

Stadium Way Area Neighborhood Meeting
March 15, 2007
6:00 PM
Honan Public Library, North Harvard Street

Harvard Allston Task Force Members

John Cusack, *Meeting Chair*

Harry Mattison

Harvard University

Harris Band

Chris Conklin, *VHB, Transportation consultant for Harvard University*

Will Donham

Ken Johnson

Mike McBride

Kevin McCluskey

Nancy Stack, *Gilbane, Infrastructure consultant for Harvard University*

Rod Emery, *Edwards & Kelcey, Streetscape consultant for Harvard University*

Introduction – John Cusack

- Purpose of meeting: Two small working group meetings were being held for neighbors to review options for traffic circulation around the First Science project. Questions and comments are encouraged and Harvard will return to the neighborhoods on March 29 with alternatives that address their concerns. After the March 29 meeting, these issues will be addressed at a task force meeting on April 9.
- Summary of March 14 Rena Street neighborhood meeting: Harvard presented 3 options for traffic circulation along Rena Street. Two additional options were offered from the floor. There was general support for one of the Harvard-presented options, but all will be analyzed for the March 29 meeting.

Overview of Street Planning – Harris Band

- Harvard's Master Plan goals include managing vehicular circulation to protect the neighborhoods from traffic impacts, shift the priority to good pedestrian access opportunities and improve existing traffic issues where possible.
- Existing Conditions: The streets in the vicinity of the First Science project site include a number of one-way and dead end streets. Windom Street (connecting to Rotterdam St.) currently serves as the main north-south route through the neighborhood from Cambridge St to Western Avenue. It is currently posted for

No Trucks and handles a high volume of traffic from WGBH, which will be greatly reduced when WGBH relocates.

- Stadium Way will provide an alternative route to distribute traffic and is seen as a 2-way street that will emphasize enhanced transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. One lane in each direction will be reserved for transit vehicles, with one lane each way for general traffic. Several different cross-sections were presented, with the note that it is possible to include more of the walkway and landscaping areas on the side of the street closer to the neighborhood.

Presentation of Street Options – Harris Band

A series of traffic circulation options was presented, noting that a combination can be selected to attempt to balance the sometimes conflicting goals for isolation from traffic through the area and desires for connections of the neighborhood to area roadways and campus facilities.

Traffic Circulation Options:

1. Seattle Street only is connected to Stadium Way (the “7” shaped layout) Windom St. ends in a cul-de-sac.
2. Hopedale is connected through to Stadium Way (could be part of a 1-way pair or a 2-way segment)
3. Amboy is connected to Stadium Way
4. A new “cap” street connects West Sorrento Street across to Seattle and Windom Streets, with or without a connection to Stadium Way.
5. It was proposed to add a connection to Stadium Way off the end of Windom Street or following a portion of Rotterdam.

Temporary Stadium Way Alignments

1. Traffic could continue to use Windom Street to Rotterdam Street for north-south connection.
2. A curved alignment would go from Windom Street intersection and around the “beak” of the CSX easement.

Construction Traffic

A 1-way temporary construction haul road system will be developed that includes a road from Windom Street intersection bending away from the neighborhood through the Romar Site. Existing ramp and river roadways will be utilized for construction, but no neighborhood streets.

March 28 – Construction mitigation meeting at Allston Honan Library will look at temporary roadways and construction period traffic.

Questions and Discussion

- Stadium Way ownership: It hasn't yet been determined if the street will be city-owned or university-owned, but public access to the street will be guaranteed in either case.
- Residents need to maintain access to both Cambridge Street and Western Avenue.
- Many of the area streets experience difficulty getting onto Cambridge Street and when traffic backs up.

All traffic signals will be looked at when the new intersection of Stadium Way and Cambridge St. is designed which may address some of the back up issues.

- Concerns about speed of traffic on Stadium Way—questions about traffic lights or speed bumps.

A variety of traffic calming measures will be used to slow traffic speeds and provide good facilities for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

- Questioned how the reserved transit/shuttle lane can be enforced for that use and when they would be needed.
- Character of Stadium Way: More public access than the roadways through the Harvard Business School campus. Some residents suggested parking be included, but others felt the spaces could be used to “dump & walk” by Mass Pike users.
- Neighborhood has experienced flooding problems.
It was confirmed that new designs will address Stormwater storage and drainage.
- It was confirmed that construction trucks can make the turn from Cambridge into the haul road.
- Some felt that more green space adjacent to the neighborhood would provide a better buffer from Stadium Way than the proposed graduate housing. Some form of wall such as that near the Harvard Business School and Storow Drive was also mentioned.
- Bill Conroy from Boston Transportation Department (BTD) was asked to comment on the use of exclusive transit lanes elsewhere in the City. He confirmed that the Silver Line vehicles used a dedicated lane in parts of the City. He also noted that City staff will begin to work closely with the project engineers to develop solutions to neighborhood concerns and discuss City standards for roadways. He noted that Boston Public Works generally objects to speed bumps that can interfere with snow plowing. He also agreed to look at proposed stop signs on some neighborhood streets to help slow traffic.