



## **MBTA Communities Working Group**

Date: February 13, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: Remote participation via zoom

**Present:** Steve Revilak, Kin Lau, Mette Aamodt, Ramie Schneider, Vince Baudoin, Sanjay Newton, Laura Weiner, Shaina Korman-Houston, Claire Ricker, Kelly Lynema

**Visitors:** Susan Stamps, Grant Cook, Wynelle Evans

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1. Open Meeting Law**

Claire provided an overview of how Open Meeting Law applies to this working group, noting how Open Meeting Law applies to email discussion, situations where a quorum of members is involved in other meetings or community groups, and how to handle working or collaborative documents.

#### **2. Visioning Session**

Claire explained that a public visioning session would be necessary in order for the community to have input in the process from the beginning. A virtual public visioning session has been scheduled for March 9 at 7:00pm. The meeting of the working group would allow preliminary discussion of meeting format, goals, and polling / visioning questions that should be raised as part of that public meeting.

Working group members took the zoom poll, and discussed what elements of the poll would be most effective in a public session. The group made a number of constructive comments about the poll questions and what types of maps or explanatory materials would need to be provided for them to work well at a community meeting. It was determined that the community visioning session should stay focused on broader goals and values, and not jump into questions about bonuses for affordable housing and/or commercial space until later in the planning process when other technical details are being decided.

Working group members then were divided into breakout groups to attempt to map locations for a potential district or districts. The group reconvened to discuss what would elements of the discussion would be beneficial as part of a visioning session. Overall, it was noted that it is too early in the planning process to start looking at maps; understanding basic community values, priorities, and vision has to come first. There was some discussion about whether the public meeting

needed to be postponed so that the Working Group could present more finite options. After deliberation, it was agreed that staff would share a draft of the poll / visioning questions, and working group members would provide their feedback. Poll questions will also be used as part of a communitywide survey and companion meeting in a box kits.

At the close of the meeting a second prep session was scheduled for February 28 at 7:00pm. Working group members agreed to provide feedback on draft poll questions by Friday, February 24, so that staff could provide a revised copy for discussion on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.*