



## **MEMO**

**Date: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**RE: New Database and Webpage - Privately Owned Public Spaces in the Kendall Square MXD**

**To: CRA Board**

**From: Alexandra Levering**

There are a number of privately-owned but publically accessible open spaces and easements in the MXD district of the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Plan. Since the 1980s, these spaces have been set aside for public benefit through development, maintenance agreements, easements or covenants. To identify and publicize these spaces, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) has developed a webpage ([www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/pops](http://www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/pops)) to locate and detail each space, providing information regarding ownership, hours of operation, covenant expiration, links to original documents and amenities, including accessibility, vegetation and seating. The CRA intends for this page to be easy to use, informative, increase transparency in the development process, and promote greater use of the public spaces.

A number of cities in the U.S. have already inventoried their privately owned public spaces (POPS). Notably, Seattle, San Francisco and New York City have developed comprehensive POPS websites and implemented signage to advertise public accessibility. In Cambridge, the Community Development Department (CDD) has developed an inventory of privately owned public spaces granted through special permits, and refers to the CRA's home page for more detailed information regarding agreements in the MXD. This webpage will now complement CDD's page. The next phase of this project will be to create a uniform signage program in cooperation with Boston Properties and CDD similar to POPS programs in other cities.