

June 20, 2019

To the Honorable, the City Council:

The CRA is contacting the Cambridge City Council to request that more time be provided for review and refinement of the request for a new curb cut off Binney Street by MITIMCO for the new Volpe Transportation Center. The CRA has invested a significant amount of resources to develop improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Area and the proposed three-lane wide curb cut design seems in conflict with those efforts.

The CRA worked with City staff for over two years to plan a full redesign of Binney Street and Galileo Galilei Way which includes a separated cycletrack, enhanced landscaping, and pedestrian amenities along this designated truck route. The installation will be conducted in phases, with the first section of cycletrack to be constructed this summer. The CRA met with the MITIMCO design multiple times throughout the design process. Please see the attached excerpt from our design vision document; these plans have been developed into preliminary construction documents that illustrate the conflict with the curb cut proposal. Additionally, the CRA and Boston Properties recently completed improvements to the 6th Street Walkway which includes Officer Loughrey Way and the recently dedicated Kittie Knox Bike Path. This facility is immediately adjacent to the proposed curb cut.

As the abutting property owner, the CRA has met directly with MITIMCO staff and their design team to review the proposal. The CRA has requested that the engineers design the proposed curb cut to revise their plans to accommodate the planned bicycle facility on Binney Street and otherwise modify the design to reduce the potential conflicts between motor vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The CRA staff believe the proposal would be significantly improved if the curb cut included only two lanes of travel reducing the width of the vehicle apron across the bike and sidewalk facilities.

The CRA is open to further design discussions with MITIMCO and the GSA, but at this time, the CRA does not support the current curb cut design due to its impacts on existing and future pedestrian and bicycle facilities on Binney Street.

Sincerely,



Thomas Evans
Executive Director

Cc: Joseph Barr Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation



KENDALL SQUARE STREETSCAPES

LANDSCAPE VISION DOCUMENT

APRIL 2018

APPENDIX A

LANDSCAPE VISION

The Landscape Vision for Kendall Square has been coordinated through a planning effort to recommend a consistent palette of landscape materials and plantings, furnishings, lighting, sustainable features and paving materials. The plan document establishes a **recognizable identity** to ensure the streetscape is **cohesive**.

Streetscape activity nodes are opportunities to **engage the public and enrich the outdoor experience of Kendall Square** to be inviting and welcoming. A consistent streetscape will help to convey the public nature of these spaces, where a variety of different types of uses, and unique experiences can occur. Public and private open spaces shall be designed and function to complement and integrate into the overall Kendall Square open space network over time as redevelopment plans occur.

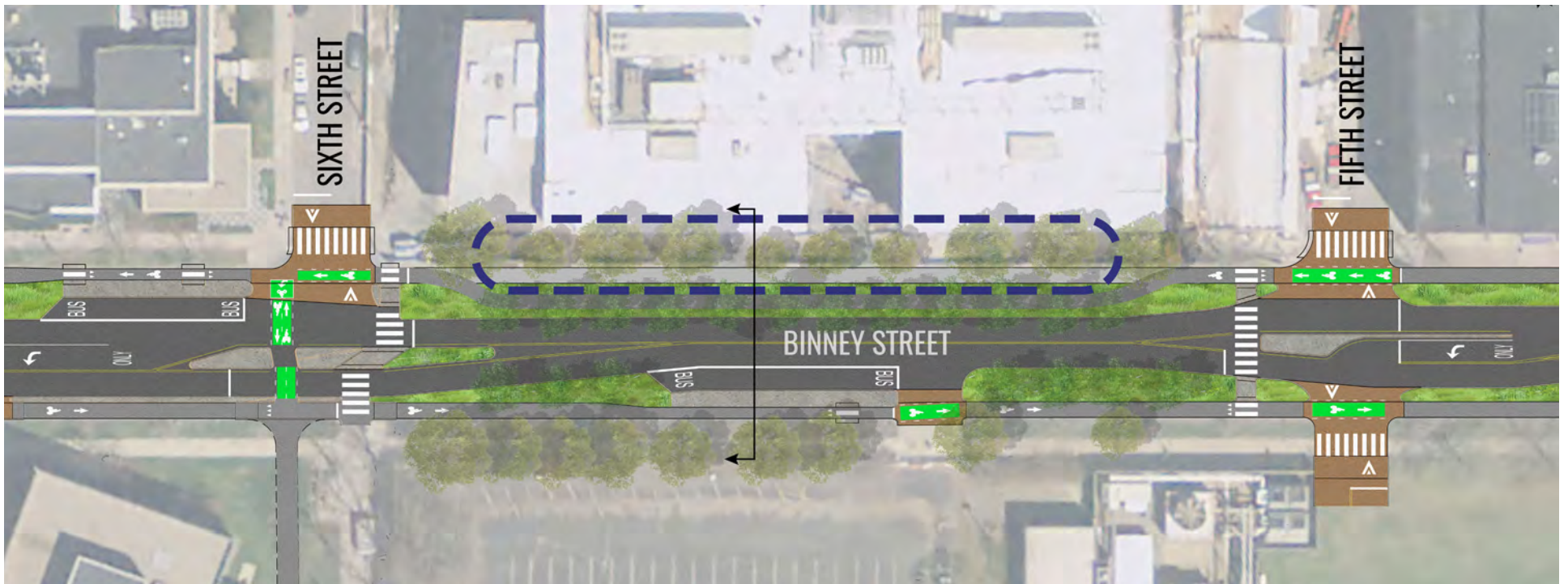
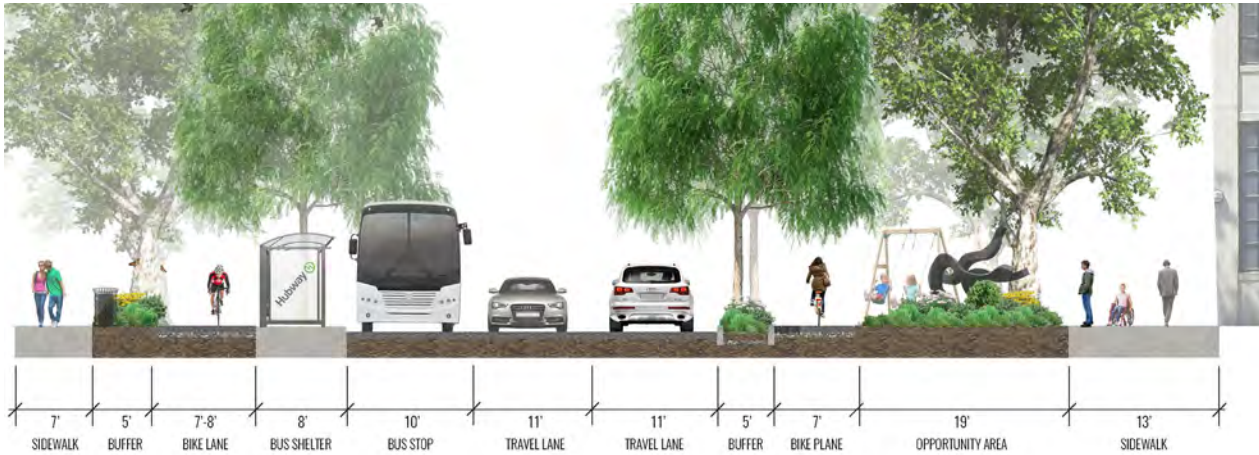
The following pages are a summary of the Landscape Vision for Kendall Square, including a brief site analysis and the layers that will create the framework for an improved streetscape.

THE VISION



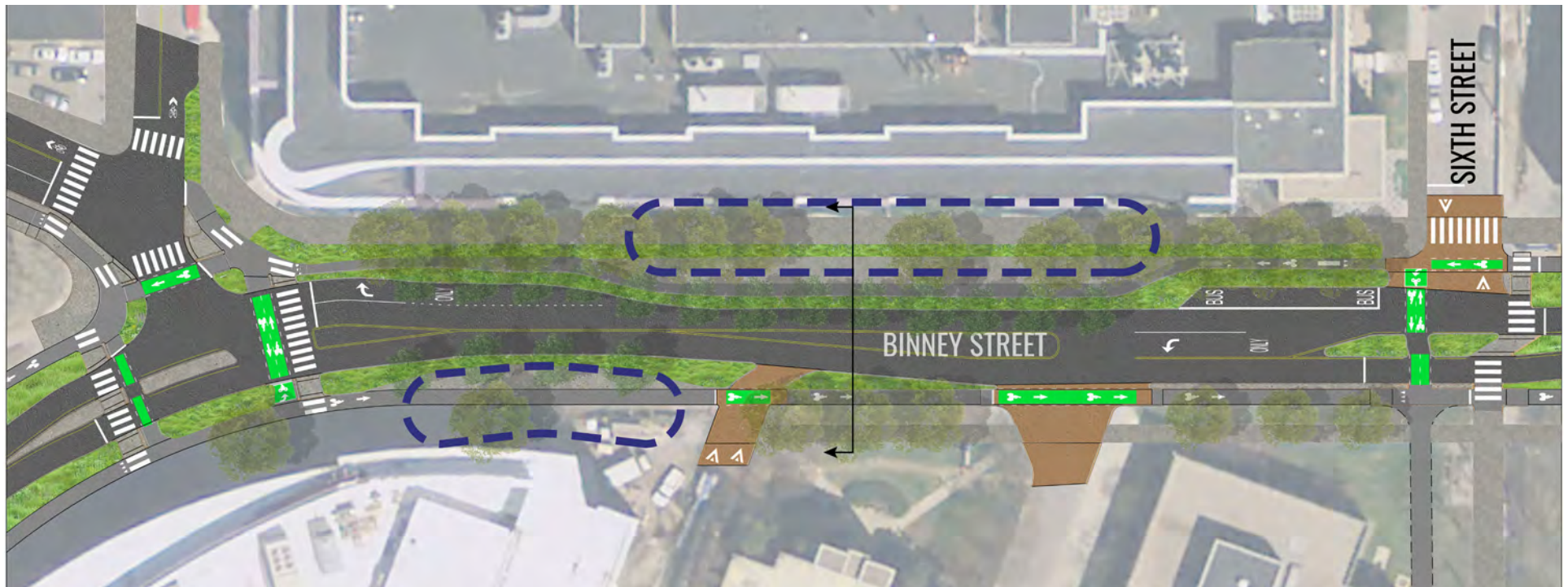
DESIGN CONCEPTS

BINNEY ST (BETWEEN 5TH AND 6TH ST)



DESIGN CONCEPTS

BINNEY ST (BETWEEN 6TH AND FULKERSON ST)



DESIGN CONCEPTS

BROADWAY (BETWEEN AMES AND GALILEO GALILEI WAY)

