

**Jamaica Plain Design Projects Meeting #3 Notes/Comments - R. Szakmary, BTB**  
**JFK School, Jamaica Plain, 9/29/2014 at 6PM**

- I. Question: Will we be using the Action Plan as the base of the designs or is there some leeway with straying from it? Yes, it was mentioned at past meetings this document was very important to folks; however recommendations and historical changes of the area will be taking into consideration and incorporated if the community sees fit in current meetings.
- II. Curb lines Presentation:
  - a. Question: Regarding the pedestrian island over by the Angell Memorial crossing? (Yield signage or is there more infrastructure?) Ped islands are still conceptual- will work with public works and engineering regarding the final layouts and community areas of concern.
- III. Landscape Presentation Concepts
  - a. Fountain in Rotaries/ Gateway Idea/ Color & Dancers (Metal, edges, colored benches & bike racks)- Fountain is not possible response from Parks & Rec...can create a gateway with artistic dance theme in furniture and street elements & art installations inside the rotary.
  - b. Question: Does parks allocate money for fountains? Not typically, they restore but have only made splash-pads and play features as of recent
  - c. Gateway Comments: Can you think about taking up more parking on the edges to create more public space.
  - d. Trees Comments: Heritage type of trees, to be looked at.
  - e. Happy about reduction of crossing widths, like the dance & abstract themes of the area & the Latin branded corridor
  - f. Parks owns the rotary and cannot take it away in terms of space only add.
  - g. Keep in mind lots of "Dance" in the area- community artwork and classes surrounding that are good components to continue to introduce
  - h. Considerations: 1. Enlarging of the Sorellas sidewalk & how this will be with traffic? Answer: Narrowing this area will help to organize the traffic flow; double parking happens now and gets in way of traffic due to the space allocated. Bikes too? ...yes
  - i. Issue of concern: Stop Sign on "Day Street"- location of the stop sign? Lines will be moved up and site-line of the adjacent lane will change and

you will be able to see the cars to your left now as you approach the intersection

- j. Issue of concern: Taking a Right on Day Street- you're pushed left- cars parked near to curb/ sometimes even box trucks being backed there. BTDCan take a look at parking signage in the area/curb- commercial parking for loading proposed to business owners?
- k. Observation: Perkins Street- taking a right onto Centre Street- can this be tightened?
- l. "YIELD Signs" –these are there right now these "legal" signs are there...how will these be Heightened?
- m. Considerations: Angell Memorial Wall- public access through the property? Reframing the walls edge
- n. Considerations: The crosswalk at the edge, rumble strips at the crossings or ped activators- Special pavement markings are possible. Ped-flashers possible- flashers in the pavement? Yes, that is possible, especially in Long-wood medical area and parts of Cambridge. This can be examined or some modification thereof.
- o. PARKING: Loss of parking spaces- this will affect the double-parking in the area- where will these people go? Commercial parking on the paint strip for temp loading is possible.
- p. Jackson Square Corridor Discussions
  - i. No bump-outs in the driveway area by Bank of America, just a Right Turn ONLY out. Bolster & Wyman people fly at this area as well.  
  
RAISED CROSSWALKS: ped zone would be welcomed and would like to see it surround the main street throughout the corridor. Jackson to Forest Hills.
  - ii. At "Gay Head" Road people cross in this area. Question about congestion in this area and the bike lanes (why only one going up the hill?) Answer: Bike accommodations done in 2010- there is no space for specific bike only lane
  - iii. Issue of concern: Stop & Shop parking lot does not have any pedestrian infrastructure in the lot? Answer: Will this up at the next business meeting with the owner, in the past he was against any changes.

1. Line up Estrella Street with the parking lot. TALK Requested with THE STOP & SHOP.
- iv. Issue of concern: Explore a left-hand turn into the parking lot? This was promised at construction, and parking was promised to merchants or employee parking.
- v. Question: Explain “3 Up, 3 Down” Crossings? Answer: Roadway comes up to meet the crossing and descends at same slope gradually so ped has shallow ramp but cars do not experience a hump.
  1. Q: Does this really make a difference? – Can we just put a raised crossing? Each curb would be custom designed to the actual curb- this would increase some of the 3U3D or show to be not possible.
- vi. UTILITY BOX- in middle of the sidewalk in the area by Bromley Heath Section
- vii. Bike Queue mentioned at the light for the crossing by the MBTA.
- viii. Trees in the BHA versus the sidewalk- in front of Bromley Heath
- ix. Snow on the NORTH-Side is always a problem.
- x. Look at Jackson Area as Ave de Americas branding with the furniture or seating.
- xi. BANNING of Types of Signage in the Storefronts: Is this an ISD issue? Comment made about continuous Double-Parking, Signage, etc. this is an enforcement issue. Helping businesses or encouraging poor behavior?
- xii. TREE PITS/GRATES? Grates help with soil impact only short periods. Trees grow, and these become hazards. Other responses are: low fences, suspended pavements, raised planters, make tree-pits longer.
- xiii. Mindful of planning for a smaller height/not taller so they are not used as garbage cans.
- xiv. Bike Racks at Jackson Square; Racks should be moved for safety

- xv. Crosswalk by the Stop & Shop driveway- might create more traffic with this issue.
- xvi. Artistic motif could be extended down the roadway. Public art would that be part of the budget? Can we look into partnerships? Examples Mozart Park monument, murals in area etc.

#### NEXT STEPS

Today was initial review, and concept designs. Next steps we will meet with all the abutters and property owners, and more detail review by public agencies.

When we come back to you, it will be specific details with 25% design decisions. This would involve a cost estimate on all components.

Hispanic Community should be more represented at next meetings specifically 25%.

**MERCHANTS MEETING NOTES: 10/7/14- Julia Martin House, 10/7/14 3:30PM**

## Comments:

- DD parking lot: previous study identified reorganizing the circulation of the parking lot- making that an exit only and not an entrance which would help with congestion
- Forbes/Creighton- this is a big issue and loops are broken- BTM has contractor fixing this.
- Newspaper sidewalk dispensers at DD right-side is blocking view- can these be relocated- Zach Wassmouth of PW mentions “Doug” at DPW as a contact to reach out to as part of project design
- REQUEST for study:
  1. Origin/ Destination & Curbside Management Study: examine area, lots and users of the Jackson Corridor down to Bromley Heath...perhaps this can inform some street directional changes to help with regulation and congestion?
  2. Look at area to have parking meters implemented- with possible trial of parking benefit district? Area has 2 hr parking & suffers from lack of enforcement except for the beginning of the months- pple park their cars all day and/or take the T and are not ticketed- there is limited turn-over.

## Hyde Square comments:

- Please look at Day Street corner and the parking space taken up
- Comment in regards to Angell wall – can it be taken down? ...are there other wall options that look more “open” or transparent that can be considered?