

SOUTH BOSTON - DORCHESTER AVENUE IMPROVEMENT STUDY

FEBRUARY 4, 2006 COMMUNITY CHARRETTE COMMENTS

* DRAFT-FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

TOPIC	GROUP 1	GROUP 2
TRANSPORTATION	<p><u>Public Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need additional bus route ▪ Consider combining bus shelter locations and hydrants <p><u>Parking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidate curb cuts to create opportunities for additional curb parking on one side when redeveloped ▪ BTD survey of registered cars needed ▪ Office use in junkyard site to provide off-street parking at night ▪ Need municipal garage, like Quincy Center garage ▪ Adjust and enforce parking times in Andrew Square for residents ▪ Substandard parking spaces forces homeowners to park on the street ▪ Special enforcement needed for parking around MBTA stations ▪ Is street parking legal adjacent to the Dunkin Donuts in Andrew Square? ▪ 24-hour residential parking on Dorchester Ave is needed <p><u>Sidewalks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curb cuts turn around too long ▪ Narrow sidewalks –can't walk side by side <p><u>Traffic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is Dorchester Avenue going to be reconnected to Summer Street? ▪ Improve access to Interstate 93 near Broadway ▪ Dorchester Avenue and Old Colony should be one-way ▪ Create a new street through the industrial area behind the junk yard 	<p><u>Public Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No shelters for buses in front of retail; people are waiting in stores ▪ Move bus stop into MBTA Station <p><u>Parking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Double parking a problem on Southampton Street near Dunkin Donuts ▪ Parking ratio needs vs. TOD ▪ Allow parking closer to intersection (10 feet instead of 20 feet) ▪ Corner restrictions ▪ Need municipal parking lot for residents <p><u>Sidewalks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sidewalks are too narrow <p><u>Traffic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dorchester Avenue to Andrew Square double lights ▪ Gillette traffic; light needs timing adjustment ▪ Traffic flow on Old Colony is good <p><u>Pedestrian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pedestrian island at Dorchester Avenue and Dorchester Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Poor visibility for pedestrians ○ Repaint crosswalks ○ Signs are in the way of pedestrians ▪ Provide enforcement to protect pedestrians crossing streets <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need better signage ▪ Paint curbs

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	<p><u>Pedestrian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add walk/cross time into traffic signals ▪ Provide enforcement to protect pedestrians crossing streets 	
<p>NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post Office ○ Food market (e.g., Trader Joe's, Whole Foods) ○ Café/Breakfast place ○ Medium to high-end restaurants ○ Pharmacy (e.g., CVS, Brooks, Walgreens) ○ Florist ○ Bakery (e.g., White's Bakery) ○ Book Store ○ Clothing Store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many fast food and sub shops ▪ Need more restaurants ▪ Need more service-oriented businesses (e.g., Trader Joes) ▪ Façade improvements for businesses; signage, awnings ▪ Grants for Main Street type façade improvements are lacking ▪ Need business façade standards for signs; no uniformity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop standards but not homogenous signage ▪ "Branding" for retail businesses with streetlights, banners, planters/sidewalks ▪ Need for government service satellite offices (e.g., RMV, post office, etc.) ▪ Zoning and traffic constraints for developing businesses on vacant parcels (e.g., 501 Dorchester Avenue) ▪ Need to activate groundfloors with retail for services ▪ Good examples of neighborhood businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Café Polonia ○ Washington Bank ○ Marriot Courtyard Hotel ○ Small computer warehouse business in Andrew Square ▪ Encourage walking by having higher concentration of convenience businesses ▪ Need parking lot near cluster of businesses

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Empty ground-level retail is a problem ▪ Residential garages at street level is a problem ▪ Woodward Street townhouses are a good example of development in Andrew Square ▪ Area lacks gathering spaces/function halls ▪ Get Main Streets back in South Boston ▪ Andrew Square Civic Association wants better coordination with South Bay Shopping Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workforce Development ▪ Existing vacant groundfloor storefronts; need to see them active via incentives ▪ Gateway eyesores; target those buildings and businesses to improve character; addressing these can act as a catalyst for neighborhood improvements ▪ Need more family housing; too many condos ▪ Andrew Square MBTA station needs maintenance; lack of security at station ▪ Concern with vertical residential development by residents on “key” vacant parcels
STREETSCAPES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Street trees should be space appropriately with street lights ▪ Study are needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benches ○ Trash Receptacles ○ Recycle Receptacles ○ Toilets ○ Planters ○ Banners ○ Street signs on every street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acorn or other types of lights ▪ Need better lighting ▪ Need more consistency with street furniture ▪ Sidewalk improvements coordinated with new development ▪ Planters and trees needed on Old Colony Avenue and Dorchester Street ▪ Bulbouts needed on the corner of streets ▪ “Branding” for retail businesses with streetlights, banners, planters/sidewalks