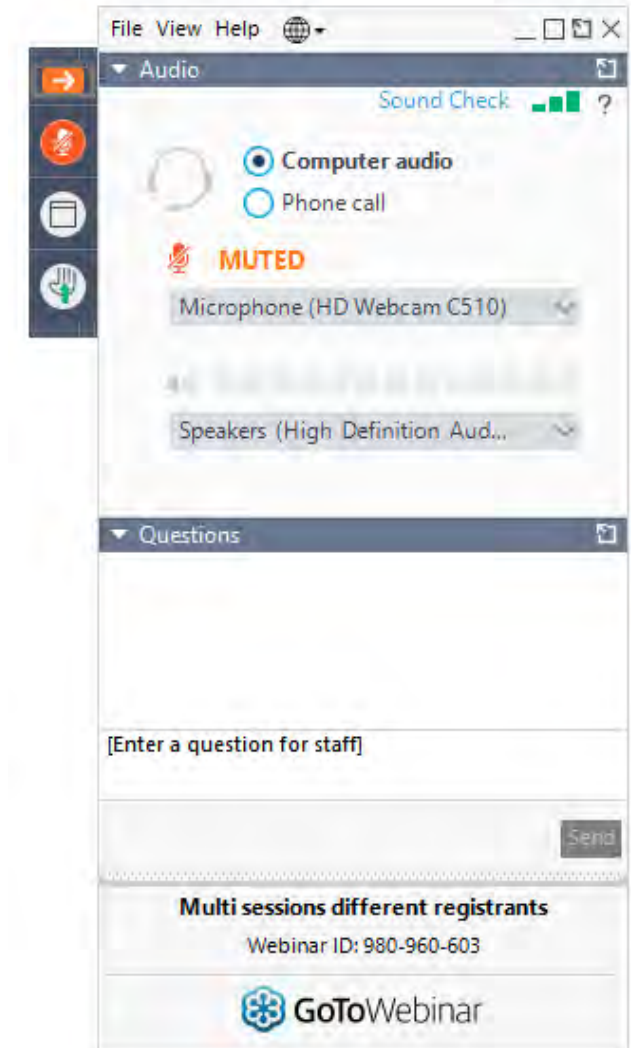
- Share your feedback with us tonight
- Share feedback using our Social Pinpoint interactive online map
- Submit a written comment online
- Submit a written comment by mail





# Virtual Meeting Discussion Guidelines

- **Please be patient.** We will try our best to call on attendees with raised hands and read out questions as they come in.
- **Please be efficient.** We have limited time and would like to hear from as many people as possible.
- **Help us understand what matters most to you.** We have three discussion prompts for you to consider and respond to. Our priority is to understand your priorities.
- **Didn't say everything you wanted to? Don't worry!** There will be more opportunities for you to share your feedback.

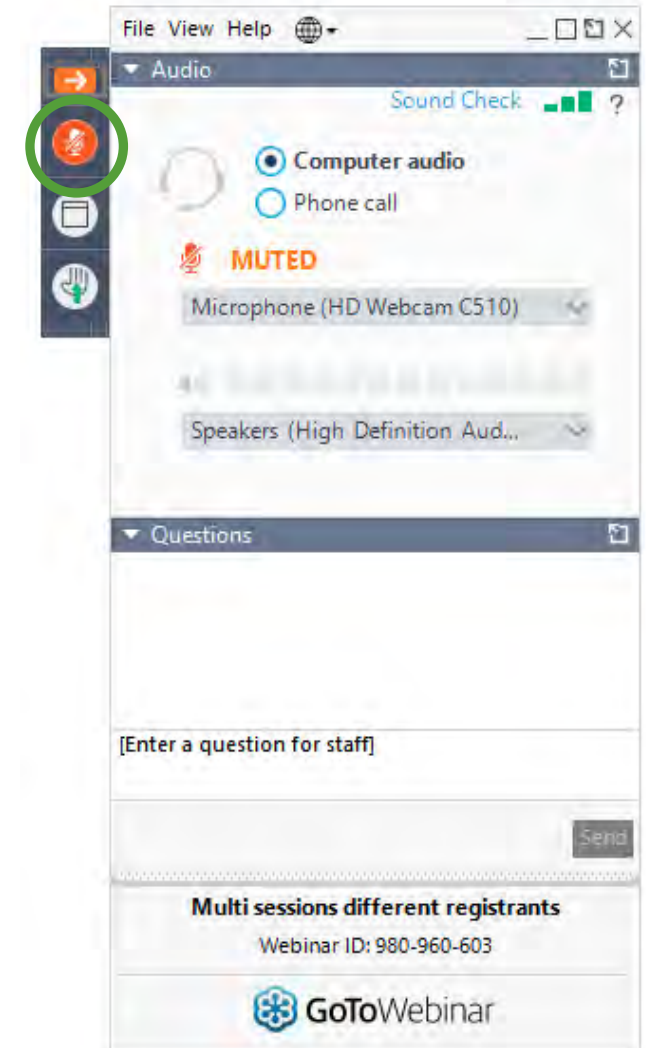




# Virtual Meeting Discussion Guidelines



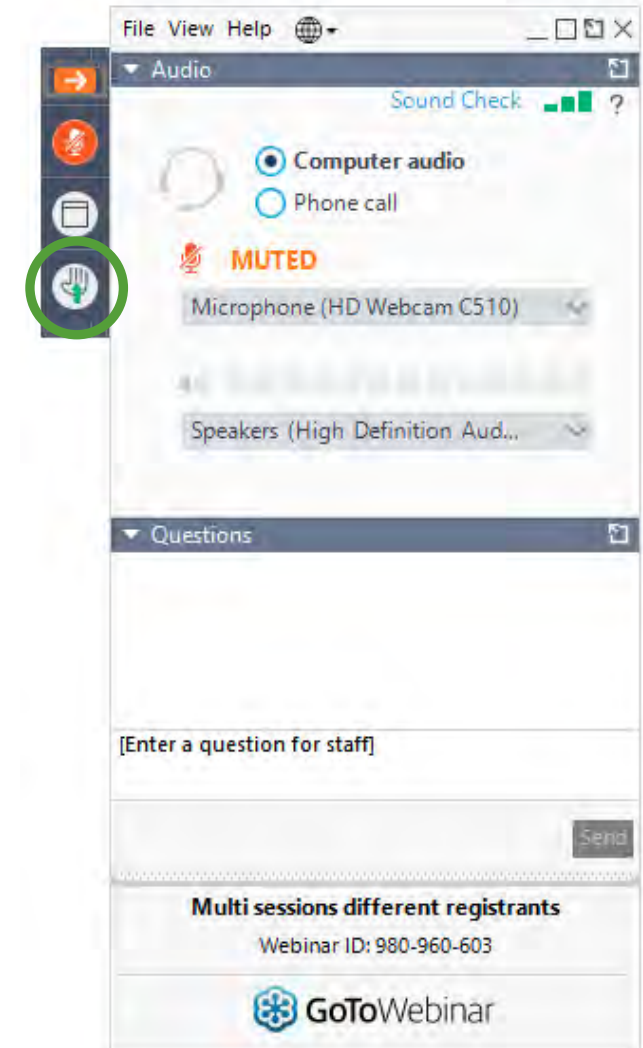
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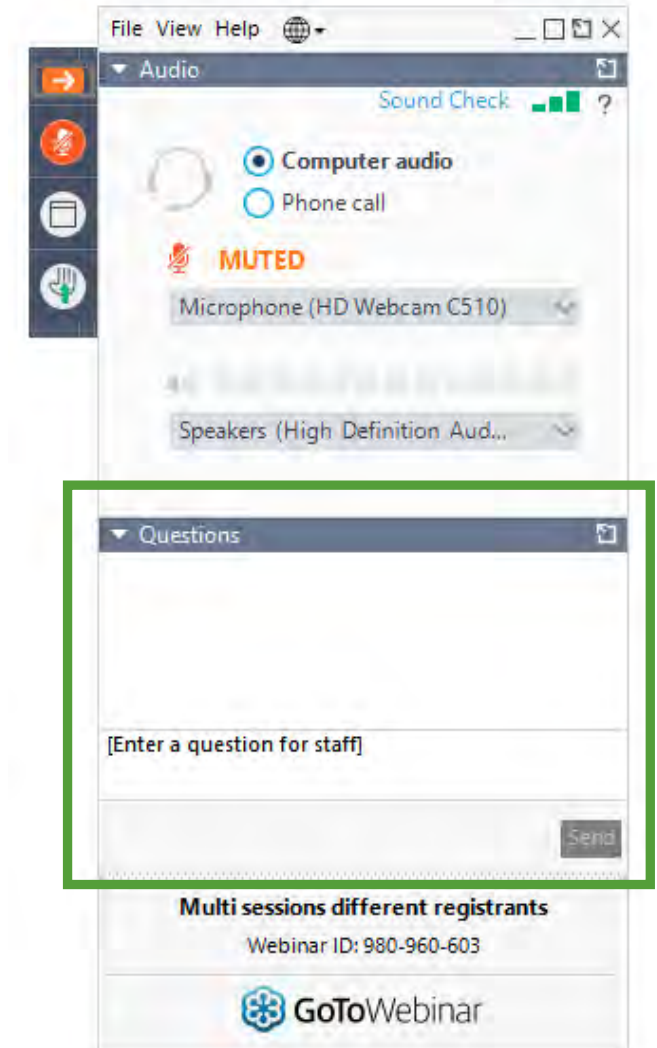






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# Discussion Prompts

1. What do you most want to gain through this project?
2. What do you want to add in terms of design elements?
3. What do you most want to retain in terms of design elements?

## Shared Goals



**Improve safety** for all users and modes of travel.



**Improve accessibility and connectivity** for all users along Arborway.



**Support Olmsted's vision** for the parkway as a green, recreational space in its own right.



**Embrace opportunities** to make improvements as they arise if possible.



**Balance** the project goals and needs of different users.





# Thank You For Joining Us

**Send us your comments by Friday, July 10, 2020.**

- Share feedback using Social Pinpoint interactive online map
  - <https://hsh.mysocialpinpoint.com/arborway>
- Submit a written comment online:
  - <https://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment>
- Submit a written comment by mail:
  - Arborway Parkway Improvements  
c/o Howard Stein Hudson  
11 Beacon Street, Suite 1010  
Boston, MA 02108