Guidelines by the Boston Transportation Department for use by the Zoning Board of Appeal

5. Parking Ratios

A. Onsite Parking Compliance

Any project subject to or electing to comply with Article 80 Large Project Review should accommodate associated parking activity onsite.

B. Recommended Maximum District-Based Parking Goals and Guidelines

As part of citywide efforts to reduce parking demands and better manage the overall supply, the table below provides a summary of BTD's recommended maximum district-based parking goals and guidelines. This table should be used as guidelines when reviewing proposed projects' parking plans with an understanding that each project is unique. More detailed information is in Boston Transportation Department's *Parking in Boston* (December 2001) report on pages 29-34 (Attachment A).

Summary of District-based Parking Goals/Guidelines

Summary of District States of Taxable States of			
	OFFICE/NON-		
	RESIDENTIAL		
	SPACES PER	RESIDENTIAL	HOTEL
	1,000 SQUARE	SPACES PER	SPACES
LOCATION	FEET	UNIT ²	PER UNIT
Financial District/Government Center/	0.4	0.5 - 1.0	0.4
Bulfinch Triangle, North End, West			
End/ Massachusetts General Hospital,			
Beacon Hill, Chinatown/Leather			
District, Bay Village, Back Bay, South			
End (west of Tremont Street)			
South End (east of Tremont Street),	0.75 - 1.0	1.0 - 1.5	0.4
Boston Medical Center, Lower			
Roxbury/Crosstown			
Dudley Square/Mission Hill	0.75 - 1.0	0.5 - 1.0	0.4
Longwood Medical Area, West	0.75	0.75	0.4
Fenway/Kenmore, East Fenway			
South Boston Waterfront	Down to 0.7 ¹	1.0 – 1.5	0.4
Allston/Brighton, Charlestown,	Distant from	Distant from	
Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica	MBTA Station ³	MBTA Station ³	
Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, South	1.0 - 1.5	$\frac{1.0 - 1.5}{}$	
Boston (residential neighborhood)	Near MBTA	Near MBTA	
	Station ⁴	Station ⁴	
	$0.\overline{75} - 1.25$	$0.\overline{75} - 1.25$	
Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	1.0 – 1.5	1.0 – 1.5	

Notes: 1. With proposed MBTA improvements in place.

- 2. Lower parking ratios may be appropriate for housing types such as elderly, lodging housed, transitorial housing, and group residences.
- 3. "Distant from MBTA Station" is defined as greater than 10 minute walking distance from an MBTA Station.
- 4. "Near MBTA Station" is defined as within 10 minute walking distance from an MBTA Station.

Example: A 50,000 square foot office building in the Financial District with 20 parking spaces has a parking ratio of 0.4 spaces per 1,000 square feet.

ATTACHMENT A

District-Based Parking Goals

The City uses a district-based approach to manage off-street parking. These goals provide a broad policy framework that will:

- Serve as a guide for the community in each district in planning for their neighborhoods.
- Provide developers with broad standards to adhere to when designing their projects.
- Used as a starting point for district studies and rezoning efforts.

The goals are based on the unique characteristics of each neighborhood such as existing land use, available parking supply, housing density, local street capacity, and cumulative impacts of new and proposed development. The fundamental principal, however, is based on an area's access to public transportation. Districts with good transit access require less parking spaces per square foot or per unit. Even within districts, projects on streets closer to MBTA stations should have less parking spaces than streets further away.

Table 8 summarizes the parking ratio goals for Boston's neighborhoods. Tables 9 and 10 itemize the parking ratio goals for each city district, the minimum requirements in existing zoning, and the existing public transportation access.

Traditionally zoning laws included only minimum parking requirements for projects. This requirement is changing as awareness has increased about the economic and land use disadvantages of requiring parking spaces. As a result, minimum required parking spaces are being reviewed and potentially supplemented with maximum parking spaces. For any project subject to or electing to comply with Article 80 Large Project Review, required off-street parking spaces shall be determined through such review based on the parking ratio goals shown below.

Additional parking principles include the following:

- All development should accommodate associated parking and loading activity *onsite*.
- shares the existing parking supply between different users at different times.
- Make provisions for bicycle, car and vanpool sharing.

Table 8 – Summary of District-based Parking Goals/Guidelines

LOCATION	OFFICE/NON-RESIDENTIAL SPACES PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET	RESIDENTIAL SPACES PER UNIT ²	HOTEL SPACES PER UNIT
Financial District/Government Center/ Bullfinch Triangle, North End, West End/ Massachusetts General Hospital, Beacon Hill, Chinatown/Leather District, Bay Village, Back Bay, South End (west of Tremont Street)	0.4	0.5-1.0	0.4
South End (east of Tremont Street), Boston Medical Center, Lower Roxbury/Crosstown	0.75-1.0	1.0-1.5	0.4
Dudley Square, Mission Hill	0.75-1.0	0.5-1.0	0.4
Longwood Medical Area, West Fenway/Kenmore, East Fenway	0.75	0.75	0.4
South Boston Waterfront	Down to 0.7 ¹	1.0-1.5	0.4
Allston/Brighton, Charlestown,	DISTANT FROM MBTA STATION	DISTANT FROM MBTA STATION	
Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain,	1.0-1.5	1.0-1.5	
Mattapan, Roxbury, South Boston (residential neighborhood)	NEAR MBTA STATION	NEAR MBTA STATION	
(residential heighborhood)	0.75-1.25	0.75-1.25	
Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	1.0-1.5	1.0-1.5	

Notes:

- 1. With proposed MBTA improvements in place.
- 2. Lower parking ratios may be appropriate for housing types such as elderly, lodging housed, transitorial housing, and group residences.

PARKING IN BOSTON

Table 9 – Parking Goals by Sections of the City within Boston Proper

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	PROPOSED PARKING RATIO GOALS	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS	
	BACK BAY		
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Residential: 0.4-1.0 spaces/unit based on Floor Area Ratio 	Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Orange and Green Lines Commuter rail (Back Bay Station) Express and local bus Private commuter/shuttle services Back Bay TMA programs 	
	BAY VILLAGE		
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Orange and Green Lines Local MBTA bus routes 	
	BEACON HILL		
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	Red Line Local MBTA bus routes	
	CHINATOWN/LEATHER DISTRICT		
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Office: Maximum 1/1,500 square feet (Planned Development Area only) Residential: 0.4-1.0 spaces/unit based on Floor Area Ratio 	 Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Orange and Red Lines Commuter rail (South Station) Express and local MBTA bus routes Private commuter/shuttle services Silver Line (under construction) 	
FINANCIAL DISTRICT/GOVERNMENT CENTER/BULFINCH TRIANGLE			
Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Parking requirements range from no parking required for any project to parking required for residential projects based on project location.	Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type	All rapid transit lines Commuter rail (North and South Stations) Express and local MBTA bus routes Water transportation Private commuter/shuttle services Silver Line (under construction) Artery Business Committee TMA programs	
NORTH END			
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type or Floor Area Ratio 	Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Orange, Green and Blue Lines Commuter rail (North Station) Express and local MBTA bus routes Water transportation Private commuter/shuttle services 	
SOUTH END (EAST OF TREMONT STREET)			
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Non-residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Orange Line (north side of area) Local and CT MBTA bus routes Silver Line (under construction) Proposed Urban Ring Interinstitutional TMA programs 	

Table 9 (Continued) - Parking Goals by Sections of the City within Boston Proper

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	Proposed Parking Ratio Goals	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS		
s	SOUTH END (WEST OF TREMONT STREET)			
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Orange Line Commuter rail (Back Bay Station) Local and CT MBTA bus routes Back Bay TMA programs 		
SOUTH END (BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER)				
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Non-residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Local and CT MBTA bus routes Silver Line (under construction) Proposed Urban Ring Interinstitutional TMA programs 		
WEST END/MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL				
 Restricted Parking District Part of Boston Proper Parking Freeze Residential: 0.5-0.6 spaces/unit 	 Office: 0.4 spaces/1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	 Orange, Green and Red Lines Commuter rail (North Station) Express and local MBTA bus routes Water transportation Private commuter/shuttle services Artery Business Committee TMA programs 		

Table 10 – Parking Goals by Section of the City outside Boston Proper

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	PROPOSED PARKING RATIO GOALS	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS	
	ALLSTON/BRIGHTON		
Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.5-2.0 spaces/unit based on housing type Ongoing North Allston Neighborhood Strategic Plan	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit based on housing type	Green Line Local MBTA bus routes	
	CHARLESTOWN		
Office: 0.4-2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet based on Floor Area Ratio Retail: 2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: None-2.0 spaces/unit based on housing type, Floor Area Ratio or location	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit	 Orange Line Local MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring Water transportation (Navy Yard) 	

PARKING IN BOSTON

Table 10 (Continued) - Parking Goals by Section of the City outside Boston Proper

	PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	PROPOSED PARKING RATIO GOALS	Public Transportation Access
		DORCHESTER	
•	Restricted Parking District in the Savin Hill area Ongoing rezoning Office/Retail: 1.0-2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type and Floor Area Ratio Restaurant: 4.0 spaces/1,000 square feet	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Red Line Commuter Rail at JFK/UM ass Local MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring Proposed improved Fairmount Line
		EAST BOSTON	
•	East Boston Parking Freeze Municipal Harbor Planning initiative Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.5-2.0 spaces/unit based on housing type Restaurant: 4.0 spaces/1,000 square feet	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Blue Line Local MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring
•	Restricted Parking District Ongoing East Fenway Neighborhood Strategic Plan rezoning process Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit	Non residential including institutional research and development: 0.75 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75 spaces/unit	 Orange and Green Lines Commuter Rail at Ruggles Station Local and CT MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring
	•	HYDE PARK	
•	Office/Retail: Based on Floor Area Ratio Residential: 0.4-1.0 spaces/unit based on Floor Area Ratio	Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA stations, cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost	 Commuter Rail Local MBTA Bus routes Proposed improved Fairmount Line
		JAMAICA PLAIN	
•	Ongoing Jackson Square planning initiative Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.2-1.5 space/unit based on housing type Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit	 Orange Line and Green Line (E Branch) Local MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring

Table 10 (Continued) - Parking Goals by Section of the City outside Boston Proper

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	PROPOSED PARKING RATIO GOALS	Public Transportation Access
	LONGWOOD MEDICAL AREA	
 Restricted Parking District Institutional Overlay District Residential: 0.6-0.9 spaces/unit based on Floor Area Ratio 	 Non residential including institutional research and development: 0.75 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75 spaces/unit 	 Green Line Commuter Rail at Ruggles and Yawkey Stations Local and CT MBTA bus routes Private shuttle services Proposed Urban Ring MASCO Commute Works TMA programs
	LOWER ROXBURY/CROSSTOWN	
 Ongoing Roxbury Master Plan and rezoning Office: 0.5 spaces/1,000 square feet Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	Non residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Local and CT MBTA bus routes Silver Line (under construction) Proposed Urban Ring
Ongoing planning initiative	MISSION HILL Non residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/	Orange and Green Lines
 Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces /1,000 square feet Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room 	 Non residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/ Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type 	Local and CT MBTA bus routes Mission Link Bus
	M ATTA PA N	
Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces /1,000 square feet Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/unit based on housing type Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room	Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet. Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA Station Cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost Non-residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 0.75-1.25 spaces/unit based on housing type	 Red Line and Mattapan High Speed Trolley Local MBTA bus routes Commuter Rail at Morton Street Station Proposed Silver Line extension Proposed improved Fairmount Line
	ROSLINDALE	
 Office/Retail: Based on Floor Area Ratio Residential: 0.4-1.0/unit based on Floor Area Ratio 	Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit based on housing type Near MBTA stations, cost of parking for employees should be equal to or greater than transit cost	 Commuter Rail Local MBTA Bus routes

PARKING IN BOSTON

Table 10 (Continued) - Parking Goals/Guidelines by Section of the City outside Boston Proper

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING ZONING	PROPOSED PARKING RATIO GOALS	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS
	ROXBURY	
 On-going Roxbury Master Plan rezoning Office: 0.5 spaces/1,000 squ Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel roor Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/ur on housing type 	and Distant from MBTA Station Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/unit	 Orange Line Local MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring Proposed Silver Line extension Proposed improved Fairmount Line
	ROXBURY (DUDLEY SQUARE)	
 Ongoing Dudley Square Transp and Air Quality Study process Office: 0.5 spaces/1,000 squa Residential: 0.2-1.0 spaces/un 	ortation Non-residential: 0.75-1.0 spaces/ 1,000 square feet Hotel: 0.4 spaces/hotel room Residential: 0.5-1.0 spaces/unit	 Local and CT3 MBTA bus routes Silver Line (under construction) Proposed Urban Ring
Restricted Parking District	SOUTH BOSTON (RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORH Distant from MBTA Station	Red Line (west of area)
Residential: 0.2-1.5 spaces/ur on housing type Area Ratio	nit based • Non-residential: 1.0-1.5 spaces/1,000	Local MBTA bus routes
	SOUTH BOSTON (WATERFRONT AND FORT P	POINT)
 Restricted Parking District Ongoing planning and rezoning Residential: 0.4-1.0 spaces/ur on Floor Area Residential 	 South Boston Parking Freeze Non-residential: Gradually decrease parking ratio to 0.7 	 Local and CT3 MBTA bus routes Water transportation Silver Line (under construction) Proposed Urban Ring South Boston Seaport District TMA programs
	WEST FENWAY/KENMORE	
 Restricted Parking District On-going planning and rezoning Residential: 0.7 spaces/unit 	 Parking Restricted Overlay District Non residential including institutional research and development: 0.75 spaces/1,000 square feet (max.) Residential: 0.75 spaces/unit (min. and max.) 	 Green Line Commuter Rail at Yawkey Station Local and CT MBTA bus routes Proposed Urban Ring service
	WEST ROXBURY	
 Office/Retail: 2.0 spaces/1,000 feet Residential: 0.2-1.5 spaces/ur on housing type Hotel: 0.7 spaces/hotel room 	1,000 square feet	 Commuter Rail Local MBTA Bus Routes