

Lower Roxbury Outreach Advisory Group Meeting

March 23, 2023

Notetaker: Ashley Pierre-Louis, HSH

In Attendance:

Andre Jones, Nuestra Comunidad

Malaysia Fuller-Staten, Boston Cyclists Union/Community Organizer

Ron Whitaker, People's Baptist Church

James Dilday

Donald Ward

Amber Torres, City of Boston Office of Arts and Culture

Jen Rowe, Boston Transportation Department

Louisa Gag, Boston Transportation Department

Jacob Wessel, Boston Transportation Department

Slide deck

Agenda

- Debrief of outreach/overview of project
- Review Steps
- Discuss Outreach Strategy

Notes:

- Aiming for construction in Spring 2024
- What to do for outreach until construction in 2024?
 - Amber – Pop-ups at existing restaurants and establishments that have ongoing events (i.e., Darryl's)
 - Ron – Willing to setup an event at the church for BTM to table at
 - Boston Globe articles about heat island effects, climate change
 - Opportunity to expand outreach to more people who didn't know about the project
 - Amber – video providing an overview of the project, online flyers, physical signage
 - Ron – what is the timeframe for when construction will start?
 - Jen – design will be complete in Dec, project goes out to bid, best case scenario is mid-April 2024. Variables include selected contractor time constraints, Public Works dept time constraints, etc.
 - Ron – will community have input on the bidding process?

- Jen – we can look into precedents for community input in the bidding process. Once it's out to bid, it is a public “bidding event” and firms can apply. We usually have to go with the lowest responsible bidder.
- Ron – would like to see the bid before it goes out
 - Want to ensure diversity is a key factor to the bid process
 - The people in the community don't always get an opportunity to work on these projects
- Andre – N.C. have their own goals for bidding process – 60% diversity
 - Public bidding process is focused on the lowest bidder which can be restrictive
 - Contradictions between lowest bidder process and the state's goals for increased diversity
 - Jen – restrictions on how bid is shared before the bid goes out to the public
- Ron – you can get information from potential bidders before writing the RFP
 - You can contact potential bidders to encourage them to apply before bidding process starts
 - Doing the work to reach out to diverse firms can improve the selection of bidders
 - Used to use reverse auction process when working for the state
 - o Ranges of bid prices based on qualifications (ex: car has certain qualifications, it automatically falls into the 20k bid)
- Jacob - Here is some information about the City's work on Supplier Diversity:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/supplier-and-workforce-diversity>
- Jen – potentially find an event to partner with other depts on to increase bid knowledge and awareness

Next Steps:

- Next meeting Thursday, June 8th at 11 AM