Western Avenue Reconstruction
Advisory Committee meeting #1

Welcome

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Team

Department of Public Works
Owen O’Riorden, James Wilcox, Wendy Robinson, Kelly Dunn

Community Development Department
Susanne Rasmussen, Bill Deignan, Jeff Rosenblum

Traffic, Parking, & Transportation
Sue Clippinger, Jeff Parenti

Consultants
John Struzziery (SEA), Jerry Friedman (HDR), Cynthia Smith (Halvorson), Chris Hart (IHCD)

Agenda

• Introductions
• Advisory Committee process
• Overview of City policies
• Scope and schedule for the project
• Group input session: positives and negatives about Western Ave.
• Public comment period
• Wrap-up, next steps
Advisory Committee

Lawrence Adkins
Bill August
Mertin Betts
Velmer Brooks
Kathy Cannon
Abdullah Daoud
Reuben Dottin
Caitlin Gallagher
David Gibbs
Marvin Gilmore

Erin Gullage
Megan Krey
Marc Leuchner
Bob Nesson
Brad Nissenbaum
Eran Segev
Anne Shuhler
Artis Spears
Pastor Lawrence Ward

Advisory Committee process

• Committee selection process
• Role of the committee
• Consensus approach
• Meeting schedule

Other outreach activities

• Presentations to Neighborhood Assoc.
• Workshop at Camb. Community Center
• Youth Center outreach programs
• Central Square Business Association
• Community-wide public meetings
• Informal walks of Western Ave.
• Website: http://westernavenue.info

Western Avenue is a...

• Regional roadway and
• Neighborhood street and
• Retail district and
• Front yard.
GHG emissions: reduction by 20% by 2010


Policy #22
• Undertake reasonable measures to improve the functioning of the city’s street network, without increasing through capacity, to reduce congestion and noise and facilitate bus and other non-automobile circulation.

Policy #23
• Encourage all reasonable forms of nonautomotive travel including, for example, making improvements to the city’s infrastructure to support bicycling and walking.

Massachusetts Avenue, 1996
Lafayette Square, 2008

Surface design: Preliminary project goals

- Ensure corridor is safe for all users
- Maintain adequate traffic flow
- Reinforce residential character
- Appropriate traffic speed
- Improve conditions for walking, bicycling, and transit riders
- Provide disability access
- Improve access to businesses
- Help meet stormwater environmental goals through “low impact designs”
Questions

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Schedule & Scope

Jeff Rosenblum, Transportation Planner
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Project schedule

2010
February  Begin community process
June  Complete conceptual design
July  25% design complete
November 75% design complete

2011
April  Project is advertized
July  Construction begins

Project scope
Scope of the project

**Subsurface**
- City: sewer, water, electrical for street lighting
- Companies: gas, electric, telephone, cable as needed

**Surface**
- City: roadway, sidewalks, street furniture, trees, lighting
- Available funding for surface restoration depends on final cost of doing subsurface restoration
Preliminary survey and inspections

Surface restoration
- Overall design of roadway and sidewalk
  - Traffic volumes
  - Parking
  - Intersections and pedestrian crossings
  - Bicycle accommodation
  - Lighting
  - Surface material
  - Plantings
  - Open-space
  - Green design elements

Project scope

Upper Western Avenue

Preliminary opportunities for upper-Western area
Coordination with MassDOT bridge reconstruction
Working Session
What do you like about Western Avenue?
What don’t you like?

Next Steps
- Upcoming Schedule
- Review materials in your binder
- Website: http://westernavenue.info

Next meetings
Advisory Committee Meetings:
- Meeting #2: Tuesday March 16
- Meeting #3: Thursday April 15
- Meeting #4: Tuesday April 27

Community-wide Meeting
- Wednesday March 31 (7-9 pm)

All meetings held at the Citywide Senior Center

Advisory Committee meeting #2
Tentative Agenda (Tue. March 16)
- Discussion of community goals
- Sewer project presentation
- Presentation/ slide show by Charlie Sullivan, Historical Commission
- Presentation and discussion of Existing Conditions Study
- Participatory session from the committee on possible conceptual design directions