

Lower Roxbury Outreach Advisory Group Meeting

December 1, 2022 @ 11AM

Notetaker: Ashley Pierre-Louis, HSH

In Attendance:

Andre Jones, Nuestra Comunidad

Frank Williams, Resident

Julieta Lopez, Lenox and Camden Apartments

Malaysia Fuller-Staten, Boston Cyclists Union

Ron Whitaker, People's Baptist Church

Emmanuel De Barros, Alternatives for Community and Environment

Yarisamar Cortez, Boston Planning and Development Agency

Jamarhl Crawford, Boston Planning and Development Agency

Kate England, Boston Department of Public Works, Director of Green Infrastructure

Louisa Gag, Boston Transportation Department

Jen Rowe, Boston Transportation Department

[Slide deck](#)

Agenda:

- New Green Infrastructure initiatives
- Changes since summer outreach
- Outreach strategy next phase
- Next steps

Notes:

Green Infrastructure (GI)

- GI is an approach to water management that restores or mimics that natural water cycle
 - Reduce flooding
 - Improve water quality
 - Increase green space, vegetation, tree cover
 - Improve stormwater management
- This year passed the City's first GI policy
 - Whenever we create a project with bumpouts or curb extensions - instead of paving the bumpout, use GI design alternatives
 - Images on slides are right-of-way bioretention alternatives that currently exist in Boston or New England
- Design alternatives

- Trees grown in GI infrastructure are growing faster, bigger, and healthier than trees grown in parkland
- Porous asphalt and pavers - water can pass through
- Questions
 - *GI role is hopeful, but are maintenance issues being addressed?*
 - The maintenance policy was written into 2 contracts to address arborists and the GI pavement maintenance; also starting a volunteer program where you can “adopt” a section of the infrastructure; we will be looking to increase maintenance efforts in-house at the same time
 - *Are these maintenance contracts going out to bid? How will they be awarded?*
 - We are hosting trainings for certifications National Green Infra Cert Program, paid by the City
 - Host a few trainings to build a workforce
 - GI jobs pipeline
 - Future goal to require certified individuals in bids
 - First training in Winter/Spring ‘23
 - Recruiting participants from current volunteer program, EJ communities in Boston
 - Currently private contracts for the maintenance bids
 - Wants to make sure BIPOC are included from the start, early on in the process
 - Would like to see who bid on the contracts, how diverse are they?
 - Look into pre-bid process to talk to prospects
- **Action item: share training info once available**

Lower Roxbury Project Changes

- Shawmut at Lenox
 - Current: contraflow bike line on Shawmut to let people ride in both directions
 - Had to study if a stop sign was warranted, but discovered a pattern of crashes
 - Change: Adding curb extensions and ramps; will impact 2-3 parking spaces
 - Goal/Purpose: improve intersection safety for all modes
 - Comments
 - *I like the stop signs at the intersection, a speed bump or crosswalk would be great too; hopefully it doesn't impact parking spaces*
- Shawmut at Camden
 - Current: no curb ramps
 - Change: construct compliant curb ramps and a new crosswalk
 - Impacts 2 parking spaces

- Other ramps
 - City will be rebuilding every curb ramp to meet federal ADA standards on every project
- Timeline
 - Changes may impact project schedule
 - Construction begins Summer/Fall 2023 now
 - Opportunity for increased community engagement during the extra time
- Next Steps
 - **Action Item: send Julieta and Ron info to add to community newsletters**
 - **Action Item: Find out what project details are of improvements in front of People's Baptist Church**