Davis Square Streetscape Improvements

September 24, 2012

City of Somerville
Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning + Community Development
Agenda

- Introduction  Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
- Welcome     Rebekah Gewirtz
  Ward 6 Alderman
- Presentation Hayes Morrison
  Director of Transportation + Infrastructure
- Discussion  Question and Answer
Progress report

Meetings:

- June 21st Project Walk Around
- June 26th Project Charette
- July 17th Community Meeting
- August 7th Community Meeting
Progress report

Project Process

1. Gather Community Input; Develop And Review Alternatives
2. Apply For Grant Monies (We Are Here)
3. Refine Preliminary Design
4. Finalize Funding
5. Final Design
6. Implement

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Progress report

Principles and Goals

• Bring greater clarity, flow and safety to all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.
• Preserve the character and identity of the neighborhood.
• Further expand opportunities to strengthen community use.
• Support and strengthen the business community.
Progress report

Input on Issues and Opportunities

- Congestion and safety issues
- Street furniture and amenities – lighting
- Green elements – landscaping, pervious pavements, LED
- Traffic patterns – complexity, efficiency
- Wayfinding
- Civic spaces
- Sidewalk width and surface
- Truck turns, loading
- Bike markings and parking
Community areas of concern

- Pedestrian signal box is too small.
- Bike path versus sidewalks are too short.
- Pedestrian signals are too short.
- Traffic flow at intersection is too slow.
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Alternatives incorporated suggested changes to:

- Signal timing
- Open spaces
- Materials and aesthetics
- Bike routes through the square
- Lane orientation
- Traffic circulation changes

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Concepts Developed
Improvement Concepts

Davis Square Center

- Removal of Highland Ave slip lane to create new civic park space around Memorial
- New signals mean this has no negative impact on congestion
- Radius accommodates all turns more safely
- Raised crossing at College Ave.
- Widened sidewalk at Statue Park and MBTA to better accommodate foot traffic
Improvement Concepts

Community Path Connection

- Walk your bike path in the center of the square
- Bike boxes and signals will improve clarity and flow
- Signage and pavement markings to guide
- Cycle track options too highly constrained
Improvement Concepts

Current Conditions
Improvement Concepts

Proposed
Elm at Grove / Russell

- Sidewalk bump-out and crosswalk re-alignment at Grove St.
- New Crosswalk at Elm and Russell intersection
- Potential additional plaza space at parking lot island and Summer St.
Improvement Concepts

Elm at Grove / Russell
Possible phase 2
• Potential additional plaza space at parking lot island and Summer St.
Improvement Concepts

Before
Improvement Concepts

Upgrades + potential additional plaza space
Highland at Grove / Cutter

- New signal, intersection layout, and crosswalk at Cutter St. and Highland Ave.
- New traffic table at the Grove St. intersection
Improvement Concepts
Materials
Improvement Concepts

Lighting

- Pedestrian scale
- Cobraheads
- Uplighting
- Special event
Improvement Concepts

Furniture Families
- Modernized traditional
- Keep black powder coat
Discussion