Agenda

Goals and Strategies
• Presentation 1—Goals and Strategies 6:10–6:30 pm
• Discussion 1—Goals and Strategies 6:30–6:45 pm
• Discussion 1 Report Back 6:25–7:00 pm

Public Spaces
• Presentation 2—Public Spaces 7:00–7:10 pm
• Discussion 2—Public Spaces 7:10–7:40 pm
• Discussion 2 Report Back 7:40–7:55 pm

Next Steps & Wrap-up 7:55–8:00 pm
PLAN: Downtown

Study Area

- Study Area Boundary
- Institutional Master Plan (IMP)
  Not included in this study
Vision, Goals, & Strategies
(Draft)
Vision Workshop

April 30, 2019

Who we heard from: Over 75 attendees

Equity
• Downtown is for everyone. “What exists is a warped picture...what is a good community with a mix?”
• Chinatown vulnerable to redevelopment
• Support for low income families to avoid displacement

Resiliency & Preservation
• Value to living downtown-pressure on delicate architectural fabric
• Working-class, non-English speaking residents and immigrant-owned small businesses who cannot afford renovations are the most vulnerable.

Mobility
• Prioritizing pedestrians and mass transportation options over driving
• Dedicated bus & bike lanes with planning around future scooter and other electric vehicle integration
Vision Workshop
April 30, 2019

Identity & Public Realm
- “Pocket Destinations” that complement Boston Common and the Greenway by supporting the “brown bag community” and residents with active programming.
- Public realm improvements could better support small retail businesses and “make history more visible.”
- Increased pedestrianization and emphasizing pedestrian safety.

Mixed-use Core
- “Avoid homogeneity of Downtown” and encourage variety and unique establishments.
- Provide support for small businesses which give Downtown its unique flavor as well as funding and technical assistance.
- Accommodating urban amenities such as schools & public spaces.
Community Engagement Summer Recap

Pop Up Locations
• Leventhal Park
• Summer Street Art Market
• Chinatown Gate

Walking Tours
• Chinatown Walking Tour facilitated by Ally’s Alley’s Walking Tour

349 Washington Street Storefront

Advisory Group Meetings
• May: Preservation & Growth
• June: Climate & Resiliency
• July: Mobility & Public Realm
Develop a new framework for the preservation, enhancement, and growth of Downtown Boston as a place for all, balancing livability, daylight, walkability, climate change preparedness, access to open space, affordability, and a dynamic mix of uses.

Vision Statement
PLAN: Downtown will...

1. Preserve the cultural heritage and embrace the distinctive histories present in public spaces as essential to creating a unique and cohesive Downtown.
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Strategies

- **Protect spaces that create distinctive identities** in Downtown, highlighting the local, regional, and national significance of Downtown
- **Support diverse arts and culture** reflective of the local communities
- **Integrate art into spaces** and elements that more people interact with on a regular basis
PLAN: Downtown will...

2. **Promote dense, mixed-use development** to support job growth, housing opportunities, and 18 hour/7 days/week activity for residents, workers, and visitors.
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Strategies

- Accommodate growth while respecting the historical character of Downtown
- Expand family housing options
- Continue encouraging residential-focused development in Downtown Crossing and the Financial District.
PLAN: Downtown will...

3. Improve access to housing, cultural assets, and amenities for a diverse range of Boston residents across all neighborhoods, levels of affordability, stages of life, and backgrounds.
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Strategies

- **Provide workforce/affordable housing** on publicly-owned land *(within mixed-use developments)*
- **Address housing stabilization** in Chinatown
- **Expand affordable housing** stock for seniors
- **Cultivate a walkable environment** to promote the health and well-being of Downtown residents and visitors
- **Incorporate the 2019 Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) Update** into PLAN: Downtown once completed*

*Text in gray ensures coordination with another BPDA planning initiative, City policy, or City program.*
PLAN: Downtown will...

4. Improve connections through, within, and to Downtown, with a focus on active transportation, transit, and non-vehicular modes of transportation.
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4. **Improve connections through, within, and to Downtown**, with a focus on active transportation, transit, and non-vehicular modes of transportation.

Strategies

- **Review directionality to optimize circulation** in Downtown without compromising wider area vehicular movement.
- **Improve transit services** through a systems approach to upgrading infrastructure.
- **Prioritize high-occupancy and non-motorized transportation modes** on all streets.
- **Encourage multimodal connections** between north and south sides of Downtown.
- **Provide a high quality safe street environment** for pedestrians and cyclists.
PLAN: Downtown will...

5. Preserve historic building fabric and cultural institutions while advancing climate preparedness and resiliency measures.
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**Strategies**

- **Protect treasured, shared cultural assets** from contextually- and culturally-insensitive development and environmental threats
- **Proactively identify important architectural context and zone accordingly** (e.g. Chinatown Row Houses)
- **Retain large portions of intact historic building fabric**
- Continue to follow the Secretary of the Department of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*

*Text in gray ensures coordination with another BPDA planning initiative, City policy, or City program.*
PLAN: Downtown will...

6. Ensure that new development and public realm projects are resilient, and mitigate climate risks such as sea level rise, coastal storms, rising temperatures, and increased stormwater.
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Strategies

- Coordinate investments to adapt infrastructure to future climate conditions
- Incorporate near-term heat resiliency measures at building & district scales
- Provide consistent opportunity for shade throughout the public realm
- Reduce emissions related to transportation and vehicular traffic in Downtown, with a focus on improving traffic and logistics management
- Require compliance with net-zero emissions readiness*
- Refer to existing (or imminent) flood mitigation policies as captured in Article 25 CRB, the Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay district, and Article 37*

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PLAN: Downtown will...

7. **Encourage** consistent, safe, healthy, and high-quality **improvements to the public realm** that welcome everyone year-round.
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Strategies

- **Provide legible and safe connections** between major green and open spaces
- **Provide new public spaces and enhancements to existing spaces** that improve pedestrian experience and offer new opportunities for flexible programming
- **Continue to test innovative and new public realm ideas** through pilot projects*

*Text in gray ensures coordination with another BPDA planning initiative, City policy, or City program.
PLAN: Downtown will...

8. **Support business development** that maintains Downtown as a regional economic center.
PLAN: Downtown will...

8. **Support business development** that maintains Downtown as a regional economic center.

Strategies

- Strengthen the role of Downtown as an *active 18-hour/7-days/week life and work area* in Boston
- **Continue to maintain Downtown** as a well-connected *job center* for the region.
PLAN: Downtown will...

9. Promote the retention, growth, and diversity of ground-floor retail businesses, especially legacy and small businesses.
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Strategies

- **Require small-scale individual storefronts** at street level in key areas
- **Encourage the continuity of small scale business** where possible
- **Provide** technical, institutional, and financial **support to small & legacy businesses** and entrepreneurs
Discussion

• What are you most excited about? Why?
• What are you concerned about? Why?
Character Areas

- Distinct areas within Downtown
- There is no clear boundary between the Character Areas when it comes to experience
- Character can influence policy and design guidance
Public Space Definition

Publicly-accessible spaces between and within buildings that support public life and social interaction, such as:

- Streets
- Plazas
- Parks and open spaces
- Publicly-accessible indoor spaces

WHEREVER the public is welcome.
Green Corridors: routes that connect major green spaces and where consistent planting is proposed

Green Connectors: routes that provide opportunities for green “stepping stones” traversing Downtown

There is an opportunity for streets to increase vegetation and provide more dedicated pedestrian space.
Public Spaces

- **Boston Common**: The Boston Common Master Plan is currently underway
- **Boston Public Garden**
- **Rose Kennedy Greenway**: The Greenway Conservancy and newly formed Greenway Business Improvement District (BID) is focused on local improvements and programming
Public Spaces

**Public Ownership**
1. Readers’ Park
2. Liberty Square
3. Kilby Street / Milk Street
4. Jenney Plaza
5. Franklin Street / Tontine East
6. Extended Pedestrian-Priority Zone
7. Bedford Street / Kingston Street
8. Philips Square Extension & Permanent Design
9. Oxford Place Playground
10. Chin Park
11. Hudson Street / Marginal Street

**Private Ownership**
12. Chauncy Street / Summer Street
13. Milton Place
14. Fiduciary Trust Building
15. Tufts Medical Center
16. Eliot Norton Park Extension
Street Types

Street Typologies (2019)

- Corridors
- Pedestrian Corridors
- Busy Local Streets
- Busy Pedestrian Local Streets
- Quiet Local Streets
- Active Alleys
- Pedestrian Active Alleys
- Service Streets
- PLAN Downtown Study Area
Street Types & Directionality

**Corridors:** Access for travel lanes, separated bike lanes, and dedicated sidewalk

**Transit-Focused Street:** Access for dedicated transit lanes, travel lanes, and dedicated sidewalk

**Local Street:** When possible prioritize bicycle and pedestrian access through wide sidewalks and generous separated bike facilities
Discussion

*Please refer to the material on your table*
Next Steps

• **Advisory Group Meeting #7**: Development Scenarios
  November 7, 2019

• **Advisory Group Meeting #8**: Urban Design Guidelines
  December 18, 2019

• **Next Public Meeting**: Early 2020