



City Update October 2026 PTAC Meeting



Agenda

- Community Path Strategy Report
- Webster Avenue at Prospect Street protected bike lanes
- Mobility Quick-Build Project Updates
- Street Reconstruction Project Updates



Above: City Contractors implementing new thermoplastic strips on the Community Path at Central Street.



Community Path Safety Improvements

Design Strategy Report Summary
City of Somerville Mobility Division, 2026

Overview

- **The Community Path Safety Improvements project launched in August 2025 to address public concerns about safety, particularly between path users and motor vehicle drivers at crossings, and between slower and faster moving path users on the path.**
- **From September 8 to October 21, 2025, [we connected](#) with over 1,000 community members to learn about their safety concerns on the Community Path and gather feedback on a set of [potential design tools](#).**
- **The Strategy Report shares community feedback, proposed design treatments, and implementation timeline.**

Proposed Treatments

Proposed Treatments

Given what we learned from the community process, what design treatments are we prioritizing?

Options that address the highest path safety concerns:

- Speeding
- Motorized vehicles on the path
- Sharing the path

Options that address the highest crossing safety concerns:

- Drivers yielding
- Bicyclists yielding
- Visibility issues

A phased approach to design treatments:

- Quick-build options which are cheaper and faster to implement
- Flexible format allowing testing and evaluation
- More cost and resource-intensive options for later phases

Proposed Treatments – Proposed Implementation Timeline

The diagram illustrates a three-phase implementation timeline. Each phase is represented by a colored rounded rectangle (orange for Phase 1, light orange for Phases 2 and 3) followed by a light blue rectangular box. A thin blue line connects the right side of each phase box to the left side of the subsequent phase box, creating a continuous horizontal flow. The first phase box is orange and contains the text 'Phase 1 – Fall 2026'. The second phase box is light orange and contains the text 'Phase 2 – Spring/Summer 2027'. The third phase box is light orange and contains the text 'Phase 3 - TBD'.

Phase 1 – Fall 2026

Phase 2 – Spring/Summer 2027

Phase 3 - TBD

Proposed Treatments

Phase 1 - 2026

Tactile Pavement – Thermoplastic strips

PHASE 1

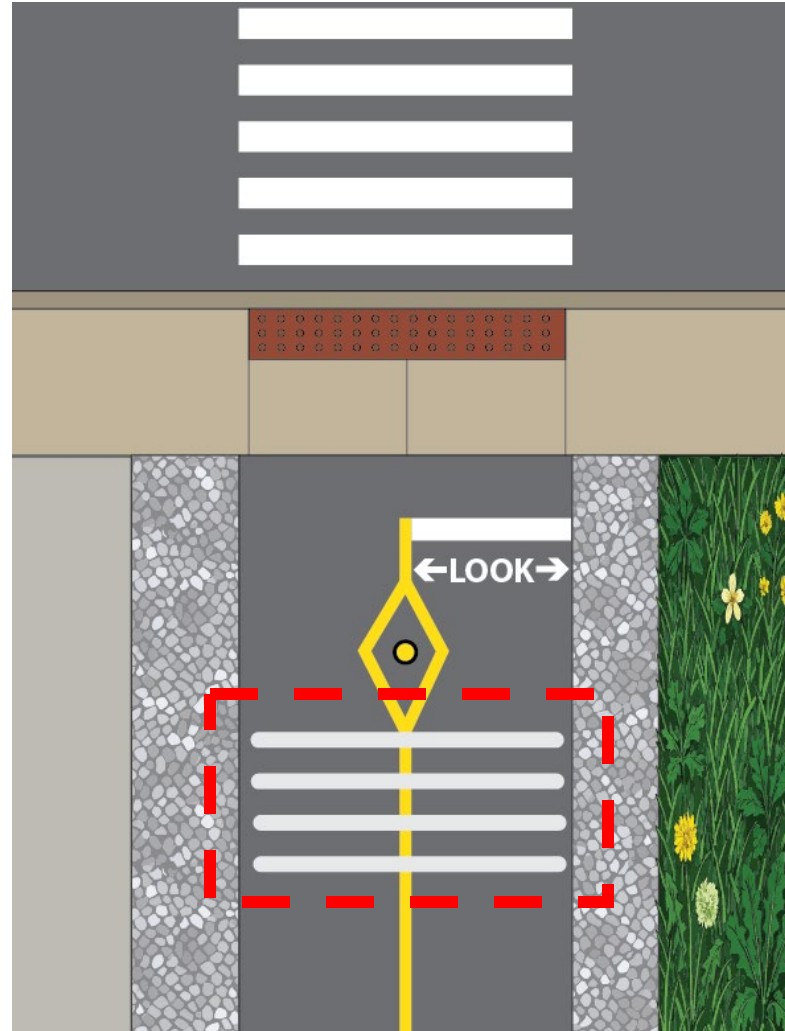
Location: Path crossings, Station entrances, Path access points

Advantages:

- Slows down bike traffic
- Provides tactile feedback approaching a conflict zone
- Compatible with wheelchairs, strollers, and other mobility devices
- Scalable, e.g. already planned for use at floating bus stops on West Broadway and Western Pearl Street Reconstruction projects

Safety Concerns Addressed:

- Speeding
- Bicyclists yielding



Similar example: LA River Greenway Trail

Pavement Markings – "LOOK" and "SLOW" markings PHASE 1

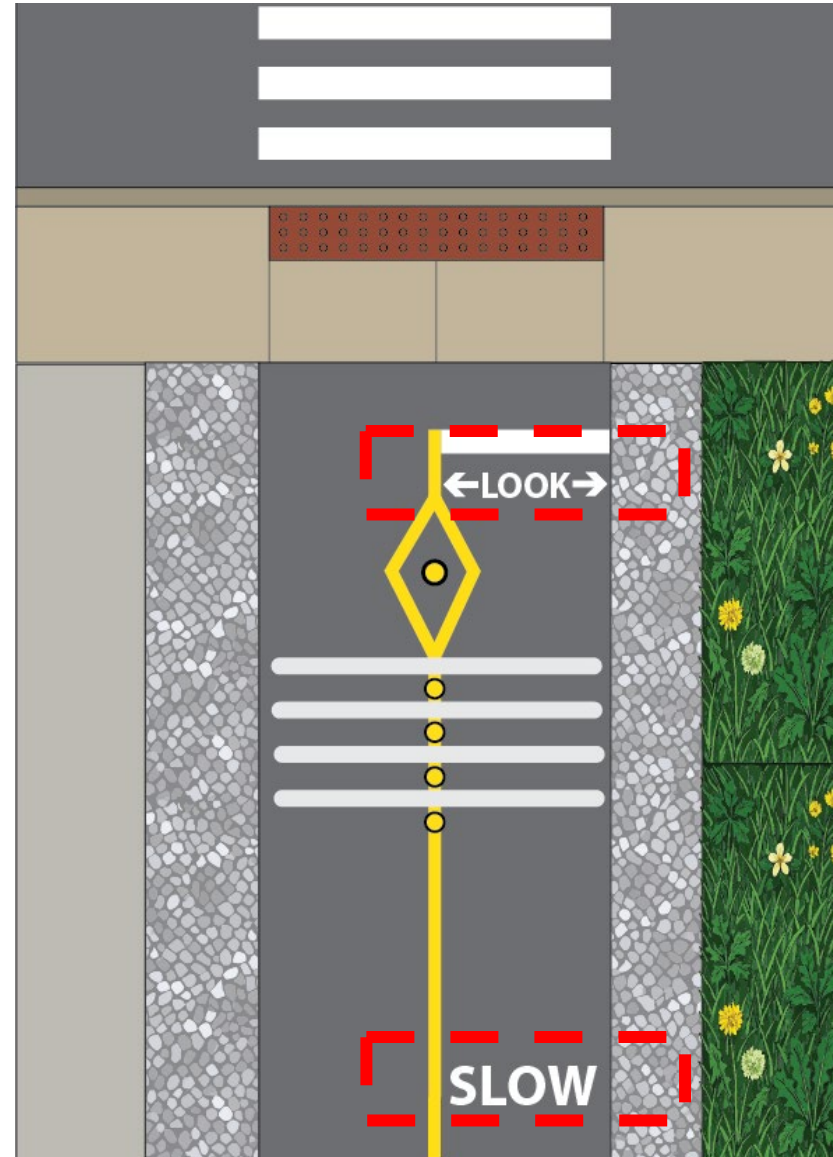
Location: Path crossings

Advantages:

- SLOW alerts path users to reduce speed before a crossing
- In combination with thermoplastic strips, markings may encourage slower speeds
- LOOK provides visual cue to look both ways for sidewalk users, promoting awareness of sidewalk users as cross traffic

Safety Concerns Addressed:

- Bicyclists yielding
- Speeding



Similar example: Charles River Esplanade, Boston

Bollards – Centerline flexpost hardening

PHASE 1

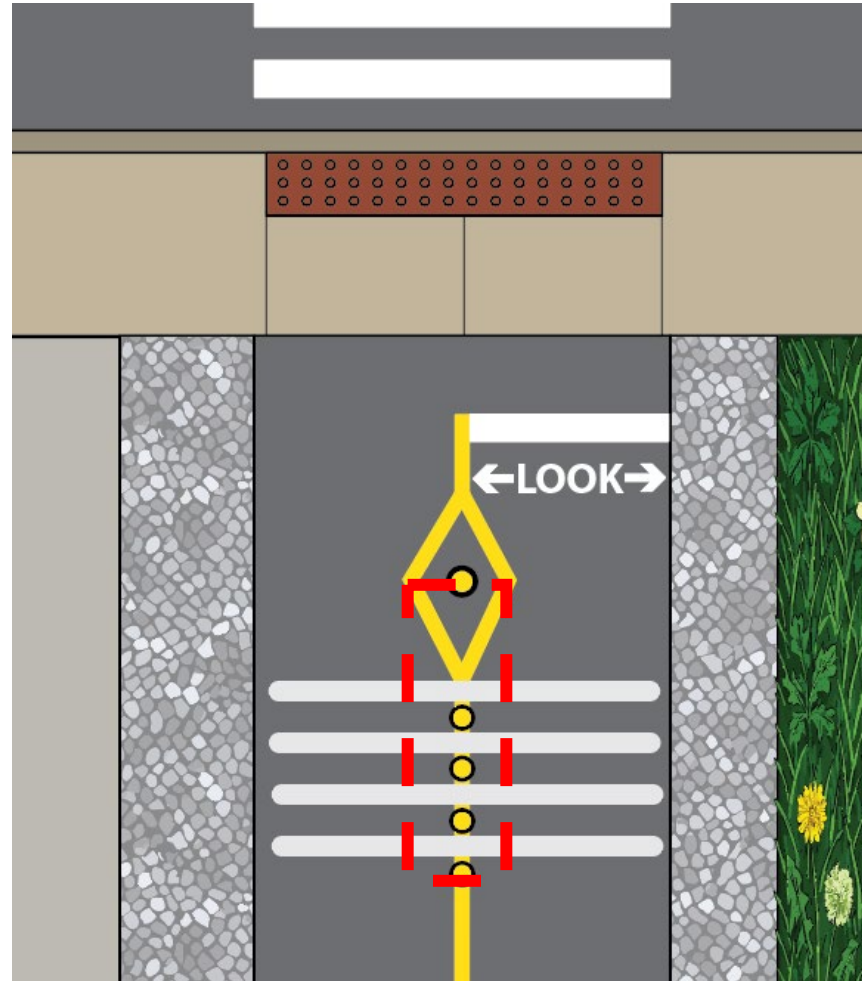
Location: Path crossings

Advantages:

- Provides separation and encourages lane discipline at high conflict areas
- Adds visual cue to pay attention at crossings
- Discourages motor vehicles from entering path

Safety Concerns Addressed:

- Speeding
- Motorized Vehicles on the path
- Sharing the path



Signage – New Shared Path Signs

PHASE 1

Location: Along path, path crossings

Advantages:

- Helps people understand expected behavior
- May encourage slower speeds
- Will replace existing 'Bike Route' signs

Safety Concerns Addressed:

- Sharing the path



12" x 18" representative sign – design to be finalized

Signage – Visual “No Motor Vehicles” Path Sign

PHASE 1

Location: Path crossings

Advantages:

- Clearly shows the rules of what vehicles are not allowed on the path
- Graphics add clarity about mopeds
- Will replace existing ‘No Motor Vehicle’ signs

Safety Concerns Addressed:

- Motorized Vehicles on the path



24" x 24" representative sign - design to be finalized

Pavement Markings – Clear Corners/Quick-Build Curb Extensions

PHASE 1

Location: Path crossings

Advantages:

- Slows vehicle drivers
- Reinforces existing restrictions on parking
- Provides better visibility for pedestrians

Safety Concerns Addressed

- Vehicles yielding
- Visibility concerns



Existing temporary installations at Sycamore and Walnut

Proposed Treatments

Phase 2 and Phase 3

Potential Future Interventions

Phase 1 treatments will be evaluated and if necessary, Phase 2 and Phase 3 improvements will be considered.

Potential Phase 2 interventions (2027):

- Stop control*
- Pavement murals/art at curb extensions
- Speed board, counters

Potential Phase 3 interventions (2028+):

- Long term monitoring
 - e.g. permanent camera at intersections
- Compliance studies
 - Compliance study at intersections
 - Shared path compliance study
- Speed Humps
 - Develop a speed hump standard specifically for path crossings

*Requires engineering study



Webster Avenue at Prospect Street Protected Bike Lanes

- The section of Webster Avenue at Prospect Street has pavement markings that are almost completely faded and needed restriping.
- To better align with the City's Safe Streets Ordinance and Somerville Bicycle Network Plan, the City felt that it was important to take the opportunity to add protected bike lanes.
- These changes required the removal of the left turn lanes on Webster Avenue on both sides of the Prospect Street intersection.
- We anticipate a minor impact on traffic queues at certain times of day, but we wanted to prioritize creating a safer connection for more vulnerable road users.
- Initial striping took place on October 14. Contractors will return to implement green markings.
- Information about this work is available on the City's [Pavement Marking in Somerville](#) web page.



Above: Prior layout of the intersection at Webster Avenue and Prospect Street.

Webster Avenue at Prospect Street Protected Bike Lanes

- We did not conduct outreach for this project as we saw this as an opportunistic quick-build intervention at a high crash location.
- We had planned to refresh the previous markings as part of our standard pavement markings maintenance work, but prior to moving forward, we conducted rapid analysis on potential traffic queues to understand the impact of removing the left turn lanes.
- No parking changes are required for this intervention.
- We aim to analyze the impact of this change as we prepare for the longer-term project at this location, [Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Phase 1](#).



Above: New pavement markings for a protected bike lane on Webster Avenue.

Quick-Build Projects

Faster-implementation projects that use flexible materials and minimal or no construction

Design

- **Elm-Beacon Connector** ([project page](#))
 - Elm Street protected bike lanes complete with new pavement markings, signs, and flex posts.
 - New all-way stop control installed at the intersection of Elm Street and Beech Street.
 - Mossland Street became a dead-end **TODAY**.
 - City Staff and contractors are working to install new signage, pavement markings and flex posts.
 - Interim traffic signal timing implemented to go with the street closure with permanent traffic signal upgrades taking place through November.
- **Somerville Avenue** ([project page](#))
 - Concluded scheduled community engagement activities for the concept design phase.
 - Community engagement report published to the project webpage.
 - Implementation anticipated summer 2027.
- **East Washington Street** ([project page](#))
 - Concluded scheduled community engagement activities for the pre-design phase.
 - Community engagement report published to the project webpage.
 - Staff working to develop a conceptual design which is anticipated to be published in early 2027.



Rendering of Mossland St after conversion to a Neighborway

Complete Streets Projects

Projects that do not typically include substantial utility/bridge/signal work; typically using construction contracts that bundle multiple streets together

Construction

- **Tufts Street ([project page](#))**
 - Substantial competition with punchlist items remaining.
 - First street reconstruction ribbon cutting took place on October 6
- **Intersection Improvements ([project page](#))**
 - Construction complete on Bow Street at Walnut Street
 - Construction substantially completed on Washington Street at Merriam Street with flex posts and other punch list items remaining.
- **West Broadway ([project page](#))**
 - Sidewalk reconstruction on the southside of Broadway underway.
 - We anticipate that contractors will complete this sidewalk work and then return in the spring to finish the rest of the project.
- **Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project ([project page](#))**
 - Sidewalk reconstruction has begun on the north side of the street moving from east to west along the project area.
 - Sidewalk reconstruction will continue into the 2027 construction season with substantial completion expected by the end of next year.



Completed raised intersection on Bow Street at Walnut Street.

Complete Streets Projects

Projects that do not typically include substantial utility/bridge/signal work; typically using construction contracts that bundle multiple streets together

Design

- **Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project ([project page](#))**
 - Join City Staff for the Updated Design Open House on November 4, at the Healey School from 6:30 – 8 p.m.
 - Following the open house, all posters from the event and the roll plan will be published to the project website.
 - We are also hosting street outreach pop-ups, doing business block walking, facilitating a virtual office hour, and connecting with community groups.
 - Check out the webpage for more details.



Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project Concept Design Open House, May 2026