# Columbia Point MASTER PLAN

Community Meeting May 15, 2008



City of Boston Thomas M. Menino Mayor



# **Columbia Point**











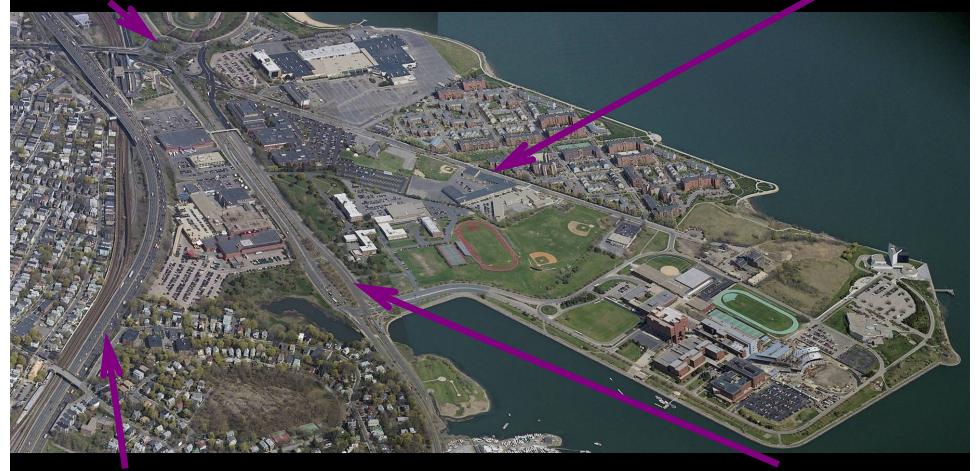
#### **Presentation Agenda**

- Project Introduction
- Background Information:
  - Demographics & Housing
  - Urban Design
  - Open Space
  - Land Use
  - Real Estate Market
  - Transportation
- Opportunities

#### **Columbia Point Study Area**

Kosciuszko Circle

Mt. Vernon Street



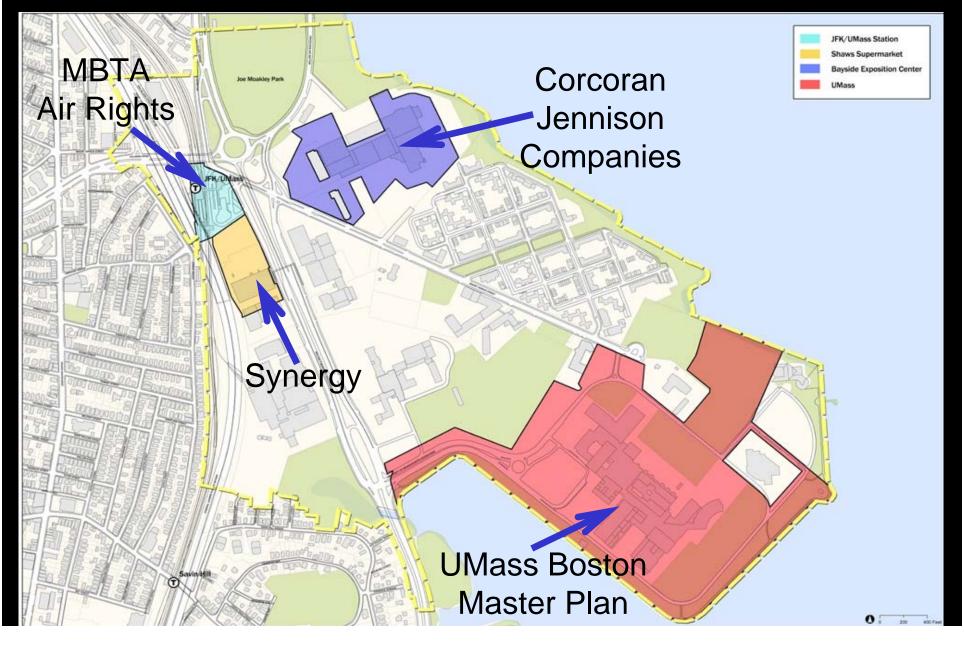
**Interstate 93** 

**Morrissey Boulevard** 

#### Multiple Stakeholders

- Residents & Businesses
- City of Boston
- UMass Boston
- MBTA
- Boston Public Schools
- MA Department of Conservation & Recreation
- JFK Presidential Library & Museum
- Commonwealth Museum & State Archives
- Boston Globe
- Boston College High School
- St. Christopher's Church
- Boston Teachers Union
- Corcoran Jennison Companies
- Synergy
- Sovereign Bank/Bank of America
- Boston Globe

#### **Impetus for Master Plan**



#### **UMass Boston Master Plan**





#### Key Objectives

25 year time horizon Increase enrollment from 13,433 to 15,000

Add 600,000 SF academic buildings Add 2,000 new beds



# **Bayside Expo Center – Corcoran Jennison**



# **Bayside Expo Center – Corcoran Jennison**



#### Bayside Expo Center – Corcoran Jennison

#### **Program**

 Retail
 285,000 SF

 Office
 300,000 SF

 Existing
 120,000 SF

 New
 180,000 SF

 Hotel
 275 keys

 Existing
 197 keys

 New
 78 keys

 Residential
 950 du

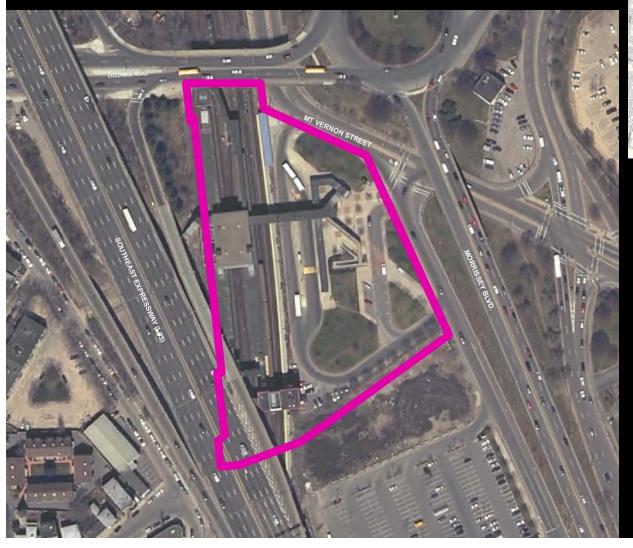
New 1,715,000 SF Existing 210,000 SF TOTAL 1,925,000 SF



# Synergy



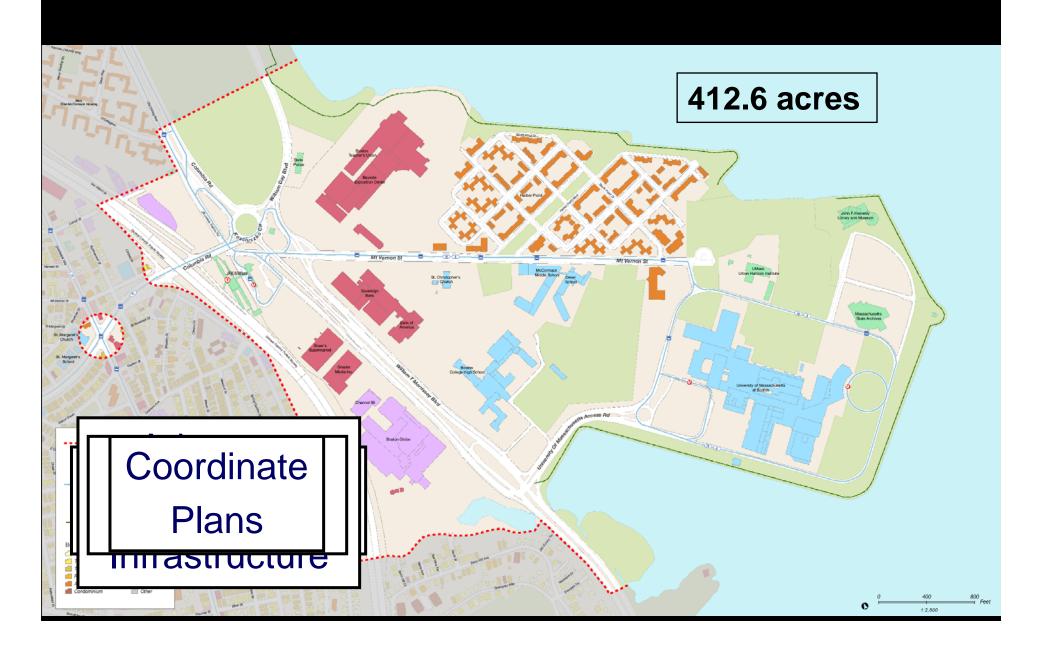
### JFK/UMass Air Rights Parcel





- 4.7 acres
- Major Multi-modal Transit Center
- Gateway to Columbia Point
- Heart of potential TOD

# Columbia Point Study Area



#### Scope of Work

- Land Use
- Real Estate Market
- Urban Design
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Open Space
- Community Benefits & Mitigation
- Sustainability

#### **Schedule**

**Existing Conditions** 

Community Meeting #1

Visioning

Community Meeting #2

Alternatives

Plan Selection/Refinement

Spring

May 15<sup>th</sup>

**Early Summer** 

June 14th

Summer

Fall

# **Existing Conditions**



#### Population & Housing<sup>1</sup>



Vacancy rate: 4%

Average Household

Size: 2.5 persons

Population: 2,441 Housing Units: 1,491<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Except where noted, source is 2005 Claritas Updates.

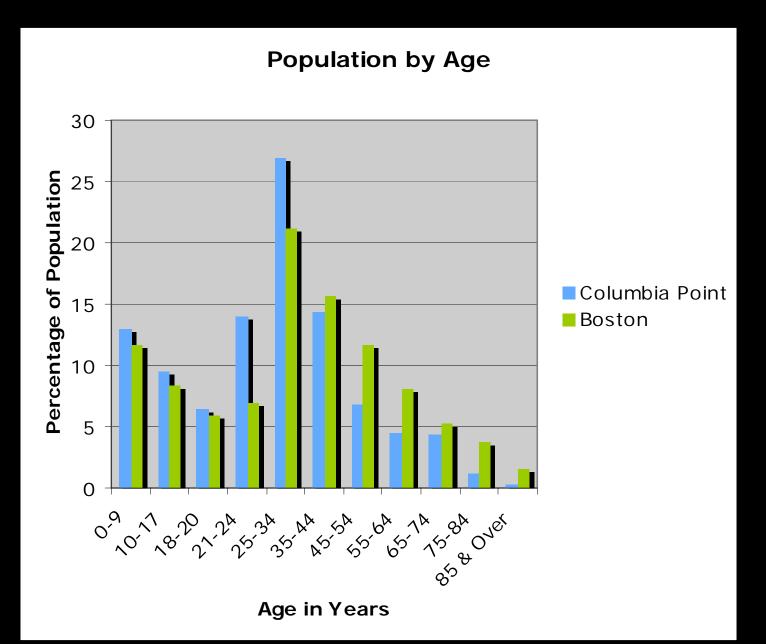
<sup>2</sup>Corcoran Jennison Companies, January 2008.



# Race/Ethnicity

	Columbia Point	Boston
White	41%	53%
Asian	24%	8%
African American	21%	25%
Hispanic/Latino	13.5%	14%

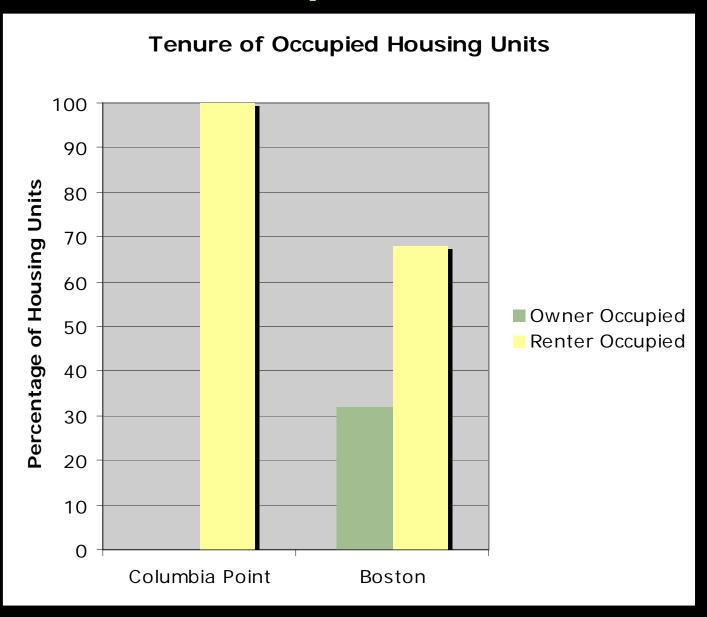
#### Age



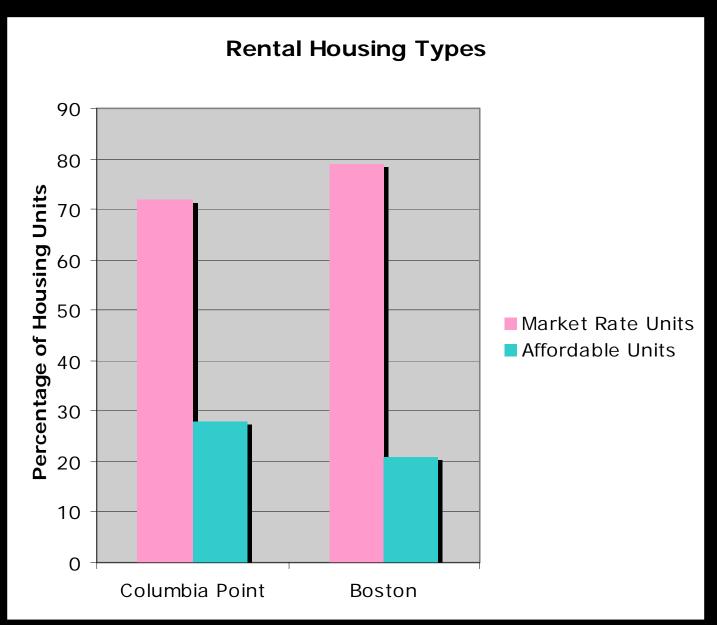
#### Income

	Columbia Point	Boston
Average Household Income	\$47,198	\$65,992
Family Households Below Poverty Line	32%	16%

#### Rental vs. Ownership

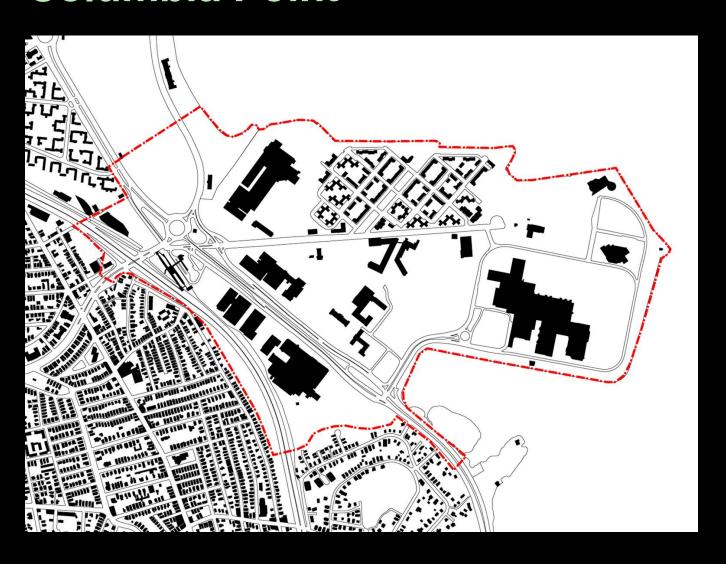


# Affordable Housing

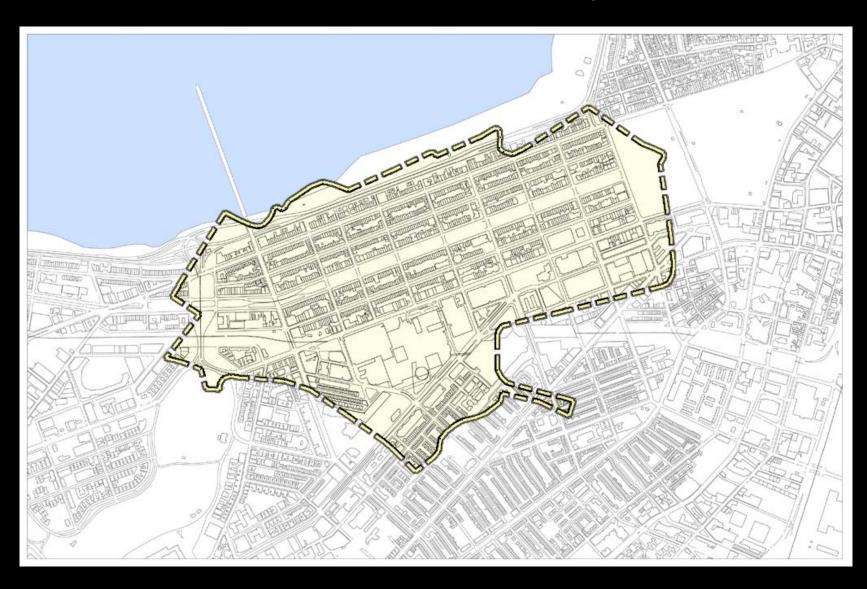


# **Urban Design**

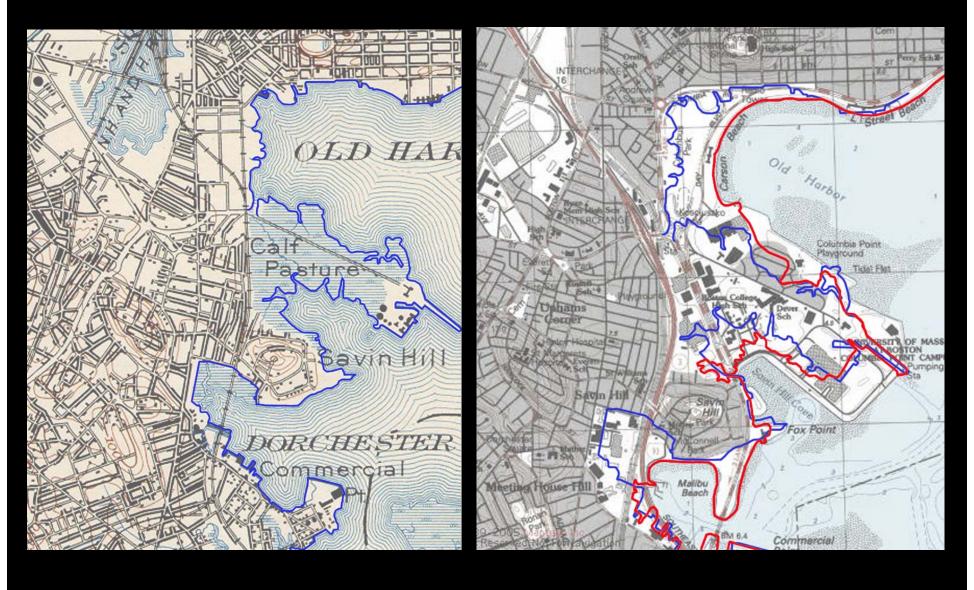
#### **Columbia Point**



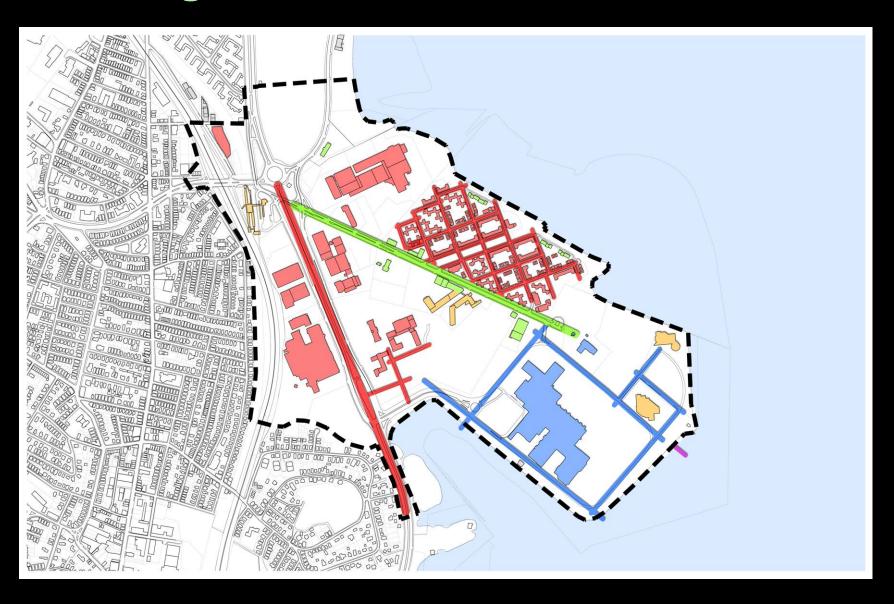
# **Scale Comparison: Back Bay**



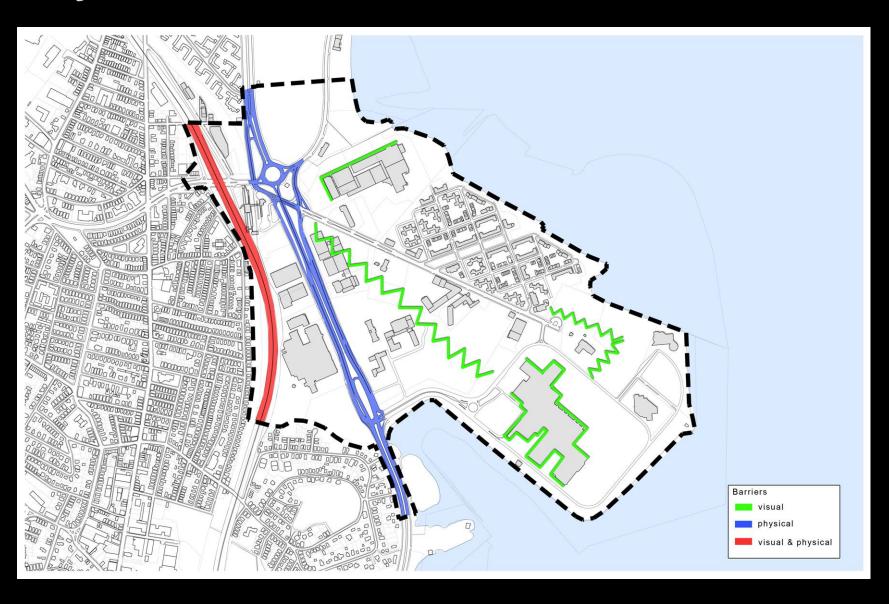
#### 1903 Map and 1970 Map of Columbia Point



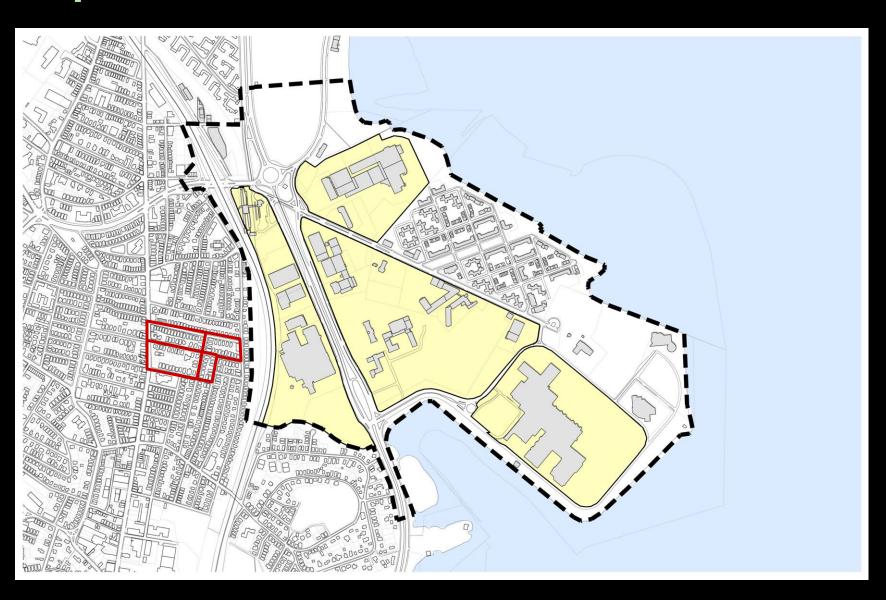
### **Colliding Grids**



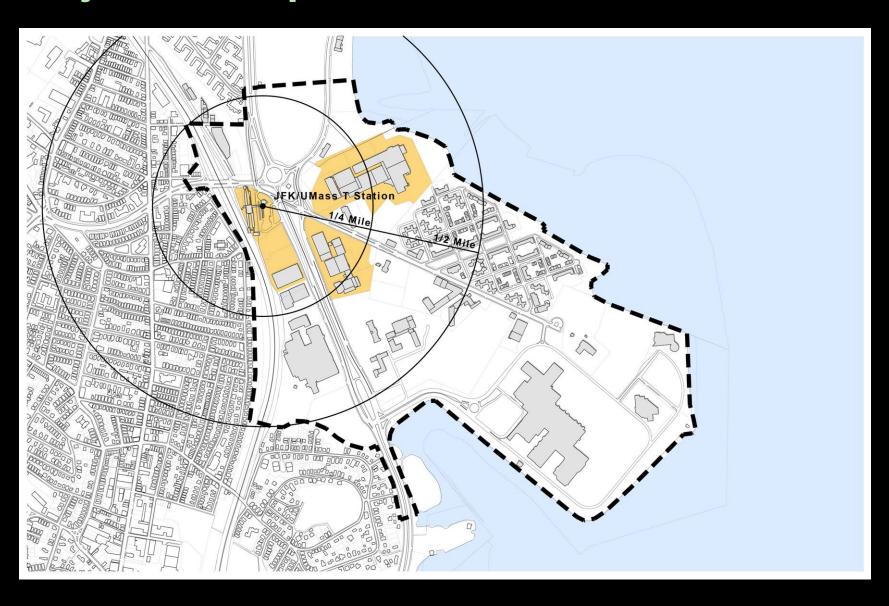
#### **Physical and Visual Barriers**



### Superblocks



# **Major Development Parcels**



# **Public Art**









# **Foreground Buildings**







# **Beautiful Views**

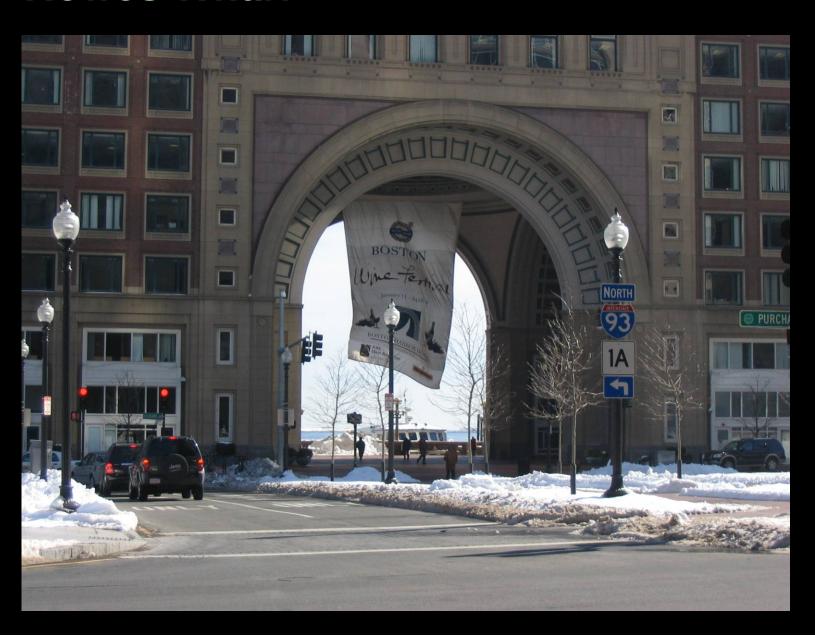








# **Rowes Wharf**





# **Pedestrian Connections**







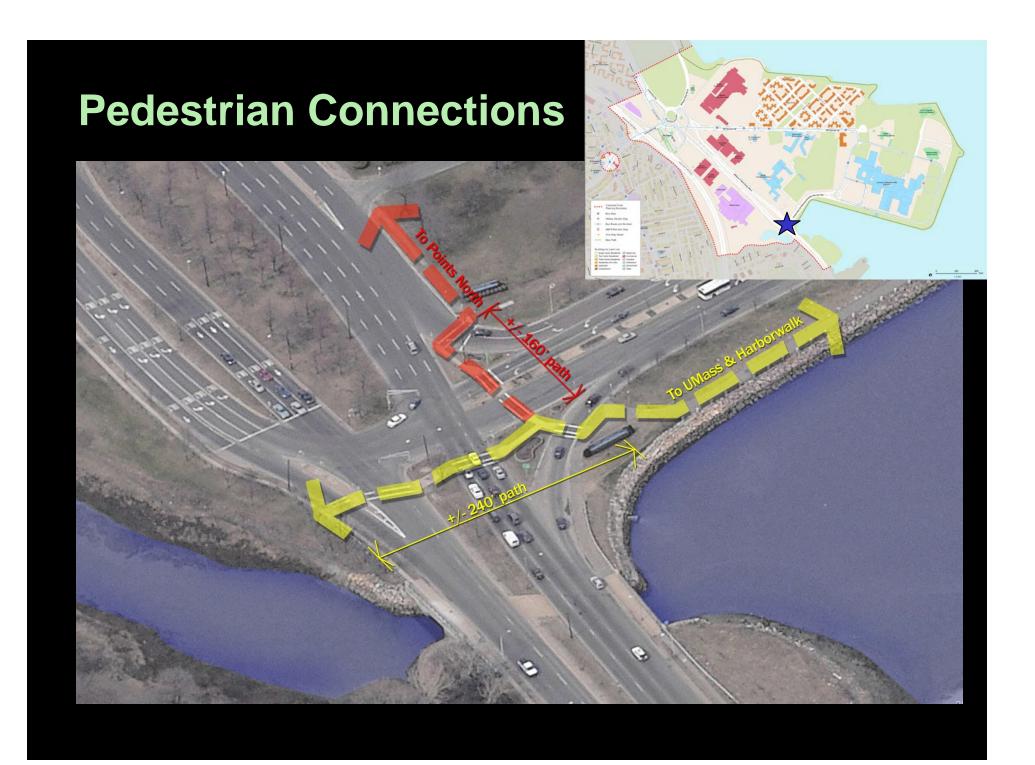


















# **Open Space**

# **Open Space**

- Need for better connections to the Harborwalk and waterfront
- Need for better connections to active recreation areas adjacent to the project area

# **Land Use**

# **Columbia Point Land Use**



# Back Bay



# **Existing Use by Building Square Footage**

Use % Total Building S
------------------------

Educational 37%

Residential 28%

Office 22%

Bayside Expo 5%

Hotel 3%

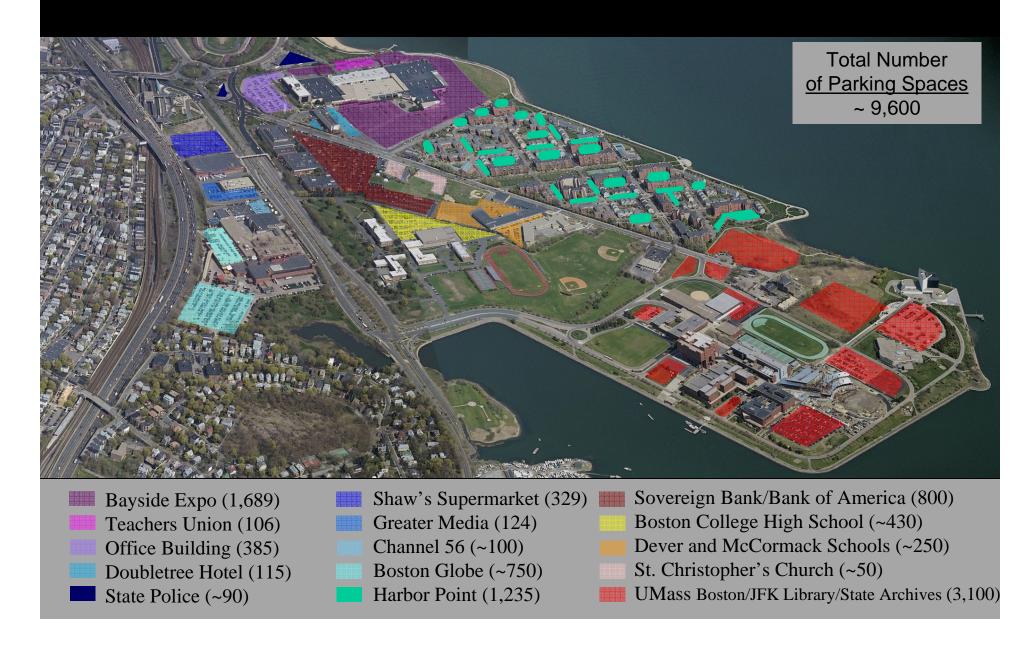
Cultural 4%

Retail 2%

Industrial .4%

Institutional .1%

# Land in Surface Parking: 24%



# Land in Recreation & Open Space: 25%



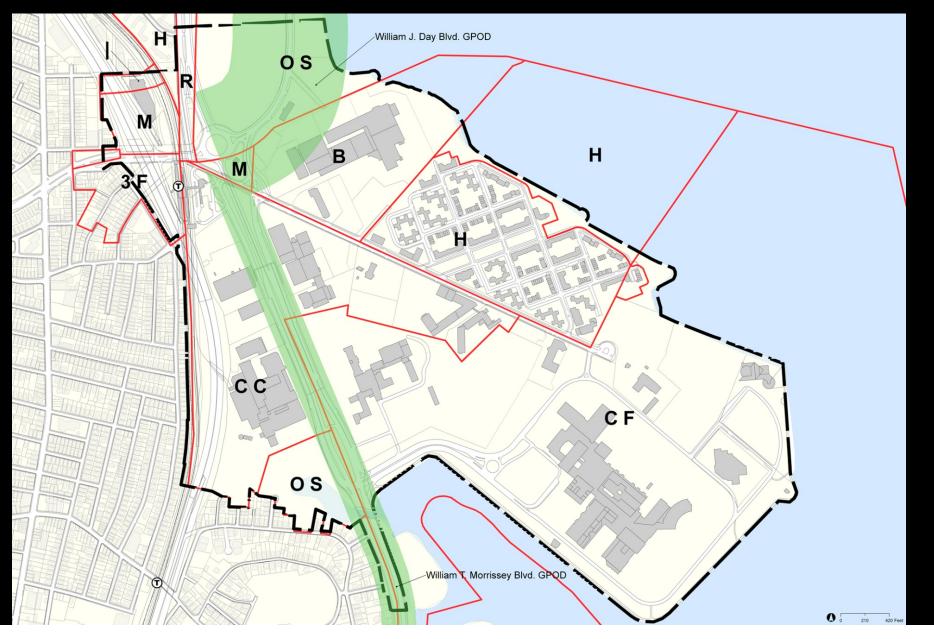
# **Land Use Concepts**

- Mix of uses to generate 18 hour activity and street life
- Integrated uses:
  - to promote pedestrian connections
  - to allow shared parking
  - to reduce auto use
- Sustainability

# Zoning

- Land Use
- Density & Height
- Open Space
- Parking

# **Existing Zoning Map**



# **Density**

- Critical Mass: Vibrant Community
- Higher density frequently allows for better:
  - Retail services
  - Parks
  - Access improvements
  - Amenities
- Building & Site Design



# **Real Estate Market**

## **Real Estate Market**

## Advantages

- Highway Access
- Proximity to Downtown Boston
- "T" Access
- Water & Views

## Disadvantages

- Relative Isolation
- Traffic Congestion
- Fringe of Market

## Office

- Market improving vacancy rates under 10%
- Rent levels (mid-20's) won't support spec office
- Build-to-suit strategy viable

## Retail

- Location will capture additional demand
- To succeed, must capture demand *outside* study area
- Sufficient parking

## Residential

- "T" and water access make competitive
- Rental market stronger than condominium
- Mixed-use program would make more competitive

## Hotel

- Excellent "T" and highway access
- Relatively stable revenues and occupancy, but near-term volatility
- Would benefit from mixed-use program

### **Market Risk Reduction**

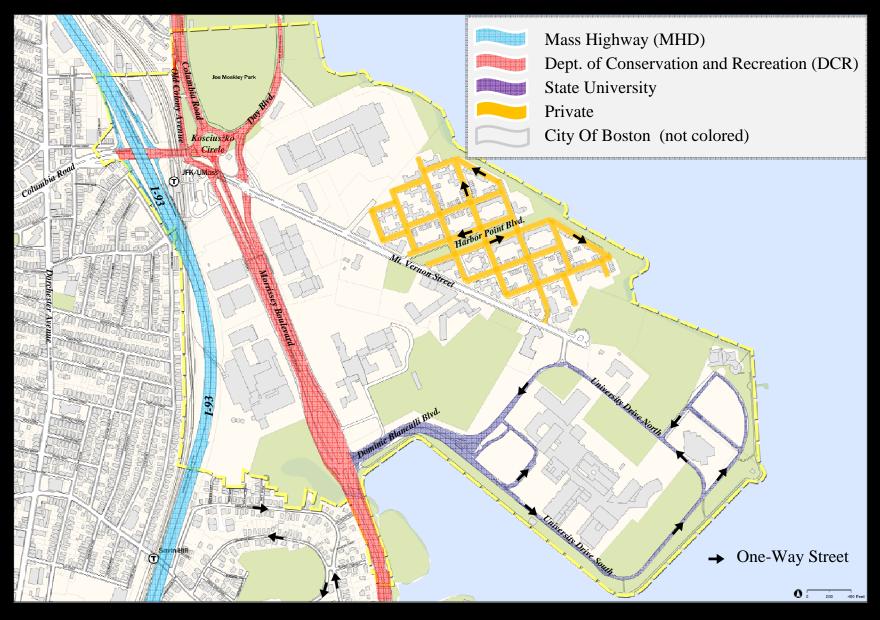
- Leverage value of waterfront location & access
- Allow adequate density and height
- Allow for broad mix of uses to generate synergies
- Ensure quality design and construction
- Provide for straightforward and predictable permitting

## **Existing Transportation & Infrastructure**

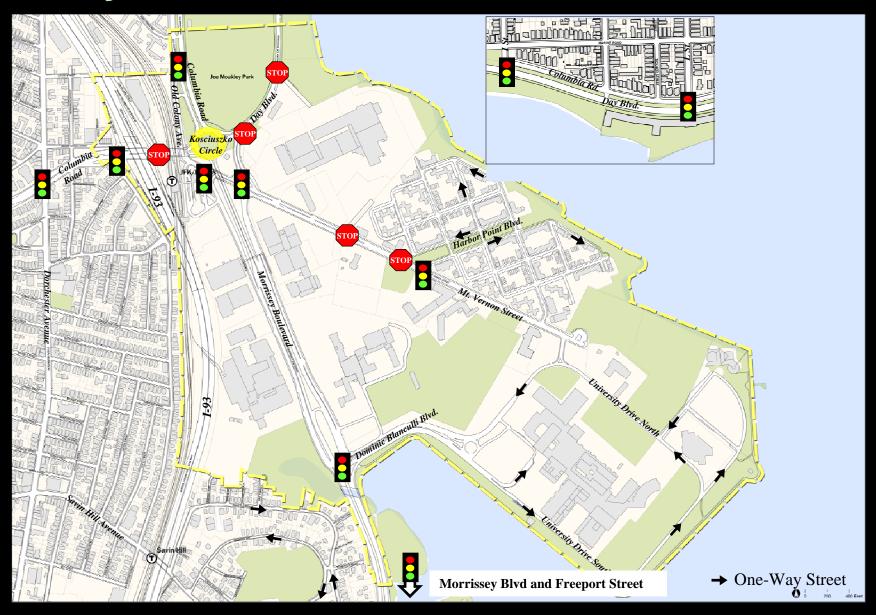
May 15, 2008 Community Meeting

- Roadways
- Traffic Volumes
- Traffic Operations
- Parking
- Mode Share
- Transit Services
- Pedestrians and Bicycles

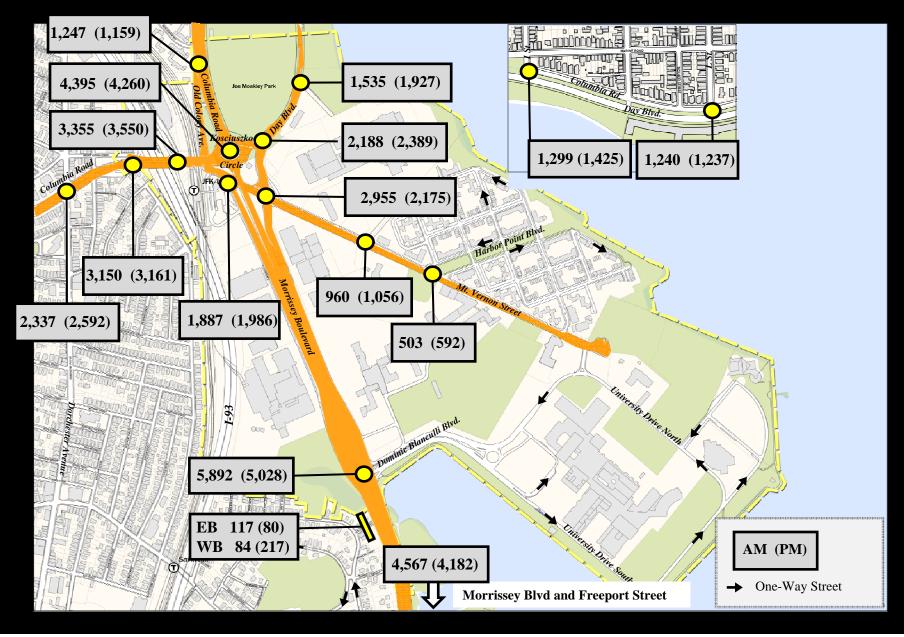
# **Roadway Ownership**



# **Study Intersections**



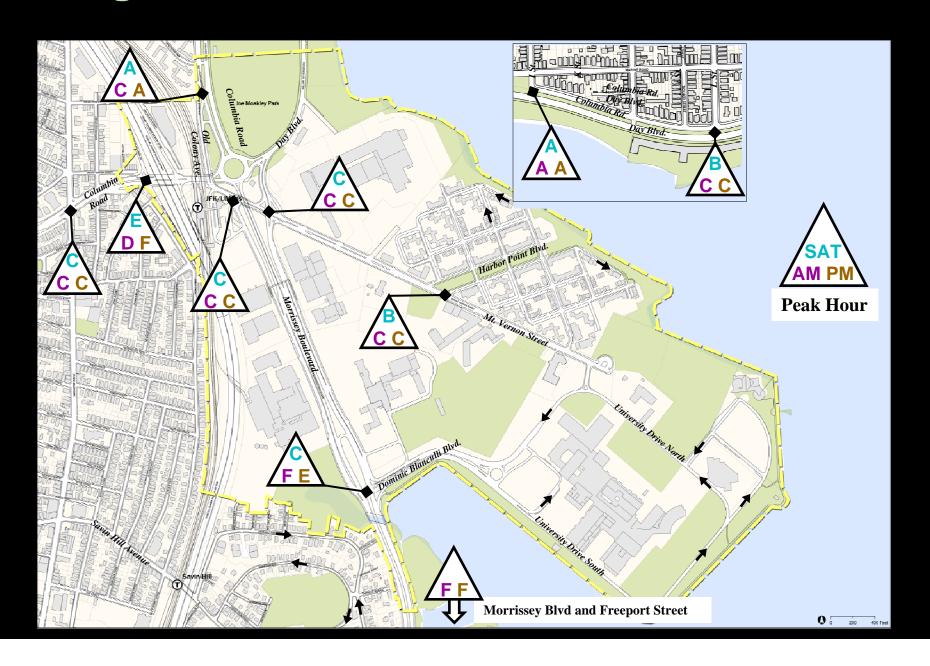
## **Peak Hour Traffic Volumes**



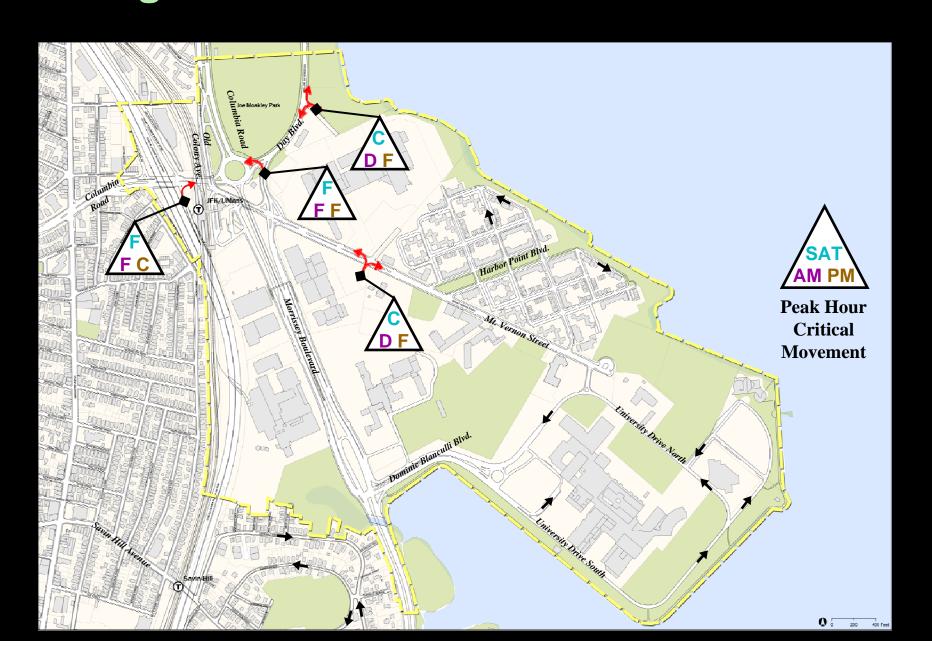
## **Traffic LOS Criteria**

Level of Service	Unsignalized Intersection Ave Delay (sec/veh)	Signalized Intersection Ave Delay (sec/veh)
LOS A	0 – 10	0 – 10
LOS B	10 – 15	10 – 20
LOS C	15 – 25	20 – 35
LOS D	25 – 35	35 – 55
LOS E	35 – 50	55 – 80
LOS F	>50	>80

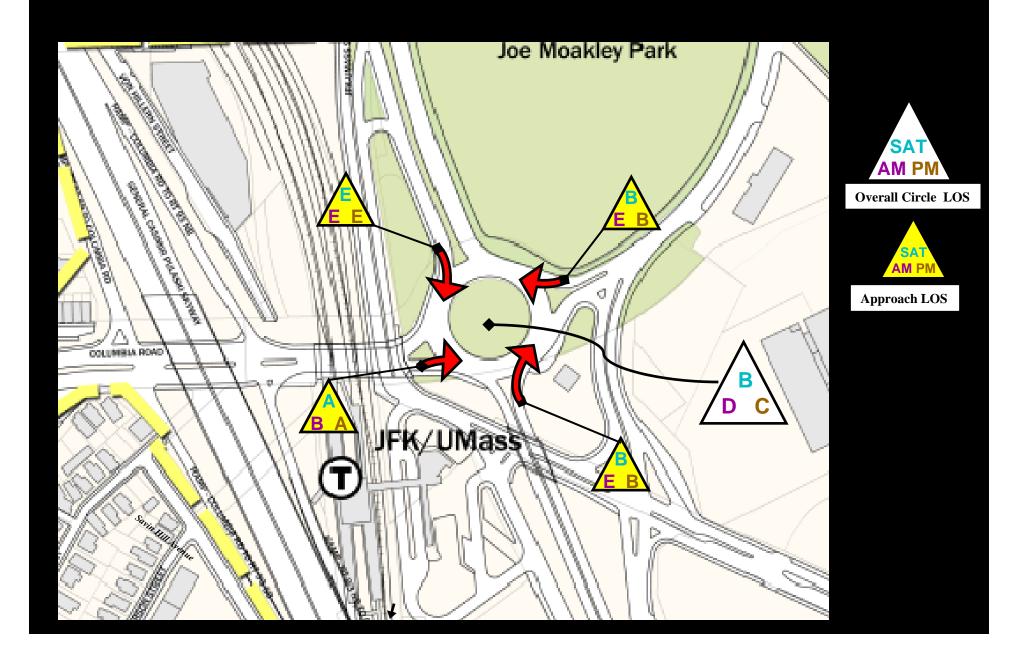
### Signalized Intersection Level of Service



## **Unsignalized Intersection Level of Service**



#### **Kosciuszko Circle Level of Service**



### **Existing Parking**



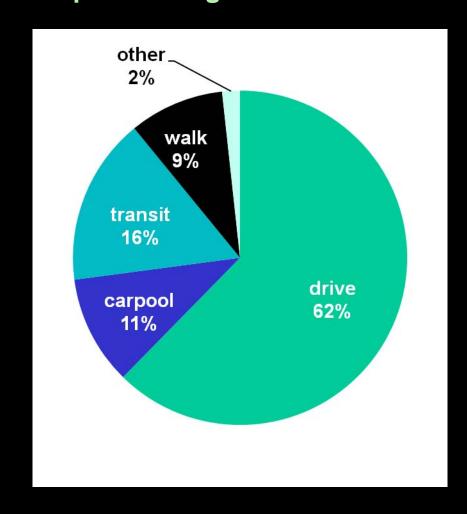
- Teachers Union (106)
- Office Building (385)
- Hotel (115)
- State Police (~90)

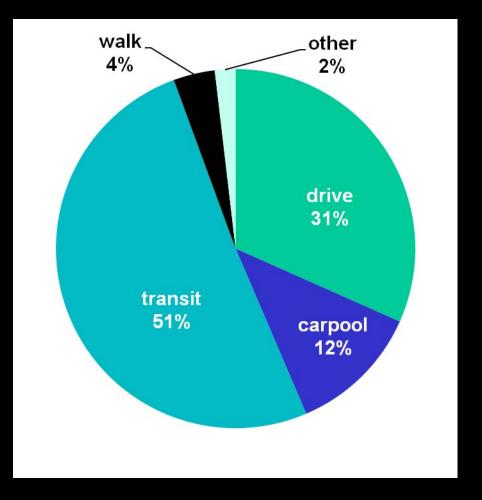
- Greater Media (124)
- Channel 56 (~100)
- Boston Globe (~750)
- Harbor Point (1,235)

- Boston College High School (~430)
- Dever and McCormack Schools (~250)
- St.Christophers Church (~50)
- UMass Boston/JFK Library/State Archives (3,100)

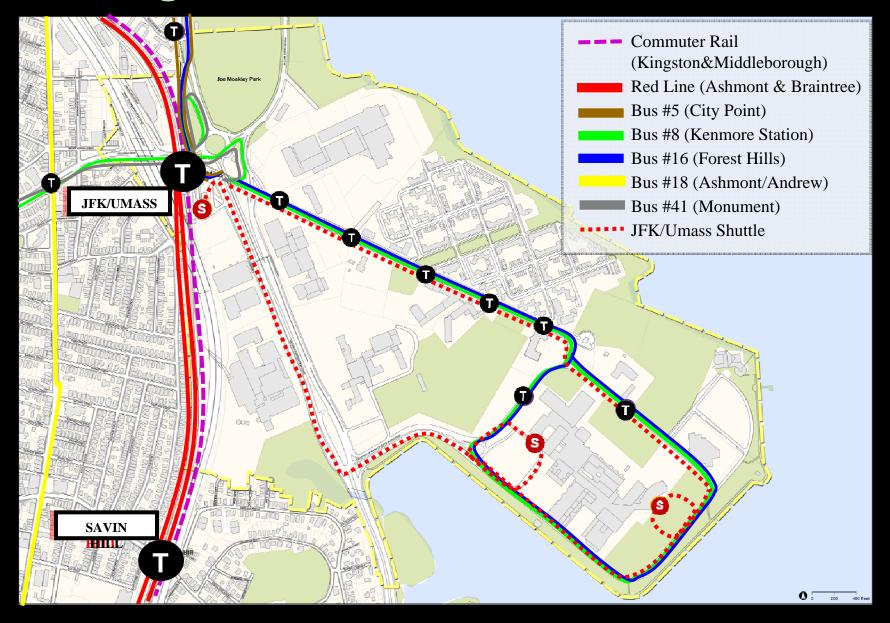
### **Journey to Work Mode Share**

People working in Columbia Point People living in Columbia Point





## **Existing Transit Services**



## **Pedestrians and Bicycles**



The Future: Opportunities

# Sustainability









### **Green Building Action Plan**



**Boston Arts Academy** 



LEED by Example – LEED Silver

Maverick Gardens,

### **Transit Oriented Development**

- Mixed Use, Vibrant Streets day & night activity
- Sense of Place/Community Spaces
- Pedestrian-Friendly
- Quality Facilities for Transit Users
- Structured & Shared Parking

## Station Landing, Medford





## Addison, TX





## **Boston's Mixed Use, Vibrant Streets**







#### **Community Benefits and Mitigation**

- Roadway Improvements
- Pedestrian Connections
- Open Space
- Gathering Space
- Community Services

# Station Landing, Medford











