

## PLACEMAKING & MOBILITY WORKSHOP

January 27, 2016





"Boston needs more housing. But there is no one-size fitsall solution. Every neighborhood has its own character. In some places, density is not only appropriate – it is badly needed."

> - Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Chamber of Commerce December, 2014



"People want to live in Boston. That's a good thing. But we need to shape growth as a community, not let it shape us. That's what residents are doing along the Red Line in South Boston...They're helping us plan vibrant, walkable streets, with affordable homes, diverse businesses, and great open space."

- Mayor Martin J. Walsh, State of the City January 19, 2016



### **AGENDA**

- 1. Schedule and process
- 2. BRA homework -

Public Benefits Testing: Value & Cost

- 3. Mobility & getting around
- 4. Placemaking & character
- 5. Table exercise



Preserve. Enhance. Grow.



### **NEXT STEPS**

JULY 30, 2015 "Talk to Us"
Open House

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 "Walk and Bike With Us"** *Study Area Tours* 

OCTOBER 1, 2015 "Imagine with Us" Visioning Workshop

OCTOBER 26, 2015 "Plan with Us" Streets & Blocks, Land Use Workshop

NOVEMBER 17, 2015 "Design With Us" Height & Density, Open Space Workshop

**DECEMBER 14, 2015 "What We Heard"** *Recap Session/Dialogue* 

JANUARY 27, 2016 "Draft with Us" Placemaking and Mobility Workshop

FEBRUARY 23, 2016 "Discuss with Us"

DRAFT Plan Session – Part 1

MARCH "Discuss with Us" DRAFT Plan Session - Part 2

**APRIL "Finalize with Us"** *FINAL Plan Presentation* 

**MAY & JUNE** 

Internally BRA Staff Draft Zoning Documents & Zoning Commission Meeting





### **PLAN Overview**



"Talk to Us" open house July 30, 2015



### **OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS**

July 30, 2015

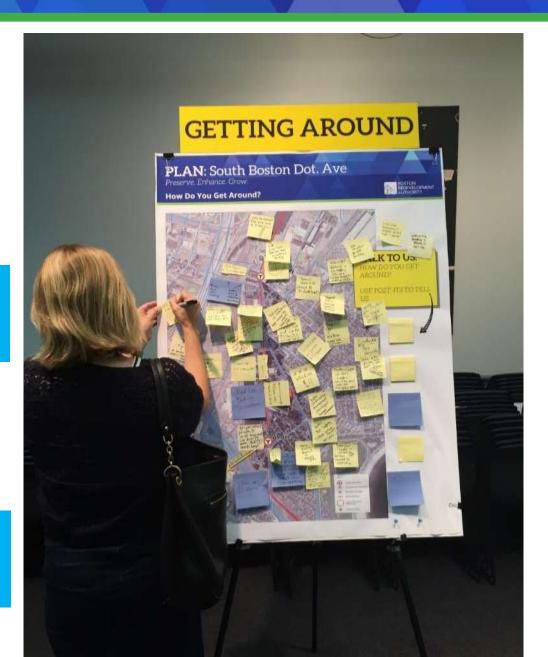
"Have places for middle class families to stay and thrive in South Boston."

"Green Space!"

"Take the focus off personal use vehicles + improve transit options. It's not 1950s."

"Worker housing that young professionals can realistically afford"

"Cyclist safety and comfort on this major route into downtown."





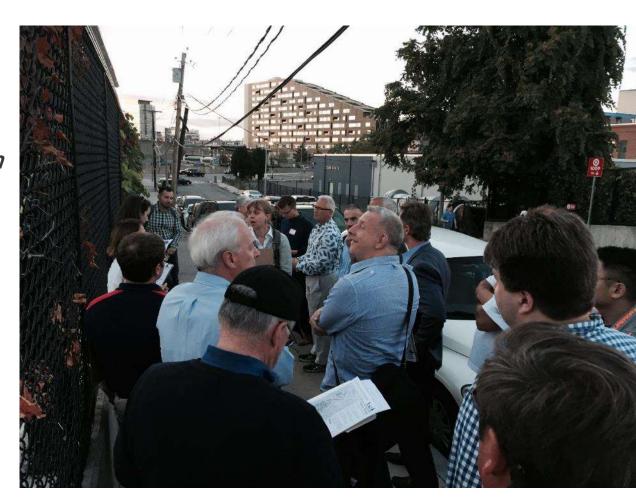
### WALK AND BIKE TOURS COMMENTS

September 14, 2015

"I would also like to see some of the industrial character of the avenue preserved... Boston is proud of its history, and we should preserve it when at all possible."

"Open space needs to be looked at in the study area. If mixed use projects are being built, open space needs to be part of the overall vision."

> "More connecting streets and a possible new grid pattern needs to be looked at carefully to allow traffic to flow through the area and for pedestrians."



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### VISIONING WORKSHOP

October 1, 2015

Open Space

Provide

Quality

Open

Space

Provide More Parking Mobility & Getting Around

Reduce Traffic Congestion Improve Public Transit

Housing

Provide Residential Uses

Create

Placemaking & Neighborhood Character

Create More Amenities

Provide More Cultural & Civic Uses

Environment & Sustainability

Improve Climate Resilience

Streets, Sidewalks & **Public Environment** 

Build Walkable Sidewalks & Bikeable Streets

Create More Streets & Blocks

Other

Additional



Economic Development

Preserve Some Industrial Uses

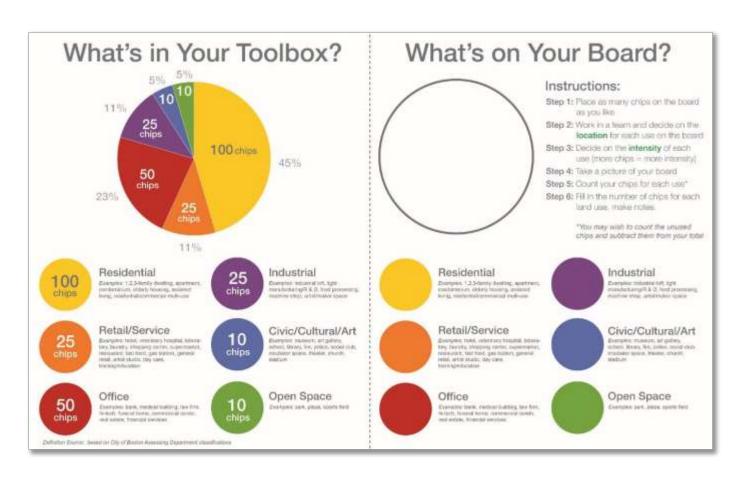
Increase Social Equity

(Creating jobs and sup-porting education and workforce development to broaden economic opportunity.)



### **PLAN WITH US WORKSHOP**

### **Planning Exercise**



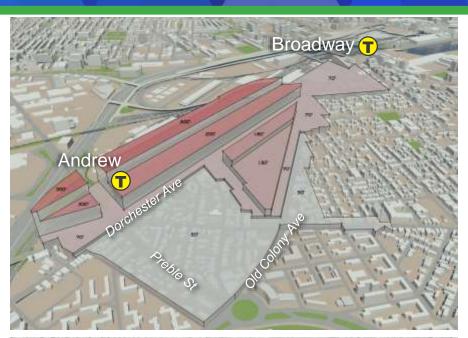




### **DESIGN WITH US WORKSHOP**

**November 17, 2015** 







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### **RECAP SESSION "WHAT WE HEARD"**

**December 14, 2015** 





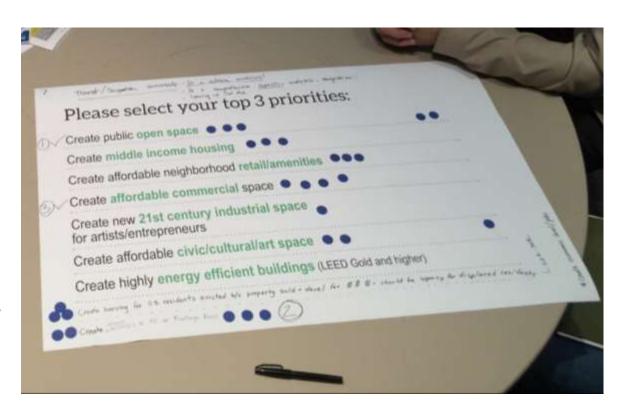


### **RECAP SESSION "WHAT WE HEARD"**

**December 14, 2015** 

### **Priority Exercise Results**

- 1. Create public open space (36)
- 2. Create middle income housing (34)
- 3. Create civic/cultural/art space (26)
- 4. Create affordable neighborhood retail/amenities (21)
- 5. Create affordable commercial space (21)
- 6. Create new 21<sup>st</sup> century industrial space for artist/entrepreneurs (19)
- 7. Create highly energy efficient buildings (2)



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**BRA Homework** 



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### **HOMEWORK**

Underway with City and State agencies, consultant

Real Estate Market Analysis/Economic Feasibility – Consultant

**Housing** – Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Housing Authority, Fair Housing

**Economic Development** – Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Office of Business Development

**Public Financing** – Treasury, Assessing, Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC)

**Public Facilities** – Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Library, Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Property & Construction Management

**Open Space** - Parks and Recreation

**Arts & Culture** – Arts Commission

**Public Transportation** – MBTA

**Transportation** – Boston Transportation Department, Boston Bikes, MassDOT

**Public Works** – Public Works Department, Public Improvement Commission

**Water** – Boston Water & Sewer Commission

Environment/Sustainability/Climate Change – Environment Department, Boston Landmarks Commission, Boston Public Health

**Boston Centers for Youth & Families** 

**Elderly Commission** 

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities** 



### **PUBLIC BENEFITS TESTING: VALUE & COST**

**Diagram by Byrne McKinney & Associates** 

### **Value Created**

- Land Use
- Development Density
- Building Heights
- Site Attributes
- Market Conditions

### **Costs to Development**

- Significant new affordable housing
- New open space
- New streets and sidewalks
- New civic and cultural space
- Affordable 21<sup>st</sup> century low impact manufacturing/start ups
- New affordable local retail
- Green Buildings/LEED gold or higher.



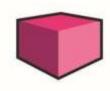
### **ZONING TOOL: HEIGHT BONUSES AND BENEFITS**

**Conceptual Diagram** 





### **DEFINITIONS**



Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP)

13% of units are income restricted units

income limit 70% AMI



**<** \$55,150

Max Rent = \$1,246 / month 1-bedroom



< \$62,050

Max Rent = \$1,424 / month 2-bedrooms



**<** \$68,980

Max Rent = \$1,602 / month

3-bedrooms



Moderate-income units income limit 120% AMI



< \$94,550

Max Rent = \$2,137 / month

1-bedroom



< \$106,400

Max Rent = \$2,442 / month

2-bedrooms



< \$118,200

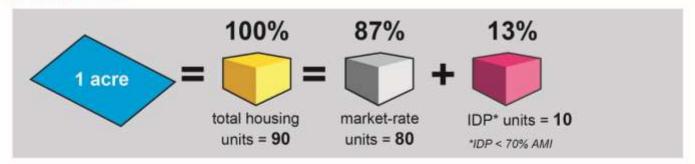
Max Rent = \$2,748 / month

3-bedrooms

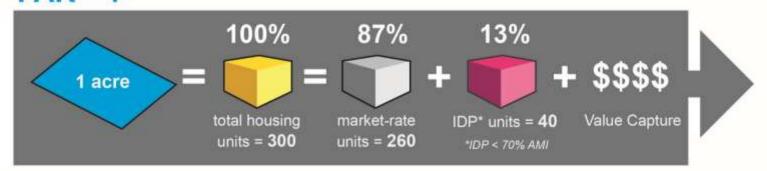


### **BONUS DENSITY TESTING**

# ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE AS-OF-RIGHT DEVELOPMENT FAR = 2



# ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE BONUS FAR 5 DEVELOPMENT FAR = 7



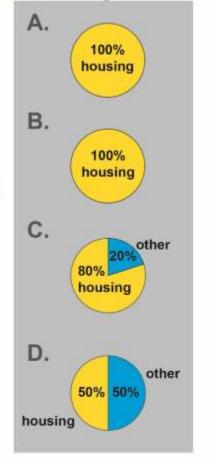


### **BONUS DENSITY TESTING**

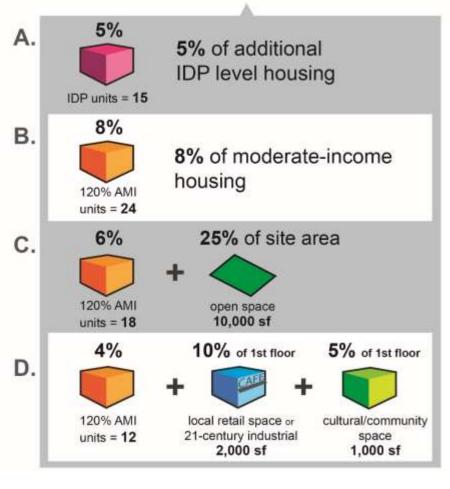
# ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE BONUS FAR 5 DEVELOPMENT FAR = 7



# ALLOCATION OF VALUE CAPTURE TO BENEFITS



## ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES FOR VALUE CAPTURE DISTRIBUTION



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**Mobility** 

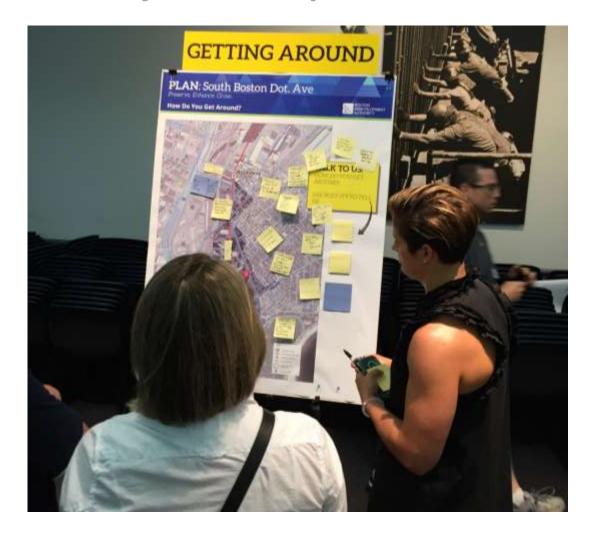


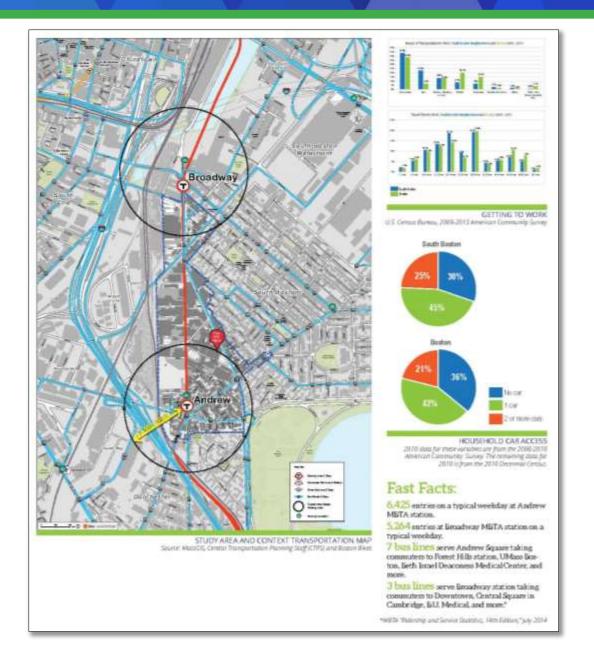
"Talk to Us" open house July 30, 2015



### **OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS**

**Mobility and Transportation Board** 



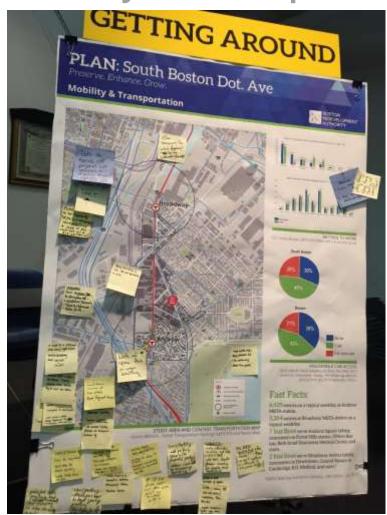


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**Mobility and Transportation Board** 



Pedestrian Streets/Traffic

Transportation

and

Mobility

Other

Multiple Modes of Transit

Public Transit

 (Pointing at Andrew Square Glass) Waste of space - art or green something Buses need a light at station. Traffic occurs when buses try to exist the station. Cars parking: Developers have to have garage parking, developers have to offer bike parking and bike rental Create transit-dependent housing Improve lighting - use similar lighting fixtures all throughout Andrew Square Live, work + play. Keep industrial life, + incorporate other fun time. Make connection to the water Make more of a connection between Newmarket Station and Andrew Station Protected bike parking and offer carsharing in new developments Traffic at Andrew Square A need for protected bike lane/cycletrack. Start at Broadway, down Dot Ave + Colony. Because scary, unsafe roads and bad counting methodology (Pointing at low bikeridership statistics). Build bike lane with median between cyclists and cars. Eliminate residential parking to accommodate bike lane For Bikers: Protected bike lanes!!! Please! (We don't want to be on the sidewalk or in dangerous traffic) More Hubway - Why make us take the T to Jackson Square to get a bike? No place for bike box with traffic Possible cycle track along Dot Ave Protected bike lanes - especially Old Colony + Morrissey Blvd. Right on red conflicts with cyclists Safe protected cycle tracks for families and kids to get around Traffic at Andrew Square Very, very, very, scary for women riders! Where are Hubway users going in South Boston? After Broadway Station, what happens? Can be walkable with change Bring this area to life. It's not comfortable to walk. Show real walk path within five minutes Walkability: Make sidewalks smoother and a little wider + ADA; Add trees and shade for breaks and ambience Eliminate residential parking to accommodate bike lane Lower the speed (Columbia Road) More traffic lights along Columbia Road (The Beach Way) No place for bike box with traffic No trucks on Boston Street or possibly make it one way - Please make it a healthier street, add bike lanes Overpass on South Hampton Right on red conflicts with cyclists Rules for Moneds Strict rules for double-parking Traffic study along Dot Ave West Fourth - turning left onto West Fourth from Dot Ave is a challenge

Overpass from Andrew Station to Hampton Street - trees, shrubs, bike path, walker friendly

Improve pedestrian and cyclist route along South Hampton

JFK Dot Block + South Bay will impact Andrew Station

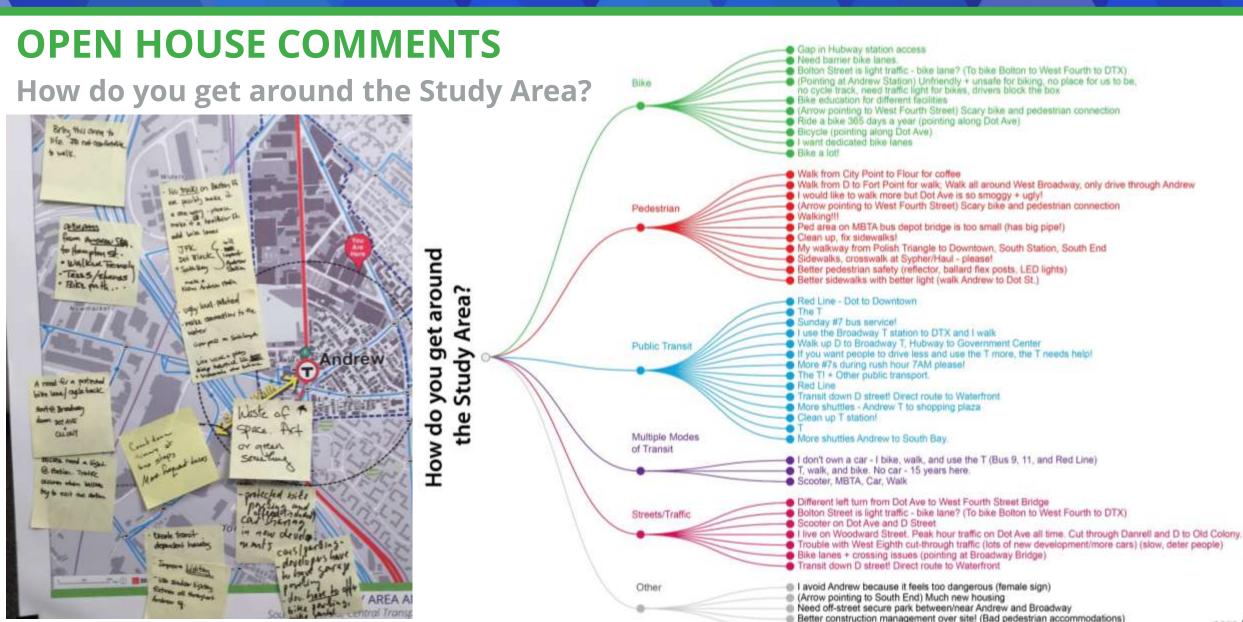
Make a new Andrew Station - ugly, loud, polluted

Making more bus lanes throughout the city

Public transit is at capacity.

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Between two T stops, parking for communities



### WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE STUDY AREA?

- 1. Complete Streets
- 2. Go Boston 2030
- 3. Vision Zero
- 4. Slow Streets Program
- 5. Greenlinks
- 6. Boston Bikes Plan



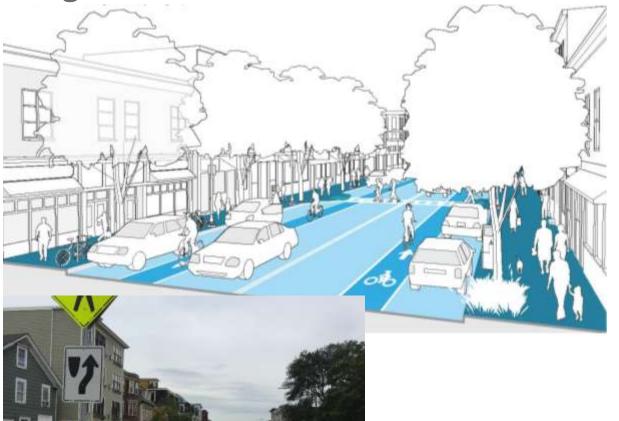
### **BOSTON COMPLETE STREETS**





### **BOSTON COMPLETE STREETS**

**Neighborhood Main Street** 



Dorchester St



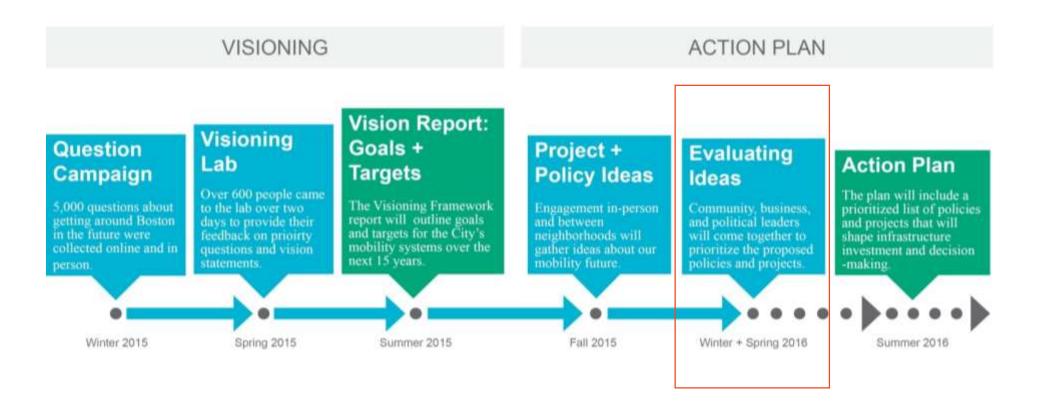
Dorchester Ave



Old Colony Ave



### **GO BOSTON 2030**



goboston2030.org



### **GO BOSTON 2030**

**Vision** 



station, and car-share.

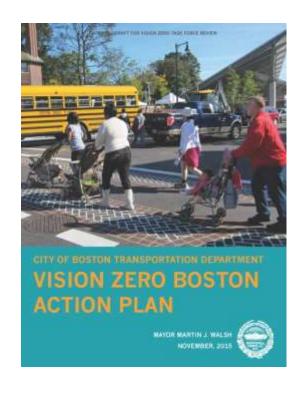


### **GO BOSTON 2030**





### **VISION ZERO BOSTON**



Vision Zero Boston promises action in four critical areas:



REDUCING SPEEDS AND BUILDING SAFER STREETS.



TACKLING DISTRACTED AND IMPAIRED DRIVING.



ENGAGING BOSTONIANS WITH VISION ZERO.



HOLDING OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS.

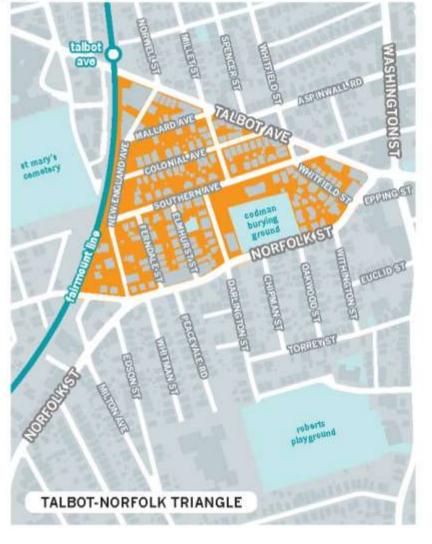
visionzeroboston.org/input



### **BTD SLOW STREETS PILOT**

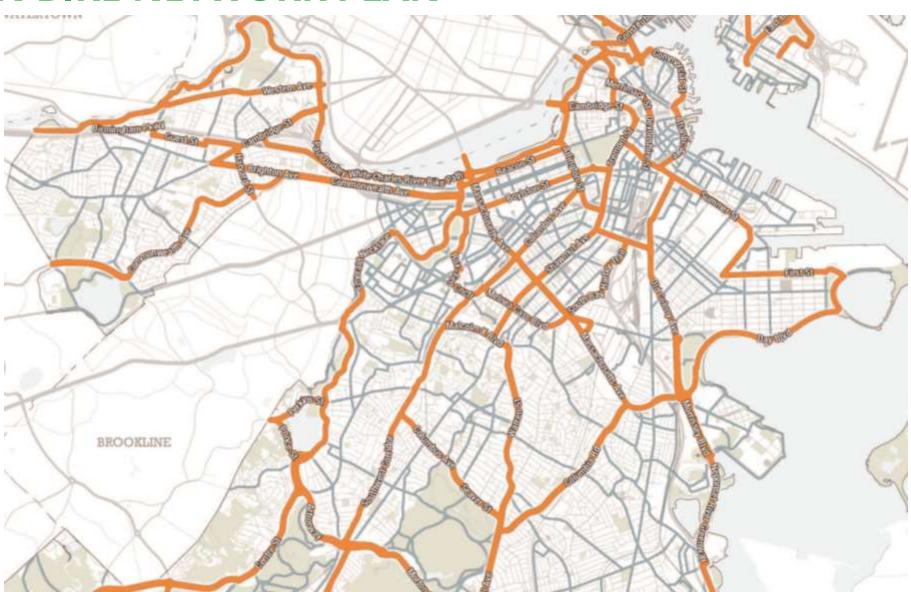
#### **NEIGHBORHOOD SLOW STREET PILOT ZONES\***







### **BOSTON BIKE NETWORK PLAN**



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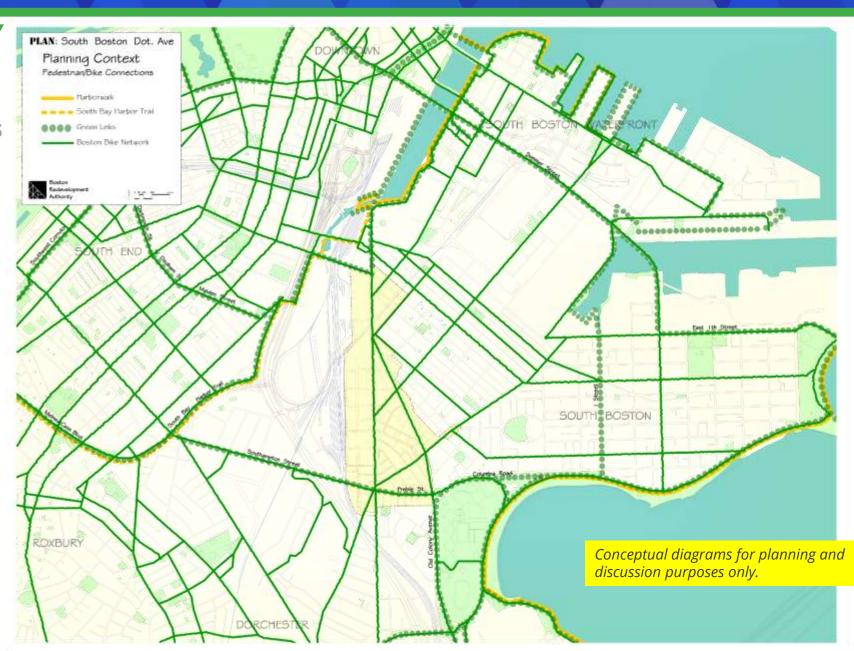


### **NETWORK/ CONNECTIVITY**

Bicycle & Pedestrian Network

Build On Past & Current Efforts

- Harborwalk
- South Bay Harbor Trail (future)
- Green Links program (future)
  - Establish enhanced pedestrian and bicycle accommodations to connect open space and major bike/ped networks
  - Southampton/Preble Streets corridor
- Boston Bikes Network Plan
  - Dorchester Ave (existing lanes)
  - Old Colony Ave
  - D Street
  - Southampton/Preble Streets
  - Dorchester Street

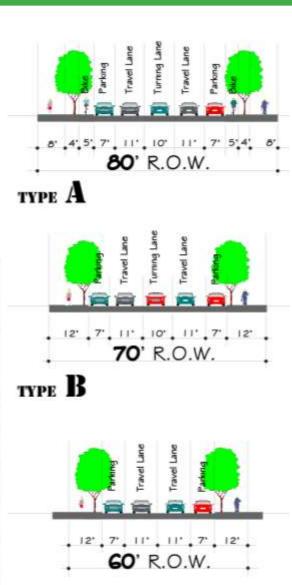


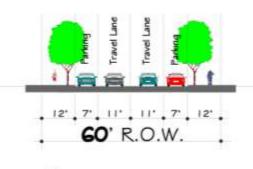
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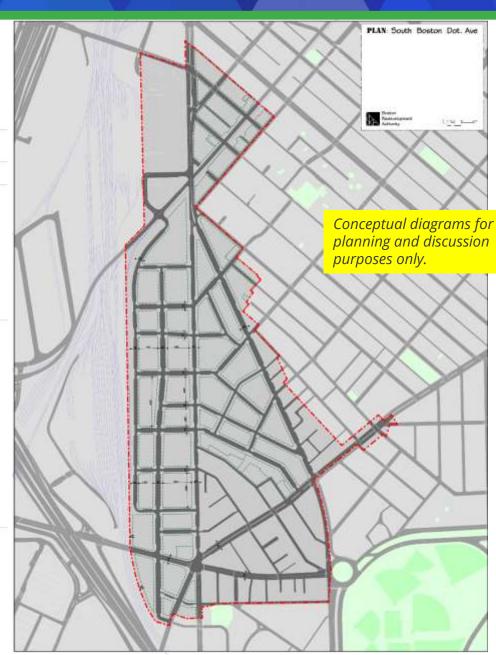
### **STREETS: TESTING**







TYPE C



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# PLACEMAKING & CHARACTER





#### PLACEMAKING & CHARACTER

Open House Comments July 30, 2015

- "Vibrant, safe, accessible mixed-used development supported by smart public transportation and biking options"
- "People friendly streetscape with shops"
- "Accommodate business, industry and residential along Dot. Av."
- "Mixed-use on the east side can be incorporated into better streets that connect with Old Colony"
- "An area **filled with cultural events** that the local artists create"



#### WHAT IS PLACEMAKING?

"Placemaking is a **community-based** process that capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, and it results in the **creation of quality public spaces** that contribute to people's health, happiness, and well being."





#### WHAT IS PUBLIC SPACE & PUBLIC REALM?

Any place, space or building accessible and open to all members of the community whether publicly or privately owned. This may include streets, sidewalks, courtyards, building setbacks, parks, plazas and even buildings (like a library or a lobby).



#### PLACEMAKING STRATEGIES

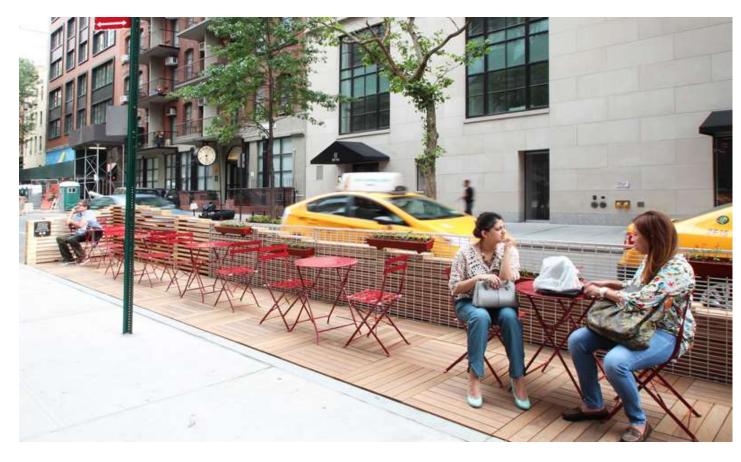
- 1. Build streets as places
- 2. Create squares and parks as multi-use destinations
- 3. Design buildings to create places
- 4. Provide opportunities for public art and culture
- 5. Design places for diverse retail & other community uses
- 6. Link a public health agenda to a public space agenda





## 1. IMPROVE STREETS AS PLACES

#### **Rethink Street Parking**



Street Seat program. New York City.



Parklet. Montreal, Quebec.



#### 1. IMPROVE STREETS AS PLACES

#### **Temporary Street Closure**







Times Square, New York City



#### 1. IMPROVE STREETS AS PLACES

Support small businesses that activate streets.







Roslindale Square (Birch St Bistro, Sophia's Grotto, Village Sushi)



# 2. CREATE SQUARES AND PARKS AS MULTI-USE DESTINATIONS







Techtown, Detroit. Source: sasaki.com

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# 2. CREATE SQUARES AND PARKS AS MULTI-USE DESTINATIONS

Temporary Public Programs to Activate Open Spaces



Paris Beaches. Paris, France.



Lawn on D. South Boston.



## 3. DESIGN BUILDINGS TO SUPPORT PLACES



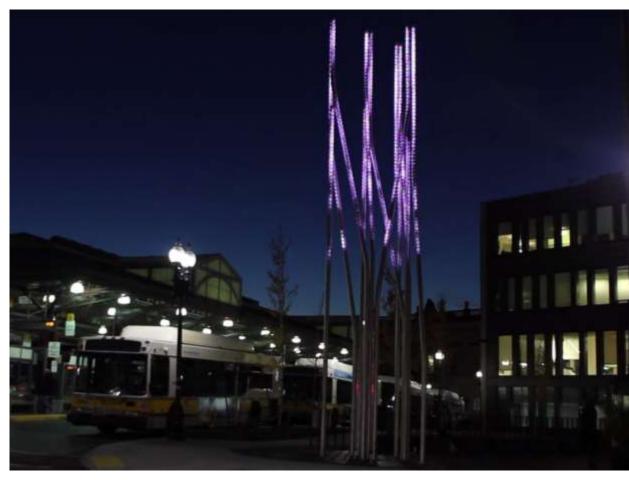




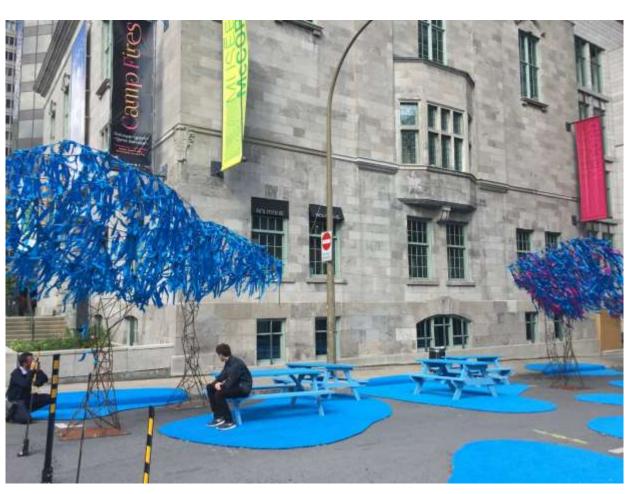
*Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston* 



## 4. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART AND CULTURE



"Crisscross Signal Spire" by Meejin Yoon, Dudley Square, Boston.



Montreal, Quebec.



#### 5. DESIGN PLACES FOR COMMERCE & COMMUNITY USES



SOWA Market, South End



South Boston Street Festival



## 6. LINK A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA TO A PUBLIC SPACE AGENDA





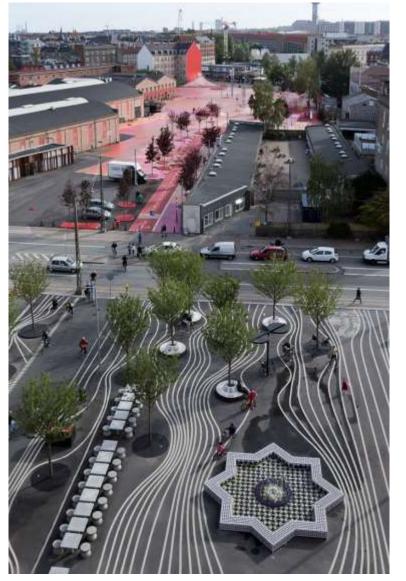


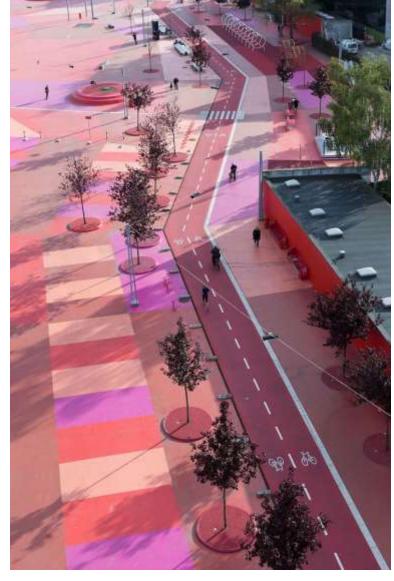
## 6. LINK A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA TO A PUBLIC SPACE AGENDA

Copenhagen, Denmark











#### **PLACEMAKING: STUDY AREA**

#### **Existing Network**

- Dorchester Avenue
- Old Colony Avenue
- D Street
- Dorchester Street
- Southampton & Preble Streets





# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

#### Based on "Plan With Us" Workshop

- Connection to South Boston Bypass/Haul Road adjusted
- Additional suggestions made are more suitable to future formal and detailed design review processes, such as:
  - Breaking up of blocks with additional connections
  - Detailed intersection design and roadway geometries
- New streets not to be built in lieu of "complete streets" improvements to existing roads



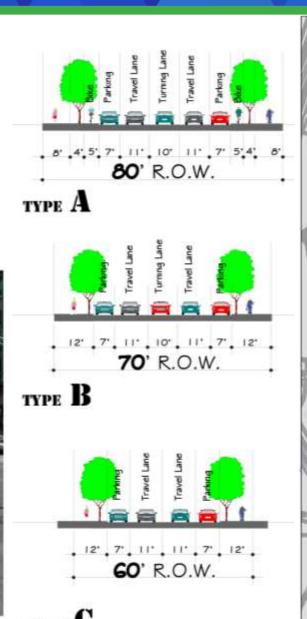
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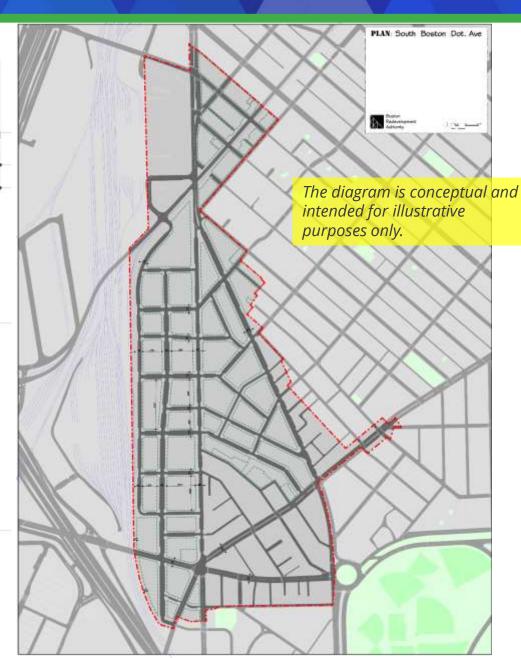


#### **STREETS: TESTING**

**Placemaking** 















**Central Open Space** 





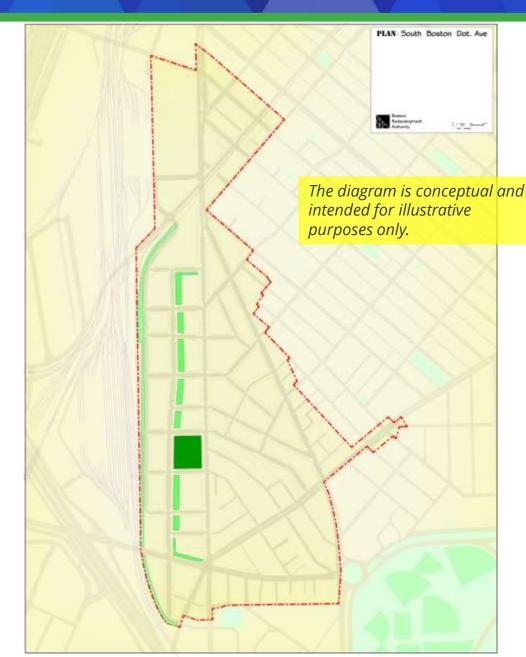
**Lineal Parks** 





#### **Edge Parks**

- Buffer to the tracks
- Opportunities for dealing with climate change, such as:
  - Manage storm water
  - Site for renewable energy
- Uninterrupted multi-use track
- Opportunity for public arts





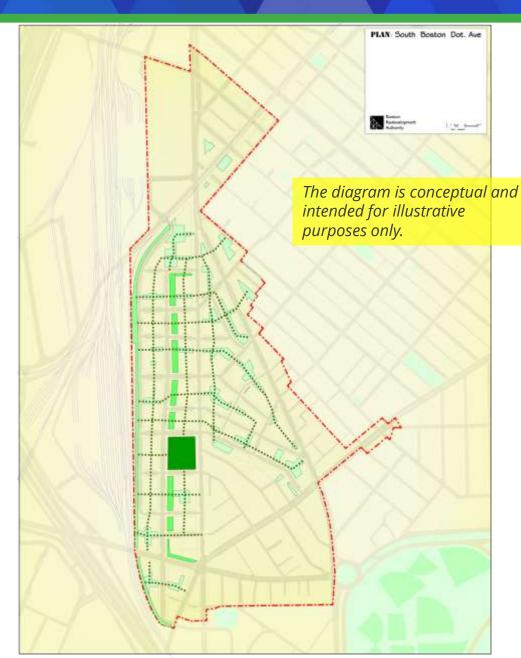
**Pocket Parks/Courtyards** 





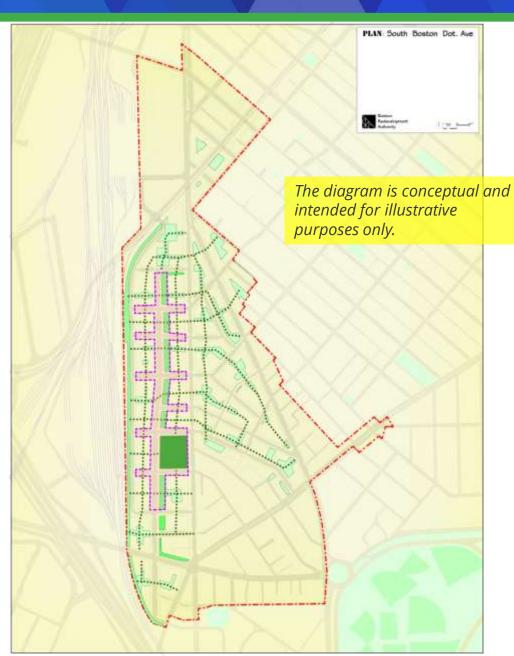
#### **Pedestrian Network**

 Connect pocket parks, courtyards, building lobbys and passages on the ground into a pedestrian network.





**Shared Space** 





#### LAND USE CONCEPT

#### **Most Common Themes from Land Use Exercise**

#### **Mixed-Uses**

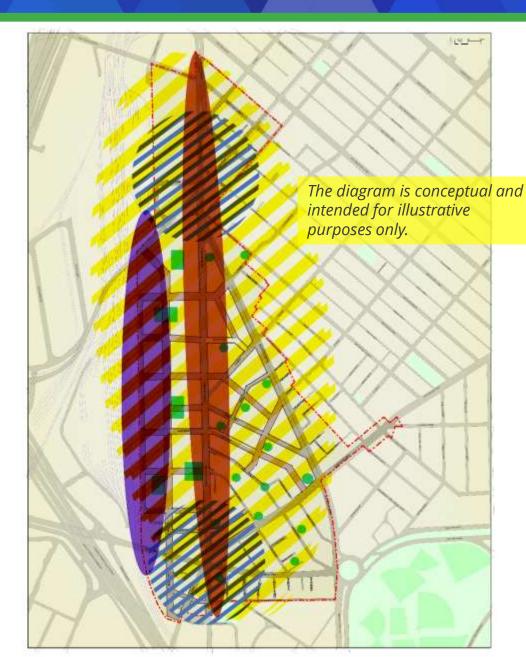
- Mixed uses North-South along tracks
- Creation of North and South gateways through a higher density and concentration of uses

#### **Industrial**

- Significant reduction in industrial uses
- Industrial uses distributed along the tracks

#### **Retail/Services**

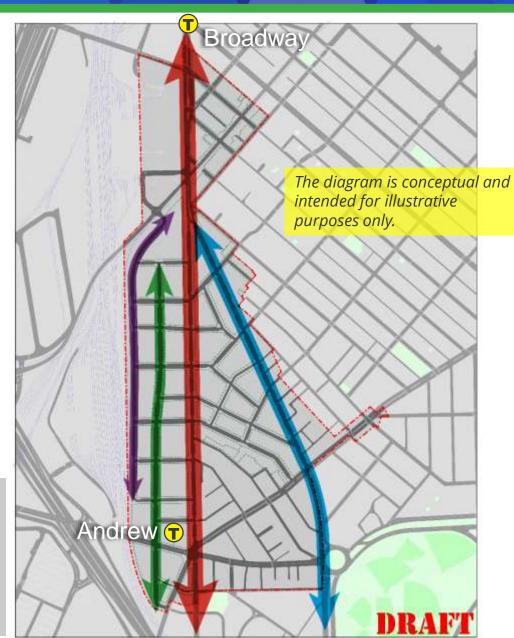
Ground floor amenities and retail along corridors





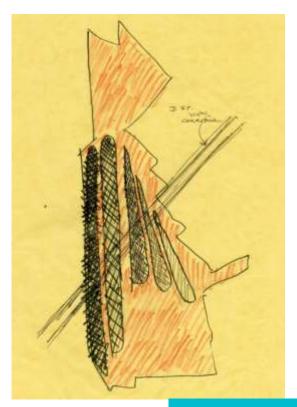
## **CORRIDOR CHARACTER CONCEPTS**



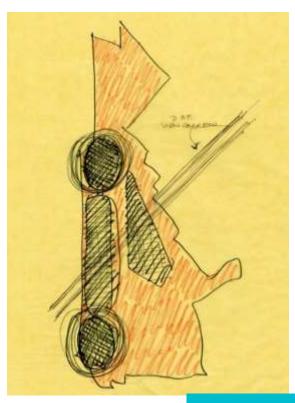




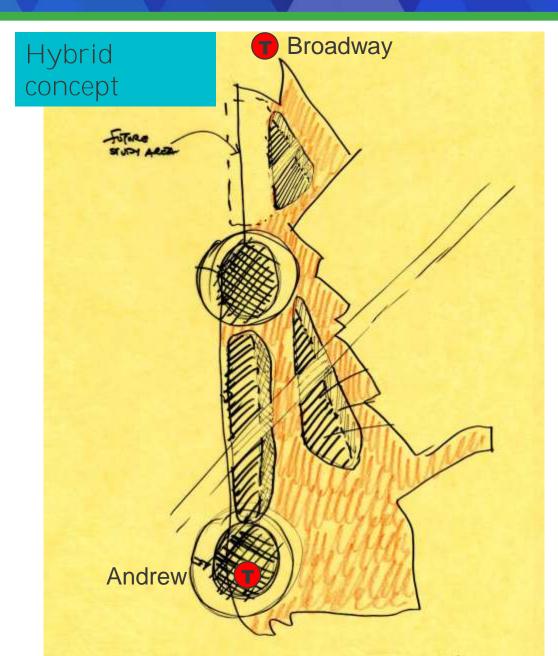
## **DENSITY CONCEPT**



Stepped Concept

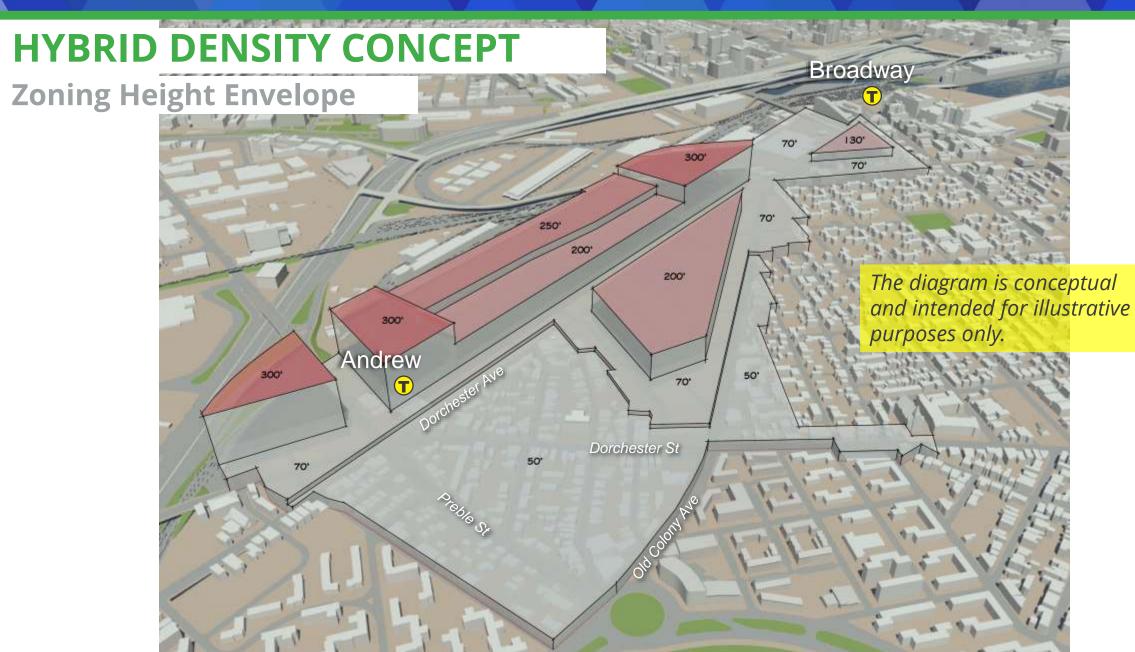


Barbell concept



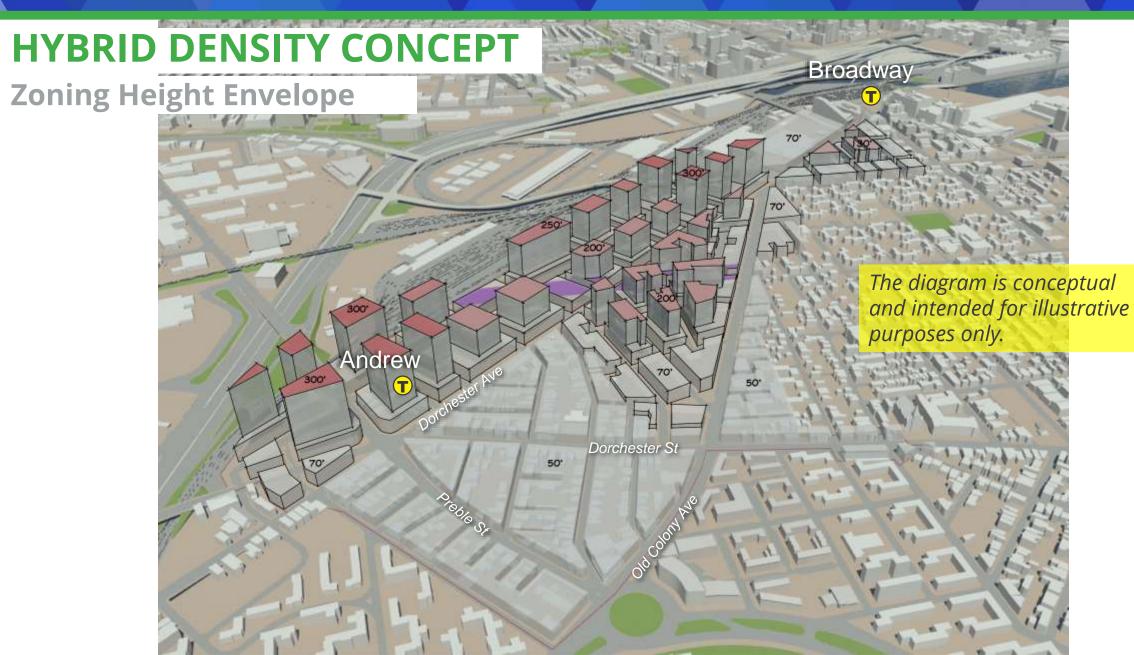
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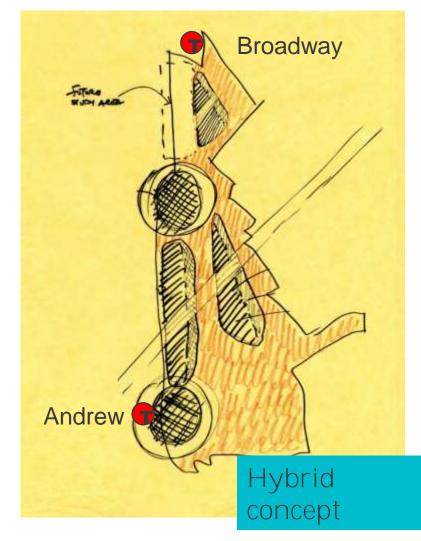


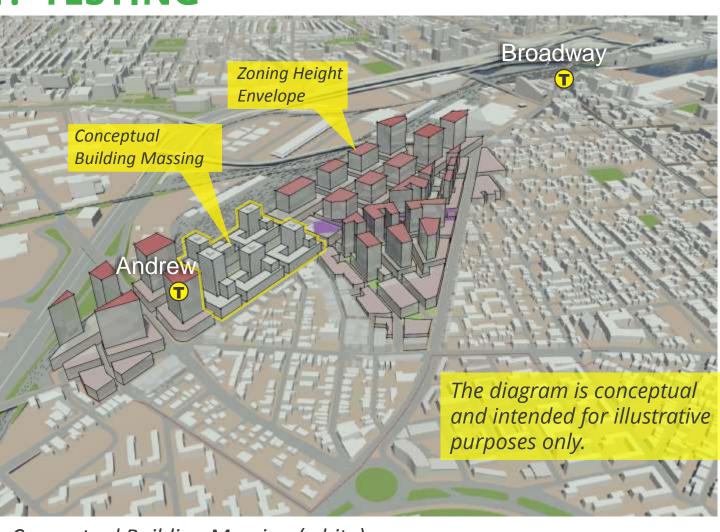




#### **HYBRID DENSITY CONCEPT: TESTING**

#### **Massing testing**

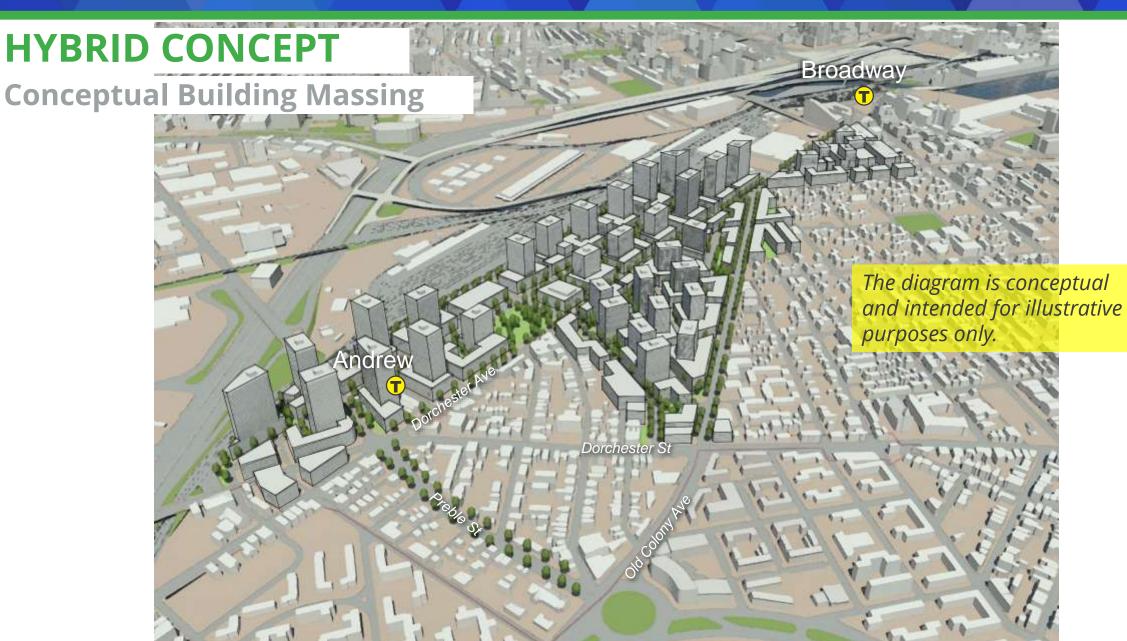




Conceptual Building Massing (white)

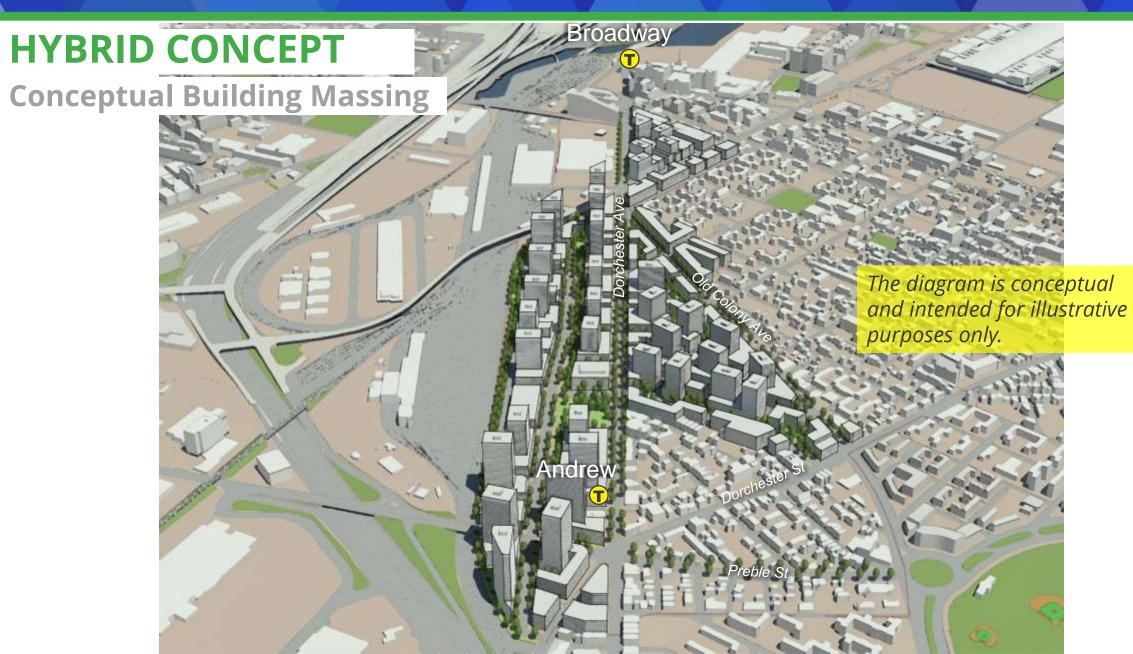
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Preserve. Enhance. Grow.





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# **DOT AV 2015**



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## **DORCHESTER AVE 2030**

#### **CONCEPTUAL VIEW**







# **CENTRAL OPEN SPACE 2030**

**CONCEPTUAL VIEW** 

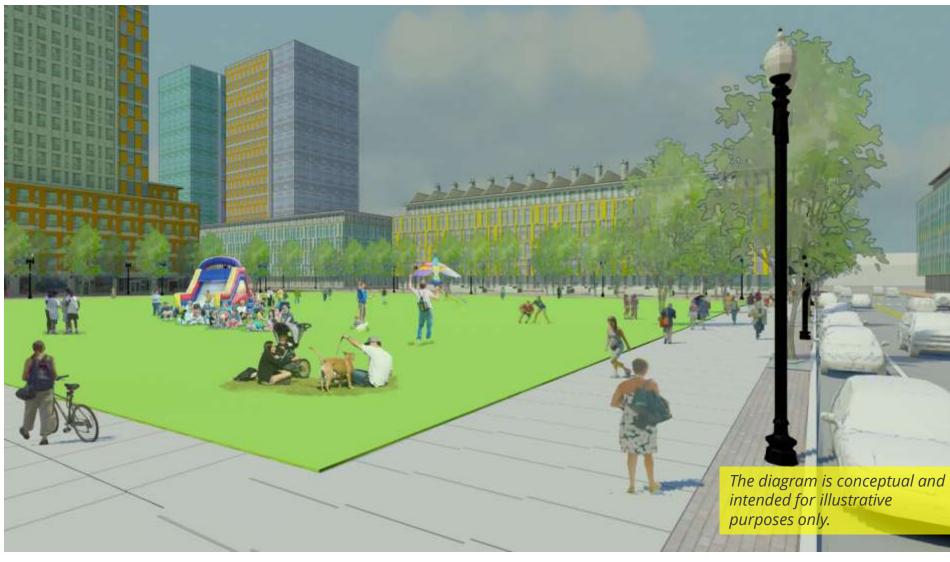






# **CENTRAL OPEN SPACE 2030**





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# **NEW STREET 2030**





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# **NEW STREET 2030**







# **D STREET VIEW 2030**







# **INDUSTRIAL MIXED-USE STREET 2030**

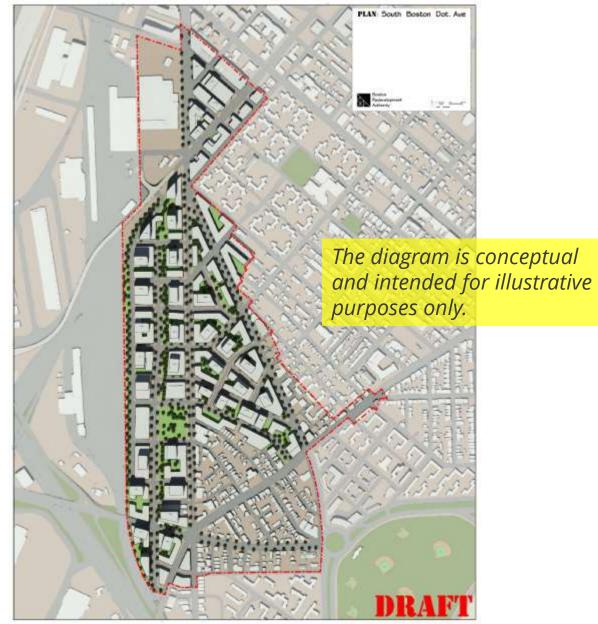




Preserve. Enhance. Grow.











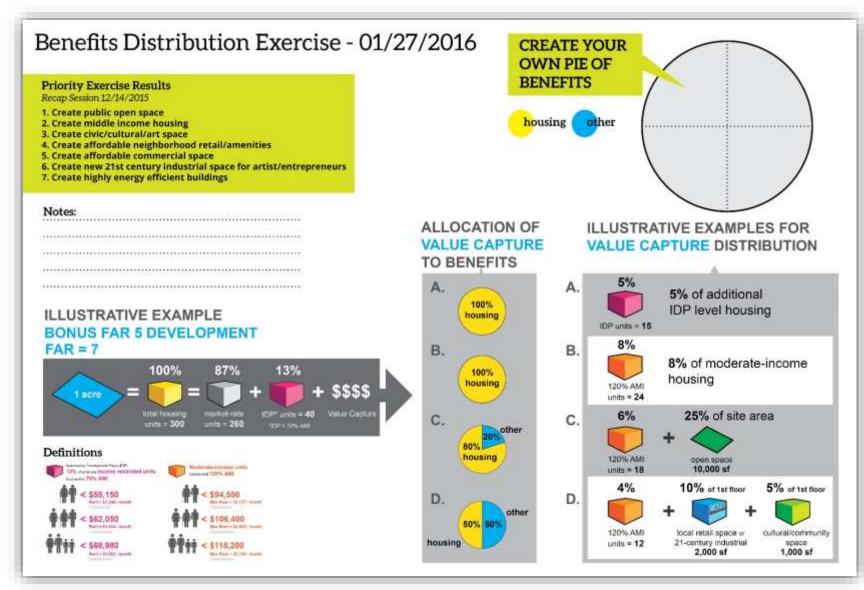
**Design Exercise** 





#### BENEFITS DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

15 minutes





## STREETS CHARACTER EXERCISE

15 minutes

# Street Character Exercise - 01/27/2016 3. Road along the tracks: "Service Corridor" 1. Dorchester Avenue: "Amenities Corridor" WHAT DO YOU THINK? 2. Old Colony Avenue Which street is the primary retail corridor?



## **OPEN SPACE CHARACTER EXERCISE**

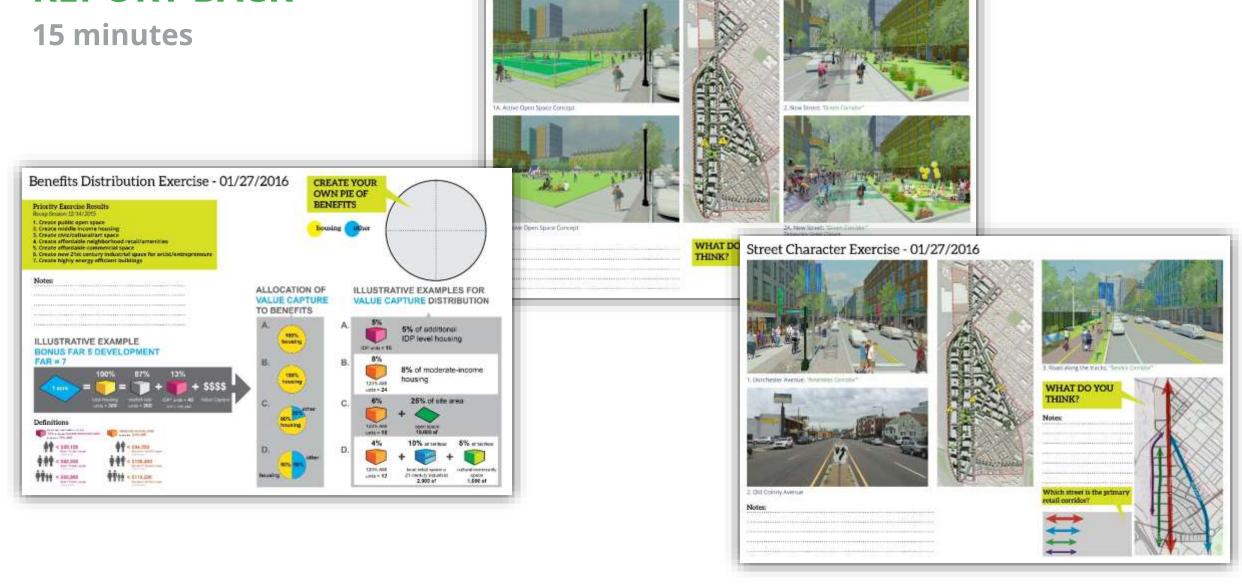
15 minutes



Preserve. Enhance. Grow.



## **REPORT BACK**



Open Space Character Exercise - 01/27/2016

Preserve. Enhance. Grow.



#### **NEXT STEPS**

JULY 30, 2015 "Talk to Us"

Open House

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 "Walk and Bike With Us"** *Study Area Tours* 

OCTOBER 1, 2015 "Imagine with Us" Visioning Workshop

OCTOBER 26, 2015 "Plan with Us" Streets & Blocks, Land Use Workshop

NOVEMBER 17, 2015 "Design With Us" Height & Density, Open Space Workshop

DECEMBER 14, 2015 "What We Heard" Recap Session/Dialogue

JANUARY 27, 2016 "Draft with Us" Placemaking and Mobility Workshop

FEBRUARY 23, 2016 "Discuss with Us"

DRAFT Plan Session – Part 1

MARCH "Discuss with Us" DRAFT Plan Session – Part 2

**APRIL "Finalize with Us"** *FINAL Plan Presentation* 

**MAY & JUNE** 

Internally BRA Staff Draft Zoning Documents & Zoning Commission Meeting