

## Minutes

Boylston Street Corridor  
Public Participation Subcommittee  
May 20, 2021 11:40 AM

### Subcommittee members present (Y/N):

Rachna Balakrishna	Y
Wendy Friedman	Y
Wendy Machmuller	Y
John VanScoyoc	Y

**Staff:** Kara Brewton

**Meeting materials:** 5/20/21 agenda, Committee webpage

Kara Brewton opened the meeting, announced that the meeting was being held remotely due to COVID, checked that all members audio systems were working, and announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Kara reviewed the pre-registration webpage with the Subcommittee, and noted that she could send out an email through Notify Me, which could then be forwarded by Subcommittee members to various groups and neighborhood associations that we are reaching out to. John VanScoyoc asked that a map showing the boundaries of the area be included on the webpage as well as the email; Kara can do this.

Kara reported that lawn signs highlighting the public forums on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> have been ordered. The group may decide to hold a third, additional morning meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am (if Tom Nally can attend/present).

The Subcommittee discussed different formats such as break-out groups or using a Google “jam board” to permit more attendees to participate non-verbally. We will test out the “jam board” as a surprise with the full Committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Kara asked the Subcommittee to give feedback on which key questions we wanted from the community during the public forums.

Ideas for questions as well as a rough presentation outline included:

- 1) Report out on findings; are there things to add to this information?  
Are there additional considerations/ feedback to tell the Committee after learning about their initial findings?
- 2) Include a participation timeline of when different sites are likely to change; report on where the Committee is headed, which was based on previous open house feedback.
  - a) Ask whether the preserve/ enhance/change designation is appropriate for different sites?
  - b) Of the sites that could be changed, whether:
    - (i) the potential uses seem appropriate?
    - (ii) the massing potential seems appropriate to develop further?

- 3) Gage interest/ agreement with infrastructure recommendations
  - a) Exploring benefits of Boylston corridor design with some parking removed - are the potential benefits great enough to consider some on-street parking removal
  - b) Pedestrian link with Walnut path
  - c) Old Lincoln School reuse, when not being used as swing space; potential to improve a portion of the building design to have a community use and break down the massing adjacent to Boylston Street
- 4) Brookline Housing Authority concept plans and Committee feedback re: neighborhood integration and preference for no curb cut on High Street – additional ideas/feedback?
- 5) 10 Brookline Place lab use & Committee direction regarding streetscape/ open space – additional ideas/ feedback?
- 6) Design Guidelines – including Tom’s thoughts on varying heights at Madris site, widened sidewalks along Cypress and Boylston where redevelopment occurs, building setback between new and existing large multifamily buildings, lessons learned about lighting and signage between the two hotels

The Subcommittee discussed the idea of aiming for a 90 minute forum, approximately 1/3 presentation and 2/3 open discussion. Kara will start drafting presentation slides, aiming for three main speakers: Wendy Machmuller (here’s what we heard in previous neighborhood conversations); Wendy Friedman (reviewing survey results); Tom Nally (here’s where the Committee is headed). The presentation will be set up so that key features heard from the survey, e.g., “slowing traffic” will then be translated into action items.

Following additional discussion, the following next steps were identified:

- John will ask various contacts whether they would be willing to host lawn signs of the public forums
- Subcommittee members and staff divided up groups/ neighborhood associations they would forward the invite email to

Meeting ended at approximately 12:40 pm.