

## Minutes

### Boylston Street Corridor Study Committee

June 28, 2021 12:00PM

Held remotely via Zoom

*Committee members (in attendance noted by Y/N):*

John VanScoyoc, Chair	Y	Wendy Friedman	Y	Tom Nally	Y
Rachna Balakrishna	Y	Joe Gaudino	Y	Carlos Ridruejo	N
Deborah Brown	Y	Wendy Machmuller	Y	Mark Zarrillo	Y

*Staff & consultants present:* Kara Brewton, Karen Fitzgerald (Toole Design), Arran French (graphic consultant)

*Meeting materials included:* agenda; powerpoint by Toole Design 6-9-21, parking diagrams in powerpoint (embedded in the minutes below, 6-28-21, K. Brewton)

*Guests included:* Kim Smith, Andrew Fischer, Carla Benka, Christine Lau, Frances Shedd-Fisher, Matthew Hyatt, Peter Frumkin, Marianne Lee, Fred Perry, Hugh Mattison

John VanScoyoc opened the meeting, noting that it was being held remotely on the Zoom platform due to COVID, and after checking that all participants' audio/video were working well, and Kara announced that the meeting was being recorded.

### **Discussion of Boylston Street Concepts**

The Committee discussed with Karen Fitzgerald the four concepts presented at the June 9<sup>th</sup> public forum. After reviewing again the four concepts, Committee comments included:

- Travel lanes that include bus and truck travel is 10' minimum, but 11' is more comfortable with bus traffic
- Formalizing parking on Route 9 in this commercial area is something that MassDOT would consider
- Some of the concepts show a 5' wide sidewalk, but the designers would like to see those in the 6'-8' range
- Committee members like that removing the median might slow down traffic, but were concerned whether MassDOT and/or the Fire Chief would think that was safe in this part of the corridor, especially if people start to make left-hand turns
- Some Committee members were very concerned that the volume of traffic, level of service, and intersection design would not allow Concepts 3 or 4 (with one lane of traffic in each direction) feasible
- The volumes in this corridor (pre-COVID) were right at the threshold of where a road diet would make sense (getting rid of one travel lane in each direction)
- Curious whether the inner set of lanes in Concept 2 could be 10 feet and the outer lanes could be 11 feet wide to accommodate bus travel
- The new pedestrian crossings being proposed could be a flashing beacon

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that Concept One didn't make any significant improvements for any user group.

The Committee then voted (in favor: TN, JVS, CR, JG, DB, MZ, RB, WM, WF) to ask Toole Design to "further develop Concept Two, a version of Concept Three that has intermittent parking on each side to allow for wider emergency lanes or more green space, and Concept Four."

The Committee thanked Karen for her work, and Kara Brewton asked the Committee to look at a diagram of where parking might be most important (blue), where it could be provided intermittently (yellow), and where it might be least important (green). The diagram also showed where there might be a pedestrian zone between the Old Lincoln School and Boylston Street playground, with live parking provided for in front of the school. She shared her screen proposing blue areas in front of the Ace Ticket building, directly in front of the Old Lincoln School building up to the tire store, and on the northern side of Boylston between Smythe Street and the Boylston Street playground. Yellow zone was shown in front of the hotel through the Von Huene Workshop, and green everywhere else.



Following further discussion about the parking needs for the Old Lincoln School and more intermittent street trees throughout the corridor, the Committee agreed that the suggested parking diagram we give to Toole be modified as follows (blue, or all parking for the live loading zoning directly in front of the Old Lincoln School; green, or no parking from the Madris site up to Smythe Street, in front of Boylston Street playground, east of the Von Huene workshop, in front of the 20 Boylston Street development, and in front of the Audi dealership up to the U-Haul site; yellow or intermittent parking everywhere else):



Wendy Friedman reminded Committee members to respond to her with observation and feedback on what we heard from the public forum so that she could summarize that work for the Committee.

John VanScoyoc let the Committee know about the Boylston Street reporting he would be doing intermittently on behalf of the Committee.

The next full Committee meeting would be July 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\* Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 pm.