

Thursday, 12/03/2020

SECOND: Advisory Group Meeting for the Lower Roxbury Transportation Study

ATTENDEES

- Lillie Searcy, Hattie B Cooper Center
- Paulette Ford, Camfield Estates
- Ronald Whitaker, People's Baptist
- Frank Williams, 888 Tremont St
- Donald Ward, Tenants Development Corp
- Chavella Lee-Pacheco, Madison Park Development Corporation
- Bill Singleton, United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury
- Jen Rowe, BTDC
- Daniela Sanchez Zamora, BTDC
- Kelly Sherman, BPDA
- Kenya Beaman, BPDA
- Kimberly Cruciani, ONS

[PRESENTATION \(click link to download\)](#)

[IDEAS GENERATED \(click to download\)](#)

PROPOSED MEETING OUTCOMES

- Welcome additional members
- Review purpose of this group
- Agree on three to six effective ways to get the word out in Lower Roxbury
- Agree on two to four effective ways to solicit input/feedback in Lower Roxbury

AGENDA

- 11:00 ▶ Suggest any revisions to desired outcomes and/or agenda
- 11:05 ▶ Introductions
 - Name and preferred pronouns
 - How you're connected to communities in Lower Roxbury
 - Favorite public artwork in Lower Roxbury
- 11:10 ▶ Review purpose of this group
- ▶ Answer clarifying questions
- 11:20 ▶ Brainstorm in breakout groups ideas for outreach you feel will work in Lower Roxbury, both for getting the word out and for soliciting input/feedback

11:35 ▶ Narrow down the ideas to three to six ways to get the word out and two to four ways to solicit input/feedback

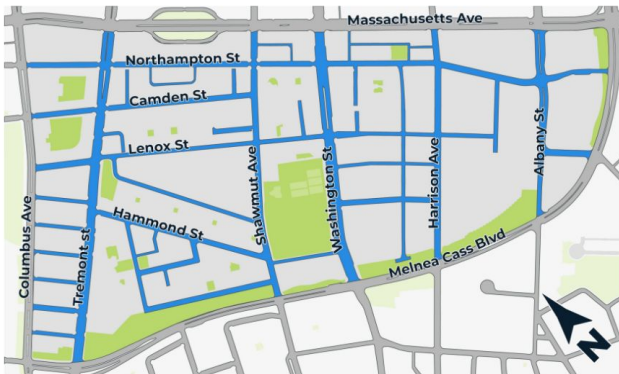
11:55 ▶ Agree to next steps and evaluate meeting

NOTES

Jen Rowe (BTD) went through the beginning slides of the presentation:

- Tech check in
- Agenda and expected outcomes
- Introductions
- Project goal, purpose of this group, expectations

Kenya Beaman (BPDA) asked for clarification on the area where the project and study was taking place. Jen explained that the project area is bounded by, but does not include Columbus Ave, Mass Ave, and Melnea Cass (the area in blue below).



At 11:20 we broke into two groups to brainstorm ideas for outreach that will work in Lower Roxbury. We compiled [a document](#) with ideas generated to get the word out and solicit input.

Additionally, in one of the breakout groups, Lillie explained that she wasn't yet certain what the project is really about, and so wasn't able to commit to sharing about it at the Hattie B Cooper Community Center. Jen explained that that's understandable -- as we go along everyone will get a better sense of what this is about. In the breakout groups, we are also looking for suggestions about what the city can do to get the word out. Lillie noted that she's willing to share ideas.

At 11:35 we reconvened in the main room to discuss the ideas that were discussed in the breakout rooms. Before beginning to discuss the ideas generated Frank wanted to return to the question of: "What are we here for and what are we trying to accomplish?"

- Jen asked whether Frank was asking about the overall project of the Outreach Advisory Group. Frank said he was asking about both.
- Jen explained that the goal of the project as a whole is to build a collaborative process with the current residents of Lower Roxbury to highlight neighborhood assets and realize goals related to transportation and safety on neighborhood streets.
- Jen explained that the goal of the Outreach Advisory Group is to help the City communicate and collaborate with the communities in Lower Roxbury right now. The conversations will focus on making sure we hear the priorities of all the communities in Lower Roxbury and are including people who have been left out of processes in Boston and whose voices are often not heard.

Frank's question led to further discussion:

- Bill: You say you want to improve the area but you just want to hear from us and then you will just make your own plan.
 - Jen: We are committed to coming up with a plan in partnership with the residents of Lower Roxbury. That plan will be grounded in the input and feedback we hear from folks in the community. We'll make decisions about what's included in the plan transparently -- so folks in this group and the broader community can understand how the decisions were made.
- Paulette: can this project address parking needs in Camfield Estates?
 - Jen: This plan is centered around transportation and safety. It is not the mechanism for making changes to parking regulations. Let's connect about that outside the meeting to provide you with the people who could make that type of change.
- Bill: Is this just about getting buy-in for bike lanes? Are you actually taking our input?
 - Jen: we don't already have a plan. We hope to work with this group to do the best possible job getting the word out about this project and soliciting input and feedback from all the communities in Lower Roxbury. We'll ground the eventual plan in what we hear from folks in Lower Roxbury. This Outreach Advisory Group isn't representative of all the communities in Lower Roxbury, so these meetings aren't where we'll discuss what gets included in the eventual plan. Instead, those conversations will happen in public forms.
- Paulette: is there already a plan and you're just looking to inform us about it? Like what happened with the new Fairmont commuter rail stations in Mattapan?
 - Kenya: Mattapan involved a lot of community process and input and was broadly supported. There are people who bike and use other

modes and look like me. I didn't believe that at first but they showed up to meetings.

- Kenya: as a resident of Mattapan, some of the projects in Mattapan that have been controversial, like Cummins and Blue Hill Ave, because of bike lanes have also had the involvement and support from community members that look just like us. Boston is changing.
- Bill: Mattapan is different than Roxbury, you may know the neighbors there but I can say the ones here do not want bike lanes
- Ron: We are talking about things that happened a year ago and I would like to spend my time constructively to move forward. They have been working on outreach, I've been working with them. What can we do here to work together?
- Paulette: Parking is an issue in Lower Roxbury. This project should address it.
 - Bill and Frank agreed.
 - Jen: this project is centered around transportation safety. We have heard a lot of need for improvements in those areas from residents. There are ways to work towards changes in parking regulations. We can connect you with the right people to talk to about those ideas.
- Chevelle: We don't represent the neighborhood. The city hasn't always had good processes. It's important that we help folks connect to this process so that they can have a say in what happens.

The meeting ended with a decision to reconvene again on March 4th, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Jen and Daniela will create a survey and send it out so the group can have a chance to add more ideas and prioritize the ones we already generated during the brainstorm session.

Meeting concluded at 12:17 PM.

DISCUSSION IN CHAT (These ideas were added in the ideas generated document)

Kenya Beaman Other ideas when outside opens up again, is attending places and events people frequent. Going to Dudley station/Nubian Sq, etc. Take advantage of spaces like the community center, parks, and others

Chavella L Ron brought up a good point as well, advertisements on social media targeted at the Roxbury zip code could also be helpful

Kenya Beaman yes, this is a good one also

Chavella L In terms of soliciting feedback, there should also be a form in the mailing that can be returned via mail

Chavella L Also to solicit feedback, it would rely heavily on community partnerships, but having paper options stationed in places throughout the area. Ie Good Eats, Slades, Churches, etc

Kenya Beaman Yes absolutely Chavella! People who are engaged & vested in the community love a good flyer.

Chavella L We know that historically the city has not done a good job engaging our communities. How can we as a group create a better way for the city to create a plan that represents what the residents want?

Kenya Beaman Safety for pedestrian, speeding, etc.

Kenya Beaman To add to that provide several avenues to provide feedback, eg survey, email responses, etc

Chavella L In terms of soliciting feedback, I think of Livable Streets Alliance Street Ambassador program that surveys folks on the streets. It may also be helpful for our group to know some of the questions that can be asked. Ie how do you travel? Via public transit, bike, walking, or car. Are there streets or crossings that need a crosswalk? Do you feel like you have enough time to safely cross Washington St?

Kenya Beaman A lot of what I heard in my engagement was about pedestrian safety for youth and seniors and everyone in between who don't drive and speeding. I'm sure the issues are similar in Roxbury.