LOWER ROXBURY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Outreach Advisory Group
October 29, 2020
**TECH CHECK-IN**

- Is your Google Meet working properly?
  - Can you hear and see?
  - Can you mute and unmute?
  - Can you turn your video on and off?

- Having trouble? Call Daniela

- You can also join by phone: 617-675-4444
  PIN: 990 451 782 7768#

**TIP:** move your cursor to the bottom of the screen to pop up the options bar
## TODAY’S CONVENING

### AGENDA

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<tr>
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- Get acquainted with the goals of the Lower Roxbury Transportation Study
- Agree to shared expectations
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INTRODUCTIONS

- Your name
- Your preferred pronouns (for example: she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, etc)
- How you’re connected to communities in Lower Roxbury
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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TEAM
We heard at Peoples Baptist Church:

- Take a **broader look** at Lower Roxbury (not just Tremont Street)
- Listen to what the **people who live here now** want for their community
- Help them realize their goals related to **transportation** and **safety**
The project area is bounded by, but does not include Columbus, Mass Ave., and Melnea Cass.
PROJECT GOAL

Build a collaborative process with community members to:

▶ Highlight **neighborhood assets**

▶ Create **positive changes** to your streets in Lower Roxbury
OUR APPROACH

Listen → Confirm community priorities → Collaborate and plan → Refine design → Implement

Arrows indicate the flow of the approach.
WHAT WE’VE DONE SO FAR

- Listen
- Confirm community priorities
- Refine design
- Collaborate and plan
- Implement
IDEAS ON THE STREET

- We asked people what they love about the neighborhood and where they find joy.

- We also asked people to envision the future of their streets in Lower Roxbury.

- We gathered 285 comments from residents and visitors of all ages.
WHAT WE’VE DONE SO FAR

- Listen
- Confirm community priorities
- Collaborate and plan
- Refine design
- Implement

Arrows indicate the flow of the process.
We hosted **four** locations

We shared **key** themes, including places that received a lot of **love**
OPEN HOUSES

- We shared themes from people’s ideas for improving safety
- We heard a lot about safety for people biking and walking and improving accessibility and walkability

WHAT WE’VE heard SO FAR

Community members shared 297 IDEAS for how to improve transportation for people riding the bus, walking, biking, and driving or parking.

- 113 discussed safety for people walking and biking
- 86 more about better bus service
- 60 proposed new or safer crosswalks
- 34 improvements for driving or parking
- 28 mentioned accessibility
- 20 suggested improving sidewalks

We heard many comments about improving safety for people walking and biking. We also heard a lot about improving bus service, accessibility, and walkability in the neighborhood.

“Better wayfinding and markers related to neighborhood history. Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, N.E. Rustin St, and Harriet Tubman House.”

“Crossing is dangerous and difficult on foot because of conflicts with cars.”

“Smoother roads for biking and skateboarding.”

“The Silver Line is good.”

“Blind people have a hard time crossing the street. We need countdown timers with sounds at intersections.”

“We need another crosswalk on Washington St at Bull Street.”

“Frederick Douglass Way has no stop sign at the corner of Tremont - can we add a stop sign?”

“You want enough space for kids to play and ride bikes.”

“Bumpy sidewalks on Tremont near Malcolm X. Elderly people stay inside because the sidewalks are bumpy and hazardous.”
We shared about the **types of changes** we could use to address people’s comments.
WHAT WE’VE DONE SO FAR

- Listen
- Confirm community priorities
- Refine design
- Collaborate and plan
- Implement
Active Transportation Team shifts to provide relief during COVID-19. (BPS food deliveries, unemployment claims, rental relief)

Cautious about re-engaging in planning work

- COVID-19’s disproportionate impact on Boston’s black residents and other communities of color.
- George Floyd and Breonna Taylor’s murders and Boston’s response to its own realities of racism and police brutality.

One on one check-ins with community partners to understand if transportation remained a priority for discussion.
Help us communicate and collaborate with the communities in Lower Roxbury right now.

* This is not the place where decisions about outcomes will be made.
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EXPECTATIONS FOR US

We will:

- Host outreach advisory group meetings quarterly, with ample notice.
- Be accountable to you with regular communication.
- Respectfully engage with the outreach advisory group and community members.
- Incorporate your advice and recommendations about outreach, as best as we are able.
- Make decisions transparently.
GROUP EXPECTATIONS

- Make a good faith effort to attend outreach advisory group meetings.
- Engage respectfully with one other, with the project team, with community members.
- Share your knowledge and experience.
- Communicate back to your communities about the project.
DISCUSSION
CONFIRMING DISCUSSION THEMES

▸ Transparency about how decisions will be made.
  ▴ We (BTD) will make decisions transparently and communicate with this group and the public about how these decisions were made. Even if we are not able to take some of the advice provided, we will communicate the reasoning for that clearly.

▸ Role of the group and how it will affect these decisions.
  ▴ The conversations this group will have will focus on how to create an inclusive process--not the particular outcomes of that process.
  ▴ The types of things we are hoping to discuss include:
    • How to design outreach that's likely to work for folks in your communities, even when we can't gather in person?
    • How we can go at an appropriate pace--not going too fast because we know there's a lot going on, but still moving forward because we all want to see tangible improvements, and soon?
    • How we can engage those who have been left out of processes in Boston and whose voices are not heard as often?

▸ Who is missing?
  ▴ If you think someone is missing from this group and you would like to us (BTD) to invite them please let us know.
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EXPECTED NEXT STEPS

- Meet again on: Thursday, December 3rd or 10th at 11 AM
- Focus on outreach for “collaborate and plan” phase
- November email to you
- November email to project list
MEETING EVALUATION

OUTCOMES

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QUESTIONS

▶ How did we do as a group at achieving our desired outcomes for the meeting?
▶ How did the project team do at guiding the process?
▶ Any recommendations for next meeting?
CONCLUSION