



Riverway-Kenmore Connector: a pedestrian/bicyclist opportunity



Riverway Park looking east – Back Bay Yard maintenance facility

Background: With the rapid expansion of the Kenmore Square/Longwood Medical and Academic Area (LMA), there are a number of challenges, and opportunities, to improve transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists.

This expansion is highlighted by a planned 1.2 million square feet of new medical and research facilities, new retail development and over 1,000 residential units. Transportation alternatives for pedestrians and bicyclists are a common theme mentioned by:

- Turnpike air rights vision – “expanded and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods, across the Turnpike, and to the Charles and Boston University”;
- Neighborhood Transportation goals -- “alternative modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling”;
- Access Boston Goals – “explore improved connections to the Charles River and along the Fens”;
- Brookline 2005 Open Space Plan (draft) – “The Carlton Street footbridge is an historic and valuable North Brookline pedestrian way. Going south, it provides access from North Brookline to the Riverway Park along the Muddy River. For those traveling out of the Park, Carlton Street is a direct route north to the Boston University bridge area and the Charles River Reservation.... An improved bicycle and pedestrian connection at the end of the Riverway Park leading to Kenmore Square might also be feasible with construction changes in the area.”



View of existing right-of-way at MBTA Fenway station

This photo (left) shows the right-of-way available for conversion under Park Drive between the Riverway and Landmark Center. This would provide a pedestrian/bicycle route which eliminates conflict with the Sears Rotary Gateway.

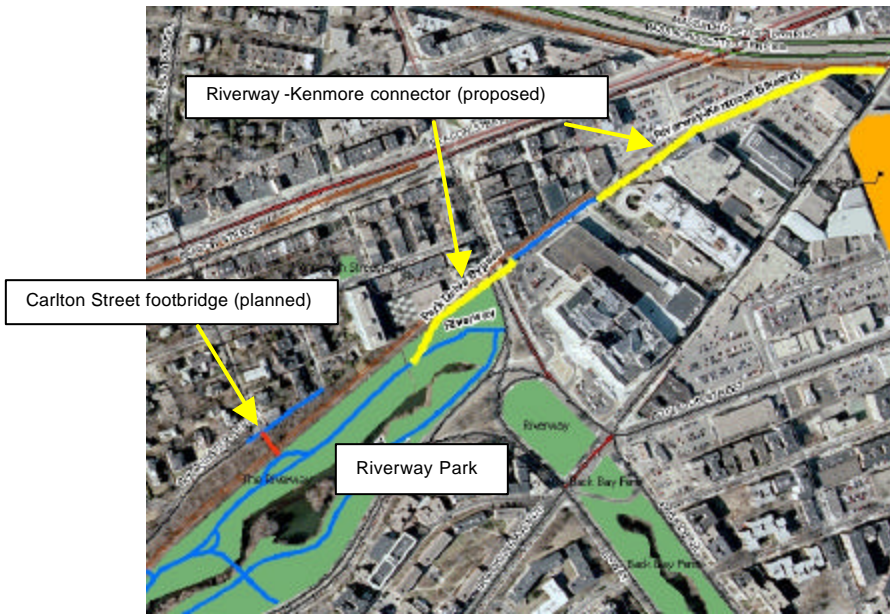


Existing pedestrian path between Fenway and Yawkey Way stations



Combined pedestrian/bicycle path at Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge

An example of a combined pedestrian/bicycle path is shown at the left. By connecting the path at Riverway Park to a new path under Park Drive, and using existing open land between Fullerton Street and Lansdowne Street, Riverway Park and Kenmore Square can be directly linked.



The end result: a continuous and direct pedestrian/bikeway linking Brookline and Kenmore Square, compatible with Boston and Brookline long-range development and transportation plans.

“A crucial component of a regional, inter-jurisdictional transportation network.”

”a missing link in a more extensive north-south system that connects the Charles River park system and Cambridge beyond via the BU bridge to cultural and educational destinations along the Riverway such as the Gardner and MFA and via Forsyth Street to the Southwest Corridor.”

If you are interested in contributing to this effort, send an email to fenwaycivic@aol.com or see www.fenwaycivic.org

February 2006