

Forest Hill Improvement Initiative

A Partnership for Building a Better Community

WORK PLAN - Fifth DRAFT– as of October 21, 2006

The Forest Hills Improvement Initiative is a community based approach to improving and growing the Forest Hills Station area and planning for the sale and development of several MBTA owned parcels. The planning process will begin with an overall vision for the Forest Hills area and move toward more detailed recommendations and actions to enhance the character, function and vitality of Forest Hills. Specific Goals & Outcomes are outlined below and seek to improve area transportation, land use, and urban design conditions.

The City of Boston will work in partnership with the MBTA, the Forest Hills Task Force and area residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations throughout the process.

PRINCIPLES

- Community based planning.
- Working partnership between the City, MBTA, DCR and the Forest Hills area community.
- Results oriented process with specific outcomes that address community concerns and needs.

GOALS & OUTCOMES

- ***A Community Vision*** for the Forest Hills Station area that guides and promotes “the right” residential and business growth, and open space preservation.
- ***A Comprehensive Transportation Plan*** for the Forest Hills Station area that promotes the overall Community Vision including both transportation and streetscape improvements and listing of near term action items.
- ***Development Scenarios & Guidelines*** for designated sites that advance the Community Vision.
- ***Use & Design Guidelines*** for the three MBTA parcels including transportation improvement and analysis requirements, for inclusion in the MBTA’s Request for Proposals.
- ***Amend Zoning*** as necessary to implement the Community Vision for the area.

WORKING GROUP

Members of the local community [including area residents, businesses, and community organizations], MBTA representatives, and City of Boston staff will meet to craft a series of Community Meetings. The *Working Group* will determine the structure, schedule, communications, logistics, and outreach for the Community Meetings and provide guidance and feedback throughout the planning process.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- A series of *large working Community Meetings will be held on a monthly basis*, as determined. The meetings will be interactive in nature and employ a mix of presentations, analysis, breakout groups and discussion summations structured to meet the Goals & Outcomes. Each meeting will be structured to build upon the work, outcomes, and recommendations of the prior Community Meeting and to meet the Goals and Outcomes of the initiative.

- Community Meetings will be 2 1/2 to 4 hours in duration, local to the Forest Hills area, and with food and beverage provided.
- Community Meeting participants will include members of the local community [including area residents, businesses, and community organizations], area stake holders and potential RFP respondents, MBTA and DCR representatives, and City of Boston staff.

DECISION MAKING

This planning process will make general and specific recommendations based on group consensus [defined as general agreement] within the broad context of City and State practices, policies, and regulations.

OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS - PHASE I [Four Meetings / Five Months]

Community Meeting 1 – Introduction / Community Vision

October 21, 2006

- Introduction, overview of planning process, and key deliverables
 - *Community Vision, Development Scenarios & Guidelines, and Use & Design Guidelines, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and Zoning.*
- Area Existing Conditions Analysis including Community Character, Use & Design, Transportation & Streetscape
- Workshop Breakout Sessions [small groups in focused working discussions]
 - *Community Vision* for Forest Hills
 - Identify Area Issues and Opportunities
 - Identify focus areas and specific sites including designated MBTA parcels
- Group Reporting, Summaries, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

Community Meeting 2 – Use, Design, Transportation & Streetscape: Best Practices & Ideas

December 2006

- Introduction, brief overview and report on CM- 1
- Best Practices
 - Successful character, building, transportation and infra-structure examples
- Local Existing Conditions Analysis including Community Character, Use & Design, Transportation & Streetscape
- Workshop Breakout Sessions
 - *Community Vision* - review and refine statement
 - Site specific *Use & Design* ideas
 - *Transportation & Streetscape* improvement ideas
- Group Reporting, Summaries, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

Community Meeting 3 – Use, Design & Infrastructure: Preliminary Recommendations

January 2006

- Introduction, brief overview, and report on CM- 2
- *Transportation & Streetscape Improvements* preliminary recommendations
- *Development Scenarios and Use & Design Guidelines* site specific preliminary recommendations
- Workshop Breakout Sessions

- *Development Scenarios and Use & Design Guidelines* – review site specific recommendations and illustrations include transportation requirements
 - *Transportation & Streetscape Improvements* – review preliminary ideas and consultant scope of work
- Group Reporting, Summaries, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

Community Meeting 4 – Use, Design & Infrastructure: Final Recommendations

February 2007

- Introduction, brief overview, and report on CM- 3
- *Community Vision*
 - Character, Open Space, Transportation & Infra-structure, and Use & Design
- *Transportation & Streetscape Improvement* recommendations:
 - Transportation Action Plan including near term action items
 - Update on transportation consultant
- *Development Scenarios and Use & Design Guidelines* - site specific recommendations
 - Development Scenarios and illustrations
 - Outline Use & Design Guidelines
- Review recommendations, Discussion Summary, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS - PHASE II [Two Meetings / Three Months]

Community Meeting 5 – Focus on Comprehensive Transportation Planning

March 2007

- Introduction of Transportation Planning consultants and next steps.
- Brief overview of process to date, report on CM- 4, and update on MBTA RFP actions, final Urban Design Guidelines, and any Zoning Amendment(s).
- *Comprehensive Transportation Plan*
 - Summary of *Transportation & Streetscape Improvement* recommendations including Transportation Action Plan
 - Consultant analysis of existing conditions and recommendations
 - Development of improvement ideas and strategies
- Review recommendations, Discussion Summary, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

Final Community Meeting – Finalize Comprehensive Transportation Plan

May 2007

- Brief overview of process to date update on MBTA RFP actions, Urban Design Guidelines and any Zoning Amendments.
- *Comprehensive Transportation Plan* - final recommendations
 - Specific improvement ideas and strategies
 - Near and long term action items
 - Site and / or development specific requirements
- Review recommendations, Discussion Summary, Follow up activities and Responsibilities

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our contact list, please contact either:
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