Department of Planning and Development

ENVISIONING NEEDHAM STREET
JUNE 1, 2011
AGENDA

Introductions
Updates
Red Dot Recap
Presentations
Public Comments
A brief history...

- Corridor under study since the 1970s
- 3 lanes vs. 4 lanes and funding have been issues
- 2008: $17 million earmarked in transportation bond bill for corridor
- 2010: MIT corridor study kicked off current assessment
- 2011: MassDOT began data collection; Functional Design Review done; will design roadway
- 2012: 25% design plans due
- $$ for projects that create jobs, housing, transportation links
April Visioning

Residents
Property owners
Business owners
Elected officials

Who’s at the table?

Eclectic mix of uses
Restaurants
Proximity to neighborhoods
Charles River
Green spaces
Economic Benefits

Conserve: What we like about Needham Street and why we go there

Possibilities for the future...

Lack of transportation options
Little sense of place
Congestion/chaos
Bad sidewalks
Poor lighting
Overhead wires
Aesthetics

Change: What we do not like about Needham Street and why we avoid it
Red Dot Recap

Destination
Sense of place
Aesthetically pleasing
Safe for all ages, youth-friendly
Diverse and balance of land uses and open space
Connections to neighborhoods and villages
Transportation for all modes
Rail bed reuse
Historic Buildings and Bridge

Charles River
Residences
Retail Commercial
Offices
Abandoned Rail Right-of-Way

Parallels and bisects Needham Street
Timeline

- Fall 2010 – MIT Students’ Corridor Plan
- April 2011 – Visioning
- June 2011 – Public Presentation of Big Ideas
- Summer 2011 – Staff survey and outreach, draft master plan
- Fall 2011 – Community meeting on draft master plan
- Winter 2011 – Community meeting on final master plan
- Spring 2012 – Zoning proposals to ZAP
Public Presentations

- 7:35 – 7:45  **John Sisson**, Newton Villages, Smart & Compact Growth
- 7:45 – 7:55  **John Koot**, Citizens Organized for Responsible Development (CORD)
- 7:55 – 8:05  **Chuck Eisenberg**, Business and Economic Development
- 8:05 – 8:15  **Guy Compagnone and Ben Tucker**, Chapman Construction/Design, Green Businesses
- 8:15 – 8:25  **Srdjan Nedeljkovic**, Transportation Improvements
- 8:25 – 8:35  **George Kirby**, Newton Bike/Ped Task Force, Upper Falls Greenway Trail
- 8:35 – 8:45  **Phil Herr**, Conjunctive Decision-Making
- 8:45 – 8:55  **Sean Roche**, Roundabouts
- 8:55 – 9:05  **Anatol Zukerman and Russ Feldman**, Newton Boulevard
- 9:05 – 9:30  **General Questions and Comments**