

Boston
**FOREST
HILLS**
IMPROVEMENT
INITIATIVES

Welcome



CITY OF BOSTON

Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor

Community Meeting

October 21, 2006

Organized by:

Office of Neighborhood Services

Greater Forest Hills Area Task Force

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Boston Redevelopment Authority

Boston Transportation Department

Boston Parks and Recreation Department

Department of Conservation and Recreation

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Agenda

FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING - AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Overview of planning process and key deliverables

- *Community Vision*
- *Development Scenarios & Guidelines*
- *Use & Design Guidelines for MBTA RFP's*
- *Transportation & Streetscape Improvements*
- *Zoning Amendments as necessary*

3. Community planning phases & meeting schedule

4. Existing Conditions Analysis

5. Workshop Breakout Sessions [small groups in focused working discussions] 9:40 AM

- *Community Vision* for Forest Hills – 30 min.
- *Identify Area Assets and Challenges* – 20 min.
- *Identify Focus Areas and Study Sites* including MBTA parcels – 20 min.

6. Group Reporting and Summaries

7. Follow up activities and responsibilities

Adjourn at 12:00 N

Up Coming Meetings

Working Group Meeting - Wednesday, Nov. 8th, 6:30 – 8 PM, State Lab Building

Community Meeting – Tuesday, December 5th, 2006, 6:00 – 8:30 PM



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COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

PHASE I

- Community Meeting 1 – Introduction / Community Vision
October 21, 2006
- Community Meeting 2 – Use, Design, Transportation & Streetscape: Best Practices & Ideas
December 2006
- Community Meeting 3 – Use, Design, Transportation & Streetscape: Preliminary Recommendations
January 2006
- Community Meeting 4 – Use, Design, Transportation & Streetscape: Final Recommendations
February 2007

PHASE II

- Community Meeting 5 – Focus on Comprehensive Transportation Planning
March 2007
- Final Community Meeting – Finalize Comprehensive Transportation Plan
May 2007



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Community Survey



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HOW

- Available by email, internet and hardcopy in English & Spanish.
- Over 187 responses.

WHAT

- New or addition uses: Retail – Independent, Open Space, Residential Homeownership
- Issues: Traffic, Unsightly Buildings, Types of Biz
- Opportunities: Better Biz Mix, Open Space Preservation, New Retail & Commercial
- Most People Walk to Forest Hills
- Fix Parking by Encouraging Walking & Biking

WHO

- 85% Area Homeowners, 8% don't live here
- Half have lived in the Forest Hills between 2-10 years

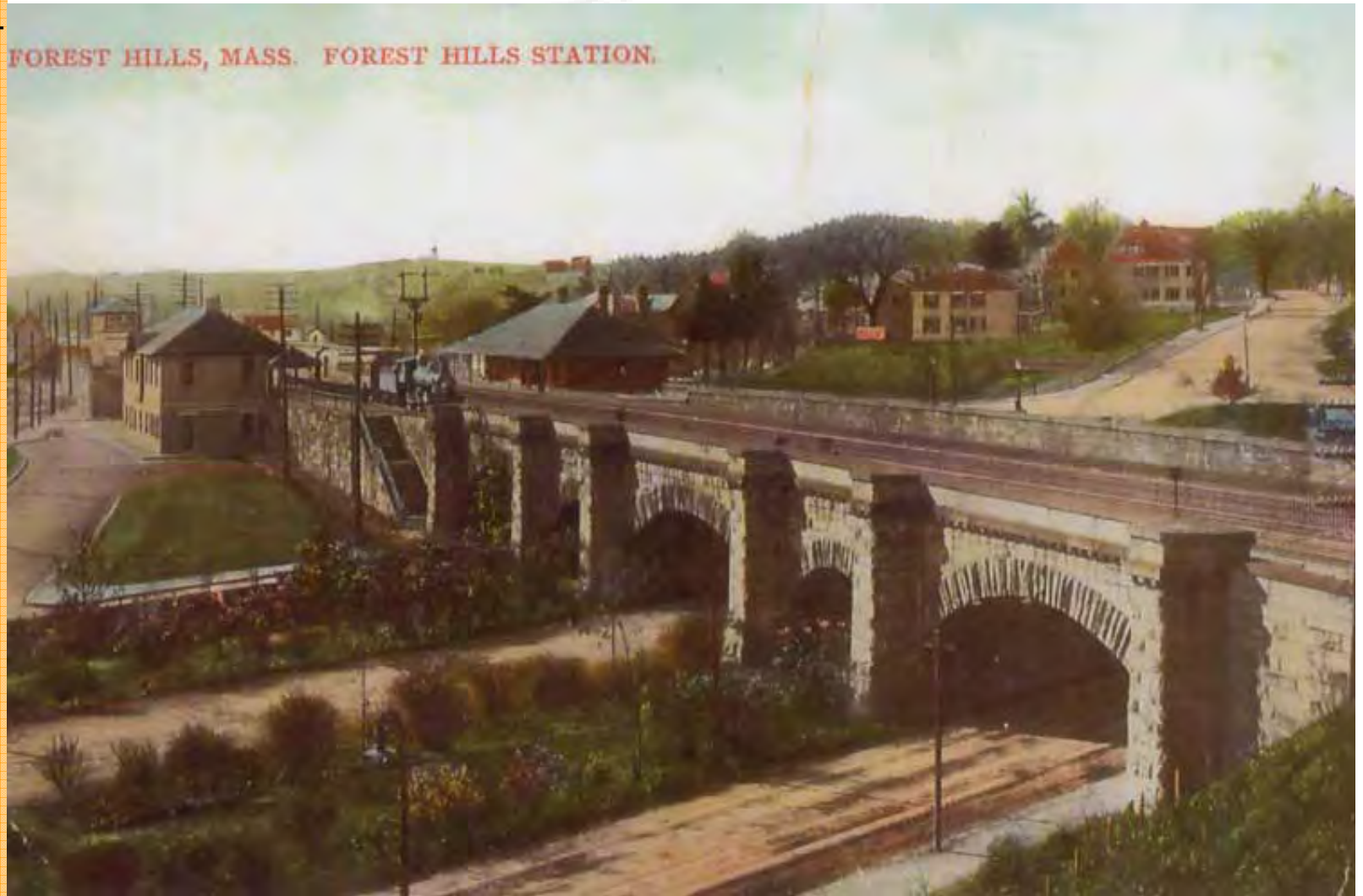
WHY

- Easy commute to Work, love the Social Character, Green & Open Space

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Area History



Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

The overpass and station at Forest Hills, ca 1900.



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Area History



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Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

Open trolley cars, used exclusively during the summer months, fill a siding along Washington St. at Forest Hills, circa 1900.

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Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

The Forest Hills station of the Boston & Providence Railroad, circa 1900.

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Area History



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Trains traveling on Washington Street in 1953 can be seen passing the Arborway yard on the right.



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History



Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

Trolley #3210 after an electrical fire forced the evacuation of its passengers with the recently built Arborway overpass background, 1967.



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Courtesy of Anthony Sammarco.

Early morning inside the old Forest Hills Orange Line station, 1960.

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Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

Morton St. overpass and the old Forest Hills Station. Late 1980s.



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Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

The old Elevated Forest Hills Orange Line Station with trains berthed in the elevated yard, 1983.

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Courtesy of Jamaica Plain Historical Society

The newly opened Forest Hills Orange Line Station on the left, the old station, being readied for demolition, is on the right, 1987.

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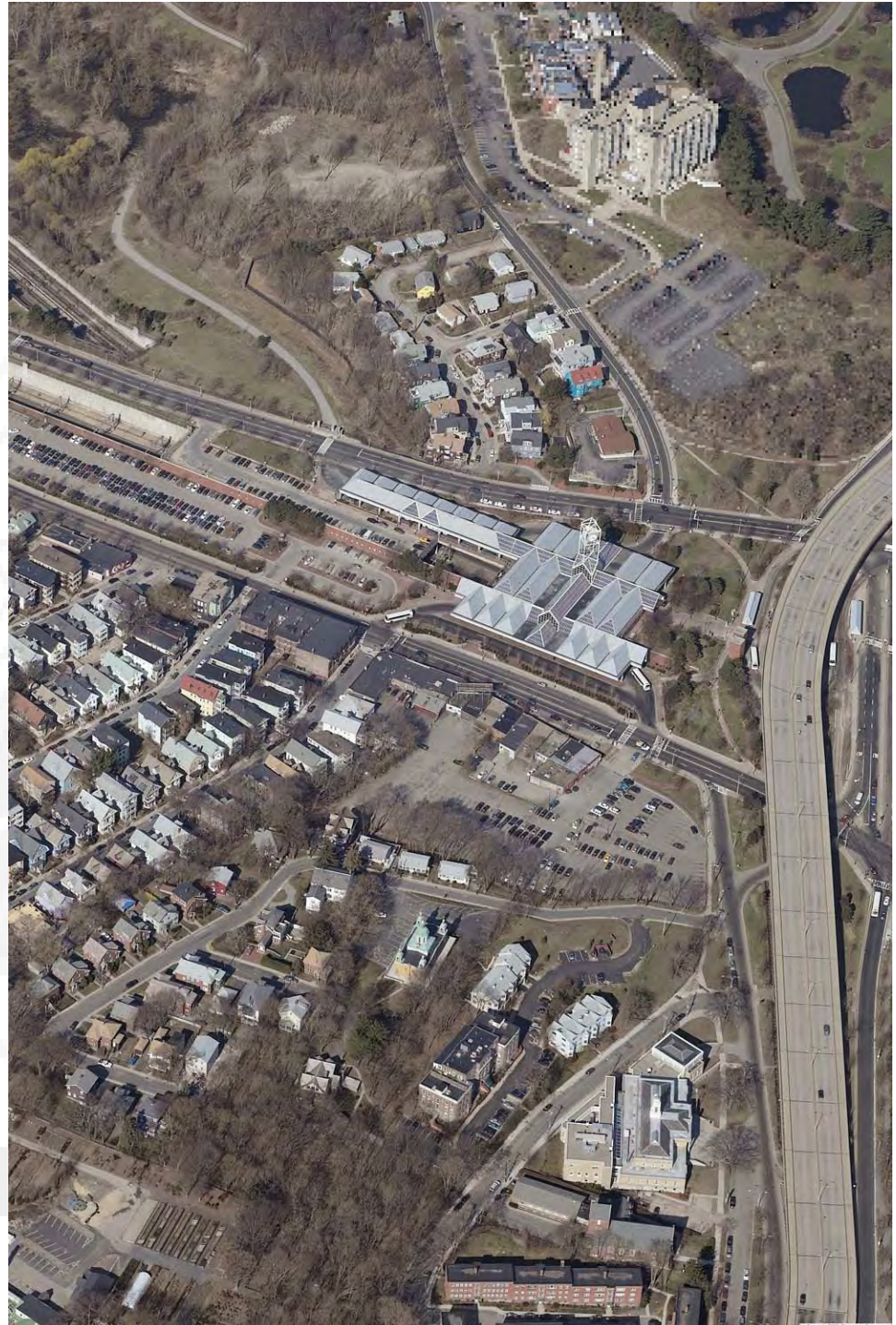
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Forest Hills Today



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Existing Conditions



**MBTA- Forest Hills Station
& Arborway**



Southwest Corridor



**Commercial on Hyde Park Ave.
Cleaners & Restaurant**



**Mixed Use & Residential
Hyde Park Ave.**



**Lemuel Shattuck Hospital
Morton St.**



**Residential Street
Martinwood St.**



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Existing Conditions



Residential Sidewalk
Hyde Park Ave.



General Sidewalk- Hyde Park Ave.



Commercial Sidewalk-
Hyde Park Ave.



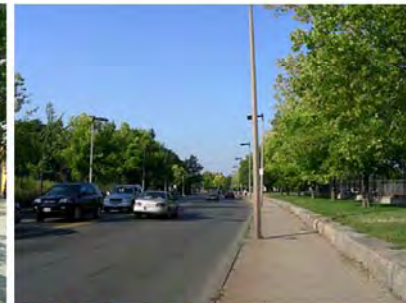
Hyde Park Avenue Streetscape



New Washington Street
View towards Washington St.



Ukraine Way-
View towards Hyde Park Ave.



Washington Street-
View towards Station



Martinwood Street-
Residential St. off Washington St.



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Existing Conditions



Forest Hills Station & Parking Lot



Retail In Station -
H-H Florist & Morgan's Cafe



Taxi Stand on Washington St.



Old Trolley Section of Station
Under Arborway - Buses Only



Forest Hills Station Interior
New Electronic System



Bus Station off Hyde Park Ave.



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Open Space System



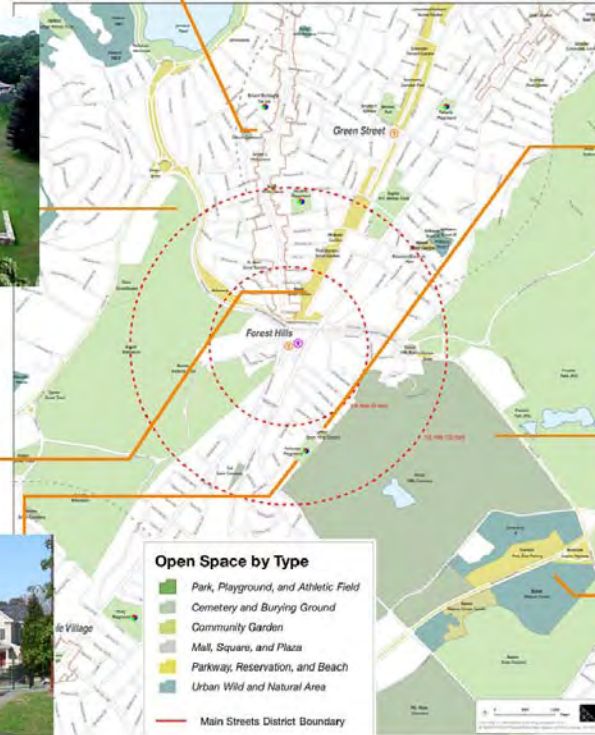
Mall, Square, or Plaza

Soilder's Monument



Park

Arnold Arboretum



Community Garden

Leland Street Herb Garden



Cemetery

Forest Hills Cemetery



Parkway, Reservation or Beach

Southwest Corridore



Playground

Parkman Playground



Urban Wild & Naatural Area

Canterbury



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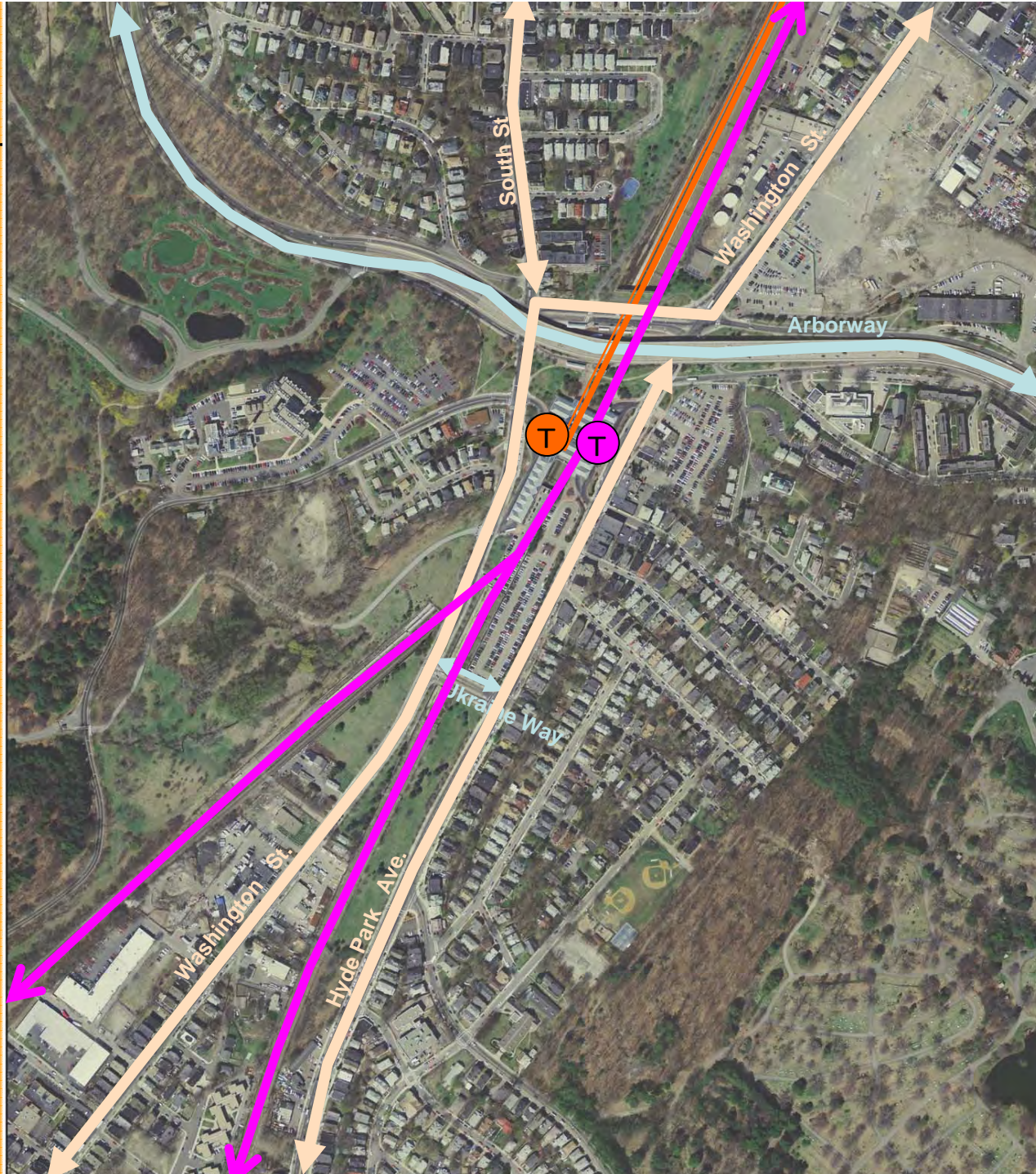
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Transit Assets



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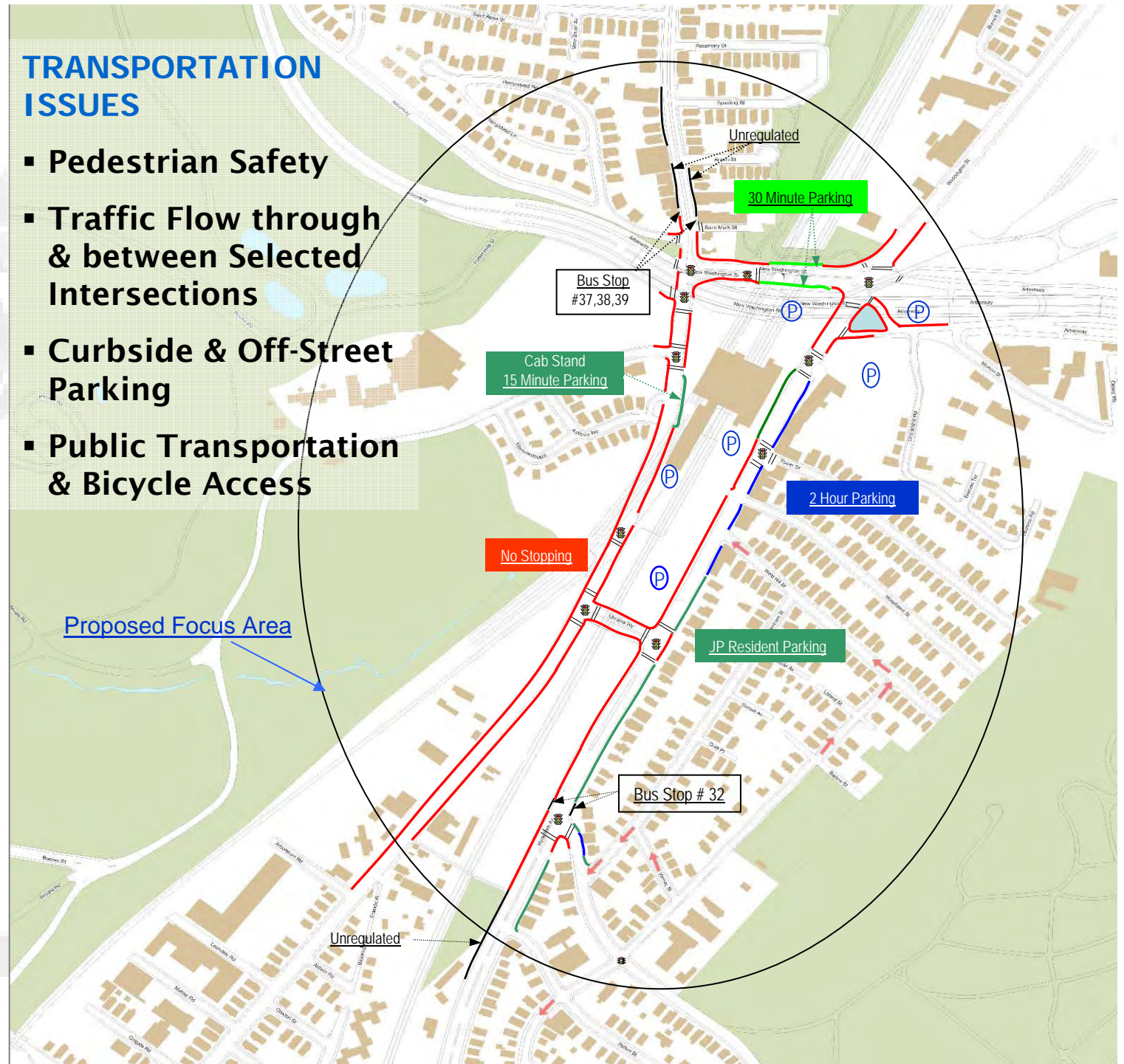
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Transportation Analysis Map

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- Pedestrian Safety
- Traffic Flow through & between Selected Intersections
- Curbside & Off-Street Parking
- Public Transportation & Bicycle Access

Proposed Focus Area



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Land Use



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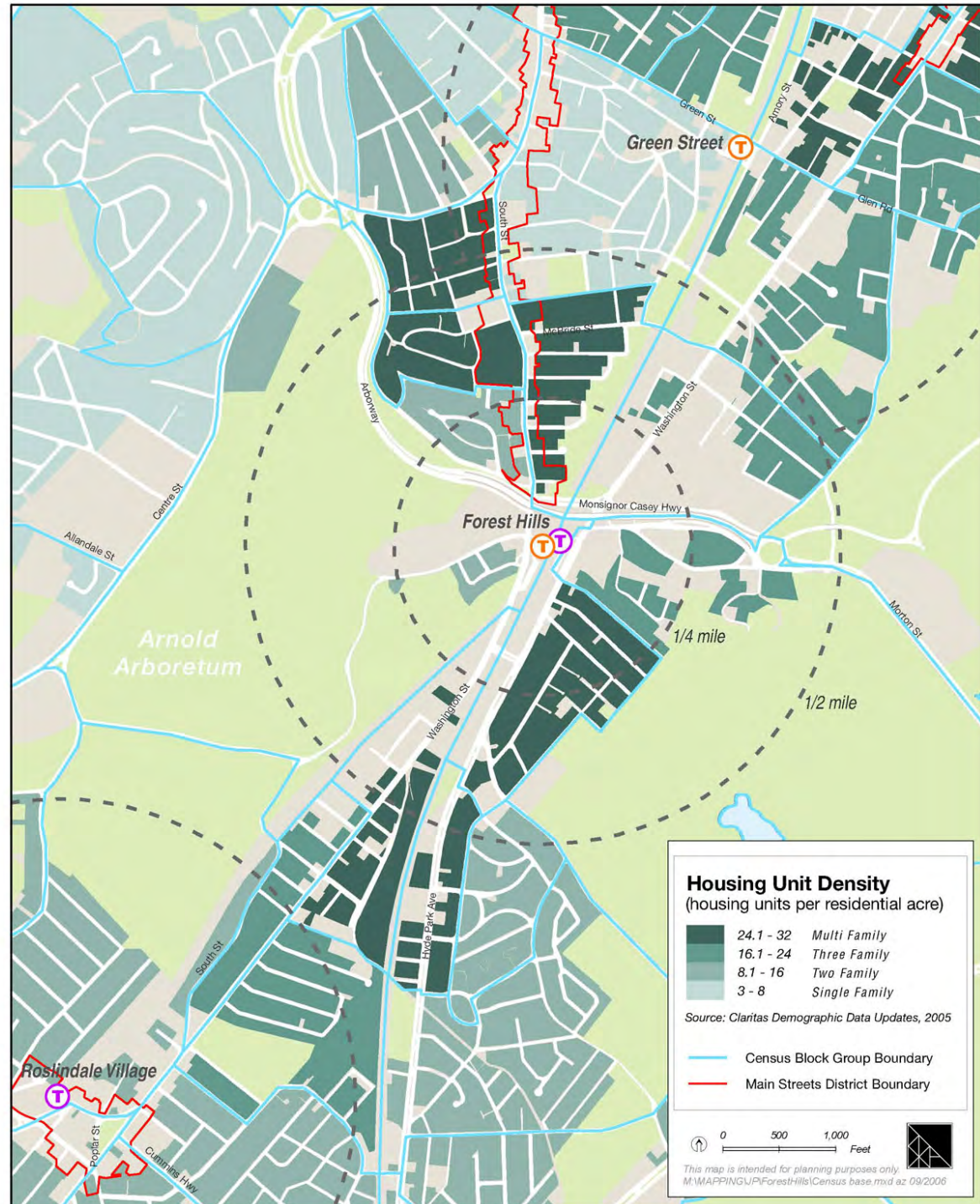
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Housing Density



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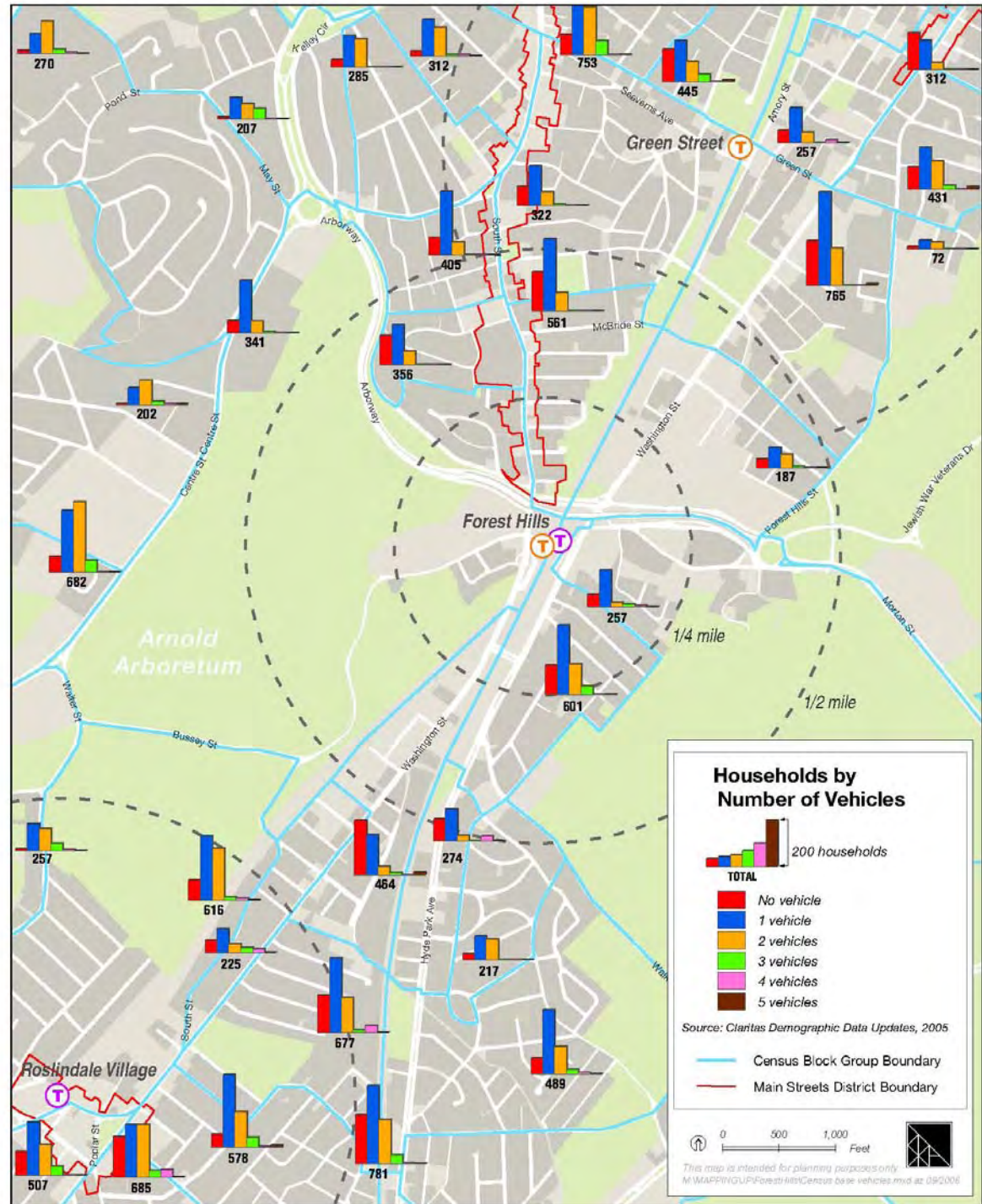


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Vehicle Density by Households



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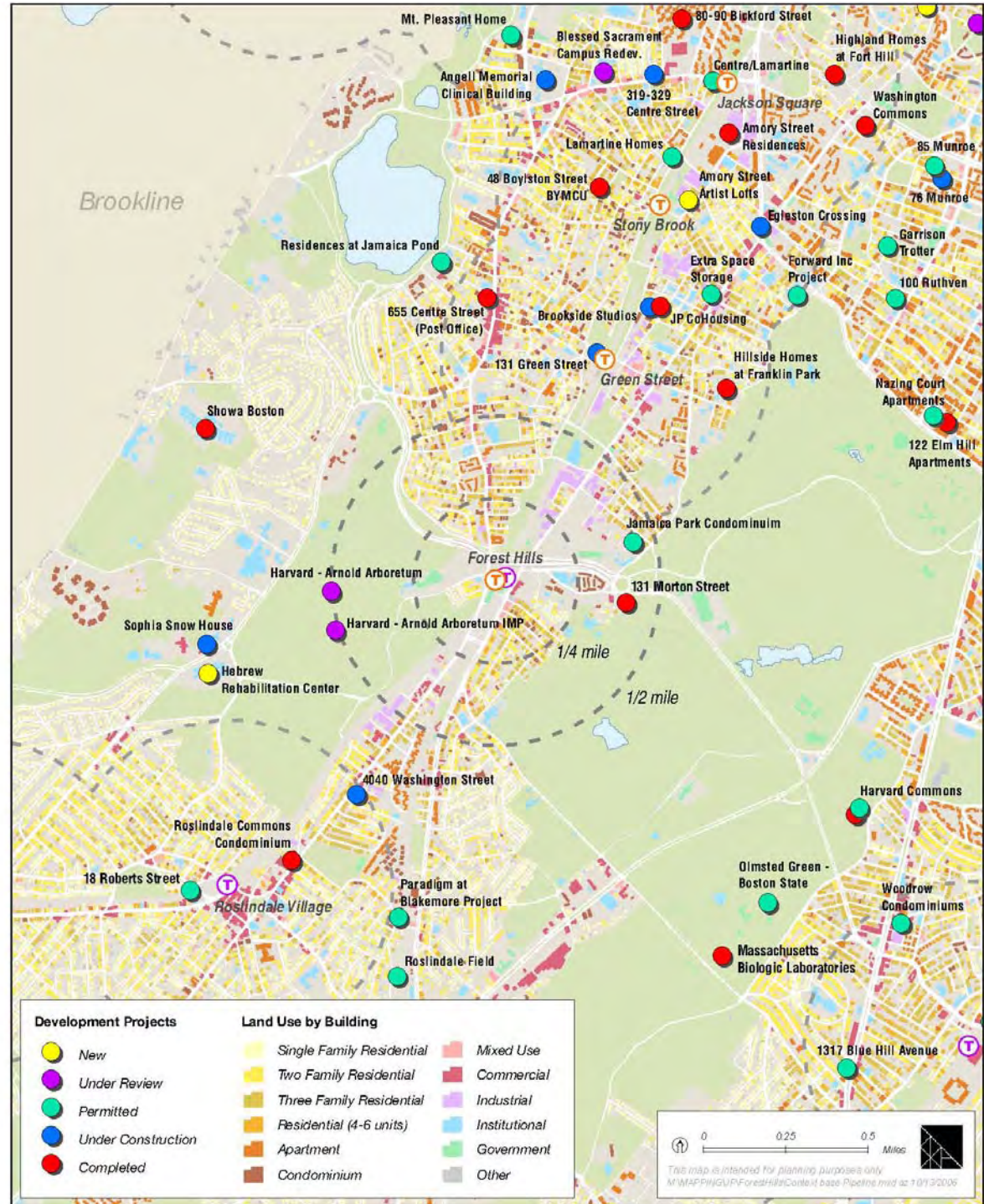


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Area Projects



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Trade Area

Population:
8,361

Education:
2,500 college +

Average Income:
\$62,000

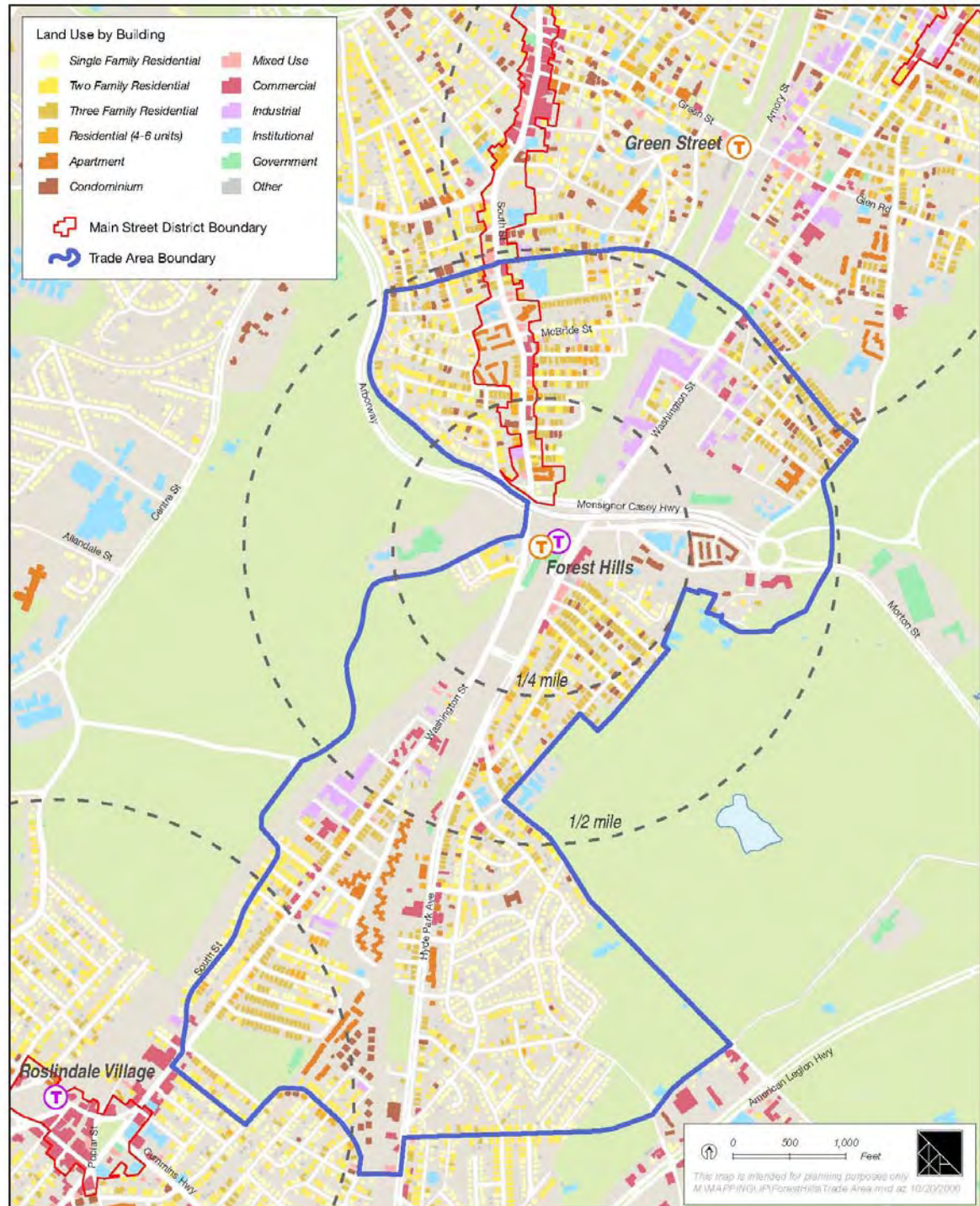
Age Groups:
1-4 yo: 555
25-34 yo: 1,950
35-44 yo: 1,551

Commuting:
Drove alone =
Public Transit
(1,675 – 1,620)



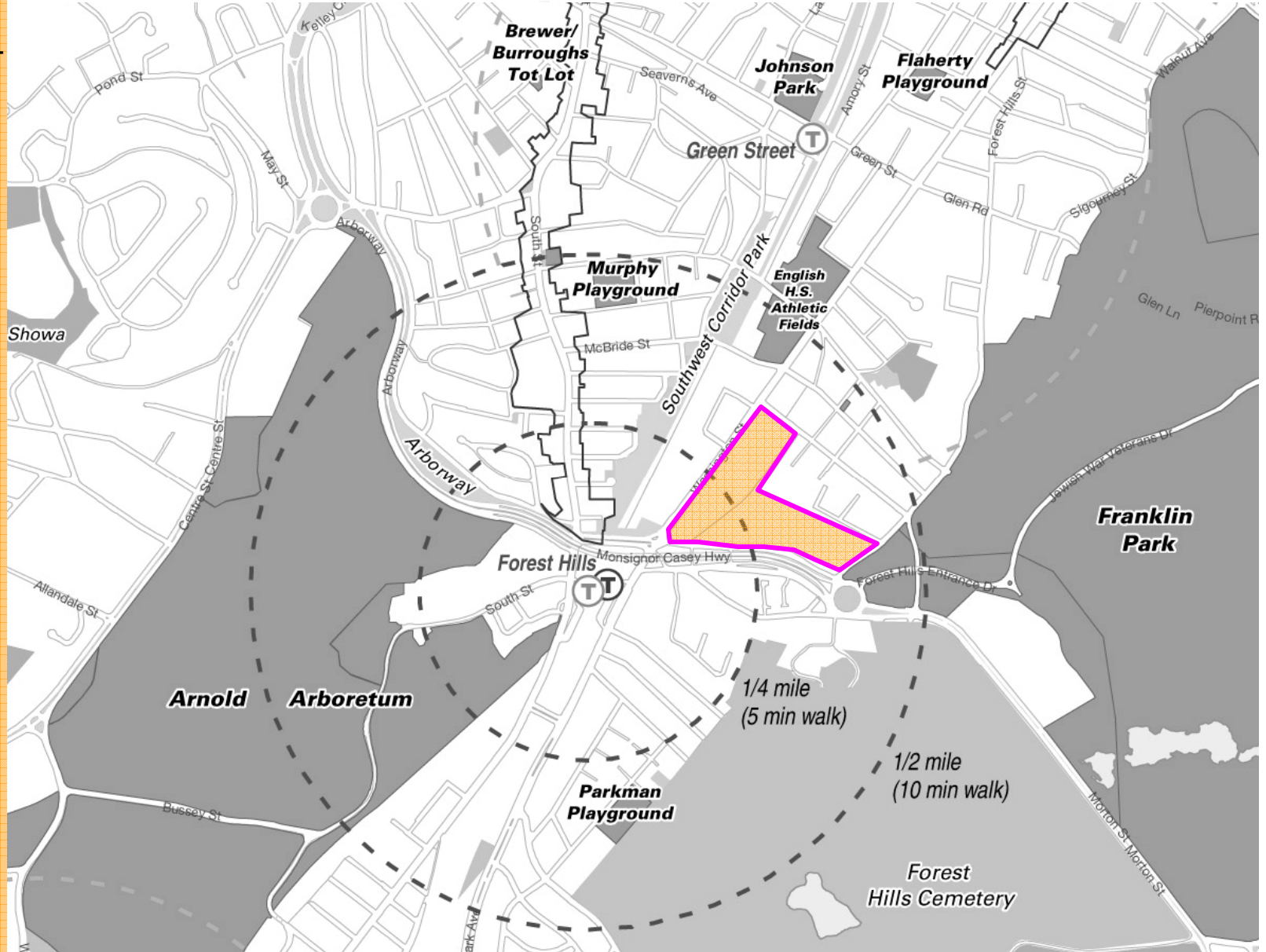
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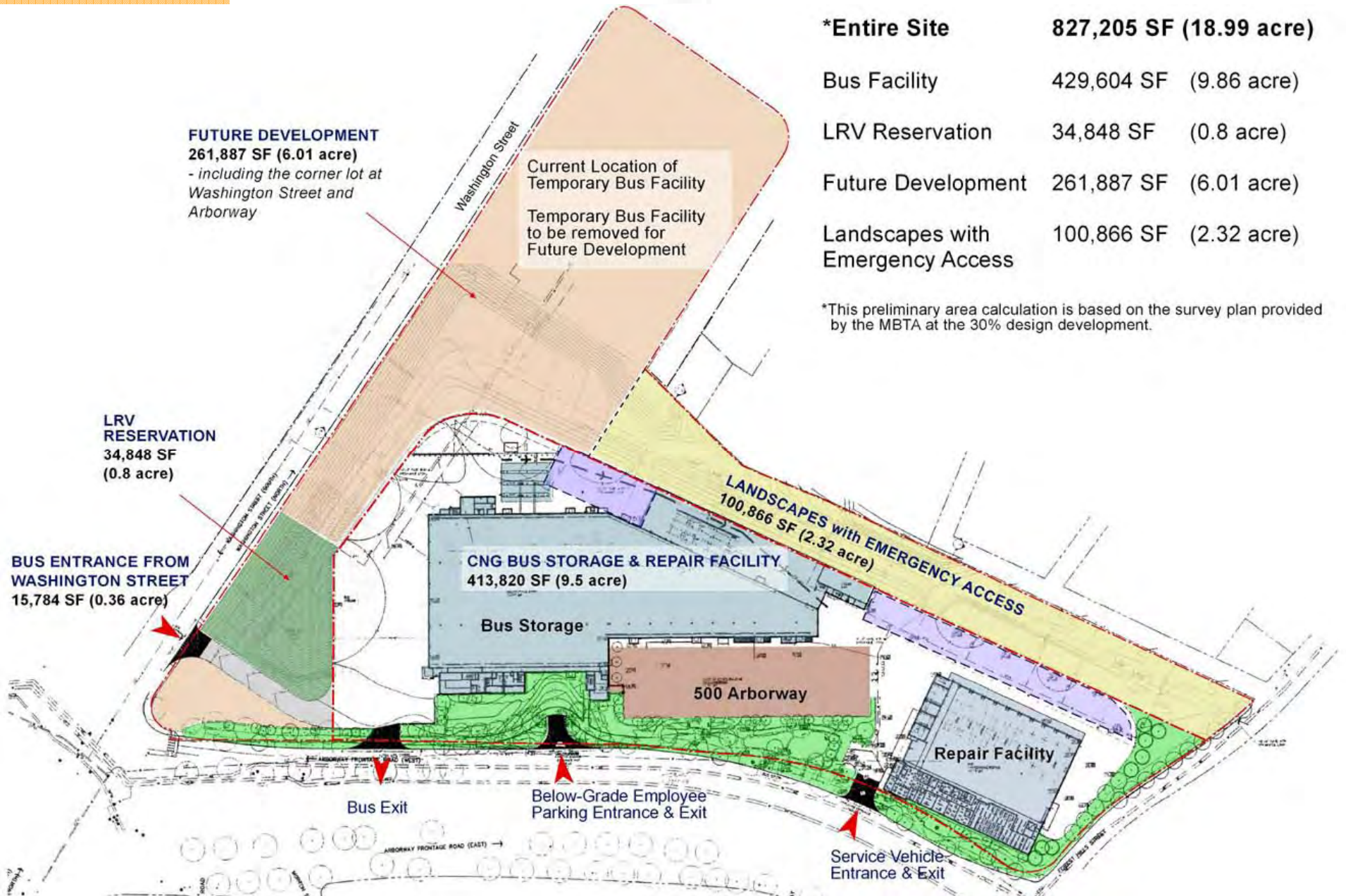
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Planning Activities



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*Entire Site	827,205 SF (18.99 acre)
Bus Facility	429,604 SF (9.86 acre)
LRV Reservation	34,848 SF (0.8 acre)
Future Development	261,887 SF (6.01 acre)
Landscapes with Emergency Access	100,866 SF (2.32 acre)

*This preliminary area calculation is based on the survey plan provided by the MBTA at the 30% design development.

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Planning Activities



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**Planning
Activities**



**South Street
to Murray Circle**



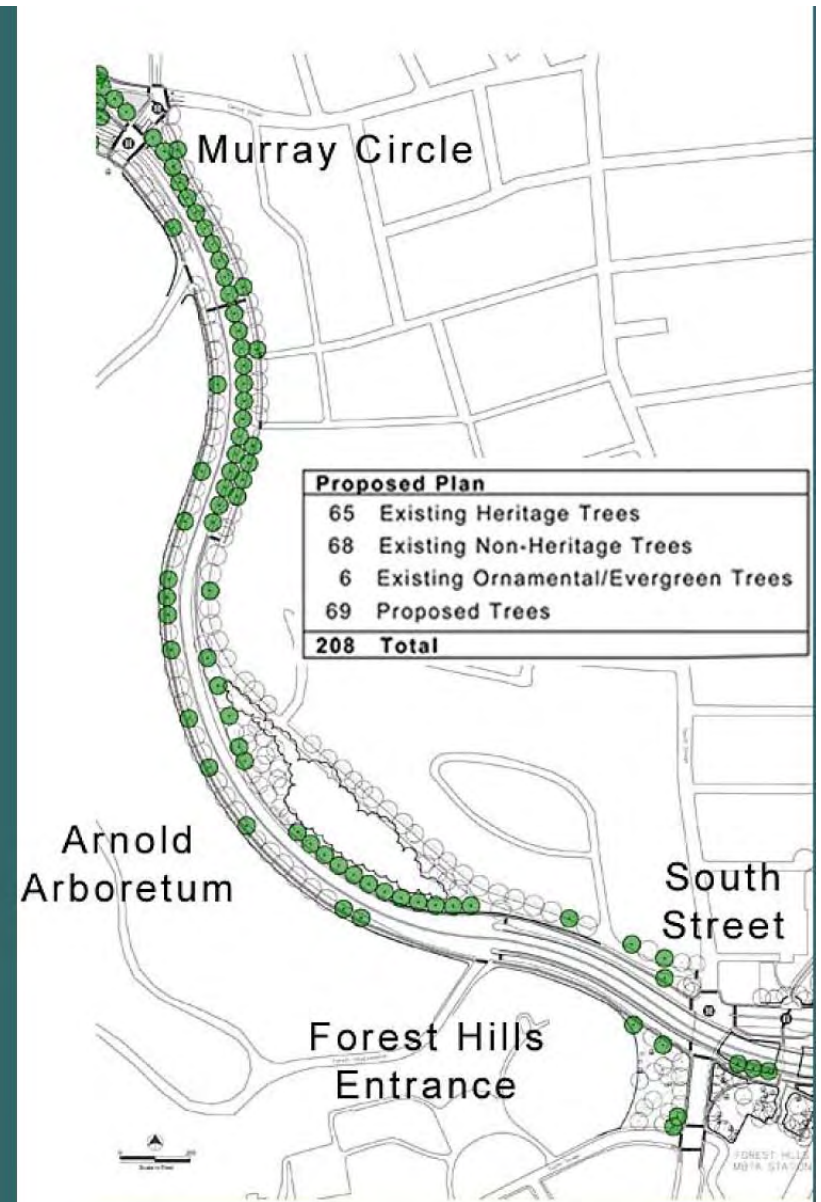
Proposed Trees



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**ARBORWAY
MASTER PLAN**



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Planning Activities



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Under Casey Overpass - Existing



Under Casey Overpass - Proposed



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Policy

Transit-Orientated Development



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Office for Commonwealth Development
State of Massachusetts

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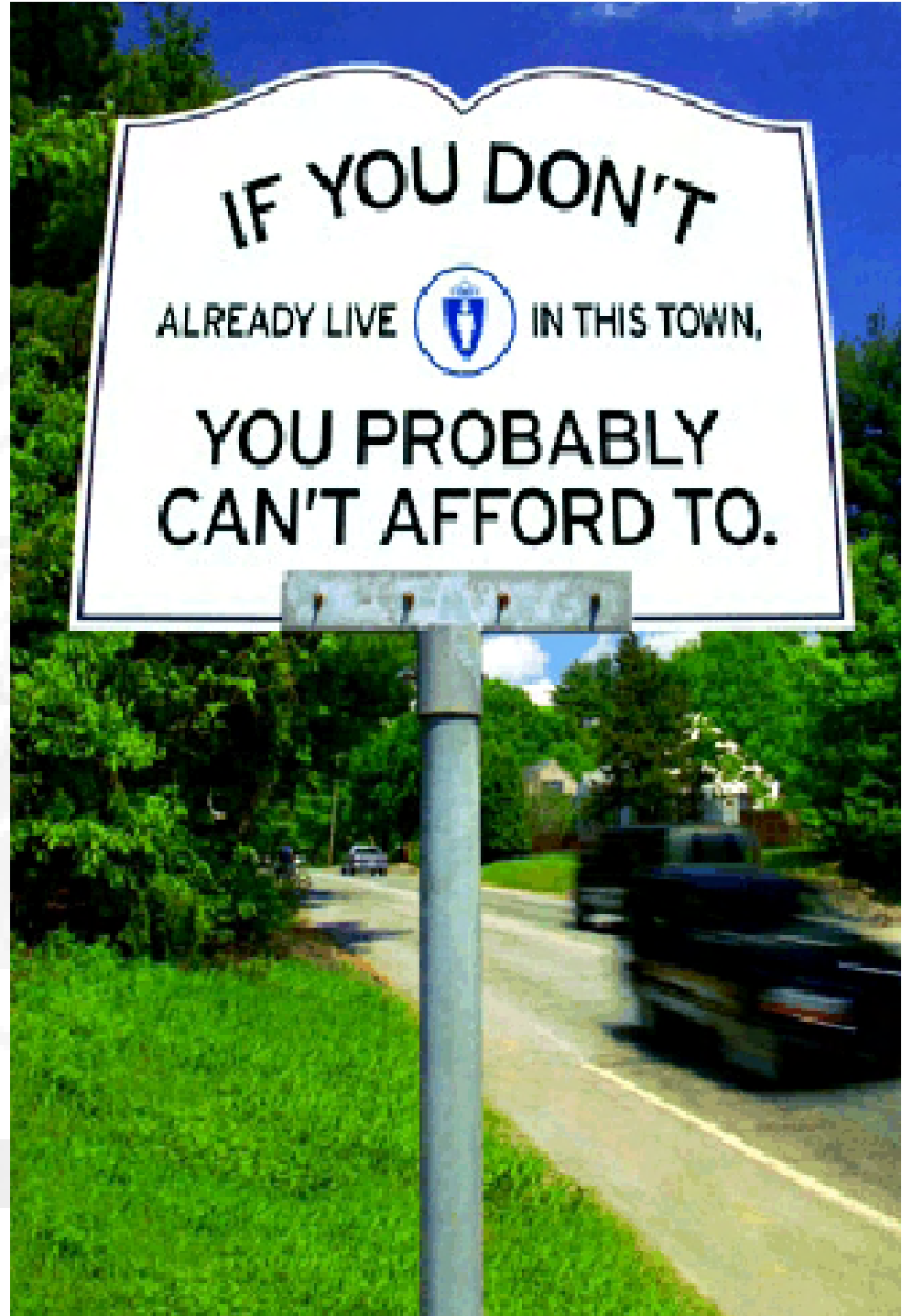
Policy

**Affordable
Housing**



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Policy

Choices in Mobility



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Vibrant Places



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**MBTA Parcel V
(0.53 Acres)**

**MBTA Parcel W
(1.34 Acres)**

**MBTA Parcel U
(2.82 Acres)**

Washington Street

Hyde Park Avenue

Ukraine Way

Wachusett Street

Boston



**Arborway Yard Surplus
Parcel (6 acres)**

**BHA Parcel
(2.49 acres)**

**Fitzgerald
Parking Lot
(2.50 acres)**

**MBTA Commuter
Parking Parcel
(2.18 acres)**

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**Proposed
Study
Area**



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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Community Vision

- An ideal description of a future Forest Hills; the feel, look and function you would hope to see

Assets & Challenges

- What's great about Forest Hills?
- What keeps Forest Hills from being a better place?

Focus Areas & Study Sites

- Transit and public realm zones with problems and / or in need of improvement
- Sites or specific parcels to be studied for current or new uses