



Jamaica Plain/Roxbury Transportation Action Plan

March 29, 2018 Public Meeting Summary

Boston English High School

This was the second meeting in a process to develop short- and long-term transportation improvements in the Washington Street/Columbus Avenue Corridor between Forest Hills, Egleston Square, and Jackson Square. This meeting provided an overview of existing conditions, and provided the public an opportunity to share their transportation ideas and challenges. After a brief presentation, the room opened for an Open House and reconvened to allow groups to report on their discussions.

Approximately 40 people attended in addition to City of Boston staff from the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), Boston Planning and Development Agency, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. MBTA and MassDOT representatives were also present. There was representation from the offices of City Councilors Essaibi-George, Flaherty, O'Malley, and Wu, as well as from the Office of Senator Chang-Díaz; Representative Malia also attended the meeting.

BTD began by presenting the project timeline and process, which is centered on the community's transportation vision and suggestions. Based on previous planning efforts, particularly PLAN: JP/Rox, the team emphasized that values of equity and affordability will be applied to all aspects of the Action Plan. Also based on PLAN: JP/Rox, four priority projects were proposed, to which there were no objections. The presence of a Spanish translator was noted for anyone needing interpretation services.

Existing conditions were presented through three "stories": Equity, Transit, and Streets and Paths. Each story related to the 11 existing conditions boards around the room.

After the presentation, the project team asked whether there were any questions. An attendee asked how the Plan would direct the development of Arborway Yard. The City responded that this planning process would be focusing on the general location of potential growth as laid out in PLAN: JP/ROX, rather than on particular projects. Each development also has its own transportation planning process.



The team was also asked about parking needs related to development in the area. Attendees were encouraged to note specific concerns related to parking on the breakout maps.

After this Q&A, the attendees were invited to explore the open house, where there were boards showing existing conditions analyses, as well as large maps on which people could draw comments, ideas, and concerns.

After about an hour, the group reassembled, and each breakout group presented an overview of their conversations. Topics covered included improving the pedestrian environment, particularly concerns over narrow sidewalks, and improving the public realm, including lighting, seating and plantings. Transit connections were also mentioned in several groups, including bus improvements, such as the possibility of a road diet on Columbus to allow a bus lane. Regarding biking, groups discussed the Southwest Corridor, where crowding and road crossings are an issue, and to which connections should be improved. The topic of traffic calming to reduce cut through traffic was raised, as well as discussions of on-street parking. These focused on figuring out how many commuters parked in the area, as well as commercial delivery. There was discussion of opening up dead ends, either to all modes, or just for pedestrians and bicycles. Participants also discussed development trends, and how the transportation system should serve all users, particularly families. Finally, there were discussions about connections for all modes to other neighborhoods.

Next Steps

The project team wrapped up the meeting noting the major topics for next time would include a review of community feedback, shared mobility and demand management options, future traffic and parking conditions. At that meeting, breakout sessions may include an opportunity to show preference for different projects, design charrettes, and other workshops designed to prioritize and progress-- projects. The community is encouraged to stay involved by commenting on the WikiMap and using the project website. Pop-ups will be occurring within the next couple of months, and the next public meeting is anticipated for mid to late summer.