



City Of Boston  
Office of the Mayor  
**Thomas M. Menino**

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release  
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### **Mayor Menino's Dorchester Avenue Project Moves Forward, Announces Initial Accomplishments** *Next Community Meeting to be Held November 16*

Mayor Thomas M. Menino today announced that several accomplishments have been completed or are in the works along Dorchester Avenue, furthering the Mayor's Dorchester Avenue Project, which was created to address the four mile stretch of Dorchester Avenue, focusing on issues regarding transportation, neighborhood businesses, neighborhood housing, and streetscapes between Lower Mills and the Columbia Road area. Mayor Menino has allocated \$5 million from the city's capital budget to fund the Avenue Project and complete projects that are highlighted through the initiative.

At a community charrette in April, the City organized the community to hear their concerns and suggestions for Dorchester Avenue. From this meeting, a list of "short term actions" was created in order to identify smaller issues and tasks that could be taken care of immediately in order to improve conditions along the Avenue. Several of those short term actions, including sidewalk repairs, crosswalk re-paintings, and engaging local businesses have been completed. Additionally, the Boston Water & Sewer Commission has completed their recent pipe work along the Avenue. The Boston Transportation Department, after completing the crosswalk re-paintings, is now working on additional transportation improvements, including updating curbside parking regulations in business districts, retiming traffic signals to ensure pedestrian safety and reduce traffic congestion and undertaking major intersection redesign at several locations to improve the functioning of Dorchester Avenue.

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Mayor Menino also comprised a City Inter-Agency team to address the issues along Dorchester Avenue. The team is comprised of representatives from the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Department of Neighborhood Development, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Public Works, Boston Water & Sewer Commission, Parks Department, Boston Transportation Department and Basic City Services. This team has been continually meeting to ensure that all city services get coordinated and delivered to the Avenue in the most efficient way.

The Dorchester Avenue Project will host another community meeting on November 16, 2005 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Viet-Aid Community Center, 42 Charles Street, Dorchester. Mayor Menino is excited to have the community meet the task force at the upcoming community meeting on November 16. This meeting will allow the community the opportunity to meet the task force members, to update them on current issues and for the task force to update the community on their work thus far.

Additionally, the Dorchester Avenue Project will host a Youth Summit on Saturday, November 19 from 9:30 – 1:00 p.m. at the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, 1353 Dorchester Avenue. The summit is looking for youth interested in getting involved in the community process.

For more information regarding the youth summit and to register, log onto [www.dotavenueproject.com](http://www.dotavenueproject.com) or call Jeremy Rosenberger, BRA Planner, at 617.918.4431.

In August the BRA hosted three business workshops for businesses located along the Avenue to give them an overview of the Avenue Project and to inform them of the resources available to them as small business owners. More than 40 business owners and associates attended the meetings. Currently, a signage regulations brochure has been created for these small business owners in an effort to educate them on signage requirements. The brochure has been produced in English as well as Vietnamese and will be distributed personally by BRA and City staff by the end of November. In the next couple of months, a follow up workshop will be held for business owners with the Inspectional Services Department, to discuss the signage regulations and the permitting process. The BRA is currently working with DND to develop a business trend analysis, which will inform the city of the types of businesses that are located along the Avenue and help better focus future business workshops.

In July, Mayor Menino announced the appointment of a 13-member task force for the Avenue Project. The members, who represent a variety of interests and stakeholders along the Avenue, have recently completed several meetings together in order to further discuss comments

from the community charrette. The task force is in charge of taking these comments and suggestions and turning them into an action plan with short-term, mid-term and long-term goals.

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