

Forest Hills Improvement Initiative

Second Community Meeting – January 10, 2007

DRAFT - Meeting Notes

FULL GROUP SUMMARY NOTES

The following notes are intended to be a summary of the full meeting and were in part compiled at the end of the January 10th community meeting:

EMERGING COMMUNITY VISION COMMENTS

- Draw people in while limiting traffic
- Specify traffic calming
- Emphasize that commercial uses should be close to the station; residential uses further out
- Transform Forest Hills Station (and Casey Overpass) from a dividing element to community connecting element with added gathering and linking functions.

FOCUS AREAS

Circulations and Access Improvements

Pedestrian

- Pedestrian Crossways - additional / improved cross circulation including through the station
- Re-establish Tollgate path and foot bridge
- Pedestrian connection across corridor at Walk Hill and Weld Hill to Washington St.
- Improve access to Station from the south
- Review current crosswalk locations; add missing crosswalks [add at Asticou St.]
- Make area more pedestrian friendly – kid friendly
- Shuttle from FH Station to JP attractions and destinations

Bicycle

- Added bike racks in district
- Provide secure and increase bike storage at FH Station
- Green Connector - way finding signage at bike path(s) to area green spaces

Vehicular

- One way vehicular circulation around station
- Traffic Calming
- Station Parking facilities located south of FH Station

Streetscape Improvements

- Consistent Street Lighting to link FH area, Washington St and South Street
- Improve Street Lighting for pedestrian and bicycle safety

Extend Southwest Corridor bike path – provide and off road bike paths on Washington St. and Hyde Park Ave.

Casey Overpass ground level improvements – Open air market / farmers market, pavilions (transparent), space for artists, sculpture garden, shaded green space or park.

New Washington Street uses & improvements – *see above*

Connect Area Open / Green Space Assets – Emerald Necklace Reconnector or green pathways for both pedestrians and bicycles on either / both side of Casey Overpass and surface roadways.
Extend Orange Line service – added stations in Roslindale / West Roxbury and Hyde Park
Add Retail in and on Station property – both in station and on station property uses.

STUDY SITES

MBTA Parcel U with ROW 3 and 4 [Hyde Park Ave.]

- Uses: Artist live / work, mixed use ground floor retail nearer to FH Station / residential further away, , affordable / homeowner housing, and open space (as is). And or relocate commuter parking.
- Size: Low rise - 3 to 5 stories
- Character: Brick row house / townhouse with parking at rear, gaps to allow views through and break up planes (street wall), green roofs, pedestrian path through, landscape buffer at ends.

MBTA Parcel V [Washington Street – small triangular site next to tracks]

- Uses: Tot lot, mixed use commercial with youth / recreational focus including ice rink, bike rental
- Size: Low buildings
- Character:

MBTA Parcel W with ROW 5 [Washington Street – large triangular site]

- Uses: Residential, affordable housing, retail, grocery store, school, park or playground
- Size: Low rise – 3 stories
- Character: sensitive to adjacent green space, cap or cover train yard to mitigate noise impacts

MBTA Station Parking Lot with ROW 2

- Uses: Mixed use office over retail, grocery store, gallery, commuter / structured parking
- Size: Low rise - 4 to 6 stories
- Character: Commercial district center with good pedestrian access and water feature

Private Parking Lot (Fitzgerald Lot)

- Uses: Mixed use retail with office and or housing above, movie theater, grocery store (Trader Joe's, pharmacy), mixed income housing, commuter / structured parking
- Size: Mid rise 5 to 7 stories, go high for residential views (Brigham Circle).
- Character: Commercial center, green roof, public spaces

Arborway Yard Parcel

- Uses: Mixed use commercial on front – office over retail, grocery store (Trader Joe's), small retail, youth recreation programming, ice rink, light industrial at back
- Size: 5 stories
- Character: