# **Urban Renewal:**

# South End Workshop

# Villa Victoria Center for the Arts July 9, 2015

China Trade Building | June 10, 2015 Charlestown High School | June 29, 2015 Villa Victoria Center for the Arts | July 9, 2015 Shelburne Community Center | July 15, 2015 City Hall | July 22, 2015



South End, 1962



### What the BRA is NOT doing:

- 1. Not modifying or extending the existing boundaries
- 2. Not creating new urban renewal plan areas
- 3. Not proposing projects, but focusing on process and planning

### What the BRA IS doing:

- 1. Repositioning Urban Renewal as a contemporary planning and economic development tool
- 2. Refresh plans to show current planning and projects
- 3. Revisit original goals and planning objectives

# **Simplified UR Extension Process**

#### Fall 2014:

City Council Briefing BRA Board Extension Request to DHCD

#### February 2015:

Task Force Kickoff Stakeholder Outreach Finalize Public Process

#### Late Fall 2015:

City Council Approval BRA Board Approval Mayor Approval DHCD Approval

#### **Public Outreach**

#### January 2015:

DHCD Extension Approved

#### March 2015:

Begin Public Process



# What is Urban Renewal?

### WHAT IS URBAN RENEWAL?

Certain cities and towns in the Commonwealth contain areas that are substandard, decadent or blighted open.

Urban renewal is a strategy for redeveloping and revitalizing these disinvested, underutilized and blighted areas for residential, commercial, industrial, business, governmental, recreational, educational, hospital or other uses.

This is now a state, not federal, program.





Evidence of decadence or substandard conditions used to enact demonstration projects and negotiate incentives, etc.



Taking property to accomplish a public purpose. Used for site assembly, title clearance and vertical discontinuances



Special zoning areas within Urban Renewal Areas



Land Use Controls

Use, height and design restrictions specific to each Urban Renewal Disposition Parcel



Demonstration Projects

Projects designed to eliminate blight outside of Urban Renewal Areas



Affordability requirements established to create housing opportunities

# ADAPTING OUR VIEW OF URBAN RENEWAL

Responding to the changing needs of the City of Boston

### **Original Approach**

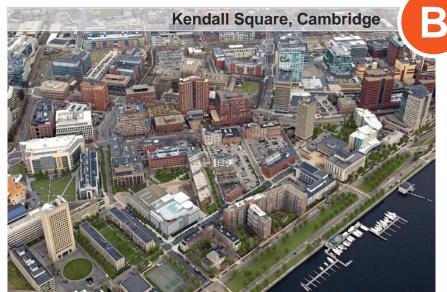
- Tackle blight
- Assemble land to develop infrastructure and public facilities
- Aggregate parcels to build streets for vehicular traffic
- Develop affordable housing

### **Current Approach**

- Create vibrancy
- Reinvest in already developed facilities to add density and diverse uses
- Make current streets efficient for multi-modal transportation
- Create a diverse housing stock with mixed income, family and TOD housing















# **UR Plans**

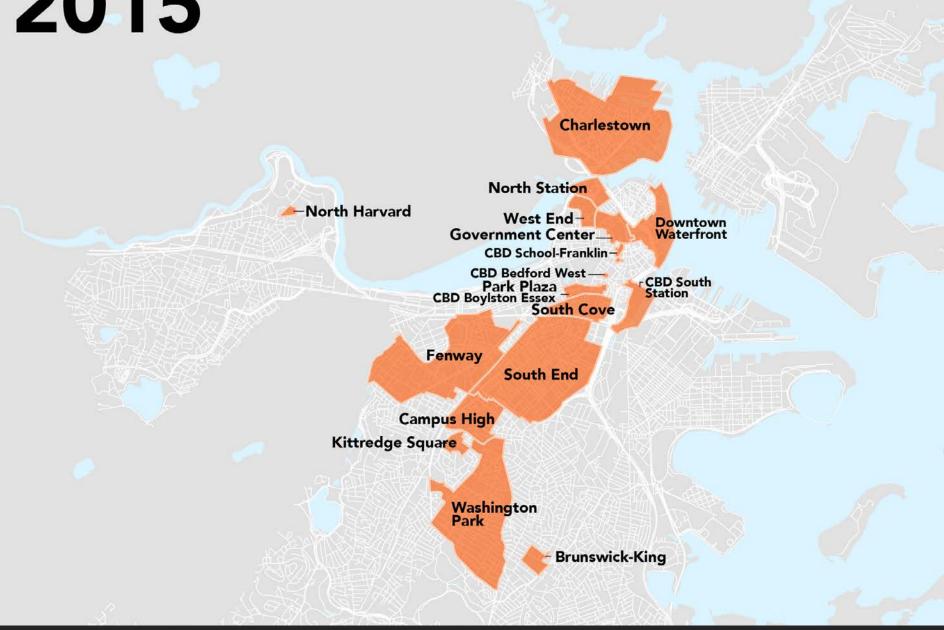
19 urban renewal plans approved in the Commonwealth since 1996
5 plans approved over past two years

# Despite their age, many older plans continue to be active:

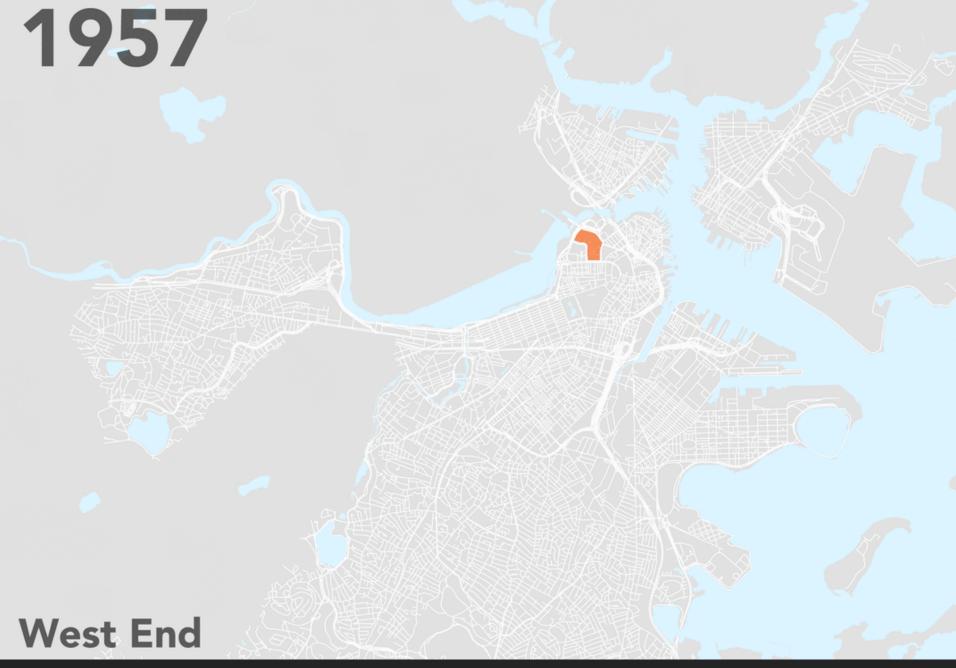
- Assembly Square in Somerville
- Union Square intermodal transportation facility in Springfield
- Kendall Square in Cambridge



# 

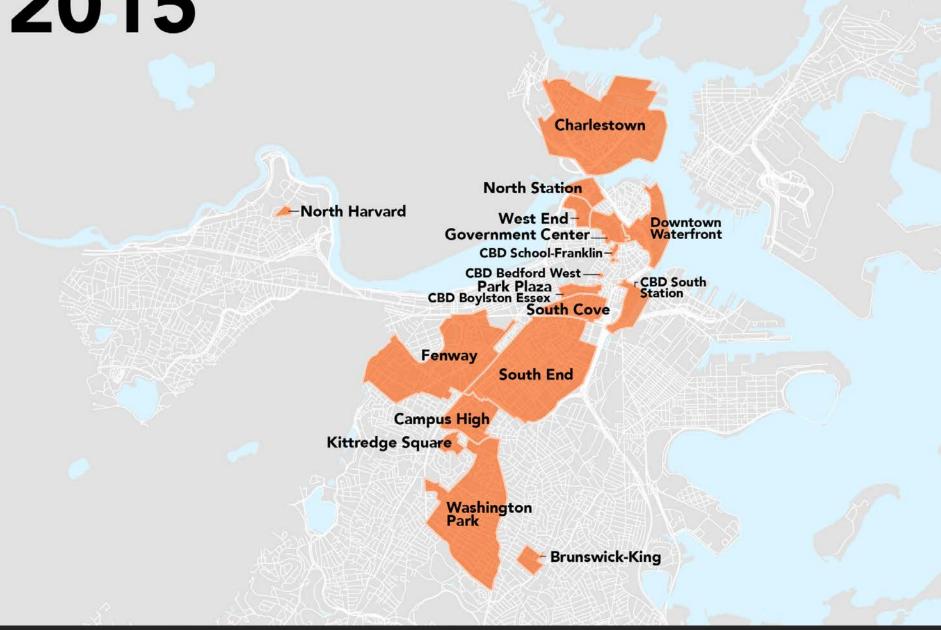








# 





### **URBAN RENEWAL'S STIGMA**

### **BEFORE**

### **AFTER**





West End, 1957



South End, 1962



South Cove, 1965



Charlestown, 1965



Fenway, 1965



# ADAPTING OUR VIEW OF URBAN RENEWAL

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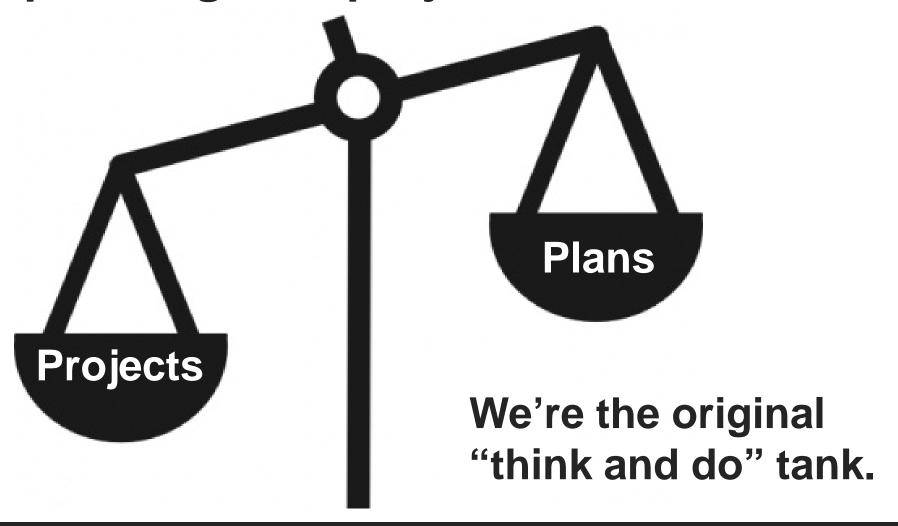


### **Upcoming Urban Renewal Projects**





# Urban Renewal is intended to balance planning with projects.





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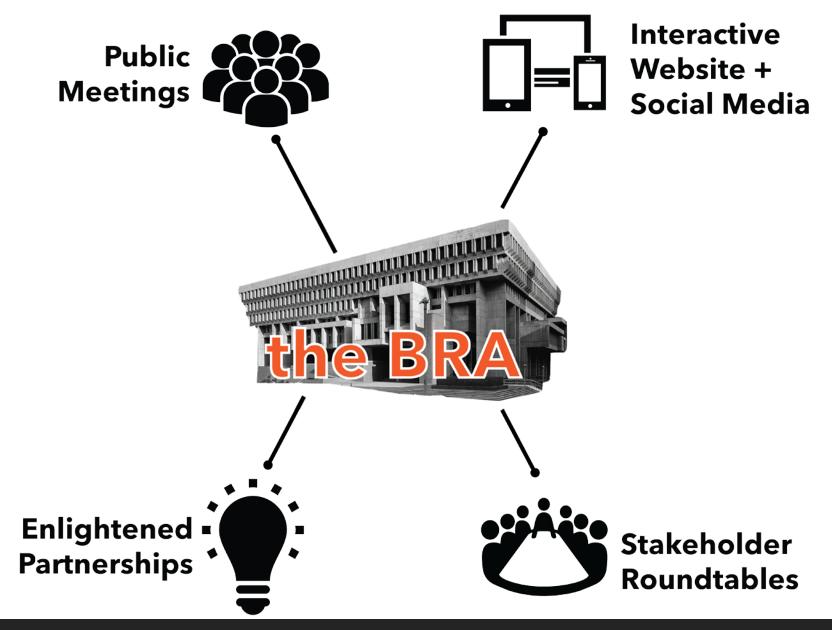
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# Interactive



a

#### REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING ZONING DEVELOPMENT HOUSING WORK WITH THE BRA RESEARCH & MAPS

#### **PLANNING**

What is Planning?

**Planning Initiatives** 

Community Planning

Institutional Planning

Waterfront Planning

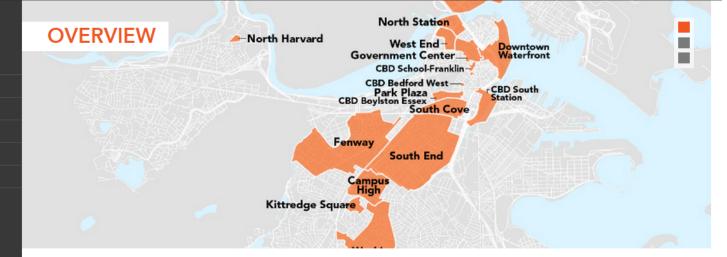
**Urban Design** 

**Urban Renewal** 

- Map
- Featured Projects

**Zoning Viewer** 

Enter Address or Parcel ID



The BRA is seeking to extend urban renewal plan areas that cover over 3,000 acres of the city and include parts of Charlestown, the Fenway, Chinatown, the South End, Roxbury, the Downtown Waterfront, the West End, North Station area, and Government Center.

Urban renewal dates back to the American Housing Act of 1949, when the federal government began to invest great sums of money to redevelop cities that were rapidly declining after World War II. Early urban renewal efforts attempted to tackle widespread blight by assembling land to develop massive infrastructure and public facilities, usually at the expense of displacing poor and marginalized residents. The current effort is focused on a contemporary reframing of urban

#### **EVENTS**

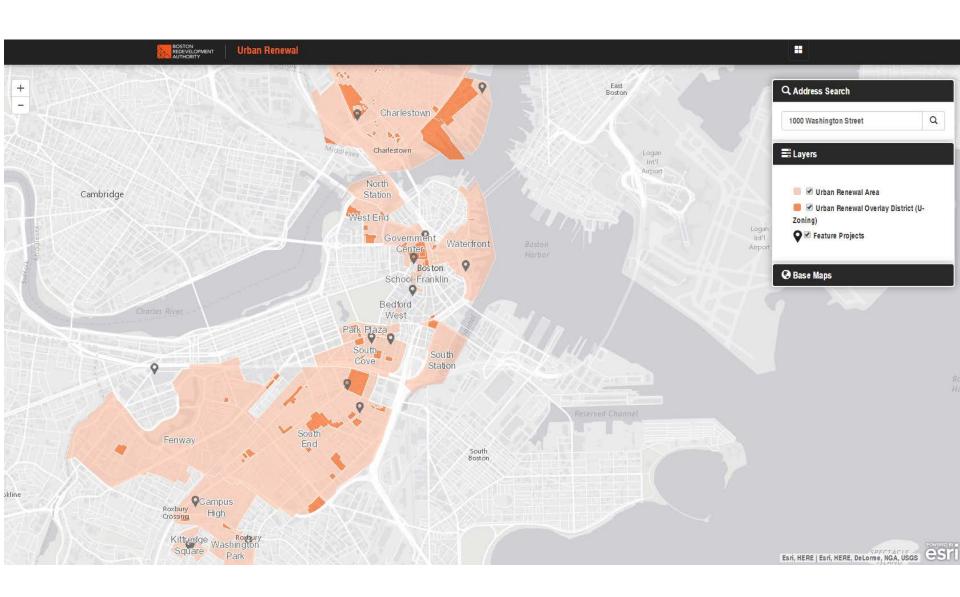
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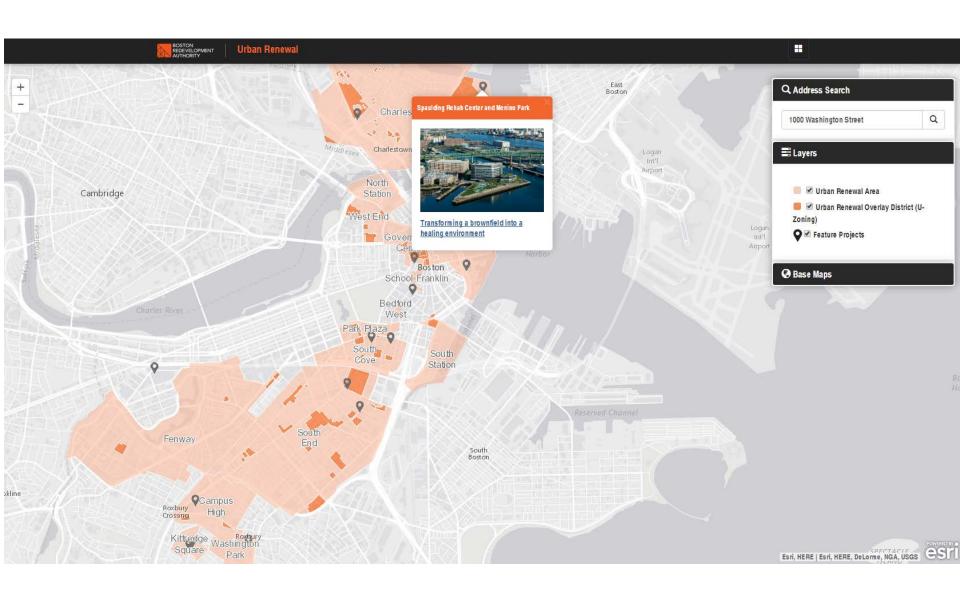
Urban Renewal Task Force Meetina

#### **NEWS**

December 17, 2014 **BRA** begins community engagement process to extend urban renewal









NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING ZONING DEVELOPMENT HOUSING WORK WITH THE BRA RESEARCH & MAPS

#### **PLANNING**

What is Planning? Planning Initiatives **Community Planning** 

Institutional Planning

Waterfront Planning **Urban Design** 

- Overview
- Мар

Zoning Viewer Enter Address or Parcel ID





#### **Urban Renewal Featured Projects**

Urban renewal tools can be the key to facilitating development that might otherwise not be possible. Learn more about some of these recent projects located throughout Boston!



Boston Public Market at 136 Blackstone Street

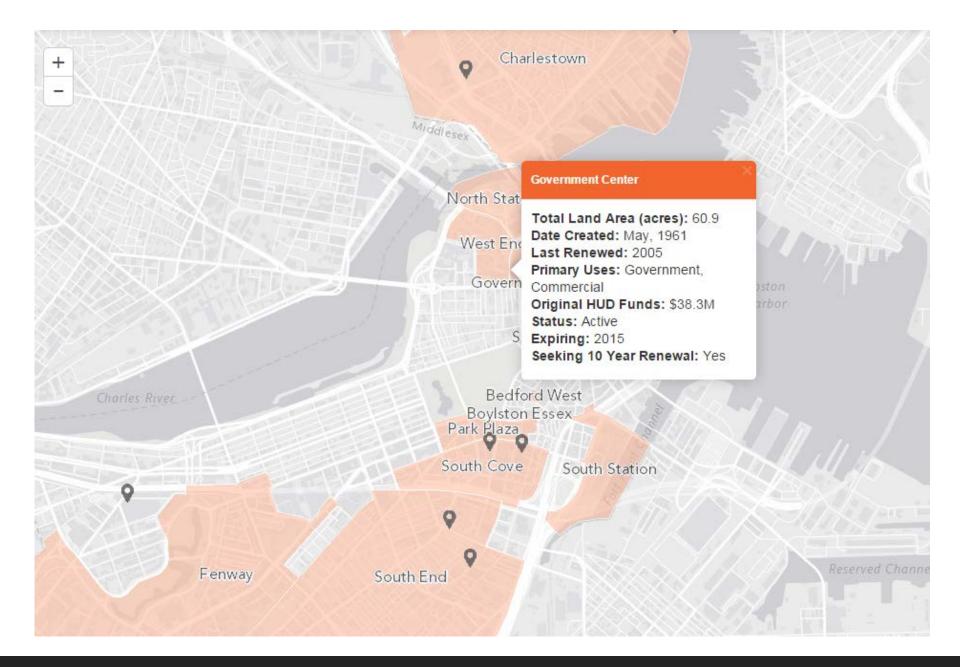


Millenium Tower and **Burnham Building** 



Government Center **MBTA Station** 









# In the works...

### The BRA climbs aboard City Hall To Go!

May 5, May 12, May 15, May 20, May 27, May 28

Charlestown
Charlestown Navy Yard
South End
Chinatown
Roxbury

Hi there! Have any questions about urban renewal? What do you think the goals or planning objectives should be in your neighborhood?





**Fenway** 

# City Hall to Go (May 2015)



# The West End Museum





Boston
Public
Library



# D.LI:



# Phase I: Kickoff Meetings



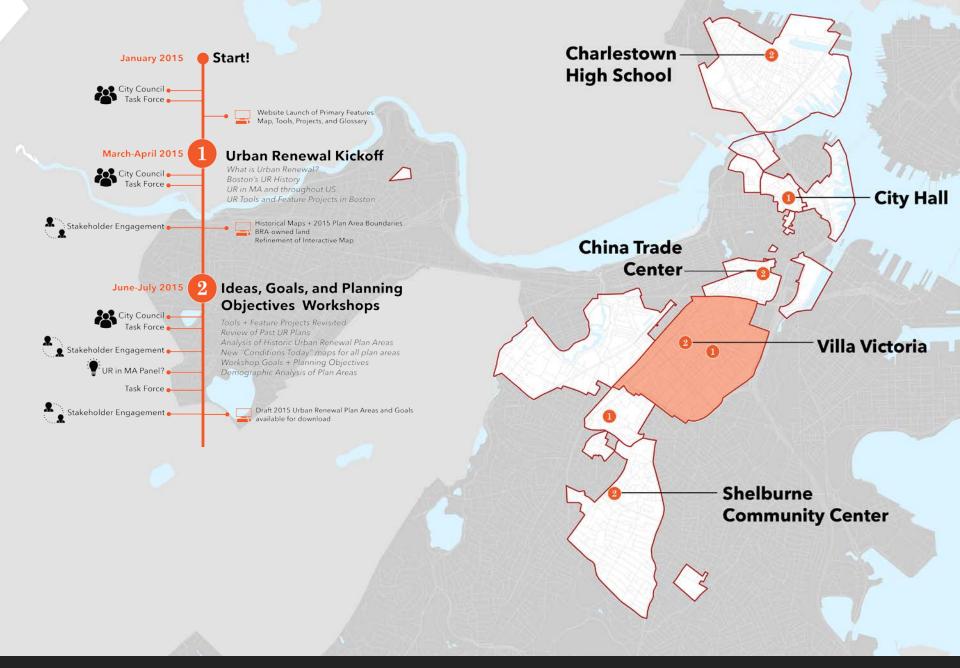
#1 City Hall #2 South End #3 Roxbury













## Phase 3: Synthesis



**HOME** 

WHY IMAGINE?

**THEMES** 

**ABOUT** 

FAQ

CONTACT



## SHARE YOUR VISION. SHAPE OUR CITY.

IMAGINE WITH US →



## **Urban Renewal**

**Idea Solicitation and Mapping** 



## **Urban Renewal**

**Idea Solicitation and Mapping** 

## **Comprehensive Plan**

**Pre-planning** 

## **Urban Renewal**

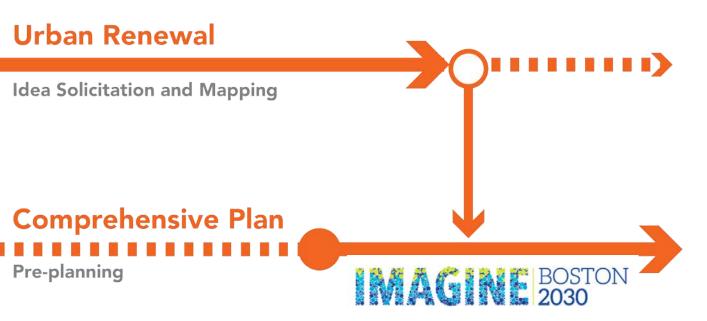
**Idea Solicitation and Mapping** 

## **Comprehensive Plan**

**Pre-planning** 

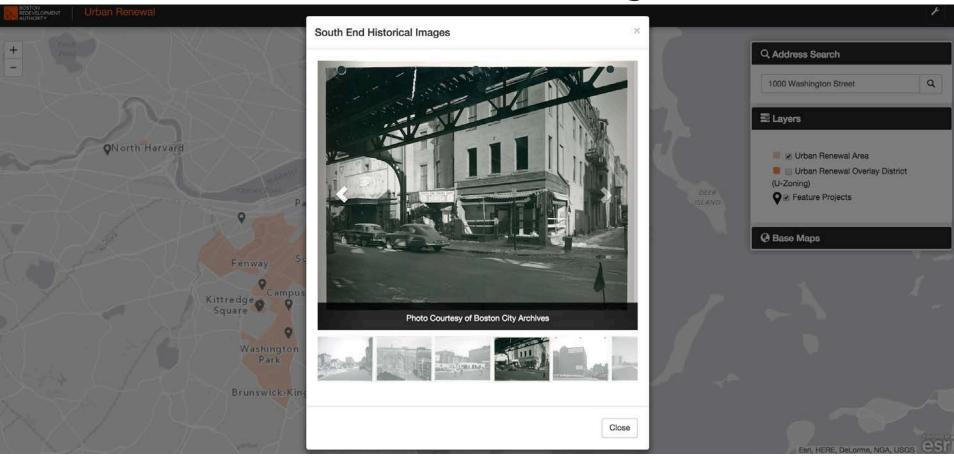






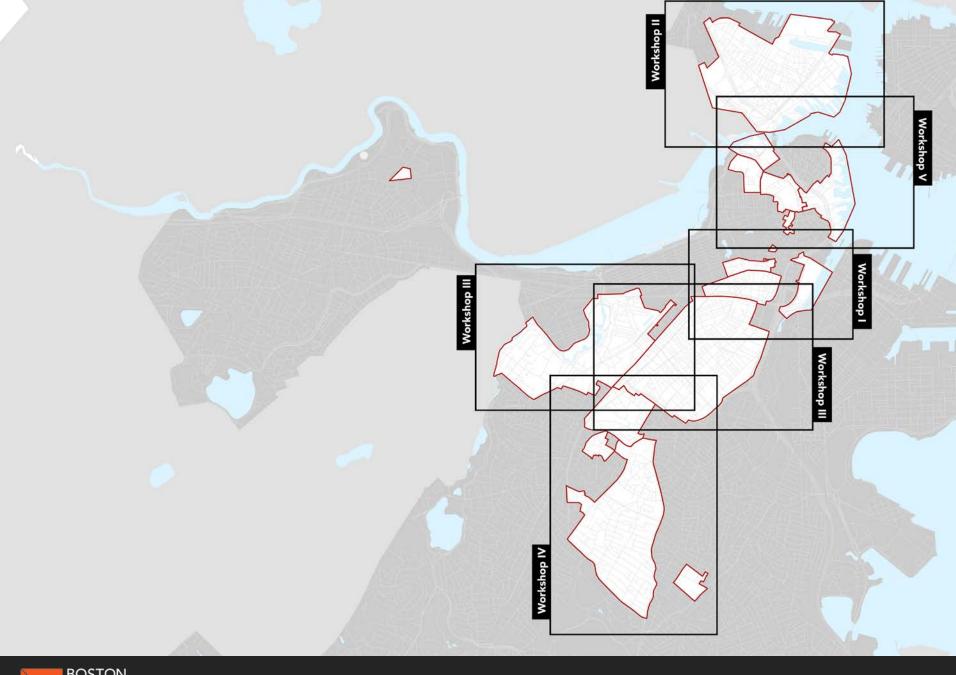
# Urban Renewal Idea Solicitation and Mapping Comprehensive Plan Pre-planning BOSTON 2030

## Historic Development + Urban Renewal Projects

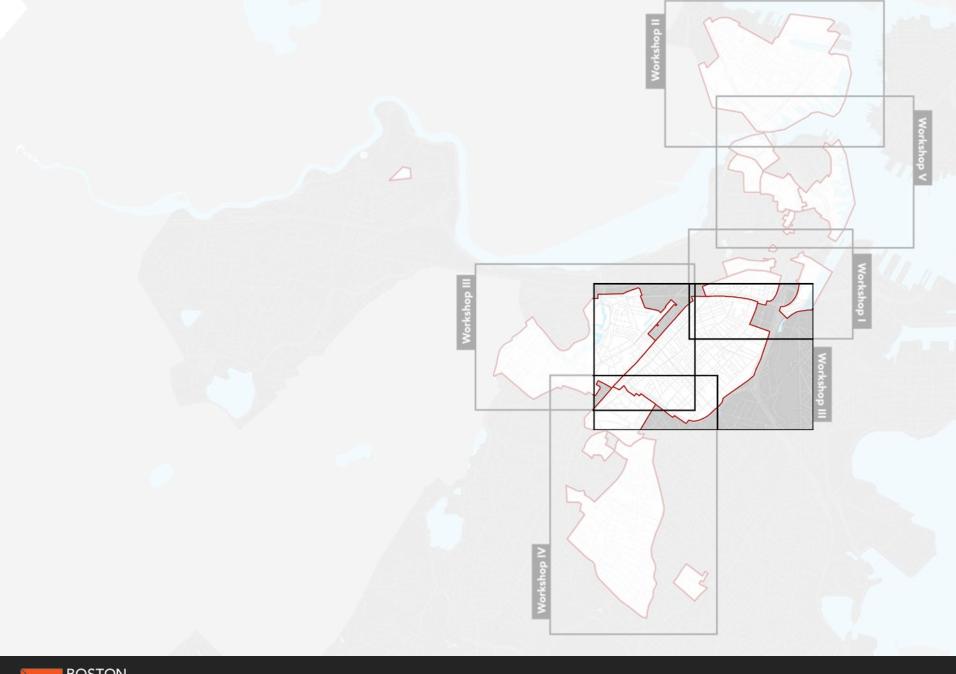


BRA Urban Renewal Website

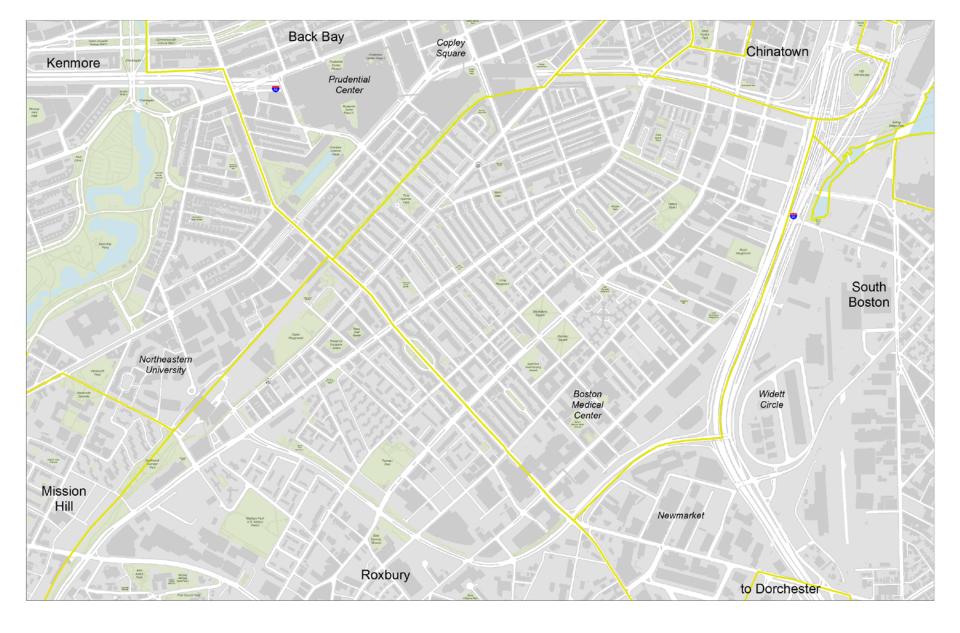


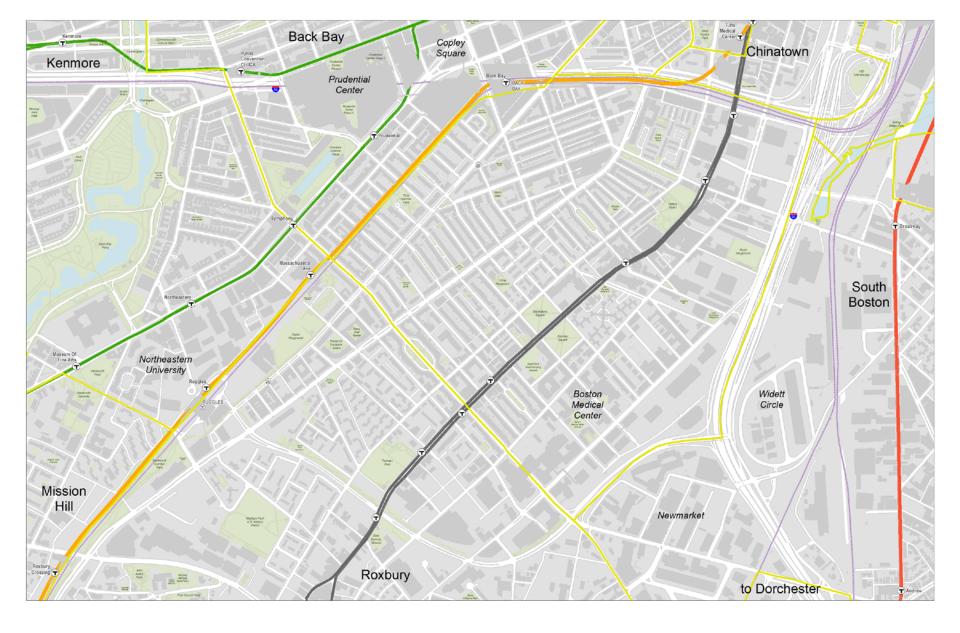




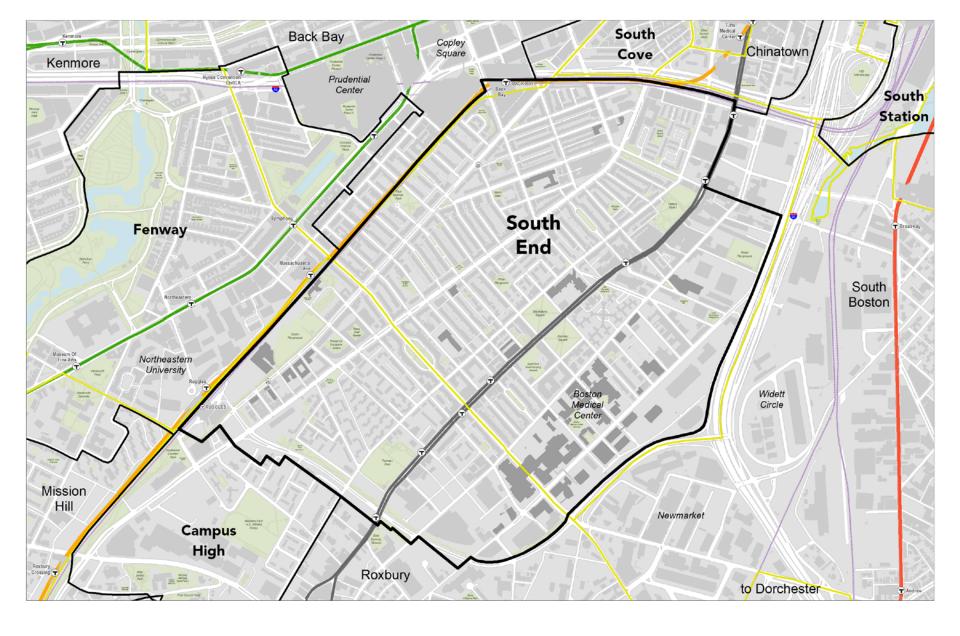




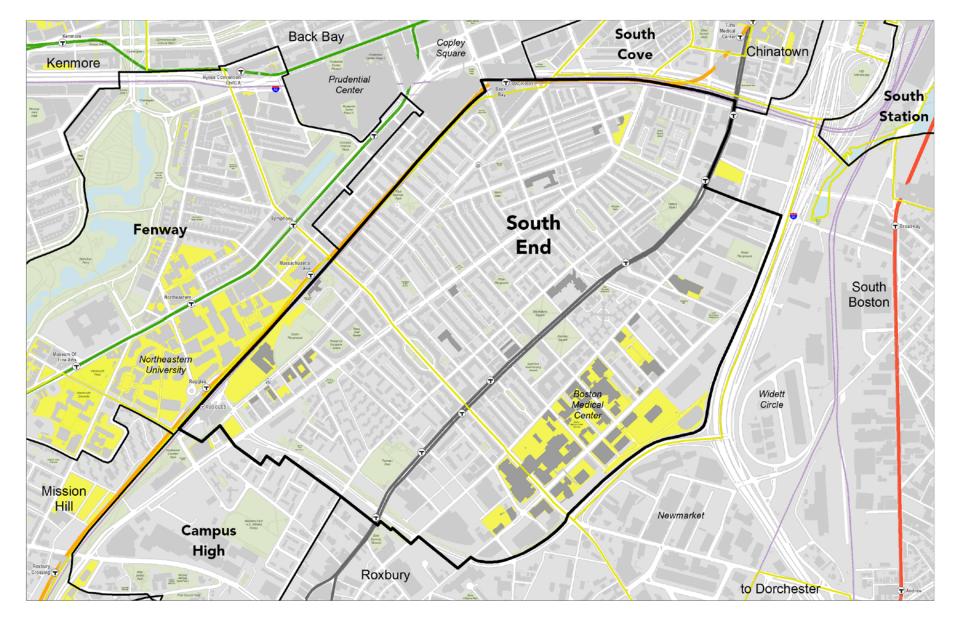




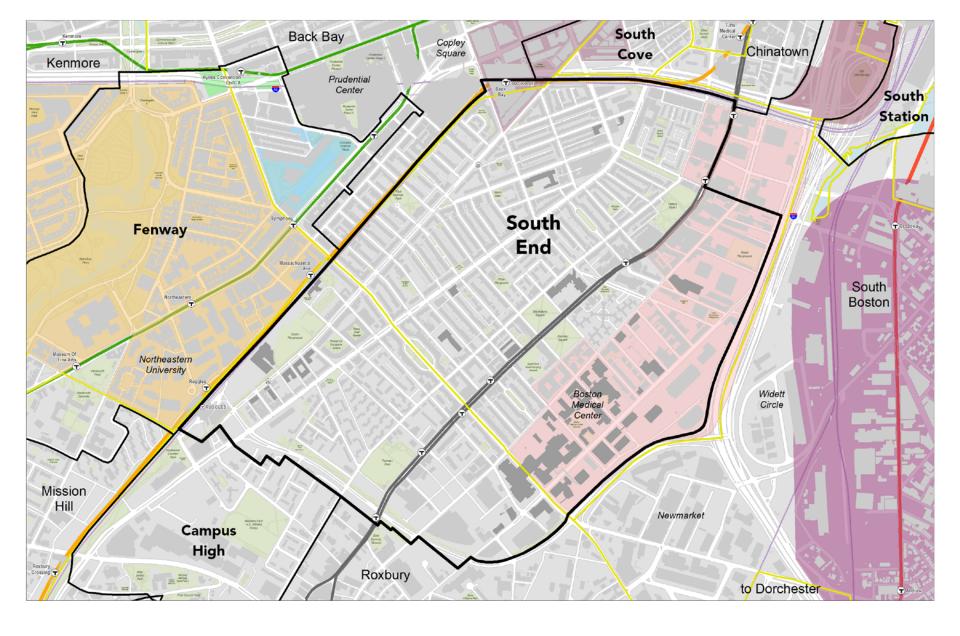




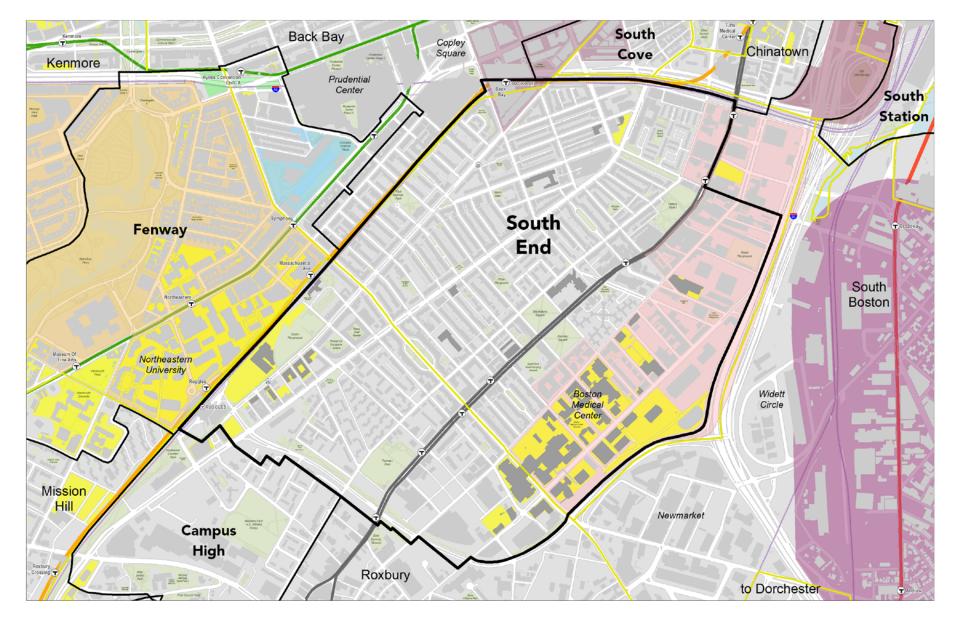




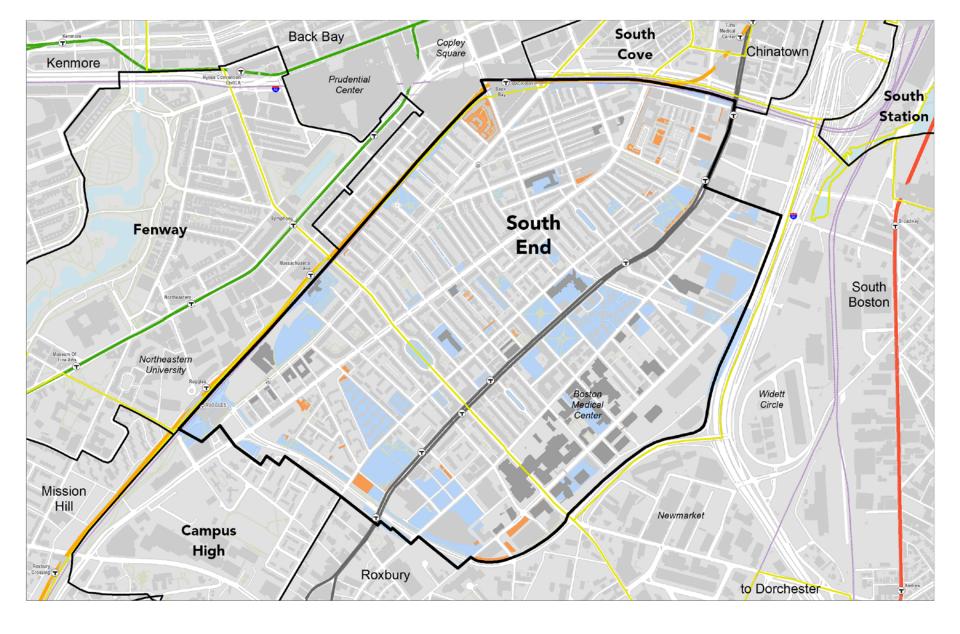




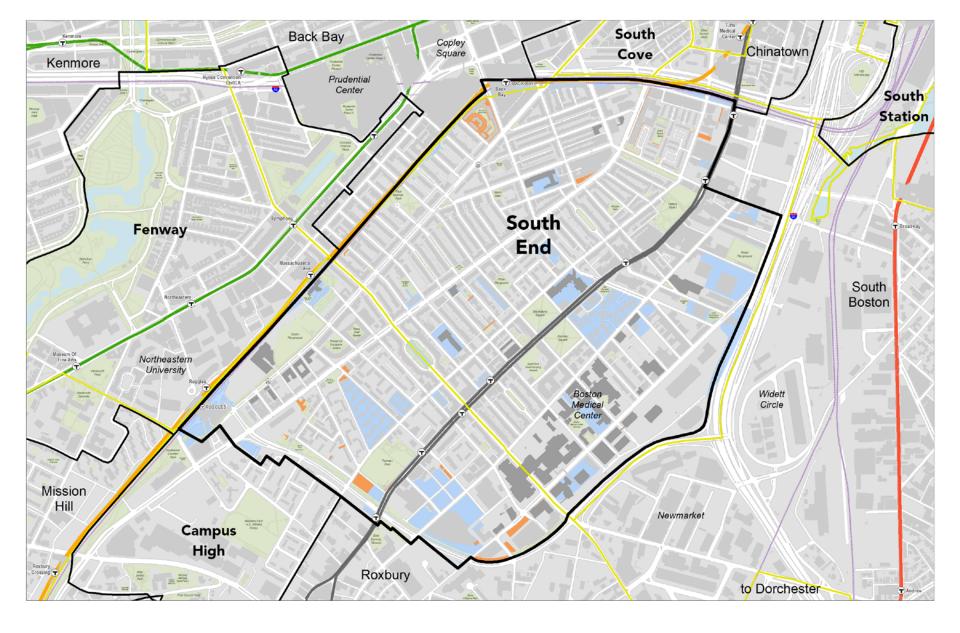






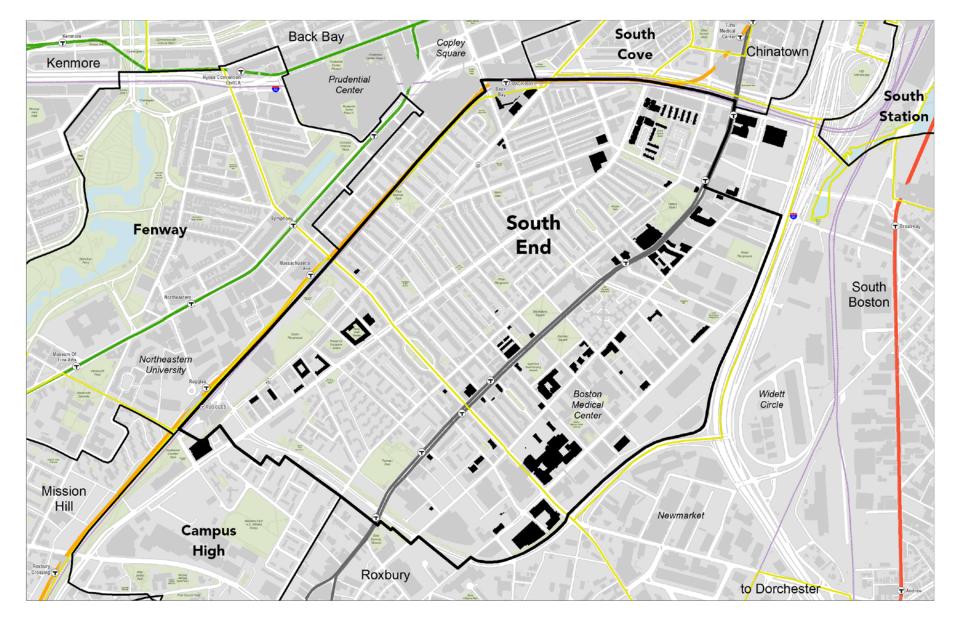




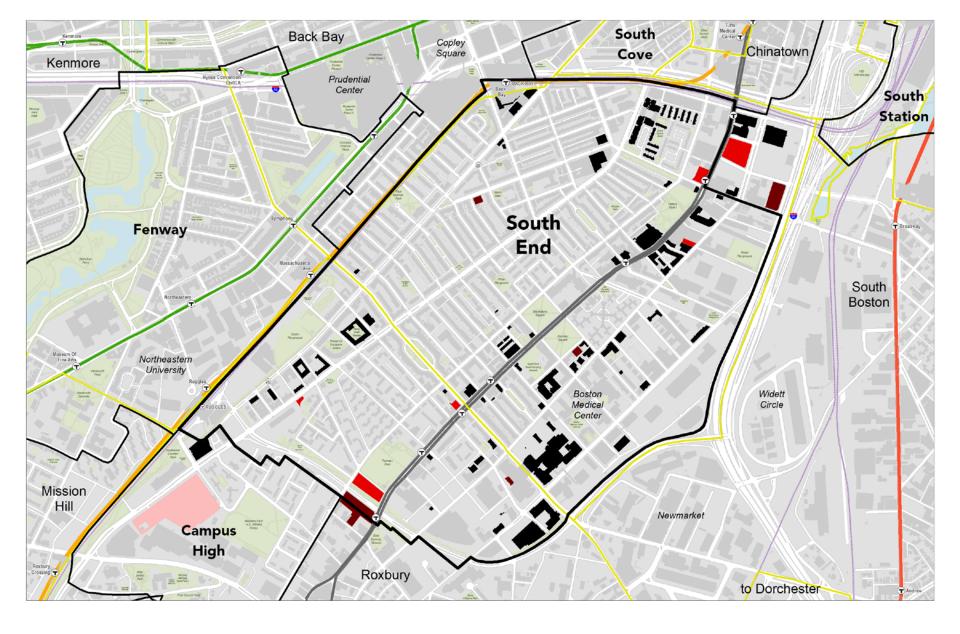




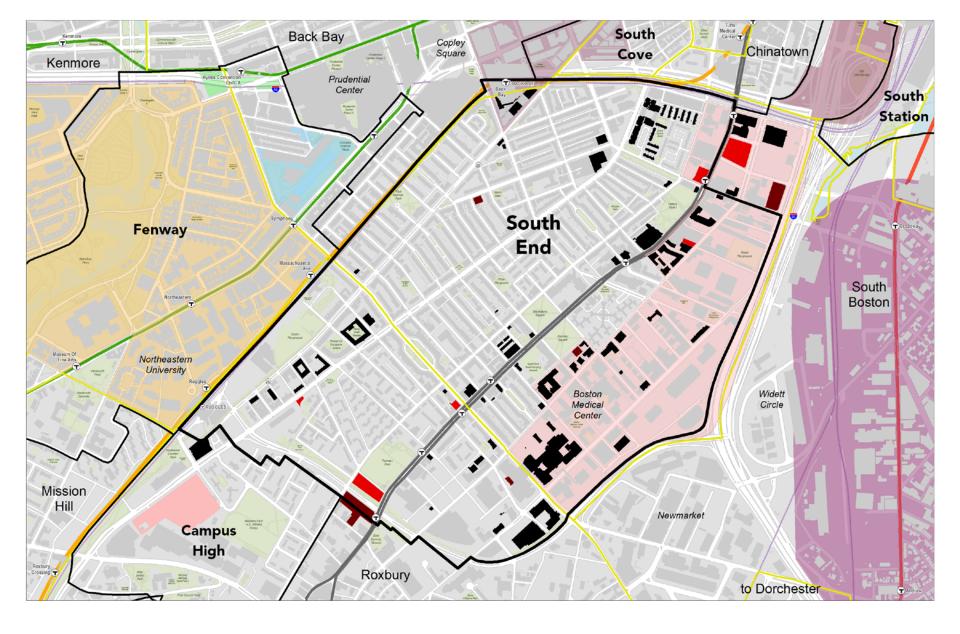














## Workshop Logistics:

## South End



South End, 1962



## Workshop Logistics:

## South End

- 1. Introduction (10 mins)
- 2. Overview presentation (30 mins)
- 3. Workshop Discussion (45 mins)
- 4. Summary (20 mins)



South End, 1962



## Original (1962) Goals and Planning Objectives | South End

## The Plan contains following basic goals:

- 1. Promote and expedite public and private development;
- Insure the public health and safety;
- 3. Strengthen the physical pattern of neighborhood activities;
- 4. Provide an economically, socially, and racially integrated community;
- Provide a framework for environmental conditions better suited to meet the requirements for contemporary living
- Promote the growth of industry, commerce, and institutions in appropriate locations;
- 7. Strengthen and expand the real property tax base of the city.

## Planning and Design Concept:

The concept for the South End Area is developed from the fact that there are really two major communities in the project - a predominantly residential community and an industrial and medical-institutional community.

## The Plan contains following planning objectives:

- Improve the quality, condition, and maintenance of existing dwelling structures to a level which achieves decent, safe, and sanitary housing;
- Remove the concentrations of deteriorated and deteriorating buildings which depress the physical condition and character of the area, impair the flow of investment and mortgage financing, and restrict adequate insurance coverage.
- Protect and expand the city's tax base and arrest the trend of economic decline, and, by stabilitizing property values, protect private investment.
- Provide new housing specifically designed to meet the needs of the numerous elderly residents in the community;
- Provide new opportunities for existing commercial establishments to remain in the area and provide better service;
- 6. Eliminate incompatible uses;
- 7. Reduce the excessive number of liquor licenses;
- 8. Improve traffic circulation;
- Improve streets, street lighting, utilities, and the landscaping of public areas;
- 10. Obtain superior architectural and aesthetic quality in the new public and private buildings and open spaces;
- Preserve, maintain, and reinforce the positive, unifying and unique qualities of the street patterns, row houses, parks and, squares;
- 12. Unite the historically separated communities divided by Northampton Street;
- 13. Create a physical framework which will facilitate the formation and execution of programs to cope with social and economic programs in the community.



South End Workshop Villa Victoria Center for the Arts I July 9, 2015 Contact: Corey Zehngebot I Email: urbanrenewal@boston.gov

## What's a goal?

Goals are the primary aim or desired result. They are intended to be general and broad.

## What's a planning objective?

Objectives are more specific than goals. They usually help to give further definition to a smaller set of clearly-defined goals.



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## Proposed (2015) Goals | South End

Below are suggested themes for a proposed set of 2015 goals for the South End Urban Renewal Area. These themes and draft language were informed with input from knowledgeable staff from the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). We ask for your feedback on these proposed goals and also assistance in creating supporting planning objectives. Thank you.

## **Neighborhood Connectivity**

- Strengthen and expand the network of streets that complements the existing streets and blocks.
- Promote easy multimodal access through the district.
- Balance public transportation with other modes (vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle).
- Connect the public spaces and parks with a complete network of new multi-modal streets that
  extends throughout the district especially west of Mass Av and south of Washington Street.
- · Strengthen the pedestrian and public realm connections between the neighborhood and transit

## Neighborhood Vibrancy and Public Realm

- Preserve, maintain, and reinforce the positive, unifying and unique qualities of the street patterns, row houses, parks and, squares.
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## Housing and Community Life

- Reinvest in ageing public housing into mixed used, high density residential areas that are better
  integrated into the rest of the district.
- Reinvest in aging publicly-owned buildings and schools.
- · Create new opportunities for mixed income housing.

## **Economic Development**

- Support existing and prospective small business owners, and promote safe and attractive storefronts:
- Promote a viable neighborhood economy, and provide for new economies and expansion of job opportunities;
- · Promote and expand neighborhood retail, educational, health and cultural facilities;
- Promote development that is consistent with the Harrison Albany planning and rezoning.



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## Suggested themes for the goals:

- Neighborhood Connectivity
- Neighborhood Vibrancy and Public Realm
- Housing and Community Life
- Economic Development

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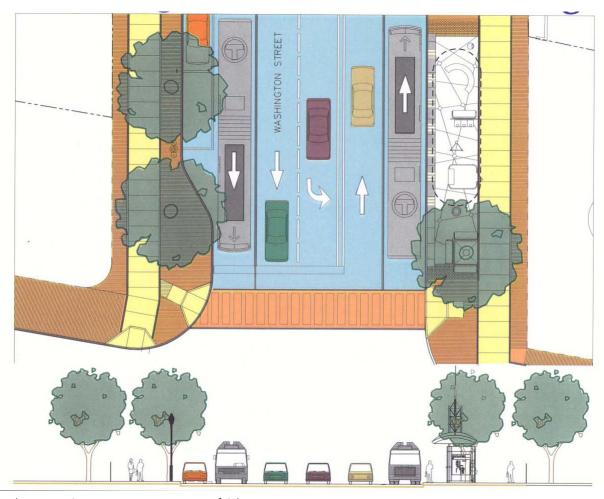


Historic Images of South End, Courtesy BRA Archives

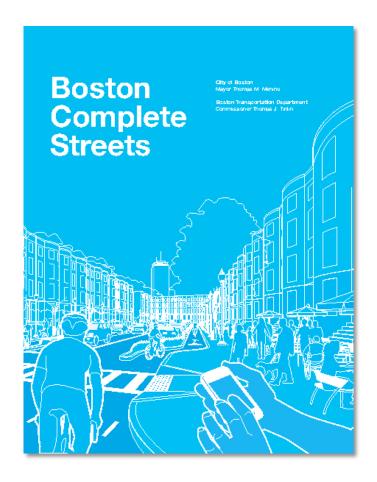




Silver Line



Streetscape design for Washington Street in anticipation of Silver Line Improvements



## **Downtown Mixed-Use**

DOWNTOWN MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOOD MAIN STREET

## Overview

Downtown Mixed-Use streets serve a more diverse mix of land use types than do Downtown Commercial Streets. Found in the downtown neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, South End, Fort Point Channel, West End, and in the Kenmore Square and Fenway Park areas, these streets support a lively mix of retail, residential, office, and entertainment uses. This mix creates many of the city's most dynamic public spaces. While usually smaller in scale than Downtown Commercial Streets, they similarly serve residents, visitors, and workers, and must support high levels of walking, bicycling, and transit, in addition to short-term vehicle parking. Street furniture (i.e., benches, information kiosks. trash receptacles), outdoor cafes, and plazas are important design considerations for these streets.

## **Example Streets**

- ► Newbury Street (Back Bay)
- ► Tremont Street (South End)
- ► Salem Street (North End)
- ➤ Brookline Avenue (Fenway)



BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

UPDATED AS OF DECEMBER 2010.

BOSTON COMPLETE STREETS GUIDELINES 9



## Bike Lanes

NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DOWNTOWN MIXED-USE

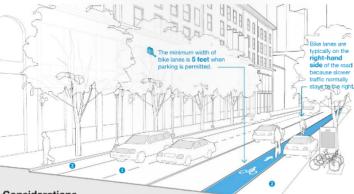
BOULEVARD

## Overview

Bike lanes provide an exclusive space for bioyolists through the use of lines and symbols on the roadway surface. Bike lanes are for one-way travel and are normally provided in both directions on two-way streets and or on one side of a one-way street. Bicyclists are not required to remain in a bike lane when traveling on a street, and may leave the bike lane as necessary to make turns, pass other bioyolists, or to properly position themselves for other necessary movements. Blke lanes may only be used temporarily by vehicles accessing parking spaces and entering and exiting driveways and alleys.

## Use

- Bike lanes can be used on one-way or two-way streets, and on single or multilane roads.
- ► Bike lanes may be placed adjacent to a parking lane, or against the curb if there is no parking.
- Bike lanes are typically installed by reallocating existing street space (narrowing other travel lanes, removing travel lanes, and/or reconfiguring parking lanes). The minimum widths of bike lanes, Otravel lanes, and Openting lanes are provided in the minimum widths chart on page TK of



## Considerations

- Bicycle lanes are normally placed on the right hand side of the road to reflect the general traffic principle of slower traffic keeping to the right.
- ► On one-way streets and streets with wider medians, consider a left-side bike lane (see next section).
- · Where additional space is available, consider providing a buffered bike lane (see page TK).
- On constrained corridors with high parking turnover, consider providing a buffered bike lane or using parking

T's instead of longitudinal parking stripe to guide bicyclists away from parked vehicles.

· Wider bike lanes enable bicyclists to pass one another on heavily traveled corridors and increase separation from faster traffic.

## 99 BORTON COMPLETE STREETS SUIDELINES

LIPDATED AS DE DECEMBER 2010

BORTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

## Download this document

## Left-side Bike Lanes

NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN GOMMERGIAL DOWNTOWN MIXED-USE

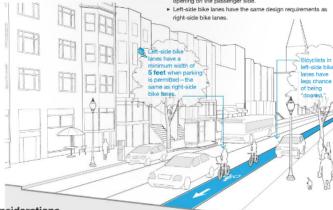
BOULEVARD

## Overview

In some locations, bike lanes placed on the left side of the roadway can result in fewer conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicles, particularly on streets with heavy right-turn volumes, or frequent bus headways where buses commonly operate in the right-side curb lane. Left-side bike lanes can increase visibility between motorists and bicyclists at intersections due to the location of the driver on the left side of the vehicle.

## Use

- On one-way streets where parking is only provided on the right-hand side, left-side bike lanes are often a better option than right-side bike lanes because there are fewer conflicts with parked cars. The same is true for two-way streets with continuous, raised center medians where onstreet parking is not provided adjacent to the median.
- ► On one-way streets with parking on both sides, bicyclists riding on the left will have fewer conflicts with car doors. opening on the passenger side.



## Considerations

- ► Colored pavement should be considered in curbside locations to increase awareness of the restriction against parking or stopping in the bike lane.
- ► Left-side placement may not be appropriate in locations where the street switches from one-way to two-way operation.
- ► Left-side bike lanes may not be appropriate near the center or left side of free flow ramps or along medians with street car operations unless appropriate physical separation can be provided including signal protection where appropriate (see Chapter 4: Intersections).

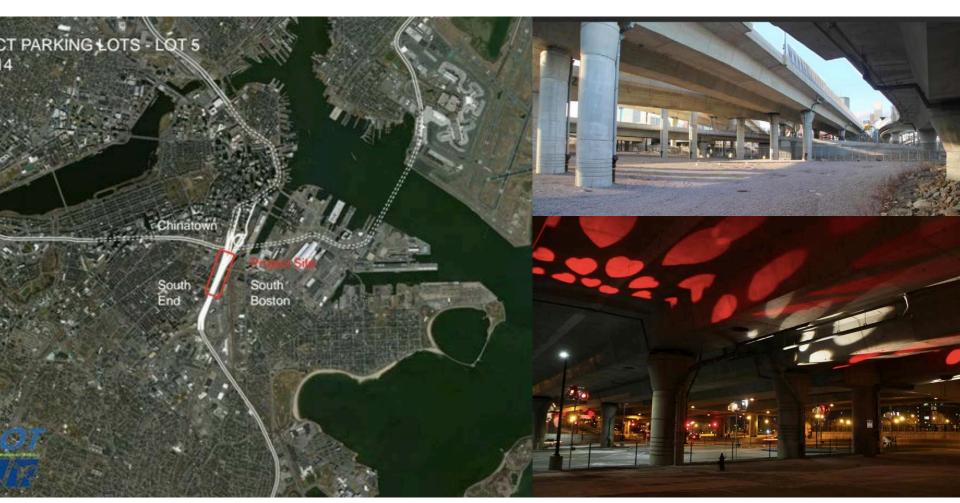
BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

UPDATED AS OF DECEMBER 2010.

BOSTON COMPLETE STREETS BUILDELINES 93

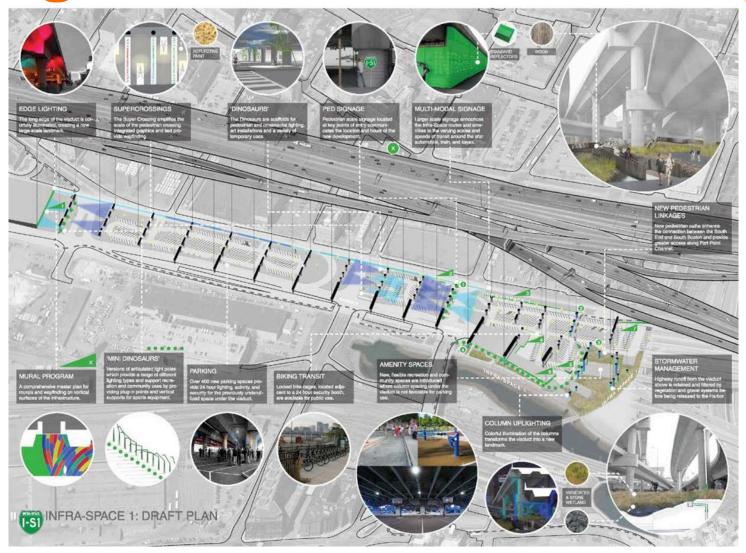






Infraspace, Under I-93 and I-90 Underpass between South End and South Boston



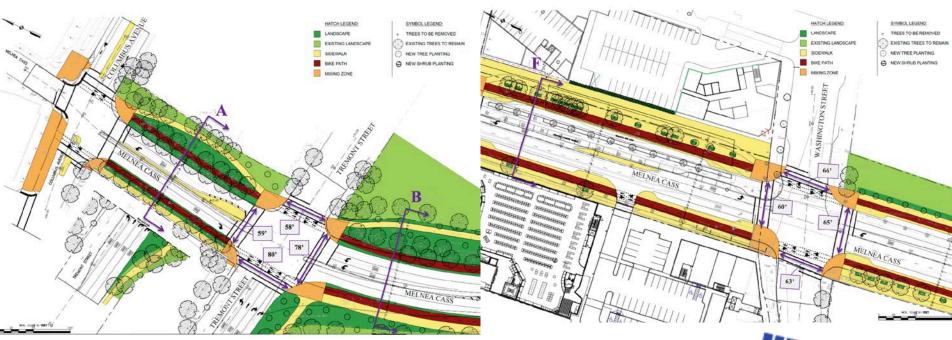






Infraspace, Under I-93 and I-90 Underpass between South End and South Boston





Proposed Intersection Design for Tremont Street and Washington Street and Melnea Cass Boulevard April 2015



#### **Neighborhood Vibrancy and Public realm**



Blackstone and Franklin Squares (above)

Peters Park (below)





#### Neighborhood Vibrancy and Public realm

i) the Property is to be used and maintained for open space purposes, including, but not limited to: community gardening, neighborhood-related green space use, and landscaping, parkland, and children's play areas, and shall be kept open and green forever.

Parcel SE-49: 106 West Springfield Street

Parcels SE-7,SE-122, RD-36, and SE-123: 108-114 West Springfield

Parcel SE-2: 116-118 West Springfield

Parcel SE-124: 29 and 31 Dartmouth Street

Parcel RR-8: 561 Columbus Avenue

Parcel RE-2B: 108-138 Worcester Street

Parcel RD-13: 20-22 Clarendon Street and 67-69 Warren Avenue

Parcel 33B: 75-87 Northampton Street

Parcel 30: 1561-1565 Washington Street

Parcel 23A: Corner of Tremont, Lenox, and Kendall Streets

Parcel P-6A: 500-510 Tremont Street;

1-67 East Berkeley Street; 211-217 Shawmut Avenue

Parcel RD-22: 24-30 Warwick Street

Parcel SE-18: 32 Wellington Street

Parcel X-26A: 25-29 Warwick Street



### **Housing + Community**



#### EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Grant Manor
- 2 Mandela

#### HISTORIC

#### REDEVELOPMENT

- 3 Allen House
- 4 Minot Hall Housing
- 5 Porter House

#### LANDMARK

- 6 Blackstone & Franklin Squares
- 7 Blackstone Elementary School
- 8 Peter's Park
- 9 Ramsay Park
- 10 South End Historic
  Burial Ground

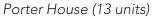
#### NEW DEVELOPMENT

- 11 BioSquare
- 12 Boston Medical Center
- 13 Cathedral Housing Project
- 14 Laconia
- Condominiums
- 15 Langham Court Housing
- 16 New Police Station
- 17 Parmelee Court Housing
- 18 Rollins Square Housing
- 19 Roxbury Corners Housing & Retail
- 20 Savoy Condos
- 21 South Park
  Residential
  Development / South
  End Community
  Health Center
- 22 Wilkes Passage Housing



### **Housing Preservation**







Allen House (11 units)



Minot Hall 1597 Washington Street Laconia Lofts



The Savory Rollins Square Wilkes Passage Lofts











Joshua Bates Art Center and Art Block 725-735 Harrison

700 Harrison

Rollins Square

Gateway Terrace



The Factory at 46 Wareham

80 East Berkeley

Jordan Lofts (477-481 Harrison)



600 Harrison 136 Shawmut Avenue 345 Harrison Avenue



Northampton Square

20 Sussex Street

1065 Tremont Street





Alexandra Hotel 775 Harrison







Inclusionary Development Policy Changes on the Horizon

Administration of the IDP Policy is now being actively analyzed and rethought

Communication between departments (BRA and DND) is improved

Implementation has become clearer for staff



Inclusionary Development Policy Changes on the Horizon IDP Policy is looking actively at:

- Onsite requirement
- Offsite requirement
- Rental buyout requirements
- Condo buyout requirements
- Rental income limits



#### WASHINGTON GATEWAY MAIN STREET

An organization committed to supporting the small business community in Boston's South End & Lower Roxbury neighborhoods.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



LOCAL EVENTS







Tremont Street restaurants and retail



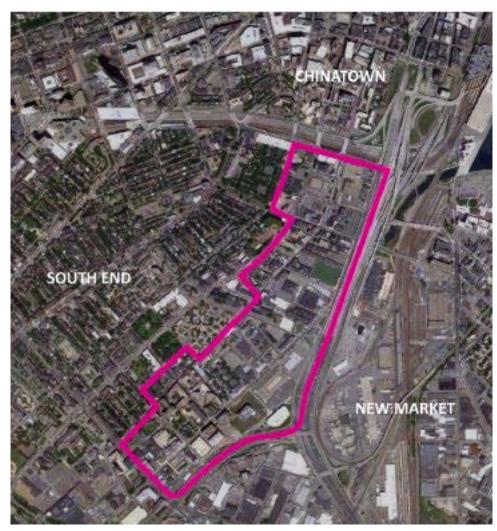






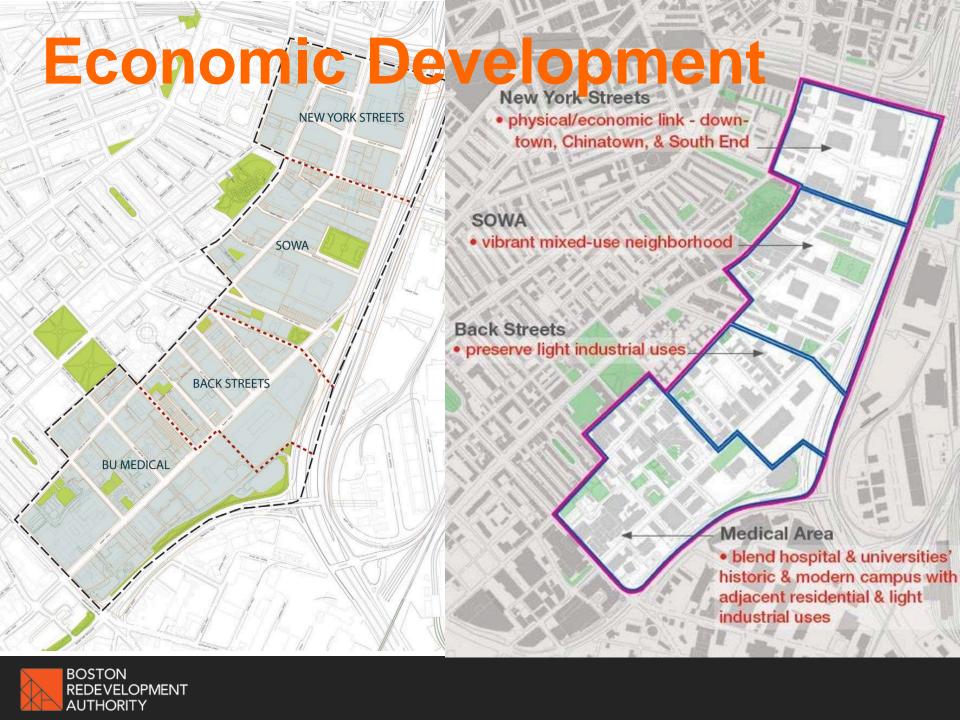
Washington Street restaurants and retail

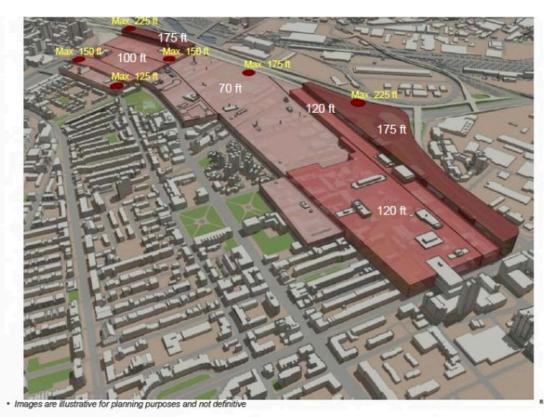




Study area for Harrison-Albany Corridor







Allowable Heights under new zoning for Harrison-Albany Corridor



Rendering of Ink Block (full build)



Rendering of The Troy





The Factory at 46 Wareham

80 East Berkeley

Jordan Lofts (477-481 Harrison)



600 Harrison 136 Shawmut Avenue 345 Harrison Avenue

#### Original (1962) Goals and Planning Objectives | South End

#### The Plan contains following basic goals:

- 1. Promote and expedite public and private development;
- Insure the public health and safety;
- 3. Strengthen the physical pattern of neighborhood activities;
- 4. Provide an economically, socially, and racially integrated community;
- Provide a framework for environmental conditions better suited to meet the requirements for contemporary living
- Promote the growth of industry, commerce, and institutions in appropriate locations;
- 7. Strengthen and expand the real property tax base of the city.

#### Planning and Design Concept:

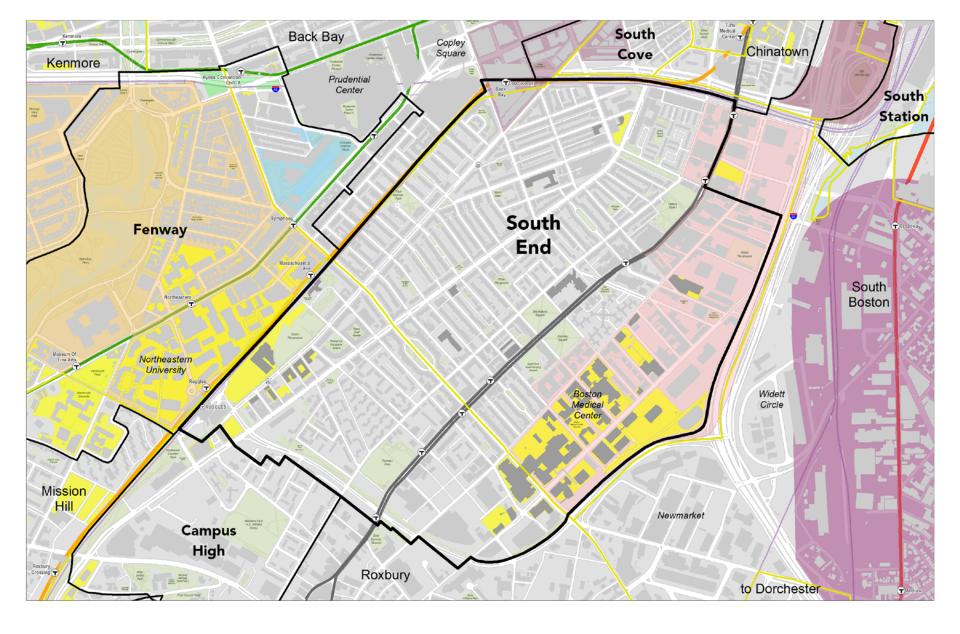
The concept for the South End Area is developed from the fact that there are really two major communities in the project - a predominantly residential community and an industrial and medical-institutional community.

#### The Plan contains following planning objectives:

- Improve the quality, condition, and maintenance of existing dwelling structures to a level which achieves decent, safe, and sanitary housing;
- Remove the concentrations of deteriorated and deteriorating buildings which depress the physical condition and character of the area, impair the flow of investment and mortgage financing, and restrict adequate insurance coverage.
- Protect and expand the city's tax base and arrest the trend of economic decline, and, by stabilitizing property values, protect private investment.
- Provide new housing specifically designed to meet the needs of the numerous elderly residents in the community;
- Provide new opportunities for existing commercial establishments to remain in the area and provide better service;
- 6. Eliminate incompatible uses;
- 7. Reduce the excessive number of liquor licenses;
- 8. Improve traffic circulation;
- Improve streets, street lighting, utilities, and the landscaping of public areas;
- 10. Obtain superior architectural and aesthetic quality in the new public and private buildings and open spaces;
- Preserve, maintain, and reinforce the positive, unifying and unique qualities of the street patterns, row houses, parks and, squares;
- 12. Unite the historically separated communities divided by Northampton Street;
- 13. Create a physical framework which will facilitate the formation and execution of programs to cope with social and economic programs in the community.



South End Workshop Villa Victoria Center for the Arts I July 9, 2015 Contact: Corey Zehngebot I Email: urbanrenewal@boston.gov The concept for the South End Area is developed from the fact that there are really two major communities in the project – a predominantly residential community and an industrial and medicalinstitutional community.







Crosstown Center

Flower Exchange



# Thank you! South End



South End, 1962

