



September 15, 2014

To: Mike O'Dowd
Allston I-90 Interchange Improvement Project
Project Manager

From: Nathaniel Curtis
Howard/Stein-Hudson
Public Involvement Specialist

RE: **MassDOT Highway Division
Allston I-90 Interchange Improvement Project
7th Taskforce Meeting
Meeting Notes of September 3, 2014**

Overview

On September 3, 2014 the Allston Interchange Improvement Project taskforce held its seventh meeting. The taskforce is composed of local residents, business owners, transportation and green space advocates as well as representatives of local, state, and federal governments. The purpose of the taskforce is, through the application of members' in-depth local knowledge, to assist and advise MassDOT in developing an implementable design for the reconstruction of the I-90 Allston Interchange, the Allston viaduct and Cambridge Street in the vicinity of the interchange. The chance to reconfigure the interchange has emerged through the opportunities presented by the implementation of All Electric Tolling (AET) and the structural deficiency of the I-90 Allston viaduct. MassDOT sees the project not only as an opportunity to improve safety and connections for all modes of travel in the area around the interchange, particularly along Cambridge Street which has been noted by local resident as dangerous and acting as a barrier between Allston and the Charles River. Another major goal of the Allston Interchange project is to provide the commuter rail conditions necessary for the expansion of South Station and the eventual creation of West Station in the old Beacon Park Yard as well as the inauguration of Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) service along the Grand Junction line from Allston to Cambridge and Somerville. While the agency has not yet secured the funding to build the rebuilt interchange, MassDOT is actively seeking to secure funding and will continue to plan for the station as part of the project.

The topic of the meeting summarized herein was traffic operations under the various interchange replacement options currently under analysis by the taskforce and project team. This traffic analysis consists of two parts: a regional scale analysis conducted by the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and a local level analysis by the consultant team. As the CTPS regional analysis develops over the next few months, it will be used to further calibrate the local level analysis. The CTPS analysis is partly based on the Travel Demand Model (TDM) which provides a consistent basis for analyzing the project through multiple settings and outcomes. The TDM incorporates data based on geography, time periods and land use and identifies transit, walking, cycling, and vehicular movements. The basis and role of CTPS' participation in this project was presented by Scott Peterson. This information is presented on page 3.

Following the presentation by CTPS, the project team presented their own initial traffic findings regarding the options currently under review for replacement of the interchange. This local level analysis focused primarily on the intersections along Cambridge Street and how the project can both calm this roadway, making it friendlier for cyclists and pedestrians while still processing traffic effectively to protect residential streets from new cut-through activity. Generally speaking, the work on local traffic was positively received by the taskforce with several individuals expressing their appreciation for the amount of work put in by the consultant team. Of particular interest were the north and south parallel roadways along Cambridge Street to help cut down on the width of Cambridge Street and the number of turning lanes required to get

bostonredevelopmentauthority.org

Sorry I had to leave early last night -- there was a nine-alarm fire in Allston I had to cover.

As a result, I didn't get the name of the man making the presentation on the rough traffic analysis for MassDoT. Mike somebody. I was wondering if you could give me his last name.

Thanks,

Matt Robare

Good Morning Matthew,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. That was Mike Hall who made the traffic presentation.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: Matthew Robare [<mailto:mmrobare@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 12:19 PM

To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Subject: Allston Task Force Meeting #7

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Thanks,

Matt Robare

Nate:

What an amazing day. The temperature is perfect, the sky is blue, the air seems, well, like its sweet. Oh my!

I'd like to get PDF's of both the presentations and handouts from last night's Task Force meeting, as I'm getting several requests to go over them with others such as colleagues within LivableStreets.

Can you help us get access to them today or tomorrow?

Glen B.

Good Afternoon Glen,

This note clearly finds you well and having a good day. Excellent. You should be in receipt of the two presentations given at last night's session as that went out to the taskforce just about 20 minutes ago. Am I right that in addition to that you would like a digital version of the handout provided to taskforce members last night?

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

-----Original Message-----

From: Glen Berkowitz [<mailto:glen@livablestreets.info>]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 12:46 PM
To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Cc: Ed Ionata
Subject: PDF's....

Nate:

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Glen B.

Nate:

A thank you and a yes.

Thanks for sending out those two PDFs.

Yes, I would like to get a PDF of the "matrix" that was handed out at tail end last night.

Glen

=====

On Sep 4, 2014, at 12:58 PM, Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis <ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Glen,

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Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

-----Original Message-----

From: Glen Berkowitz [<mailto:glen@livablestreets.info>]

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 12:46 PM

To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Cc: Ed Ionata

Subject: PDF's....

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Glen B.

Good Afternoon Ed,

Can we make the rest of this happen for Glen? He already has the two PowerPoints, but needs the revised matrix as a digital document.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

-----Original Message-----

From: Glen Berkowitz [<mailto:glen@livablestreets.info>]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 1:07 PM
To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Cc: Ed Ionata
Subject: Re: PDF's....

Nate:

A thank you and a yes.

Thanks for sending out those two PDFs.

Yes, I would like to get a PDF of the "matrix" that was handed out at tail end last night.

Glen

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On Sep 4, 2014, at 12:58 PM, Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis <ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com> wrote:

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Glen B.

Hello everyone;

I'm so sorry I had to run out of the meeting last night. The Harvard Terrace fire directly impacted a number of businesses in the main streets district and I needed to be there to offer my support. I am very sorry to have missed the presentations and while a few task force members tried to loop me in I feel a little behind (and kind of lost). Would it be ok if I reviewed the presentations and then directed my questions to you all?

Best,

Alana

On Thu, Sep 4, 2014 at 12:30 PM, Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis <ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Taskforce Members,

I hope this note finds you all well and having a good day. Thank you all for a productive session last night. Attached, for your records, please find the two presentations give at yesterday's meeting. These will migrate to MassDOT's project website over the next week.

Regards & Good Wishes,

-Nate

Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Transportation Planner, Public Involvement Specialist, Associate

Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc.

11 Beacon Street, Suite 1010
Boston, MA 02108

direct: [617.348.3336](tel:617.348.3336) **main:** [617-482-7080](tel:617-482-7080)

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- Traffic Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Public Involvement/Strategic Planning

Good Afternoon Alana,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. We of course understand that you had some special circumstances last night. While your apology is appreciated as a mark of taking your taskforce membership seriously, it's not required given that you were responding to a fire which sent seven people to the hospital.

Unless Ed or Mike (copied) have objections, I suggest you review the materials and then direct your questions to me. I will provide answers to those which I can and help shepherd those I can't to the right members of the taskforce team. Would that work for you?

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: Alana Olsen [<mailto:alana@allstonvillage.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 2:30 PM
To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Cc: Nick Gross; Ed Ionata; O'Dowd, Michael (DOT)
Subject: Re: I-90 Allston Interchange Improvement Project Meeting Materials

Hello everyone;

I'm so sorry I had to run out of the meeting last night. The Harvard Terrace fire directly impacted a number of businesses in the main streets district and I needed to be there to offer my support. I am very sorry to have missed the presentations and while a few task force members tried to loop me in I feel a little behind (and kind of lost). Would it be ok if I reviewed the presentations and then directed my questions to you all?

Best,

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Thank you! I'll be in touch.

On Thu, Sep 4, 2014 at 2:48 PM, Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis <ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Alana,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. We of course understand that you had some special circumstances last night. While your apology is appreciated as a mark of taking your taskforce membership seriously, it's not required given that you were responding to a fire which sent seven people to the hospital.

Unless Ed or Mike (copied) have objections, I suggest you review the materials and then direct your questions to me. I will provide answers to those which I can and help shepherd those I can't to the right members of the taskforce team. Would that work for you?

Regards & Good Wishes,

-Nate

Good Afternoon All,

I hope this note finds everyone well and having a good day.

Apropos of last night's discussion regarding the timing of our next taskforce session, the Wednesday 9/24 date has been scratched. We have replaced it with the following Wednesday, October 1st. The session following the 1st of October will be on Wednesday, October 15th. The 6:00PM start time and location at the Fiorentino Center, 123 Antwerp Street, are all still as they were.

By now all of you should have the two PowerPoint presentations given at last night's meeting. If anyone did not receive those, please let me know and I'll get you a copy directly.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Transportation Planner, Public Involvement Specialist, Associate

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direct: 617.348.3336 **main:** 617-482-7080

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- Traffic Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Public Involvement/Strategic Planning

Please Note Our New Address

Attached is a pdf of the Evaluation Criteria.

Edward Ionata | Senior Vice President
Direct +1 (508)903-2476 | Business +1 (508) 903-2000 | Mobile +1 401-474-7463 | ed.ionata@tetrattech.com

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From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:17 AM

To: Ionata, Edward

Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis; john.read.bra@cityofboston.gov

Subject: FW: Revised Evaluation Criteria

Good Morning Ed,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. Could you please help me make this happen for Tad?

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: John Read [<mailto:john.read@boston.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:17 AM

To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Subject: Revised Evaluation Criteria

Hi Nate,

Good meeting last night!

Nate, I forgot to pick up the revised evaluation criteria. Could I trouble you to send me that?

Thanks!

Tad

John (Tad) Read, Senior Planner III, AICP

Columbia Point Master Plan | Mt. Vernon Street Redesign

Urban Ring | South Station Master Plan

Urban Agriculture Rezoning | Allston Interchange Task Force

North Allston Community Wide Plan (Transportation) |

Accelerated Bridge Repair Program (Charles River)

Boston Redevelopment Authority

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, Massachusetts 02201-1007

T 617.918.4264

F 617.367.6087

e-mail: john.read@boston.gov

bostonredevelopmentauthority.org

I believe Glen is looking for both the evaluation criteria matrix and the handout package that went along with Mike Hall's PowerPoint presentation. Attached to this response is a pdf of the evaluation matrix. I will shortly send a pdf of the handout package that has been reduced to be about 11 MB - Glen, hopefully your e-mail can accommodate this size.

Also, to clarify an earlier response, Mike Hall is Senior Project Manager at Tetra Tech.

Best,

Ed

Edward Ionata | Senior Vice President

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 1:05 PM

To: Glen Berkowitz

Cc: Ionata, Edward; Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Subject: RE: PDF's....

Good Afternoon Ed,

Can we make the rest of this happen for Glen? He already has the two PowerPoints, but needs the revised matrix as a digital document.

Regards & Good Wishes,

-Nate

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Can you help us get access to them today or tomorrow?

Glen B.

Glen - Attached is a compressed version of the handout package from last night. At full resolution, the entire package is about 125 MB. This compressed version is very readable, but if you would like particular pages at higher resolution, just let me know.

Ed

Edward Ionata | Senior Vice President

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Thanks to you all.

Glen

=====

On Sep 4, 2014, at 4:02 PM, "Ionata, Edward" <ed.ionata@tetrattech.com> wrote:

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Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 1:05 PM

To: Glen Berkowitz

Cc: Ionata, Edward; Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Subject: RE: PDF's....

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-Nate

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Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 1:07 PM

To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Cc: Ed Ionata
Subject: Re: PDF's....

Nate:

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Glen B.

<Alts Analysis Criteria Comments - edits incorporated 082714.pdf>

Nate:

I have heard concerns from several directions about the conflict between the scheduled Allston Interchange public meeting on September 18 at Jackson/Mann and the BSA charrette on the Allston Interchange scheduled on the same night as the

project meeting. Is there any flexibility in rescheduling the public meeting at this point? I expect that rescheduling would make lots of people happier.

Thanks.

Tom

Thomas J. Nally
Planning Director
A Better City
33 Broad Street, Suite 300
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
Phone: 617-502-6243
Fax: 617-502-6236
tnally@abettercity.org
www.abettercity.org

Nate:

Thanks for your response. Scheduling can be difficult, and some conflicts are inevitable. Let's hope that we can avoid them in the future.

Tom

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www.abettercity.org

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 10:57 AM
To: Tom Nally
Subject: RE: Meeting Conflicts

Good Morning Tom,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. I understand that some folks have concerns about the public information overlapping with the second evening of the BSA charette. There are a few reasons why our inclination is at this time to move ahead as planned which are as follows:

- As you no doubt know from working in this field, there are things going on every night in the City and trying to get the perfect night is close to impossible.
- Likewise, as you saw earlier this week, if we try for the following week, that of 9/15, we are going to run into trouble with Rosh Hashanah so we'd be looking at the week of 9/29 – assuming we could get it.
- The Jackson-Mann is the logical facility in which to hold meetings for this project, but it is used for a great many other things during the course of any given week. Without knowing their schedule off the top of my head, abandoning the 18th could cause the public information meeting's date to drift significantly and as you have seen in the taskforce there is a desire to get back out to the broader public and take the temperature, so to speak, as we start to get towards making some decisions.
- Lastly, there is the issue that some notifications regarding this meeting have already appeared in public, particularly on the MassDOT website and the *El Planetta* Spanish language newspaper. Walking the meeting back at this point would cause confusion which could be misinterpreted as an effort to hold down turnout which as you are aware is not our intent in the slightest.

For those reasons, we are really trying to hang on to the 18th. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at 617-482-7080 x236.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: Tom Nally [<mailto:tnally@abettercity.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Subject: Meeting Conflicts

Nate:

I have heard concerns from several directions about the conflict between the scheduled Allston Interchange public meeting on September 18 at Jackson/Mann and the BSA charrette on the Allston Interchange scheduled on the same night as the project meeting. Is there any flexibility in rescheduling the public meeting at this point? I expect that rescheduling would make lots of people happier.

Thanks.

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Phone: 617-502-6243
Fax: 617-502-6236
tnally@abettercity.org
www.abettercity.org

Good Morning Nate,

I am writing again to follow up on your August 12 commitment to provide the Purpose and Need Statement by September 3. Today is September 8 and MassDOT has not provided this document or any update as to when it will be available and rationale for this delay.

I would appreciate an update as soon as feasible.

Thank you
Harry

Good Afternoon Harry,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. I've chatted with Mike and we should be able to provide you with a timeline by close of business tomorrow. We are also in progress on your follow-up email from last week.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Hi Nate-

Do you have a pdf (as small a file as possible) of the handouts from last meeting for us to discuss internally. I would also like to set up a meeting sometime later this month you a few project staff to come to Cambridge and sit down with our technical staff. Could we look at something the week of the 22nd? Thanks.

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:30 PM

To: Nick Gross

Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis; O'Dowd, Michael (DOT); Ed Ionata

Subject: Allston Interchange Improvement Project Requested Materials

Good Afternoon All,

I hope this note finds everyone well and having a good day. As a number of you have asked to have a copy of yesterday's PowerPoint presentation, I am glad to be able to offer it to you attached to this email complete with slides from the BRA – thank you, Tad Read. A version of this will also be making its way to the project website over the next week or so.

Regards & Good Wishes,

-Nate

Hi Nate-

Yes, the Traffic package. Right now the 24th at 11 or 4 PM work for us. Thanks.

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 10:18 AM

To: Deignan, Bill

Cc: O'Dowd, Michael (DOT)

Subject: RE: Allston Interchange Improvement Project Requested Materials

Good Morning Bill,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. The week of the 22nd is now a little cleaner than it was since we shunted the taskforce session to the 1st of October. I imagine that will work. Maybe we could shoot for the 24th. I'll make some inquiries and find out what works for the team and get back to you. With regard to the handouts, I assume you mean the traffic package, correct?

Regards & Good Wishes,

-Nate

Hi Nate and Michael-

Both Susanne Rasmussen and I have other public meetings that we need to attend on Sept 23rd. Is there someone from your team who can attend this Cambridgeport Neighbors meeting and do a short presentation so that the neighborhood is getting correct information? Thanks.

From: Bill August [<mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 11:23 AM
To: 'Steven Miller'; Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; Deignan, Bill
Cc: 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Hi all. Can you recommend someone else for us to invite re MassPike update (someone at DOT? some other planning group or nonprofit or other knowledgeable person) for Sept 23. Separately from the speaker, if there are any anticipated impacts on traffic going into Cambridgeport, could you please informally contact me and let me know as that is one of the major underlying concerns and we feel need to be sure any such impacts are clearly and timely communicated to the neighborhood association. We need to take it up Sept 23 as our neighborhood has not really had an update on this (to my knowledge) in Cport since b4 the summer. As always, thank you for all your public service. Copying Olivia Fiske, Board member who is in the lead on agenda. Also, Stuart, who is coming re Master Plan issue/update?

Bill August, Esq,
Epstein & August, LLP
101 Arch Street, 9th Floor
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Good Afternoon Bill,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. Apropos of the telephone message I just left you, here is the first half of the traffic package. The second will be along shortly.

Regards & Good wishes,
-Nate

Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

Transportation Planner, Public Involvement Specialist, Associate

Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc.

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Please Note Our New Address

Hi Mike-

The CNA regular monthly meeting is on the 23rd and not easily moved to the 24th which is why they are looking for someone else to come to their meeting. Susanne and I are already at meetings that night. I could look into changing our internal meeting to the 23rd if that helps but won't work the other way around. If you are out, is someone else, like Ed, available? Thanks.

Hi all. Can you recommend someone else for us to invite re MassPike update (someone at DOT? some other planning group or nonprofit or other knowledgeable person) for Sept 23. Separately from the speaker, if there are any anticipated impacts on traffic going into Cambridgeport, could you please informally contact me and let me know as that is one of the major underlying concerns and we feel need to be sure any such impacts are clearly and timely communicated to the neighborhood association. We need to take it up Sept 23 as our neighborhood has not really had an update on this (to my knowledge) in Cport since b4 the summer. As always, thank you for all your public service. Copying Olivia Fiske, Board member who is in the lead on agenda. Also, Stuart, who is coming re Master Plan issue/update?

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From: O'Dowd, Michael (DOT) [<mailto:michael.o'dowd@state.ma.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:04 PM
To: 'Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis'; Ed Ionata
Cc: Deignan, Bill
Subject: RE: Meeting Requests from the City of Cambridge

The CNA request had been sent to me previously but I did not respond. OOPS

If possible it would be better to combine both and the 24th works better for me as I may be out of the office on 23rd.

Thanks
Mike O

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 12:37 PM
To: O'Dowd, Michael (DOT); Ed Ionata
Cc: wdeignan@cambridgema.gov
Subject: Meeting Requests from the City of Cambridge

Good Afternoon All,

I hope this note finds everyone well and having a good day. I have two requests from taskforce member Bill Deignan representing the City of Cambridge. They are as follows:

1. Can we make staff available for a coordination session with City staff on 9/24 at either 11AM or 4PM?
2. Can we make staff available to make a brief presentation on progress on the evening 9/23 to the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association?

I can make HSH public involvement staff available on both dates. Ed, can you investigate the availability at TT? Bill, I am working on reducing the size of the requested packet such that your email system will accept it. It should be over soon.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

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Please Note Our New Address

Hi Michael,

Hard to believe that fall in in the air. When we met close to a month ago on August 14th you asked me to give some thought to how get ped/bike bridges up and over the rial lines and Soldiers Field Road. Sorry for taking awhile to get back to you on this conundrum. I dug into this assignment relying on the fairly sketchy information that is available online. A blind man feeling the lumps and bumps of an oddly shaped camel is how I felt. I got just enough of a handle on the issues to be able to suggest a strategy worth exploring potentially. Take a look at the attached PDF, let me know what I got wrong and maybe right, and pass it along to your designers if you think they could use a nudge in this direction. Its hot off the press. This was a lot more fun than fund raising for my park project upriver.

All my best,

Herb

Good Morning Herb,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. Not only is fall in the air, at the rate we are going, it's going to be winter coats by next month. It was mighty cold putting my wife's kit into her auto at 7AM this morning. We're in receipt of your note and appreciate the in-put. I'll forward it on to the design team and will look forward to seeing you at our public information meeting on the 18th.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Thanks for pass that input along Nate. Getting up and over the tracks is going to be very challenging but it can be done I think. I'll look forward to what the pros come up with.

Herb

On Sep 15, 2014, at 9:27 AM, Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis wrote:

Good Morning Herb,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. Not only is fall in the air, at the rate we are going, it's going to be winter coats by next month. It was mighty cold putting my wife's kit into her auto at 7AM this morning. We're in receipt of your note and appreciate the in-put. I'll forward it on to the design team and will look forward to seeing you at our public information meeting on the 18th.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: Herbert Nolan [<mailto:herbnolan@solomonfoundation.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 4:49 PM
To: Michael O'Dowd
Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Subject: Input on the pedestrian bridge(s) for I-90 Allston

Hi Michael,

Hard to believe that fall in in the air. When we met close to a month ago on August 14th you asked me to give some thought to how get ped/bike bridges up and over the rial lines and Soldiers Field Road. Sorry for taking awhile to get back to you on this conundrum. I dug into this assignment relying on the fairly sketchy information that is available online. A blind man feeling the lumps and bumps of an oddly shaped camel is how I felt. I got just enough of a handle on the issues to be able to suggest a strategy worth exploring potentially. Take a look at the attached PDF, let me know what I got wrong and maybe right, and pass it along to your designers if you think they could use a nudge in this direction. Its hot off the press. This was a lot more fun than fund raising for my park project upriver.

All my best,

Herb

Hello Folks,

I want to make you aware that there is **NO** "Allston/Brighton area" as you state in your information. ('through the Allston/Brighton area') The proper identification of our two communities is Allston **AND** Brighton, or Allston **OR** Brighton. For your purposes it is **ALLSTON** since you are doing nothing in Brighton. Please give us the credit we deserve.

Allston has been a separate and autonomous community since 1868. Please bring your information forward the 146 years Allston has been on its own. Your bastardization of Allston is infuriating and in no way acceptable to those of use who have lived in Allston for many, many decades. Please, in the future, give our community the respect and dignity it deserves instead of lazily failing to properly identify our two communities as two **separate** entities.

Your misrepresentation is offensive and ignorant. As the DOT, you are well advised to properly identify the area you are developing which is **ONLY** in Allston. Insulting and demeaning our community is not making you any friends in Allston and only reinforces the community resentment you face here.

We are **not** part of Brighton. We are in no way anything like Brighton and we do not like it when out of lack of knowledge people like you attempt to unify two distinct communities that were separated and have become even more dissimilar for the last 146 years.

We were named for the Father of American Romantic painting, Washington Allston, not Washington Allston/Brighton. Allston is the only community in America named for an artist and we are darn proud of that and our community. Please get on the ball. We will thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Renny McKinney
Coordinator

Hi Nate and Mike-

Any news on someone coming to speak to CNA on Sept 23?

From: Bill August [<mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:17 PM
To: Deignan, Bill; 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Bill, Any DOT movement on speaker at neighborhood association? Need to finalize our agenda and outreach, so just checkin in. Thanks! Bill August

From: Deignan, Bill [<mailto:wdeignan@cambridgema.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Bill August; 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

I have requested that someone from the MassDOT team come to speak about the status of the project. The project manager is not available that night but they are checking to see if someone else can attend and give a short presentation on the status of the project. I'll let you know when I hear something. Thanks.

From: Bill August [<mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 7:09 AM
To: 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; Deignan, Bill; 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Thank you Steve! (and all) Bill

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From: Steven Miller [<mailto:semiller48@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 9:00 PM
To: Bill August
Cc: Susanne Rasmussen /Camb; sdash@cambridgema.gov; Deignan, Bill; Olivia Fiske
Subject: Re: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Bill:

I'm reaching out to see if I can find someone to come talk.

Key points (IMHO) are that CNA should be actively supporting the Allston community because the community's demands to: (1) create a direct connection from the Pike exits to Storrow will reduce congestion at the bridges and adjacent intersections; (2) move Storrow further away from the river will reduce noise and pollution; (3) create an across-the-river ped/bike path and connections from the Grand Junction corridor to BU-Harvard-Allston will reduce need for car travel and make it much safer for non-motorized people to go back & forth; (4) improve Cambridge St will make the connecting routes much better; (5) improve the Pike exit/entrance structural design will reduce the wait Camb. people now have getting from the Pike back to their homes.

Steve

Steven E. Miller
Executive Director, Healthy Weight Initiative, HSPH, Dept. of Nutrition
Board of Directors, LivableStreets Alliance
cell: 617-686-1050
["The Public Way: Transportation, Health, and Livable Communities"](#)

On Wed, Sep 10, 2014 at 11:22 AM, Bill August <billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com> wrote:

Hi all. Can you recommend someone else for us to invite re MassPike update (someone at DOT? some other planning group or nonprofit or other knowledgeable person) for Sept 23. Separately from the speaker, if there are any anticipated impacts on traffic going into Cambridgeport, could you please informally contact me and let me know as that is one of the major underlying concerns and we feel need to be sure any such impacts are clearly and timely communicated to the neighborhood association. We need to take it up Sept 23 as our neighborhood has not really had an update on this (to my knowledge) in Cport since b4 the summer. As always, thank you for all your public service. Copying Olivia Fiske, Board member who is in the lead on agenda.

Also, Stuart, who is coming re Master Plan issue/update?

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Good Morning Bill,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good morning. Thank you for your reminder note. This is on my list of things to attempt to nail down in advance of the meeting on 9/18. I'll remind the team and try to be back to you today.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Hi Mike, Ed and Nate-

I wanted to be in touch to set up a meeting with you and your team and Cambridge staff to review alternatives and discuss a range of turnpike access and traffic operational issues. I have booked a tentative time with our team for Sept 29th at 1PM here. Can this work for you?

We met yesterday internally to review the alternatives generally and had some comments and questions for you to consider in the meantime:

- In doing your traffic analysis, did you include the signals on Memorial Drive at River and Western, and look at the potential of a coordinated 90 second cycle for the four signals at River and Western, on each side of the river? Based on analysis done during the River and Western Bridge designs, this would allow for some improvements to coordination of this signal system benefiting vehicles and also create shorter wait times for path users.
- In bringing vehicles across the Western Ave bridge from Cambridge, it would be ideal if the bridge could be cleared during each cycle to create room for queuing on the bridge during the next cycle.
- We want to re-emphasize our belief that multiple access points to the Turnpike from Western Ave and Soldiers Field Road would be useful to all modes and also reduce the number of vehicles going through the SFR/Cambridge St intersection, helping to reduce the cycle length.
- The location of a crossing for cyclists and pedestrians to BU should inform where connecting streets are placed leading to Cambridge Street as this will be an important connection for the Allston neighborhood and Harvard.
- Your analysis should also identify priority bicycle and pedestrian connections, such as the one to BU. Green line stops on Commonwealth Avenue should also be shown wherever possible.
- It has been mentioned at our meetings that all roads will have bicycle facilities and cycle tracks on more major streets which we fully support. Having cycle tracks will have an impact on signal timing, especially for turning cyclists, and this should be accounted for in your analysis. Bicycle signals should be included to facilitate turns.
- Options with one-way pairs of streets are less attractive in trying to create a neighborhood and also create difficulties in terms of bicycle access, unless two-way facilities are built on each one way street, which can create local access issues.
- Raising streets above the grade of parcels should be avoided or at least minimized wherever possible.
- We would like to see more detail about how connections for a multi-use path and rail will be made to the Grand Junction in Cambridge.

As analysis continues and options are narrowed, as I assume you are starting to do, we are also looking forward to seeing more about potential noise impacts to lower Cambridgeport and ability of the project to narrow the Turnpike cross-section, move it away from Soldiers Field Road, and create the ability to move SFR to create additional parkland.

Thank you for reviewing these issues so we can have further discussion at our meeting. Please confirm that this date and time work.

Bill

Hi. Thank you. Please coordinate with our clerk who handles the agenda, Olivia Fiske, who I am copying here. IN the interim Steve Miller lined up someone from Allston neighborhood association to speak too (Jessica Robertson). Olivia's tel. # is 617 354 3066). I think it will be ideal to have both Jessica and DOT. Best regards,
Bill August

From: Deignan, Bill [<mailto:wdeignan@cambridgema.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Bill August
Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Hi Bill-

MassDOT will be sending one or more people to your CAN meeting on the 23rd to talk about the I-90 project. Copied here is Nate Cabral-Curtis who will coordinate with you on the details. Thanks and have a great meeting.

From: Bill August [<mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 8:26 AM
To: 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Deignan, Bill; Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Thanks Steve! Much appreciated as always. Our next meeting is not for another 2 months and there is some sentiment on our Board that we need to try to get info out on this while things are cooking and not wait a whole 2 months. We could schedule another meeting for next month but that does not seem to be in the cards at the moment, which is why we are so eager to get someone scheduled for Sept. 23. What other independent non-government organizations are following and active in this? Bill

From: Steven Miller [<mailto:semiller48@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:21 PM
To: Bill August
Cc: Deignan, Bill; Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; Olivia Fiske
Subject: Re: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Bil Augustl:

I'm down to one last possible person from the Allston community group to speak that evening. I hope to hear from her tonight or first thing in the AM.

It would be a lot easier if you could postpone this topic for a month!

Steve

Steven E. Miller
Executive Director, Healthy Weight Initiative, HSPH, Dept. of Nutrition
Board of Directors, LivableStreets Alliance
cell: 617-686-1050
["The Public Way: Transportation, Health, and Livable Communities"](#)

On Mon, Sep 15, 2014 at 9:17 PM, Bill August <billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com> wrote:

Bill, Any DOT movement on speaker at neighborhood association? Need to finalize our agenda and outreach, so just checkin in. Thanks! Bill August

From: Deignan, Bill [mailto:wdeignan@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Bill August; 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; 'Olivia Fiske'

Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

I have requested that someone from the MassDOT team come to speak about the status of the project. The project manager is not available that night but they are checking to see if someone else can attend and give a short presentation on the status of the project. I'll let you know when I hear something. Thanks.

From: Bill August [mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 7:09 AM
To: 'Steven Miller'
Cc: Rasmussen, Susanne; Dash, Stuart; Deignan, Bill; 'Olivia Fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Thank you Steve! (and all) Bill

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From: Steven Miller [mailto:semiller48@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 9:00 PM
To: Bill August

Cc: Susanne Rasmussen /Camb; sdash@cambridgema.gov; Deignan, Bill; Olivia Fiske
Subject: Re: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Bill:

I'm reaching out to see if I can find someone to come talk.

Key points (IMHO) are that CNA should be actively supporting the Allston community because the community's demands to: (1) create a direct connection from the Pike exits to Storrow will reduce congestion at the bridges and adjacent intersections; (2) move Storrow further away from the river will reduce noise and pollution; (3) create an across-the-river ped/bike path and connections from the Grand Junction corridor to BU-Harvard-Allston will reduce need for car travel and make it much safer for non-motorized people to go back & forth; (4) improve Cambridge St will make the connecting routes much better; (5) improve the Pike exit/entrance structural design will reduce the wait Camb. people now have getting from the Pike back to their homes.

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On Wed, Sep 10, 2014 at 11:22 AM, Bill August <billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com> wrote:

Hi all. Can you recommend someone else for us to invite re MassPike update (someone at DOT? some other planning group or nonprofit or other knowledgeable person) for Sept 23. Separately from the speaker, if there are any anticipated impacts on traffic going into Cambridgeport, could you please informally contact me and let me know as that is one of the major underlying concerns and we feel need to be sure any such impacts are clearly and timely communicated to the neighborhood association. We need to take it up Sept 23 as our neighborhood has not really had an update on this (to my knowledge) in Cport since b4 the summer. As always, thank you for all your public service. Copying Olivia Fiske, Board member who is in the lead on agenda.

Also, Stuart, who is coming re Master Plan issue/update?

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Good Afternoon Renny,

I hope this note finds you well and having a good day. Thank you for your recent note regarding the I-90 Allston Interchange Improvement project. In some of our conversations during the taskforce meetings earlier this spring, I might have recounted to you that under my planning degree is a history major and as such I definitely appreciated your comments regarding Washington Allston. I have heard it said by several authorities, including the chief librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Peter Drummey, that Allston is the only community in the USA named for a painter, so wanting to maintain this signal honor is appropriate. Likewise, in response to some of the points you make in your email, MassDOT and its project team is fully aware that Allston and Brighton are two neighborhoods, with their own zipcodes, and that the Allston Interchange (Exit 18 from the Massachusetts Turnpike) is in fact fully resident in Allston hence the project's name the I-90 Allston Interchange Improvement Project.

Those things said, once we move beyond the strict definition of where the interchange is located, then it becomes appropriate to speak of Brighton as well since the interchange is less than a mile from the border of 02134 (Allston) and 02135 (Brighton) on Everett Street, and just over a mile at another point along the border on Guest Street. Wikipedia, a bit of a joke in poor taste when I was in school at the 12 years ago, but now a well-respected authority on many points, particularly those cultural, talks about Allston/Brighton as two "interlocking" neighborhoods of Boston, but if you don't care to take their word for it, there are many other options from which to choose including the City of Boston, which offers an Allston-Brighton resident parking sticker, the *Allston-Brighton TAB* newspaper, the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC), and the Brighton-Allston Historical Society which flips the usual equation on its head. I am sure that none of those organizations intend any insult to either Allston or Brighton with their naming conventions and neither do we. From our perspective, the use of the term Allston/Brighton serves as an indication to both us as a project team and to the larger community around the project that we recognize that what we do at an interchange in Allston will have impacts on neighboring areas.

I hope all of this helps to lay some of your concerns to rest. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to be in touch by telephone or email. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you at our public information meeting on the 18th.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

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Bill Deignan (since there are two Bills), and Nate, could one of you give me the name of the individual who will be speaking? I'd like to coordinate with him directly.
Olivia

From: Bill August [<mailto:billaugust@epsteinandaugust.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:11 AM
To: 'Deignan, Bill'
Cc: 'Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis'; 'olivia fiske'
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Hi. Thank you. Please coordinate with our clerk who handles the agenda, Olivia Fiske, who I am copying here. IN the interim Steve Miller lined up someone from Allston neighborhood association to speak too (Jessica Robertson). Olivia's tel. # is 617 354 3066). I think it will be ideal to have both Jessica and DOT. Best regards,
Bill August

Good Afternoon All,

I hope this note finds everyone well and having a good day. Olivia and I have spoken by telephone. The loop is closed and we will see each other in the community room of the LBJ apartments at 6:15 on the 23rd.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

From: Olivia Fiske [<mailto:fiskeolivia@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 2:35 PM
To: 'Bill August'; 'Deignan, Bill'
Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Bill Deignan (since there are two Bills), and Nate, could one of you give me the name of the individual who will be speaking? I'd like to coordinate with him directly.
Olivia

Thanks Nate.

From: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis [<mailto:ncabral-curtis@hshassoc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Olivia Fiske; 'Bill August'; Deignan, Bill
Cc: Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis
Subject: RE: plz recommend third party speaker re Mass Pike

Good Afternoon All,

I hope this note finds everyone well and having a good day. Olivia and I have spoken by telephone. The loop is closed and we will see each other in the community room of the LBJ apartments at 6:15 on the 23rd.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Good Afternoon Harry,

As noted in my prior email, here is part two of the response to your inquiry. This note addresses your request for a copy of the purpose and need statement. You will find a copy attached. That said, before you plow ahead and begin reviewing this document, I do want to take a moment and give you a sense of what you are getting with the purpose and need statement. A Purpose and Need Statement is a requirement of the NEPA environmental process and is a standard section within a NEPA document. It identifies, in a brief and concise format, why a project is being undertaken and what it is to achieve. I don't know if you remember college biology, but the purpose and need can be likened to the abstract you wrote up as part of preparing your lab report. Put another way, think of the purpose and need statement as the 50,000 foot view of the project. In the purpose and need statement, you will find things like "enhance the infrastructure to support alternative (or non-motorized) modes of transportation within the project area." You will not find statements along the lines of "provide a shared-used pathway from the corner Lincoln Street and Eric Road to a point along the Paul Dudley White bicycle path 120 feet east of Houghton Chemical. At no point will the shared use pathway be less than 16 feet in width." You will find statements such as "provide the infrastructure to support construction of West Station and future commuter rail services." You will not find statements like "a space of 11 feet by 36 feet should be reserved for public art in the entry area of the station." Statements that the project will comply with specific policies and programs or conform to broad goals are addressed in other sections of the NEPA document.

I provide you with this framing because the NEPA process isn't something that the average citizen goes through on a regular basis and the whole thing can feel confusing. Before I conclude, and in that spirit, I would note two more things: one, the level of specificity you see here is normal for a project of this size and complexity and two, just because you don't see something in the Purpose and Need Statement doesn't mean it is lost or won't be accomplished by the project, it's just not something that rises to the 50,000 foot level. That said, your document is attached and I hope you find it helpful. We look forward to seeing you this evening.

Regards & Good Wishes,
-Nate

Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis

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