



**Task Force Working Meeting #8**  
**Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Location: Boston College High School,**  
**150 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, MA**

**Task Force Attendees:**

Fr. George Carrigg, St. Christopher's Church  
Bill Cotter, Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association (CSHCA)  
Annissa Essaibi-George, McCormack Civic Association  
Matt Gordy, Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association  
Christopher Hart, Adaptive Environments  
Sherina Hendrix, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC)  
John Lowe, McCormack Civic Association  
Victoria Maguire, Graduate of UMass Boston  
Paul Nutting, CSHCA  
Orlando Perilla, Harbor Point Community Task Force  
Mark Rooney, South Boston Neighborhood House  
Joe Sammons, Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center  
Phil Strazzula, Phillips Family Hospitality

**Ex-Officio Attendees:**

Michael Manning, Office of Council President Maureen Feeney  
Jane Lindsay, John F. Kennedy Library and Presidential Museum  
Patricia McCormack, JFK Presidential Library and Museum

**City of Boston Attendees:**

Jim Fitzgerald, BRA  
Patrick Hoey, BTB  
Tad Read, BRA  
Carole Schlessinger, Crosby, Schlessinger & Smallridge  
Lauren Shurtleff, BRA  
Skip Smallridge, Crosby, Schlessinger & Smallridge  
Lauren Smyth, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

**Members of the Public:**

John Curacelli, UMass Boston  
Greg Dicovitsky, Transit Realty Advisors  
Kathleen Donaher, Resident of Harbor Point  
Valerie Harms, Resident of Harbor Point  
Gail Hobin, UMass Boston  
DeWayne Lehman, UMass Boston  
Julia O'Brien, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)  
Ellen O'Connor, UMass Boston  
Catherine O'Neill, Corcoran Jennison Companies  
Seth Riseman, Utile, Inc.  
Pete Stidman, Dorchester Reporter  
Gary Walker, Local 103 IBEW  
John Werner, Citizen Schools Boston

## **Meeting Summary**

On Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the eighth meeting of the Columbia Point Master Plan Task Force was called to order at approximately 5:15 p.m. in the Loyola Function Room at Boston College High School by Tad Read, BRA Senior Planner.

Before turning the meeting over to Skip Smallridge, BRA Consultant, Tad began the meeting by noting that the Project Team has met with the major stakeholders and landowners that may be directly impacted by the Master Plan recently and showed them the draft schemes that will be presented tonight.

Skip then gave a PowerPoint presentation (which can be found on the BRA's Columbia Point Master Plan website) of the draft Master Plan schemes, noting that all of the drawings are still in rough sketch form and will need much more refinement and discussion before they are finalized. Tad stressed that all of these concepts will be tested in the next phase of the Master Plan process.

The four main ideas presented included:

1. A new pedestrian & bicycle connection, which could include a meandering pathway from the UMass Boston campus to the MBTA JFK/UMass Station that crosses between the Boston College High School on the west and the Boston Public Schools and St. Christopher's Church properties on the east.
2. A connection from Patten's Cove to the Calf Pasture marsh area, linking the two green spaces.
3. A new mid-peninsula connection extending from the WB Channel 56 building across Morrissey Boulevard (between Sovereign Bank and Boston College High School) to Harbor Point Boulevard.
4. Circulation improvements and a new plaza near the MBTA JFK/UMass Station, including a road through the Corcoran Jennison property that would function as a collector-distributor and primarily serve local traffic, connecting Mt. Vernon Street with Day Boulevard. This concept could also include a narrowing of Morrissey Boulevard.

Questions and comments in response to Skip's presentation are summarized below:

- In response to a question from Joe Sammons, Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center, Tad indicated that tonight's presentation and discussion will serve as a precursor to the discussion of land use, which will follow once the framework for a new transportation and pedestrian network is agreed upon.
- In response to a question from Patricia McCormack, JFK Library & Presidential Museum, Skip answered that in theory, the traffic that switched from traveling on Interstate 93 to Morrissey Boulevard due to the construction of the Central Artery/Tunnel will revert back to the interstate if Morrissey Boulevard is placed on a road diet. He added that a great deal of analysis will be performed to determine if this is the case.
- In response to a question from John Lowe, McCormack Civic Association, Skip replied that the road through the Corcoran Jennison property could still work if it had to be diverted around the Boston Teacher's Union building.
- Paul Nutting, CSHCA, commented that the concepts presented were moving in the right direction.

- Matt Gordy, CSHCA, expressed his support for the concepts presented this evening, saying that he believed they represented the right approach to tackling the peninsula's problems.
- Fr. George Carrigg, St. Christopher's Church, stated his concern that the southern portion of the St. Christopher's Church property bordering the McCormack Middle School not be used as an access point between Mt. Vernon Street and Morrissey Boulevard. Tad responded that this connection could still function well, even if it was limited to only bicycles and pedestrians.
- In response to a comment from Joe Sammons, Tad indicated that at this stage in the planning process, it is too early to say that there is a specific land use vision behind the schematics. He noted that this will likely be formed when land uses are discussed, at a later stage in the planning process.
- Chris Hart, Adaptive Environments, commented that the concepts presented were a good starting point for the rest of the Master Plan process. Tad noted that this is only the beginning of the many discussions to follow.
- Victoria Maguire, Graduate of UMass Boston, stated that it was great to see the possibility of new connections that could open up Columbia Point.
- John Lowe commended the Project Team for the ideas presented.

The following comments were raised by members of the public:

- In response to a question from Julia O'Brien, DCR, Tad replied that traffic modeling will be performed after the land use stage, which will be presented at the next meeting.
- In response to a comment from Valerie Harms, Resident of Harbor Point, Tad stated that the majority of the stakeholders had indicated that they currently feel isolated on the peninsula and would welcome new visual connections and access improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.