

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

20 MUNICIPAL WAY • WELLESLEY, MA 02481-4925

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**September 1, 2023 (Wellesley, MA)** – The Town of Wellesley is wrapping up work on the Walnut Street reconstruction project. Residential sidewalk paving is underway and will be substantially complete by Friday, September 1. During the week of September 5, loaming and seeding will take place in all residential areas. Final utility work and preparations for paving are planned for the week of September 11. Crews will begin applying the first layer of pavement the morning of Saturday September 16, with a rain date of Saturday, September 23. Final paving is scheduled overnight on October 1 and 2, weather permitting. Along with final paving, driveway aprons and commercial area sidewalks will also be completed. If needed, final handwork will take place through October 6. Pavement marking and sign installation work will be performed at night before the end of October.

Here's some additional information about the project elements:

- **Road Width** - The residential portion of Walnut Street has been narrowed by about a foot to allow for the creation of a multi-use path and to improve pedestrian safety through reduced vehicle speeds. These adjustments incorporate principles adopted through the Town's Complete Streets policy. Additional information about Complete Streets is provided below.
- **Intersections** - Corners at all intersections meet the standard 20-foot radius. For some intersections this was a reduction, but in all cases this radius meets the requirements for fire engines and large trucks servicing the neighborhood.
- **Curbing** - Asphalt curbing was installed in residential areas, and granite is used in commercial areas and also for ADA ramps, drainage structures, and in places where there is no grass buffer strip. These treatments are typical and can be seen on other roadways throughout Town. The attached photos show examples from the recent Grove Street reconstruction project.
- **Sidewalks** - The multi-use pathway on the north side of the road is wider than a typical sidewalk to allow for pedestrians, bikes, scooters, runners, and others. The sidewalk on the south side of the street is a typical width of five feet and now provides a continuous path for the length of the street.
- **Grass Strip** - The grass between the street and the sidewalk helps protect pedestrians and keeps utility poles off the sidewalk when possible. When there is no grass strip verticle curbing is included to provide additional protection for pedestrians.

- **Bike Lanes** - Due to right-of-way limitations, the road will not have dedicated bike lanes. Instead, sharrow markings will be painted in both directions for cyclists. Recreational bikers may also use the multi-use path.
- **Complete Streets** - All Town of Wellesley road projects are designed to provide safety and accessibility for all users of our roadways, trails, and transit systems. These include pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, emergency vehicles, and individuals of all ages and abilities. [Read more about Complete Streets.](#)

As we near the end of this project, the Wellesley Department of Public Works welcomes feedback and questions. Contact Town Engineer Dave Hickey at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov) or at 781-235-7600 x3315. Further updates are available on the [Walnut Street Reconstruction](#) pages on the Town website.

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The below photos from the Grove Street reconstruction project are examples of typical roadway elements used in Wellesley.



Asphalt to granite curb & ADA ramp



Asphalt to granite curb at corner



Asphalt to granite curb with hydrant & bicycle sharrow



Asphalt to granite curb, Kenilworth



Asphalt to granite curb, no grass strip



Asphalt to granite curb at catch basin