### CITYWIDE GROWTH MANAGEMENT CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

City Council Roundtable March 27, 2000

### GROWTH MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND

■ Growth Policy Document 1992

■ CRGM Petition

Chief Concerns:

1997

Density Heights/Setbacks Transitions Public Notice/Review

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND

#### ■ Council Action on CRGM Petition:

- Limited Heights
- Open Space Zoning
- Permit Notices
- Further Study Recommended
- City Manager Appointed CGMAC in Fall 1997

# A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

#### ■Public Workshops & Outreach

- Backyards June, 1998
- Transitions October, 1998
- Goals & Vision February, 1999
- Scenarios March, 1999
- Policy Background April, 1999
- Zoning Proposals January, 2000
- ■Citywide Growth Management Advisory Committee
- ■City Council Roundtables
- ■Planning Board Discussions



# EMERGING VISION

- Visioning Workshops Spring 1999
- Residents Rated Community Goals
- Responses Received by mail, e-mail, and dropoff

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## EMERGING VISION

- A richly diverse population
- Intermixture of living and work
- Encouraging non-auto travel
- Appropriate economic development
- On-going public input on development

# EARLY ACTION AREAS

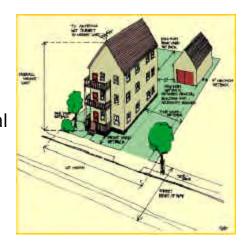
- Inclusionary Zoning

   Adopted March 1998

  Backyard Zoning

   Adopted July 1999

   Transitions to Residential Districts
  - Uppmond Stra
  - Hammond Street
  - Banks Street
  - Mahoney's Site



## **CURRENT ACTION AREAS**

Density "FAR" Adjustments

■ Project Review

■ Parking Revisions

Housing Opportunities

What can FAR adjustments accomplish?

- Reduce overall density
- Reduce cumulative traffic impacts
- Encourage housing
- Encourage development near transit

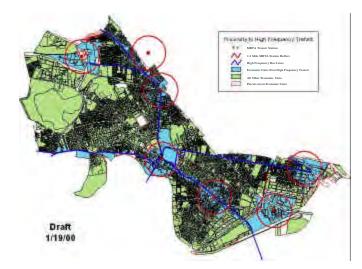
Current proposals affect commercial and high-density residential districts

We are studying impacts on:

- Traffic
- Jobs
- Housing
- Taxes

Alternative approaches to FAR reduction:

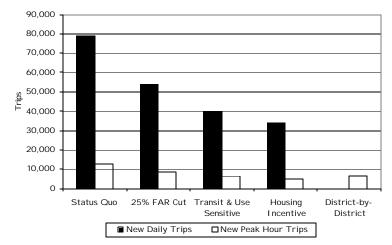
- **Status Quo** illustrates build-out expected over 20 years without any FAR adjustments.
- Across-the-Board reduces FAR uniformly.
- **Transit and Use Sensitive** adjusts FAR based on proximity to transit and type of use.
- **Housing Incentive** reduces FAR for retail and office.
- District-by-District Revisions adjusts FAR based on transit proximity and housing, addressing districtspecific considerations.



Preliminary Findings on Traffic Impacts:

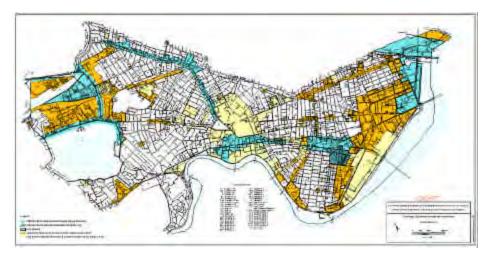
- If no FAR reductions (Status Quo), traffic conditions become significantly worse at many intersections.
- All other FAR scenarios are measurably better than Status Quo.
- Three scenarios cut traffic growth approximately in half.

Preliminary Findings: New Trips by Scenario



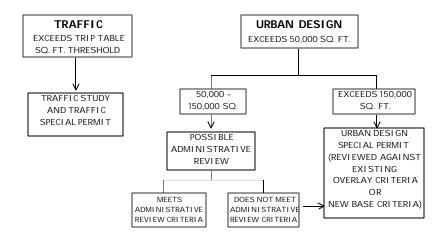
What Project Review Accomplishes:

- Involves public in review of large projects
- Addresses local traffic impacts
- Clarifies city's design objectives
- Establishes citywide review



Summary of Changes

- Traffic study required for high impact proposals
- Urban design special permit if over 50,000 s.f.
  - Possible Administrative Review if meeting specific design standards 50,000 to 150,000 s.f.



## PARKING REVISIONS

What Parking Revisions Accomplish:

- Encourage non-auto travel
- Reduce traffic impacts

Summary of Changes:

- Revisions to maximum and minimum parking space requirements for office and R&D uses.
- Special Permit required to exceed maximum parking.

## HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

What They Accomplish:

- Support a richly diverse population
- Provide intermixture of living and work space
- Increase affordable housing opportunities

## HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Summary of Changes

- Submitted to City Council February 2000
  - Zoning revision that allows housing where now prohibited --Industry A, Industry B, B-1, B-2 and Industry C -- by Special Permit
- To Be Submitted
  - Zoning revision that eases rules for conversions of industrial/commercial buildings to housing by:
    - allowing more units
    - allowing open space to reflect existing conditions
    - establishing criteria for impacts on neighbors and parking for the required special permit

## **PROJECTED SCHEDULE**

- Planning Board recommendations to City Council
- Ordinance Committee and and Planning Board review with public hearings

July - Fall 2000

July 2000