Recommendations for an Allston-Brighton Transportation Study

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Allston-Brighton Transportation Visioning Advisory Group

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The Allston-Brighton Transportation Visioning process in early 2006 generated a significant body of issues, ideas, and concerns to be addressed in a larger transportation and land use study for the entire Allston-Brighton neighborhood. Hundreds of residents and business people participated through surveys, interviews, meetings, and site visits. The following reflects input received through the Visioning Process.

1. **Task 1: Study Area**
   - 1.1. Establish the bounds of the overall study area
   - 1.2. Identify sub-areas for special focus, such as:
     - 1.2.1. "Allston Village"
     - 1.2.2. Brighton Center
     - 1.2.3. Charles River access
     - 1.2.4. Packards Corner
     - 1.2.5. Barry's Corner
     - *1.2.6. Deliverable:* Summary of study area and sub-area analysis.

2. **Task 2: Analyze Existing Conditions**
   - 2.1. Conduct traffic-count program of manual turning movement counts and automatic traffic recorders at the following locations. Use existing data if less than three years old.
     - 2.1.1. Harvard Avenue/Brighton Avenue
     - 2.1.2. Harvard Avenue/Commonwealth Avenue
     - 2.1.3. Union Square
     - 2.1.4. Market Street/No. Beacon Street
     - 2.1.5. Allston Street/Commonwealth Avenue
     - 2.1.6. Chestnut Hill Avenue/Beacon Street
     - 2.1.7. Commonwealth Avenue/Warren Street
     - 2.1.8. Up to 10 more identified through study process
   - 2.2. Identify and describe local streets used heavily by cut-through traffic.
   - 2.3. Identify and describe intersection operations for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles at key intersections.
   - 2.4. Describe neighborhood-wide pedestrian conditions.
   - 2.5. Describe neighborhood-wide conditions for bicyclists.
   - 2.6. Transit: Public and private
     - 2.6.1. Identify and map all private shuttles.
     - 2.6.2. Identify MBTA transit services and provide trend data on service and ridership.
     - 2.6.3. Identify operational issues for buses and trains.
   - 2.7. Commercial vehicles
     - 2.7.1. Identify number and location of commercial loading zones.
     - 2.7.2. Identify commercial delivery restrictions by commercial area.
     - 2.7.3. Identify issues for commercial delivery vehicles.
   - 2.8. Parking
     - 2.8.1. In up to five business districts, provide on-street and off-street occupancy data on a weekday and a Saturday for three time periods each day.
     - 2.8.2. Conduct 12-hour turnover surveys in three business districts.
     - 2.8.3. Quantify number of on- and off-street spaces in up to four additional nodes or business districts.
   - 2.9. Document historic neighborhood demographic and transportation trends.
   - 2.10. *Deliverable:* Technical memorandum—Existing Conditions

3. **Task 3: Prepare an Inventory of All Transportation and Development Projects in A-B**
   - 3.1. Current transportation projects
   - 3.2. Proposed transportation projects
   - 3.3. Proposed development projects
   - 3.4. *Deliverable:* Summary of inventory of projects

4. **Task 4: Collect Additional Data**
   - 4.1. Depending on the Task 2 analyses and public input, conduct vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle counts and analyses at up to four more locations
   - 4.2. Transit/TDM data: Operations problems with key bus routes, Green Line boarding and alighting issues, etc.
   - 4.3. Parking information: determine a parking ratio for major existing developments and peak parking demand time in commercial centers.
   - 4.4. Provide assessment of existing regulatory, wayfinding, and other signage.
   - 4.5. Collect data on enforcement of parking and traffic rules.
   - 4.6. *Deliverable:* Technical memorandum—Additional data and analysis

5. **Task 5: Issues and Opportunities**
   - 5.1. Summarize overall traffic, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, parking, and loading deficiencies and issues.
   - 5.2. Summarize existing transportation conditions and network capacities to provide a basis for reviewing new development scenarios and proposing transportation projects and programs.
   - 5.3. Working with the public, develop prioritized list of issues.
   - 5.4. *Deliverable:* Technical memorandum of issues and opportunities

6. **Task 6: Alternatives for short-term improvements**
   - 6.1. Working with the public, identify improvement areas.
   - 6.2. Prepare conceptual drawings or sketches showing potential improvements at up to five intersections. Describe in a narrative options for improving other intersections identified.
   - 6.3. Identify regulatory and signage improvements for parking and circulation.
   - 6.4. Identify pavement marking improvements, traffic calming, and signal modifications.
   - 6.5. Identify changes to Article 51 of the Boston Zoning Code to address:
     - 6.5.1. Parking requirements
     - 6.5.2. Inappropriate height and density requirements
     - 6.5.3. Other
   - 6.6. Develop program to promote bicycle use, including education component, City, institution, and private-sector promotions, physical improvements for bicycles (lanes, Share the Road signs, racks, etc.), and routes to Charles River.
   - 6.7. Develop outline of a traffic calming program for Allston and Brighton
   - 6.8. Develop parking and traffic enforcement priority list.
   - 6.9. *Deliverable:* Technical memorandum—Short-term improvements

7. **Task 7: Alternatives for long-term improvements**
   - 7.1. Discuss implications and impacts of growth in 2020 assuming high office/institutional growth with little neighborhood wide transit improvements
   - 7.2. Discuss implications and impacts of growth in 2020 assuming high residential growth with little neighborhood wide transit improvements
   - 7.3. Discuss implications and impacts of growth in 2020 assuming high office/institutional growth with significant neighborhood wide transit improvements
   - 7.4. Discuss implications and impacts of growth in 2020 assuming high residential growth with significant neighborhood wide transit improvements
   - 7.5. *Deliverable:* Technical memorandum—Long-term improvements

8. Implementation

8.1. Identify traffic management opportunities (immediate actions, short-and long-term)
- 8.1.1. Projects
- 8.1.2. Policy (includes TDM)

8.2. Identify transit-access improvements (immediate actions, short-and long-term)
- 8.2.1. Projects
- 8.2.2. Policy

8.3. Identify pedestrian improvements (immediate actions, short-and long-term)
- 8.3.1. Traffic calming
- 8.3.2. Projects

8.4. Identify bicycle improvements (immediate actions, short-and long-term)
- 8.4.1. Access
- 8.4.2. Education and policy

8.5. Identify parking improvements
- 8.5.1. Projects
- 8.5.2. Policy

8.6. *Deliverable:* Summary of implementation plan

9. Prepare Draft and Final Transportation Elements of Master Plan