



BOSTON
TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT

ONE CITY HALL PLAZA/ROOM 721
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201
(617) 635-4680/FAX (617) 635-4295

CONTACT: Tracey Ganiatsos
#617-635-4811

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2008

RUTHERFORD AVENUE AND SULLIVAN SQUARE REDESIGN PROJECT
COMMUNITY PROCESS BEGINS

Mayor Thomas M. Menino today announced the start of the community process for the project to redesign Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square in Charlestown. To launch the initiative, the Boston Transportation Department is sponsoring a public meeting on Thursday, July 24th at 7:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 75 West School Street in Charlestown.

"This project is the first step in realizing the true potential of Sullivan Square and Rutherford Avenue," said Mayor Menino. He added, "With the completion of the Central Artery project, the time is right to redesign this area. During the construction period, Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square served the region's transportation needs at the expense of local residents and businesses. The redesign is intended to ensure that the regional traffic stays on the highway system and to enhance Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square to make them more attractive and usable for neighborhood residents and merchants."

The City has allocated \$600,000 for the redesign effort. This initial investment is the first step in the process to secure federal funding of up to \$12 million that has been set aside for the area. The Boston Transportation Department is committed to ensuring that the initiative be driven by an extensive community process with open public meetings and collaboration with neighborhood organizations and advocacy groups.

Boston Transportation Commissioner Thomas J. Tinlin said, "BTD looks forward to working with the Charlestown community to develop a project that improves the quality of life in the neighborhood by meeting the needs of local residents and businesses. We welcome the community's input and I strongly encourage residents and local business representatives to take an interest in the project, attend this first meeting and participate in the process."

(more)

THOMAS M. MENINO, Mayor
Thomas J. Tinlin, Commissioner



The current designs for the area are automobile focused. The redesign will focus on improving traffic flow for all modes of transportation, including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users. The community process will focus on preparing preliminary roadway designs for Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square. The design will target:

- developing a pedestrian friendly environment with safe crossings and better access to parks and Orange Line stations
- routing regional traffic away from the area and creating neighborhood streets; providing links to the regional bicycle network
- creating parcels for development and open space
- developing an implementation plan.

The agenda at the first public meeting will include an analysis of existing conditions as well as a review of the different designs developed by the community in the past.

The Boston Transportation Department, in partnership with the Boston Public Works Department and the Boston Redevelopment Authority, will lead the City's effort to develop a consensus design, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. The consulting team of TetraTech Rizzo has been retained to work with the City and the Charlestown community. The Cecil Group, an urban design firm is part of the design team.