

PLAN: JP/Rox Washington Street

Preserve. Enhance. Grow.



Community Workshop #4 for PLAN JP/ROX on January 21, 2016 was named **Connecting People with Places**, which joined two earlier themes from Community Workshops #2 (Planning for People) and Community Workshop #3 (Planning for Places). In Community Workshop #4, we discussed transportation, mobility, and generally how we get around both within and outside of the study area. We also talked about special "places" and the public realm. The public realm is any place, space or building accessible and open to all members of the community whether publicly or privately owned. Some examples of the public realm include streets, sidewalks, parks, courtyards, setbacks from buildings and buildings such as public libraries, building lobbies, stores or hotels. The following agenda was carried out:

- **OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING**

Staff from the BRA and multiple City departments spoke with workshop participants. Several presentation boards were available. There was a board that recapped all of the notes and maps from Community Workshop #3, where workshop participants envisioned new land uses, the scale and character for the study area. These ideas have been reviewed and synthesized by BRA planning staff to help craft PLAN scenarios which will later translate into new zoning language for the study area.

- **WELCOME AND UPDATE**

Marie Mercurio, Senior Planner from the BRA, introduced PLAN JP/ROX, provided an overview for newcomers, and updated the audience on the PLAN process and timeline. She explained that a great deal of feedback from the three major themes of PLAN JP/ROX has been collected and while we will continue to gather participant feedback as the PLAN progresses, the more generative phase of PLAN JP/ROX has been accomplished. At an upcoming workshop on March 5th, the BRA will present PLAN draft development scenarios to the public.

- **CITYWIDE TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS UPDATE**

Alice Brown from the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) spoke to the ongoing citywide efforts that their department is working on, and in many cases, could be tied to the PLAN JP/ROX study area. She mentioned the following ongoing efforts: Complete Streets, Go Boston 2030, Vision Zero, Slow Streets Pilot (Stonybrook Neighborhood), Greenlinks, and the Boston Bikes Plan. For any more information on these efforts, please contact the BTD office at (617) 635-4680. This PowerPoint presentation can be found on the project website at: bit.ly/planjprox.

- **PUBLIC REALM AND PLACEMAKING**

Marie Mercurio then resumed the presentation by helping to demystify planning and design terminology like "placemaking" and "public realm". She explained that the public realm can be described as any place, space or building accessible and open to all members of the community whether publicly or privately owned. This may include streets, sidewalks, courtyards, building setbacks, parks, plazas and even buildings (like libraries or lobbies). She provided examples and photos of the public realm within and outside of the study area. She then described "placemaking" or "place" as unique and special places which reinforce the overall character of the whole corridor. These places might have interesting architectural expression, development with active ground floor use, and an attractive public realm that encourages pedestrian traffic and gathering opportunities. When these elements intersect between public and private property, they make the city come alive. She explained the intersection between public realm and place and provided participants an explanation of this terminology for the small group exercise which followed.

- SMALL GROUPS EXERCISE**

The small group exercise consisted of three components.

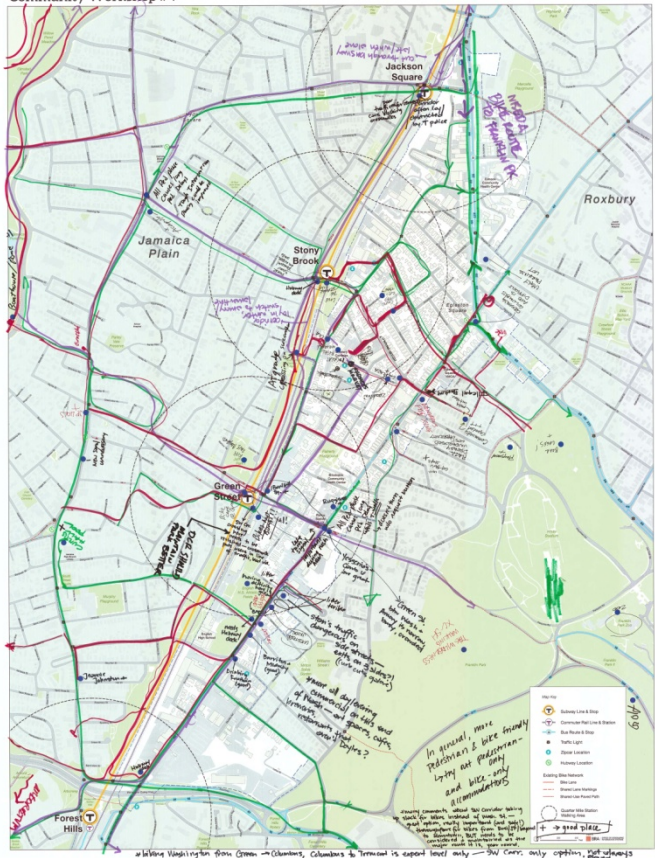
- 1) A quick “survey” of the table participants which asked how they get around. See results of the full workshop below:

HOW WE GET AROUND	Walk	Bike	Car Motorcycle Scooter	Bus	Subway	Commuter Rail	Other (Uber/Lyft, taxi, ZipCar, The Ride, Work Shuttle, etc)
How did you get here tonight?	52	6	30	2	35	0	1
How do you get to work / school?	46	27	27	29	58	2	6
How do you get to other destinations in the Study Area?	82	38	45	24	39	0	6
How do you get to other destinations outside the Study Area?	53	30	69	41	85	11	28
How would you prefer to get around (perfect world; aspirational)?	66	60	10	12	60	13	10

Table Number:

- 2) A large map of the existing transportation network was provided, and participants were asked to mark up the map with the different ways they get around (walking, biking, driving). They were also asked to identify areas of the public realm which need improvement or present opportunities to create a sense of “place”.
- 3) The final component was an exercise to design a roadway, either Washington Street or Columbus Avenue. Each table was provided with a poster of a bird's eye view image of the roadway width (80' for Columbus and 60' for Washington), and participants had 18 “game” pieces that were elements of a potential roadway (travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc). The participants were asked to discuss and build their ideal roadway, using various ways of getting around which were represented in the game pieces.

Samples of the table maps and group exercise follow below:



Exercise 3

Exercise 2

• **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

For the last portion of the Workshop, a few tables reported back on their ideal roadways or transportation maps. The meeting was then adjourned and folks could move around the room to view other table maps.

• **NEXT STEPS**

We have explored our final theme:

- 9/30/15 - Community Workshop #1: Visioning Session (short exploration of all three themes)
- 11/4/15 - Community Workshop #2: Community Resiliency and Sustainability ("Planning for People")
- 12/10/15 - Community Workshop #3: Land Use and Development ("Planning for Places")
- 1/21/16 - Community Workshop #4: Mobility, Connectivity, Public Realm and Placemaking ("Connecting People With Places")

On March 5, the BRA will come back out to the community to present development scenarios based on the feedback we have received from our community workshops. There will be five focus areas for development scenarios. These focus areas include:

- Jackson Square
- Egleston Square
- Stonybrook node (around Amory)
- Green Street node (up to Washington Street and along Amory)
- Forest Hills

UPCOMING WORKSHOP DETAILS

Saturday - March 5, 2016

Development Scenarios: Future Visions for JP/ROX
Ana M. Cole Community Room – Bromley Heath
10 Lamartine Street - behind Jackson Square T station
9AM-Noon