

Allston-Brighton Transportation Visioning Visioning Workshop Summary

A visioning workshop was held for the Allston-Brighton Transportation Visioning Project on Saturday, March 11, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Honan-Allston Library. Approximately 35 people attended the workshop including City employees, representatives from local organizations and interested residents. Eight comment forms were collected from participants. There were also an additional four e-mail comment received by the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC) from people who would not be able to attend the workshop.

The workshop began with introductions lead by Ava Chan of the Allston-Brighton CDC. After the introductions were complete a PowerPoint Presentation was presented by Anne McKinnon of Howard/Stein Hudson. The presentation provided a summary of all of the activities completed as part of the project to date and what has been learned.

Comment Form Summary

Question 1

Did you think the breakout group discussions were valuable for identifying issues?

All of the participants who filled out comment forms felt that the breakout group discussions were valuable for identifying issues. Several noted that they enjoyed sharing their concerns and listening to what others had to say. Participants also felt that they would like to see their suggestions and comments taken one step forward.

Question 2

What do you feel is the biggest transportation problem in Allston-Brighton?

- Bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure/safety
- Poor public transit service
 - Green line service is too slow
 - Service does not meet community needs
 - Lack of signal prioritization
- Increased traffic congestion
- Increase air quality
- Diminished quality of life in the community
- Parking
- Speeding

Question 3

Other comments?

- I am sure the seeds planted today will bring about new ideas and get things done.
- Newton's blocking of traffic from Newton Corner via Washington Street has severely increased the traffic on Tremont Street and raised air pollution to dangerous levels.
- Better accessibility is needed for elders, young families and disabled persons.
- Smart growth must prioritize affordable housing.
- Junctions/Intersections, "Yellow Box" system more tangible approach. "Do not enter box unless you can exit."
- Keep transit stops accessible during the snow.
- Stop vehicles from stopping in crosswalks.
- Get fare collection machines that either easily take or do not take dollar bills.

- Install signage that alerts riders as to when the next bus/train is coming.
- Clean up litter on trains and buses.
- Install better traffic signals.
- Better striping of roads and bicycle lanes is needed.
- Increased bus service.
- Traffic signal safety needs to be improved.
- At Packard's Corner the crosswalk is in the wrong place and needs a traffic light.
- Clean our streets.
- Route 66 is one of the least reliable bus routes in the City.
- Enforcement of speeding and stopping at crosswalks needs to be improved.
- Add more express buses that go directly from Brighton or Watertown to the Allston Turnpike entrance and do not stop in Newton.