



Jamaica Plain/Roxbury Transportation Action Plan

October 23, 2018 Public Meeting Summary

Boston English High School

This was the fourth public meeting in a planning 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 update on how community members have prioritized transportation improvements in the project area through engagement opportunities including past public meetings, neighborhood pop-ups, and online surveys. It was also an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on proposed *action items* (projects that are emerging from this process). A significant portion of this meeting was spent in small groups, brainstorming potential improvements and expressing preferences using dot stickers and sticky notes at interactive workshop stations representing three locations within the study area: 1) Egleston Square, 2) Green Street, and 3) Washington Street at Forest Hills Street and Montebello Road. In between breakout sessions, attendees reconvened for a report back of discussions at the three stations.

Approximately 35 people attended, in addition to City staff from the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), Boston Disabilities Commission, and Boston Police Department (BPD). City Councilor Matt O'Malley and a representative from his office were also in attendance.

BTD presented the project timeline and process, including an overview of feedback collected from three previous public meetings, two rounds of pop-ups, and online survey. The team emphasized that this project builds on PLAN: JP/Rox, and that values of equity and affordability would guide the process. Spanish simultaneous interpretation was offered to provide any assistance via headset during the meeting.

The project team presented results from community prioritization on potential action items and projects. Highest priority included: Columbus Avenue Bus/Bike Lane; Pedestrian Crossing Improvements Throughout Neighborhood; Southwest Corridor Improvements; Washington Street a.m. Bus Lane/Commercial Delivery into Egleston Square; Amory Street Traffic Calming; and Green Street Activation.

The project team then detailed the action items that, according to community feedback and constructability, were initially proposed for pilot or demonstration projects, short-term projects (0 – 5 years), and long-term projects (5 + years). Pilot projects included the Columbus Avenue bus/bike lane, Egleston Square tactical urbanism, and the Washington Street a.m. bus lane and commercial delivery into



Egleston Square. Short-term projects included a bus/bike lane on Columbus Avenue; bus stop improvements; improvements to crossings of the Southwest Corridor, a bike connection via Atherton Street; and an Open Green Street event. Long-term projects were also proposed including traffic calming on Amory Street; activating Green Street; and a Boylston Street contraflow lane, as well as bike accommodations and curb use management on Washington Street.

The project team also shared feedback they gathered from the community on design priorities to improve safety of connections around Egleston Square and presented a range of possible public realm improvements to make Egleston Square more accessible, friendly, and desirable.

After the presentation, the project team took clarifying questions before breaking for the interactive workshops. One attendee inquired whether the City had a strategic plan for travel along the Washington Street corridor and two attendees expressed concern that no comprehensive, long-term plan was included in the presentation. The City responded that while a curb-use analysis of the entire project area is planned in the future, it would take some time to complete, and, in the meantime, the proposed action items would result in improvements to the corridor. The team, which was also asked about present and future increases in traffic on Washington Street due to new development, reiterated that the proposed bus/bike lanes in Egleston Square and improvements to the Southwest Corridor were expected to ease congestion along Washington Street.

Meeting attendees were invited to visit the workshop stations (Egleston Square, Green Street between Washington Street and Brookside Avenue, and Washington Street at Forest Hills Street and Montebello Road) which featured large maps of their respective location, sticker dots, sticky notes, and to-scale models of people, trees, vehicles, buses, food trucks. Attendees rotated through each workshop station, using color-coded stickers and post-it notes to document their ideas for the public space.

After about an hour, project team members and other attendees summarized the feedback they had discussed at each station. Discussion regarding Egleston Square included prioritizing bus stop improvements with a new bus/bike lane, and improvements to the comfort of the public space, despite its proximity to heavy traffic. At the Green Street workshop station, there was a focus on finding improvements that could be installed with limited space available. Key suggestions included daylighting at the intersection with Union Street, using decorative lighting to foster a sense of place, and balancing the need for comfort elements with shade. Attendees at the workshop station for Washington Street at Forest Hills Street and



Boston
Transportation
Department

Montebello Road discussed ways to use placemaking elements to discourage speeding, such as installation of an artistic crosswalk, or using elements such as bike racks and parklets to reduce the size of the intersection.

Next Steps

The project team wrapped up the meeting noting that the next meeting would include a presentation and discussion of a draft action plan. Attendees were encouraged to contact the project team via email (JPRoxTAP@boston.gov) with questions or comments on the presentation, plan, or prioritization of action items. The next public meeting is anticipated for the winter.