



**Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative  
Upham's Corner Working Advisory Group Meeting #1  
Wednesday, August 8, 2012  
Location: The Salvation Army Kroc Community Center,  
Dorchester**

**WAG Attendees:** Lisa B. Alberghini, Adelina Alves, Judy Beckler, Courtney Curran, David Davenport, Andrew Forster, Christopher Jones, Andrea Kaiser, Max McCarthy, Paul Meehan, Joan E. Tighe; Glen Knowles (CAG);

**WAG Members Not in Attendance:** Alex DoSouto, Yaz Mohammad, George Papadopoulos, Dahria Williams-Fernandes

**City of Boston Attendees:** Inés Palmarin, BRA; Jeremy Rosenberger, BRA; Jim Fitzgerald, BRA; Para Jayasinghe, PWD; Beverly Estes-Smargiassi, DND; Chris Coughlin, PWD; Zch Wassmouth, PWD; Marie St. Fleur, IGS;

**Consulting Team Attendees:** Steve Cecil, The Cecil Group; Josh Fiala, The Cecil Group;

**Members of the Public:** Sandra Kennedy, BGMS; Nancy Conrad, UCIA; Emily Torres-Cullinane, MAPC; Adam Gibbons, DBEDC; Jeremy Levine, Harvard; Desmond Rohan, McCormack Civic; Christina Kim, Boston Cyclists Union; Jeanne DuBois, DBEDC; Maureen McCuillen, CSNC; Jason Webb, DSNI; Shemiram Fairan;

**Meeting Summary**

On Wednesday, August 8, 2012, the Upham's Corner Working Advisory Group (WAG) for the Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative had its introductory meeting at the Salvation Army Kroc Community Center in Upham's Corner, Dorchester.

The following are questions and answers that occurred during the meeting:

**Q. What is the difference between a management link and a partnership link on the project organizational chart?**

A: The BRA is responsible for the management of the consultant or process directly with the management links shown in the diagram. The partnership link is a parallel process, or partner organization that the BRA will connect with strategically throughout the study to create synergies between work along the corridor.

**Q. What is the difference between the Corridor-wide Advisory Group (CAG) and the Working Advisory Group (WAG) in this study?**

A: The CAG is made up of members that represent the variety of station areas along the corridor and is looking at the broader issues corridor-wide to develop a series of themes and overall improvements that can be applied at the broader scale of the Fairmount Indigo Corridor. The Working Advisory Groups, of which there will be three, are focused on the detailed improvements and recommendations that are specific to a certain place like Upham's Corner.

The WAG and the CAG are connected by the BRA and the Consultant team, as well as several joint committee members to help the two inform each other and allow the two parallel processes to be complementary.

**Q: Are minutes kept for each meeting?**

A: Notes of each meeting, particularly the questions and answers, are kept and posted online on the project website at [www.fairmountindigoplanning.org](http://www.fairmountindigoplanning.org).

**Q: Is it right that a third of the City's vacant properties are located along this corridor? If so, the committee needs to see a map or an inventory that shows this, it would be good to know.**

A: Yes, the team can provide a map for this and will provide other analyses and illustrations of data that is available for the corridor and station area.

**Q: Anticipating the large amount of information to be presented at the next meeting, it would be helpful for the committee to have it a little before the next meeting to prepare. Is that possible?**

A: Yes, the next meeting will be scheduled and the timing will be worked out to send a preview presentation to the committee. We tried to accomplish that for the last CAG meeting, but the logistics and schedule just did not work out.

**Q: As stated at the last CAG meeting, the MBTA must be present at the table at these meetings, a project that is about transportation, transit and transit-oriented development, this is very important. Is there an update as to the status of this request?**

A: The MBTA has been notified and will be sending a representative to the meetings. It is important also for this project to focus on those things that the city can control, such as city-owned properties, the streets, the public realm and zoning.

**Q: Can there be transparency on the flow of dollars and funding allocations for this project? Many funds have been allocated to this project over the years, how much, how it is being used, for what purposes? Are they federal dollars? The money needs to be used in appropriate ways and the process needs to be transparent.**

A: The initiative is being funded by federal grants. The BRA will explore an appropriate answer to this question and follow up.

**Q: Concern about none of the businesses at the table, is the process getting starting off on the wrong foot?**

A: The BRA did reach out to the Upham's businesses, prior to the meeting and it is difficult to get them at the meetings. The BRA will follow up with them and see what can be done about including them.

**Q: The demographics of the corridor and of Upham's Corner are complicated and complex, how will the outreach process ensure that the many cultures and languages of the residents get included?**

A: The BRA is working with the MAPC for focused outreach and potentially some smaller focus groups to reach out to specific cultural groups and using interpretation services as needed.

**Q: Can translation be offered at the WAG committee meetings?**

A: It can be, but we would want to be sure that it will be used and is necessary, it is an expensive service and will be provided if the need is there.