CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 23, 2012

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chairman), Baker, Sangiolo, Yates, Swiston, Kalis, Lennon; also present: Ald. Crossley, Harney, Albright, Gentile, Hess-Mahan, Fischman Planning and Development Board: Joyce Moss (Chair), David Banash, Eunice Kim

#400-11

ALD. GENTILE, HARNEY, SANGIOLO requesting establishment of a Business 5/Riverside Zone: a mixed-use transit-oriented district at the site of the current Riverside MBTA rail station. The proposed new zone shall allow by special permit a single commercial office building not to exceed 225,000 square feet with a maximum height of 9 stories, two residential buildings not to exceed 290 housing units in total, retail space not to exceed 20,000 square feet, along with a multi-use community center. [11/17/11 @3:36 PM]

ACTION: HELD 8-0

NOTE: Ald. Gentile began the meeting by outlining the timeline of the riverside discussions thus far. He explained that this project is years in the making. Over that course of time numerous highly publicized and well attended community meetings have been held to discuss the possibility of this this project. For the details of this timeline please see the attached document. Ald. Gentile reminded the committee that the developer has filed with the state for a site plan approval for a 40B project and that it would be in the best interest of the city to create something that works for both and city and the developer. Ald. Gentile explained that over the course of this multi-year process the developer has made some compromises, to the satisfaction of the ward aldermen, including eliminating one of the office buildings originally proposed, which would cut down on the traffic quite a bit. However the developer is concern that they will be asked to reduce further, which would be quite undesirable for them. Ald. Gentile has explained to them that he is content with the elimination of the second office building and stated that he would agree to this plan if it is the one proposed. Upon completion of Ald. Gentile's comments, Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development, began the planning department's presentation for the item. She began by explaining that the Planning Department is trying to incentivize the use of transit by crafting this to be a transit oriented development that will benefit the community and have no negative net impacts. Ms. Havens then introduced Eve Tapper, Chief Planner for Current Planning, who gave a presentation on case studies for developments such as the one we are considering now. The details on these properties can be found in the attached Powerpoint and in the attached memo. It was noted that while all of these developments have a combination of the different elements, the percentage of each element varies based on what makes sense for the community; the Riverside development would likely have more

residential uses than any example shown. Ms. Tapper stated that these examples are all of successful developments. The question of how success is determined was questioned. It was the consensus of the committee that regardless of what has been successful by other towns, they and the Planning Department must determine what would be considered a success for Newton and the Riverside adjacent community. Ms. Tapper had hoped to find a pattern for percentages that created a successful development; however it became clear through her research that there is no specific combination that multiple communities used. Ms. Tapper inquired about whether the Aldermen would like to have percentage requirements associated with the zone. She stated that there is no specific solution and that the department is looking to develop a vibrant mixed-use development with a complementary mix of uses. The discussion of percentages continued later in the meeting with the Chief Zoning Code Official, Seth Zeren.

Mr. Zeren addressed the Committee. He continued the Planning Department's presentation and handed out a matrix/menu of zoning options that the Planning Department hopes to use as a guide to inform the policy direction and so that they can achieve the goals that the committee has expressed as necessary when crafting language.

The first topic discussed was that of the name and the purpose of the zone. The dilemma over the name remained unresolved by the end of the meeting. Whether this development is a transit oriented development or a transit adjacent development was the crux of the debate. Ald. Sangiolo expressed that she'd prefer this be called a mixed-use development. Atty. Ouida Young (Associate City Solicitor) stated that from a legal perspective there should be no concern about spot zoning if the term "transit oriented district" is used. In regards to the statement of purpose for the zone, Ald. Yates shared that he doesn't see the goal clearly spelled out and shared some suggested language with Mr. Zeren, which he will take back and review.

Ald. Baker looked for clarification for the intent of this project in asking whether the MBTA's goal in this is to increase ridership. He shared that on the contrary, it seems that the MBTA is simply looking to make money off of the piece of real estate that they own. He wants to be sure that the development that occurs maximizes the opportunity for the city in terms of its own tax revenue and minimizes the impact to the community. Ald. Gentile responded stating that he doesn't ever remember there being talk of increased ridership as a goal. The intent is to create revenue from the land. Ald. Gentile also noted that should a 40B take place, no zone change would be needed for that or anything under the auspice of "public use". Additionally, he shared that part of the condition of the lease is to make sure that necessary parking spaces are still available.

In response to a question about whether this is a transit oriented development as the proposal stands now, Ms. Havens explained that her department is trying to get a sense of what the committee would like this to become. What distinguishes transit oriented developments from other forms of developments is the creation of incentives (amenities, etc) for people so that they may function without having a car. If this is what we are aiming for then we must create it. How we develop this zone will determined whether it is transit-oriented or not. Ald. Crossley shared her opinion that if we want it to be more transit oriented then we need to think of the kinds of services that are provided at the development so that people do not have to leave to go somewhere else by car.

The second item on the matrix was the discussion of uses. Mr. Zeren provided the committee with a list of uses (see planning department memo, page 4) and inquired as

to whether the committee wants to see a larger mix of uses or just the uses shown. Ald. Sangiolo stated that she would like to keep the underlying use, "public use", as is and have everything else allowable by special permit. She stated that she sees no reason to get rid of the underlying public use classification. Mr. Zeren explained that for legal reasons the city must continue to allow some reasonable by-right projects on the parcel. Atty. Young also explained that certain things such as garages, coffee shops, and modest retail would qualify as public use, and anything qualifying as public use would be allowed by-right.

Ways to allow for flexibility of uses on the site was a point of discussion. It was agreed upon by the committee and the Planning Department that having certain uses fall under an umbrella description (re: bank, bakery, etc would fall under the title of "retail") would make it easier for the development to function and thrive without having to come back to the Board as frequently for special permits when a location changes from one use to a different, but similar, use. A list containing a vast mix of uses would allow for more flexibility.

Mr. Zeren inquired about the committees' thoughts on research and development facilities being allowed by-right. The committee didn't oppose this but did in inquire as to what types of facilities would fall under this category. The committee requested that the Planning Department come back with a clearer definition for research and development facility as it pertains to this site. It was clarified though that in general what constitutes a research and development facility are determined via an interpretation by the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

Ald. Baker posed the question to the committee of whether this location is intended to be an origin or a destination and what destination uses would do in the context of a neighborhood. He asks that that department consider that question. Mr. Zeren responded by stating that decisions such as this are not ultimately something that the City can control. Much of this is up to the market and the developer. Ald. Gentile stated that making this a destination point hasn't been part of the discussions thus far. As the project is designed now, it is going to add an additional 5,000 trips per day; he doesn't think that the neighborhood wants a destination draw to add to that. Ald. Kalis agreed with Ald. Gentile about not making this a destination that draws from far and wide, but believes that this should be a lively and beneficial addition to the community and he requested that that be written into the intention. A number of the members of the committee echoed Ald. Kalis' statement that this should be beneficial to the community. What constitutes community was a question raised by Ald. Johnson, whom also stated that this development should benefit the city on the whole.

Ald. Harney shared a request with the committee, asking that they keep in perspective that the proposal is not for a shopping center. This is a two lane scenic road with a mixed use project proposal which will include some complementary retail.

Ald. Johnson asked for the lists of uses to be cleaned up so that redundancies are eliminated and so that they have a frame going forward for what the Planning Department suggests from very specific to very general. She also requests that what is allowed by right and what is special permit is delineated. Ald. Yates suggested that certain broad language be used to encompass multiple potential establishments. Ald. Baker advised that the list not be too limited as to disallow something that could be beneficial to the

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area. Mr. Zeren stated that he will reconsider how uses are listed and described and will come back with a revised and updated set of uses.

The third item discussed on the matrix was that of ratio. Mr. Zeren inquired as to whether the committee believes that the breakdown of uses suggested in the docket item is the correct ratio; and if not, then whether a different use be emphasized. The committee's instinct is to not have percentages but they would appreciate having a minimum and a maximum to provide for a range so that a certain mix of complementary uses is available. The Planning Department will come back with some options to this end.

Ald. Gentile took a moment to remind the committee and the Planning Department that the project for this location has been designed and that the maximums are based on that project, should it be the one submitted. He cautioned against the Planning Department turning this into a visioning project when the necessary specs are already determined. Additionally, he would also like the courtesy of getting back to discussing the docket item filed without completely changing it; he encouraged the committee to file their own item should they want to discuss certain things further.

Mr. Zeren then moved on to the third item: the size of the development, including what limits should be placed on the development and in which manner. Mr. Zeren asked about the idea of creating a development parcel which would join the separately owned hotel indigo lot and MBTA lot so that the same zoning considerations apply to both, as they are under the control of the same developer. Though with a development parcel the developer would occupy the MBTA lot as well as the indigo lot, the MBTA still maintains ownership of the Riverside lot. Attorney Young stated that there are reasons why the unification into one development parcel would be beneficial: it would be relevant for monitoring the property and having a structure of management with one overseer for the Hotel Indigo and the Riverside development.

Mr. Zeren also discussed the concept of having an open space requirement. The Planning Department is proposing a 5% minimum requirement. This would apply to beneficial open space, designed to support active or passive recreation that serves the community benefit. He also stated that this could become a zoning incentive. If the developer wants to include more open space, then perhaps some zoning regulations could be relaxed elsewhere. Ald. Baker suggested that perhaps a 5% minimum might be too low. Mr. Zeren explained that they'd rather set the starting point low so that it's something that can reasonably be met. Ald. Danberg suggested that we make sure this open space is useable space for the public to congregate, not simply a walking path, for example. Mr. Zeren agreed and stated that he'd look further at the definition of open space and make improvements.

The fourth topic discussed was that of residential density. Right now the proposal and docket item include 290 residential units. Ald. Gentile stated that this number was decided upon during a compromise with the developer. In exchange for eliminating a second office building, they increased the residential portion by ~50 units. Mr. Zeren explained that typically the way that residential units are determined is to calculate a minimum lot area per residential unit. He stated in business zones, including Business 4 zones, 1200 square feet per dwelling is what is required, and also noted that by in large, business districts usually have other limiting factors in addition to lot area such as parking, FAR, etc. Mr. Zeren explained that it is possible to set a ratio that

would allow no more than 290 residences on the lot. That number comes out to about 1900 square feet per dwelling which is about two-thirds of the the development potential that could be on the site should 1200 square feet be used. Mr. Zeren asked for the committee's input into whether they'd like to set the number that allows for only 290 or whether they'd like to set a number that allows for some flexibility. Ald. Danberg inquired as to whether the Planning Department has started to think about the impact to the schools with regard to these residential additions. Mr. Zeren acknowledged this concern and shared that the department has begun to consider this however it is difficult to do without not yet knowing the breakdown of unit types. Ald. Gentile added to this, sharing that the developer has talked at length about having 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartments primarily since dwellings of these sizes are easily filled

There is a delicate balance to be reached where housing is concerned to make our option more attractive to the developer than a 40B. Mr. Zeren explained that to use the 1200 square foot requirement would put the maximum dwelling number at about 450. Ald. Baker requested that the Planning Department put this into a frame that enables the committee to understand whether this is going to be substantially denser than any other zone.

The fifth topic discussed pertained to the visual impacts of the development mostly as it's related to the height/number of stories in a structure. Mr. Zeren explained that the peak point is not going to be based off height from the ground so much as it will be based off height from sea level so that height is what's perceived from the street. Additionally, Mr. Zeren mentioned that the appropriate story height should be as commercial building stories are not necessarily 12 feet. It was explained by Ald. Gentile that in negotiations with the developer they've agreed to have the garage on Grove Street eliminated, but in return the office building proposed would need to be 10 stories instead of 9 stories so that parking can be accommodated underneath the building. He requests for some flexibility here so that this can be accomplished.

Mr. Zeren proceeded to discuss setbacks. He explained that there are setback controls for how close buildings can be to lot lines, and the setback can vary. He suggested that for this project it may make sense to have different setbacks depending on which frontage you're using. He suggested also that a stepped setback, which correlates the setback to the height of that portion of the building in question, should be kept as an option even though it may not be as helpful as the department had initially hoped.

The last discussion of the evening was that of performance standards. The department and the committee want to limit potential negative impacts. What is measured, how it should be measured, and where it will be incorporated into the ordinance or special permit is something that will need to be determined. Ald. Kalis stated that the committee needs to focus on the performance standards that are going to impact the community the most. Traffic is a consideration, and not just traffic on Grove Street but traffic throughout the area. Ald. Johnson stated that the list of performance standards is a long one and should be prioritized. Having an unnecessarily extensive and onerous list will not benefit the city in the end. Ald. Yates echoed the idea of prioritization, stating that the department should create a breakdown of what is a luxury and what is a necessity.

Ald. Danberg then moved to hold the item which carried unanimously. The next meeting on this item will take place on February 9th

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Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chairman

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	April 2007	Ward aldermen meet with Bluehawk to preview possible project at Riverside
Sir	May 2007	Ward aldermen meet with Mark Boyle (MBTA), Gregory Dicovitsky (Transit Realty), former aldermen John Stewart, and leaders of the local neighborhood associations to discuss Riverside development
()	Sept & Oct 2007	MBTA/Transit Realty neighborhood meetings with Auburndale and Lower Falls residents
	November 2007	ACA, LNA, LFIA neighborhood associations prepare position statements for MBTA
	February 2008	MBTA/Transit Realty issues first Invitation to Bid (ITB)
	September 2008	MBTA/Transit Realty issues second Invitation to Bid (ITB)
	February 2009	MBTA issues press release announcing the authorization of an 85 year lease to Normandy
(2)	February 2009	Normandy neighborhood visioning meeting (at Auburndale Community Library)
3	March 2009	Normandy neighborhood visioning meeting (at Lower Falls Community Center)
	October 2009	MBTA/Normandy lease agreement signed
9	December 2009	Normandy Community Proposal #1 (at Lower Falls Community Center Dec. 3rd & Williams School Dec. 10th) Total 874K sf (557K sf office, 16K sf retail, 301K sf residential-290 units), 2645 parking spaces
(5)	February 2010	Neighborhood meeting - Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition founded (at United Parish Auburndale)
6	March 2010	City Planning Dept. Community Meeting – Riverside Zoning (at Auburndale Community Library)
	April 2010	Normandy files MEPA ENF with State
0	June 2010	Normandy Community Proposal #2 (at Williams) Total 869K sf (595K sf office, 14K sf retail, 260K sf residential-240 units), 2720 parking spaces
Ø	June 2011	Normandy Community Proposal #3 (at Williams) Total 795K sf (426K sf office, 21K sf retail, 348K sf residential-295 units), 2380 parking spaces
	June 2011	Normandy files MEPA DEIR with State
9	October 2011	Normandy Community Proposal #4 (at Williams) Total 695K sf (364K sf office, 19K sf retail, 300K sf residential-245 units, 12K sf community), 2251 parking spaces

1-9 Broadly publicized open public meetings

Department of Planning and Development

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
WORKING SESSION
JANUARY 23, 2012

RIVERSIDE REZONING

#400-11: Ald. Gentile, Harney, Sangiolo requesting establishment of a Business 5/Riverside Zone: a mixed-use transit-oriented district at the site of the current Riverside MBTA rail station. The proposed new zone shall allow by special permit a single commercial office building not to exceed 225,000 square feet with a maximum height of 9 stories, two residential buildings not to exceed 290 housing units in total, retail space not to exceed 20,000 square feet, along with a multi-use community center.



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Case Studies

Menu of Zoning Tools

Next Steps

Introduction

- Craft new zone
- Mapping with special permit
- Menu of zoning tools
 - Unified text
 - Policy-driven
 - Decision matrix





A Unique Opportunity

- A great mixed-use development
 - Transit-oriented development
 - Public amenities
 - Jobs and economic development
 - New and affordable housing types
 - No negative net impacts



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Station Landing, Medford





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Station Landing, Medford

- 16-acre site
- 1 million sq. ft. development
- Amendment to existing Mixed-Use Zone to allow residential use
- Keys to Success
 - Mix of uses all went up quickly together
 - Master plan at start of process
 - City wanted the site redeveloped



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Case Studies

Performance Zoning

Menu of Zoning Tools

Next Steps

Mashpee Commons, Mashpee





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Performance Zoning

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Mashpee Commons, Mashpee

- 40-45 acres
- 275,000 sq. ft. development
- Transfer of development rights increased density
- 40 apartments are considered "amenities"
- Keys to success
 - No office use on ground floor
 - Phasing—only build what can be leased
 - One property owner controls compatible uses



Introduction

Case Studies

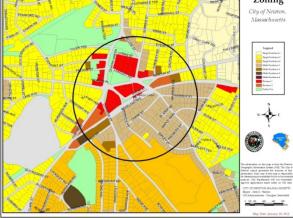
Performance Zoning

Menu of Zoning Tools

Next Steps

Newton Centre







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Performance Zoning

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Newton Centre

- 126 acres within ¼-mile radius from MBTA stop
- Uses developed out of necessity
- Diverse property owners
- Keys to success
 - Built over time
 - Mix of uses complemented each other



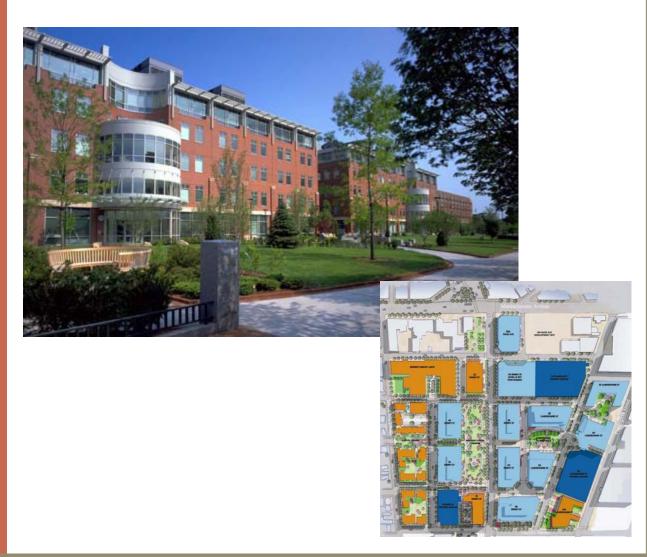
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University Park, Cambridge





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University Park, Cambridge

- 27-acre development parcel
- 2.3 million sq. ft. of development
- New zone created
 - Capped total development and retail
 - Required minimum housing
 - Phasing required a mix of uses
- Keys to success
 - Site-specific zone
 - Master plan
 - Flexibility
 - Tri-party agreements provided predictability



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Comparisons with other successful mixed-use developments

Location	Area of site/ development	% Retail and Dining	% Office	% Resi- dential	% Other Uses	% Open Space
University Park, Cambridge	23 acres/2.3 million sq. ft.	3	60	32	5 (hotel)	18
Newton Centre, Newton	126 acres (1/4 radius from MBTA station) / 3,882,000 sq. ft. (approx.)	10.5	4.5	85	N/A	N/A
Mashpee Commons, Mashpee	40 – 45 acres	76	11	13	N/A	N/A
Station Landing, Medford	16 acres/ 1 million sq. ft.	7.5	16	71.5	5 (gym)	N/A
Chestnut Hill Square, Newton (as approved)	11.5 acres/ 340,000 sq. ft.	44	18 (medical office)	29	9 (gym)	N/A
Riverside Proposed Docket language	12.7 acres/ 592,200 sq. ft. estimated from docket item	2	25	38	35 (parking garage)	N/A



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Menu of Zoning Tools

- The major policy considerations in crafting a new zone.
 - Name and purpose
 - Allowed Uses
 - Size of Development
 - Development considerations
 - Incentives
 - Parking
 - Approval processes
- With clear policy vision and goals, specific zoning can be written



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Name and purpose

- Include a statement of purpose:
 - "The purpose of the Riverside TOD is to allow the development of appropriately-scaled mixed-use, transitoriented development near the Riverside MBTA Station. New development should provide enhancements to public infrastructure, be integrated with and protect nearby neighborhoods, provide a mix of compatible and complementary commercial and residential uses appropriate for transit-oriented sites, and advance the principles of the City's Comprehensive Plan, including its long-term goal of strengthening alternatives to singleoccupancy automobile use."
- Name: Riverside Transit-Oriented District (Riverside TOD), essentially a Mixed-Use 3



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Allowed Uses

- Uses allowed in the docket item included the following:
 - Office
 - Multifamily
 - Retail
 - Community center
- Public uses
- Other uses and flexibility

Mixed Use

- Should a mixture of uses be required?
- Should there be a certain minimum ratio?



Introduction

Case Studies

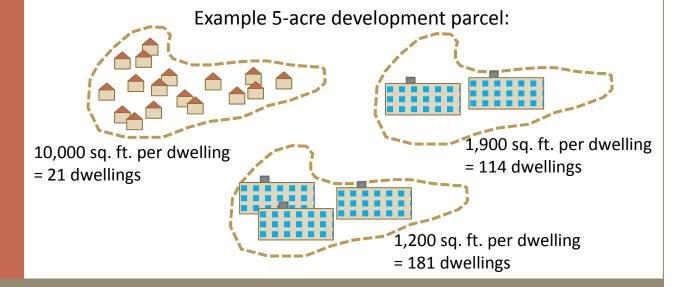
Menu of Zoning Tools

Next Steps

Size of Development

Dimensional Standards

- Development parcel
- Beneficial open space
- Residential density
 - Lot area per unit





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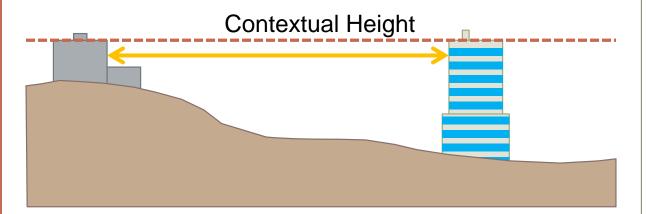
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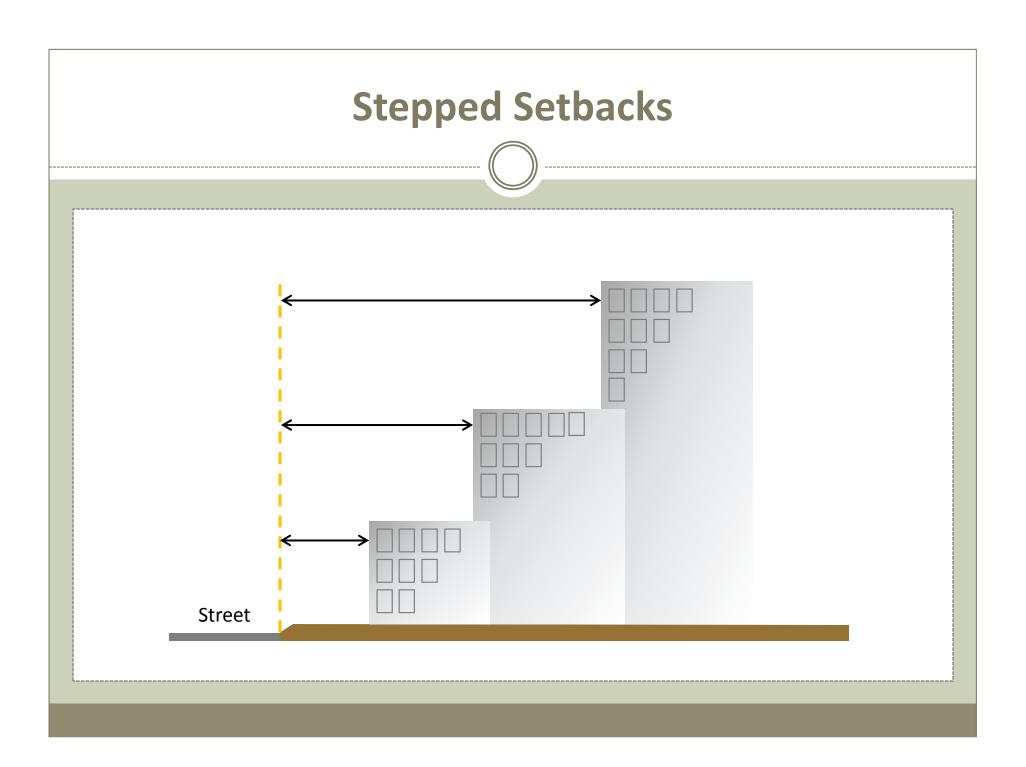
Next Steps

Size of Development

Dimensional Standards, continued

- Visual impact
 - Height and stories
 - Setbacks
 - Massing







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Size of Development

Performance standards

- Limiting net negative impacts
- What should be measured?
 - Adequacy of public facilities
 - Mitigation of neighborhood impacts
 - Housing, transit, and parking improvements
 - Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan/Mixed-Use Centers Element
 - Improved access for all modes of transportation
 - Enhanced open space
 - Excellence in place-making
 - Comprehensive signage program
 - Pedestrian scale
 - Public spaces
 - Sustainable design
 - Pedestrian and neighborhood considerations



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Development Considerations

Organization of Owners

- Manage complex site, development parcel
- Point of contact for zoning and special permit

Advisory Council

- Representatives from organization of owners, neighborhood, and City staff
- Ensure continued compatibility during construction and after



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Incentives

- Encourage developer to use this zone
- Create public amenities

Additional density or height for:

- Additional open space
- Additional contribution to affordable housing
- Excellence in green building



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Parking

Encourage shared parking and transit use

- Current parking requirements don't account for shared use
- Consider <u>maximum</u> parking requirements vs. minimum parking requirements
- Require traffic and parking study and peer review directed by Planning Department

Transportation Demand Management strategies

- Rent parking and apartments separately
- Parking "cash out" for employees
- Carpools
- Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations



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Approval Processes

- Two-tiered review of development plans
 - Conceptual
 - Final engineered drawings
- Post-construction traffic study
 - Monitoring traffic impacts for at least two years
 - If impacts exceed projections by 10% and service degraded, additional mitigation required
- Project phasing
 - Allow construction over time
 - Timeline set out in special permit
- Additional filing requirements
- Expanded special permit criteria



Introduction

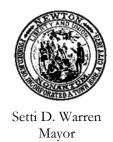
Case Studies

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Next Steps

Next Steps

- Planning and Law Departments will draft text for Riverside TOD based on Committee feedback
- February 9th review draft language
- Consider additional information on unresolved issues



City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Candace Havens Director

WORKING SESSION MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2012

TO: Alderman Marcia T. Johnson, Chairman

Members of the Zoning and Planning Committee

FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development

Eve Tapper, Chief Planner for Current Planning

Seth Zeren, Chief Zoning Code Official

RE: #400-11: Ald. Gentile, Harney, Sangiolo requesting establishment of a Business

5/Riverside Zone: a mixed-use transit-oriented district at the site of the current Riverside MBTA rail station. The proposed new zone shall allow by special permit a single commercial office building not to exceed 225,000 square feet with a maximum height of 9 stories, two residential buildings not to exceed 290 housing units in total, retail space not to exceed 20,000 square feet, along with a multi-use community center.

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2012

CC: Board of Aldermen

Planning and Development Board Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor

INTRODUCTION

At the January 9th working session of the Zoning and Planning Committee, the Planning Department introduced some ways to craft a new zone to enable the development of the Riverside MBTA station (referred to generally as Riverside). The 22-acre Riverside site, which includes a transit hub and a large parking lot, is identified in the City's *Comprehensive Plan* as a favorable site for mixed-use, transit-oriented development. The crafting of a new zone provides an opportunity to shape development that is site-specific, incorporates specific dimensional controls, and requires impact mitigation, open space, and a mixture of uses, which together will ensure a development that has both lower adverse impacts and greater benefits for the City.

The options outlined in this memo provide a toolkit for assembling a zoning district to regulate development at Riverside that ensures the community is both enhanced and protected. At the January 23rd meeting of the Zoning and Planning Committee, the Planning Department will review the menu of options, their policy implications and assist the Committee in reaching consensus on the preferred zoning approach(es) to best guide

the development. In crafting a new zoning district, staff recommends allowing sufficient flexibility to allow for creative design opportunities which may emerge during the special permit process or in the future, to allow the project to evolve in response to changing market conditions, and to integrate a mix of uses that creates a vibrant transit-oriented, community-focused destination.

As has been the practice in Newton, once the zoning text is crafted, it becomes available for use by a petitioner with a project proposal. A request to change the map will accompany a special permit application and will be reviewed by the Land Use Committee prior to Board approval. Exercise of the special permit triggers the map change and, if the special permit is not exercised, no map change will occur.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE JANUARY 9th MEETING

Unified Zoning Text

At the January 9th meeting, Planning staff presented sample draft zoning texts highlighting three approaches. (See Planning Department memorandum dated January 6th, 2012.) Several members of the Committee questioned whether a zone for Riverside could contain elements from each of these zoning approaches. The simple answer is, yes. The bulk of this memo outlines the key policy decisions that will then guide the Planning and Law Departments in crafting language that meets the Board's goals and visions for Riverside using the best means to achieve them.

Case Studies

At the last ZAP meeting, a few Aldermen requested examples of mixed-use developments in the area. The Planning Department conducted internet searches and spoke to several municipal planners and developers to compile a list of comparable developments. The objective was to seek some common threads or patterns that suggest the "perfect mix" of uses that contributes to the success of a project. However, the mix of uses appears more closely related to the specific site rather than being formula-driven. In general, it was also evident that each development (including Newton Centre, which was built up over time by different property owners) has a primary use or purpose (i.e. office, retail or residential) and that additional compatible uses were added, but not in equal proportions. The table below illustrates the proportion of each use in the areas we studied. A more detailed analysis of these projects is included in Attachment A.

Location	Total Sq. Ft. of	% of	% of	% of	% of	% of Site Open
	Site/Development	Development	Development	Development	Development	Space
		Retail and	Office	Residential	Other Use	
		Restaurants				
University Park,	23 acres	3	60	32	5 (hotel)	18
Cambridge	2.3 million sq. ft.					
Newton	126 acres (1/4	10.5	4.5	85	N/A	N/A
Centre,	radius from MBTA					
Newton	station					
	3,882,000 sq. ft.					
	(approx.)					
Mashpee	40 – 45 acres	76	11	13	N/A	N/A
Commons,						
Mashpee						
Station	16 acres	7.5	16	71.5	5 (gym)	N/A
Landing,	1 million sq. ft.					
Medford						
Chestnut Hill	11.5 acres	44	18 (medical	29	9 (gym)	N/A
Square,	340,000 sq. ft.		office)			
Newton (as						
approved)						
Riverside	12.7 acres	2	25	38	35 (parking	N/A
Proposed	592,200 sq. ft.				garage)	
Docket	(estimated with					
language	parking garage					
	and 5,000 sq. ft.					
	community					
	center)					

Impact Measurement

Several Aldermen also requested that the Planning Department create a model for evaluating the impacts of a particular development project. The Department is actively working with the City's Traffic Engineer and the School Department to find the best method to calculate these impacts. These metrics will be especially useful to evaluate a proposed project in preparation for special permit review. The zoning text should address the "net impacts" of a project (i.e., the actual impacts after mitigation) and could establish acceptable not-to-exceed thresholds. These could be policy-oriented, such as "the Level of Service at City intersections must not be degraded as a result of the project," rather than numbers-driven, e.g., "Traffic from the project must not exceed ## cars at peak hours." During the special permit process, it would be incumbent upon the petitioner to provide information to the Board of Aldermen (subject to peer review) showing that the net impacts of the proposed development do not exceed the thresholds established.

MENU OF ZONING TOOLS

One way to think about how to create a single, unified zoning vision for Riverside is to imagine a "menu" of possible zoning tools. For each issue, topic, or concern that zoning is intended to control, there are several ways to achieve that goal with different effects. The Planning Department has parsed each of the tools and regulations contained in the sample texts and combined them by topic: Name and Purpose, Uses, Size of Development, Incentives, Development Considerations, Parking, Site Plan and Special Permit processes. This menu of zoning tools forms the basic building blocks for crafting a new zone. Within each topic, the key policy questions are posed and a number of potential regulatory approaches are suggested. By identifying the Board's preferences for zoning tools, the Planning Department can assemble a complete zoning district from the menu.

1. Name and Purpose: What is the district intended to do? What should the district be called?

The goal in creating a new zone is to allow for the best mixed-use development possible on the Riverside site. A statement of intent gives clarity for future interpretation of how the zone is meant to be applied. For example: "The purpose of the Riverside TOD is to allow the development of appropriately-scaled mixed-use, transit-oriented development near the Riverside MBTA Station. New development should provide enhancements to public infrastructure, be integrated with and protect nearby neighborhoods, provide a mix of compatible and complementary commercial and residential uses appropriate for transit-oriented sites, and advance the principles of the City's Comprehensive Plan, including its long-term goal of strengthening alternatives to single-occupancy automobile use."

Staff has referred to the proposed zone as the *Riverside Transit-Oriented District (Riverside TOD)* to identify that the zoning text will apply only to this site and propose it be located in Section 30-13 Mixed-Use Districts as, essentially, a *Mixed-Use 3 District (MU3)*.

2. Uses: What should be allowed by right? By special permit?

For legal reasons, some reasonable development must be allowed by right to avoid "regulatory takings." The Business and Mixed-Use Districts already require that any development with an aggregate of 20,000 square feet or greater obtain a special permit. This creates a threshold for by-right development and development of 9,999 square feet or less. For a development between 10,000 square feet and 19,999 square feet, site plan approval is required. The Planning Department suggests retaining these provisions in a new zone. Uses allowed in the docket item included the following:

- o Office
- o Multifamily
- o Retail
- o Community center
- o Public uses as allowed in Section 30-6 should also be allowed since the MBTA transit station already exists and public parking is required as part of the lease agreement with the MBTA.

Other uses the Board may want to consider are those that are allowed in the Business and Mixed-Use districts, either by right or by special permit:

By Right	Special Permit
 Research and development facility Retail store, salesroom or showroom for the conduct of retail business, but not for the sale of motor vehicles, having less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area Service establishment Retail dry cleaning or laundry Restaurants, less than 50 seats Retail bakery Accessory parking facilities, limited to one level Library or museum Theater, hall, or club Dwelling units above the first floor provided that the lower floors are used for a use allowed in Section 30-13 Artist studio Place of amusement or assembly, whether indoor or outdoor Day care or adult day care facility Public transportation stations, service yards, offices, and other facilities 	 Hotel Retail store, salesroom or showroom for the conduct of retail business, but not for the sale of motor vehicles, with 10,000 square feet of gross floor area or more Multifamily dwellings Restaurants with more than 50 seats Congregate living facility Bowling alley Non-accessory parking facilities or multi-level accessory parking facilities

Should a mix of uses be required?

The ratio of use types suggested by the docket item is 25% office, 38% residential, 2% retail, and 35% garage, community center, and other public uses. If the public parking garage required by the MBTA is eliminated from this calculation, the ratios are 38% office, 57% residential, and 3% retail. The data collected from a sampling of other mixed-use developments is inconclusive regarding an ideal ratio. It strongly suggests that success of a development is more likely to be market-driven and site-specific. Each of the developments studied has one dominant use complemented by other less dominant uses. The Riverside docket language represents slightly more balance in terms of proportions of uses suggested and, provided the uses are complementary and there is a current demand for them, it is likely to be a success. The Board should decide whether the proportion of uses should be kept constant regardless of the size of the project (i.e. if the office building were to change in size, would the residential component have to change proportionately?) and/or if a range should be considered to allow flexibility (e.g., 24-26% office use instead of 25% or 25% within 5% either way). Zoning regulations could also require a mix of uses within each building to encourage vertical integration. While the Planning Department generally favors this approach, a counter argument can be made that if a specific use is prescribed to the ground floor of a building and that use cannot be supported financially, the end result may be shuttered storefronts with offices or residences above, which is not desirable. Incentives to encourage vertical integration might be the best option here.

3. Size of Development: What limits should be placed on a development and in which manner?

A key consideration in any zone is determining the best way to cap the overall development of the site. The limit could include either or a mix of 1) Dimensional standards, which specify a hard cap (the size of buildings and prescribe specific design, like most of our zoning ordinance (§30-15) is written; and/or 2) Performance standards, which set thresholds of impacts to ensure a development does not negatively affect its surroundings.

Minimum lot area

The BU and MU zones require between 10,000 and 40,000 square feet minimum lot area. Staff recommends 40,000 square feet for the sake of consistency. At the same time, a development parcel of a minimum of 10 acres would allow more flexibility in the design and dimensional standards, and parking requirements could be calculated across the "development parcel" rather than on each individual lot. This encourages a comprehensive development with use that are brought together rather than separated.

Minimum lot area per residential unit

Business 1-4 districts allow 1,200 square feet of land area per dwelling unit, in line with the residential density allowed in Newton's village centers. Mixed Use zones require 10,000 square feet of land area per dwelling unit, which makes residential development in existing mixed-use zones impractical. Alternatively, a threshold of 1,900 square feet per unit would limit development on the 12.7-acre developable portion of the Riverside site to 290 dwelling units as specified in the docket language. If the size of the developable parcel changes, this threshold number will change accordingly. The new zone could also codify the interpretation currently used by the Inspectional Services Department that when calculating lot area per unit, the lot area per unit calculation employs the area of the entire lot even though housing is not the only use on the site.

Visual impact

<u>Building height</u>. Our Zoning Ordinance regulates building height in two ways. The PMBD took a "contextual" approach to building height by allowing structures to be built up to the elevation above sea level of any other building within a radius of 1,200 feet; this approach ensures that new buildings will be compatible with their surroundings. Building height can also be limited by absolute height or number of stories above the average natural grade immediately below. This method also ensures compatibility on level sites; however, it may not account for changes in topography. This is particularly important on the

Riverside site where the land slopes down significantly from the Grove Street frontage to the middle of the site.

Stories and Setbacks. Properties in the MU1 and MU2 zones are currently limited to three or four stories and have required setbacks of 15 feet from the front, and 7.5 or 0 feet from the rear and side lot lines. However, in the Riverside TOD, it may be appropriate to build significantly taller buildings than three or four stories, and that larger setbacks would be desirable as a result. As a means for reducing visual impacts of taller buildings, it is possible to require upper stories to have deeper setbacks. For example, a building might have three stories of retail and residential close to the street, but rising to six or more stories in the rear of the structure, without requiring the whole building to be set back the distance required for the tallest element of the building. Stepped building setbacks could ensure that taller development to the rear would not be visible from the street. However, due to the topography on this site, such setbacks may not be necessary.

Open space, public amenities

Beneficial open space is defined as publicly-accessible open space for passive or active recreation, in contrast to landscaped buffers, planters, or decorative lawns. The Planning Department suggests that this definition also include such spaces on roofs of structures. Currently there is no open space requirement for properties in the Business and Mixed-Use Districts. The Planning Department suggests a minimum of 5% of the total site include beneficial open space to create public amenities.

Performance measures

Performance measures are another method to cap development by setting limits not determined by dimensional standards, but by how the project impacts the community. The PMBD was partially based on evaluating performance measures and included additional findings that Board of Aldermen would have to make to approve a special permit for a particular project. The Planning Department believes that these may also be appropriate for a mixed-use development in the Riverside area:

- Adequacy of public facilities
- Mitigation of neighborhood impacts
- Housing, transit, and parking improvements
- Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan/Mixed-Use Centers Element
- Improved access for all modes of transportation
- Enhanced open space
- Excellence in place-making
- Comprehensive signage program
- Pedestrian scale
- Public spaces
- Sustainable design
- Pedestrian and neighborhood considerations

4. Incentives: How can we encourage public benefits?

Building height in exchange for Open Space and/or community space. To incentivize the creation of more beneficial open space and community space, projects could be allowed additional building height beyond that which is allowed under the Riverside TOD in return for providing additional beneficial open space and/or community space. For example, for every additional 10% beyond the minimum of 5% open space, a developer might be allowed an additional 12 feet of building height to a specified maximum.

FAR for Affordable Housing or vertical integration. By providing affordable housing beyond the minimum 15% required by the Newton Zoning Ordinance (NZO) or the offering of commensurate financial contributions to affordable housing, an additional .1 FAR up to 2.0 maximum (the maximum in other Mixed-Use zones) or 3.0

(maximum in the BU4 zone) could be offered for each percentage increase in affordable housing units. In the same fashion, additional density could be offered in exchange for the integration of uses within individual buildings on the site.

5. Development Considerations: Should there be an "Organization of Owners?"

Other considerations relate to what parts of the site should be included in the development calculations and how the site should be managed, given the complexity of the overall project and the presence of the MBTA facilities on the site, as well as conservation land along the riverfront. The Planning Department suggests creating an "Organization of Owners" to clarify the relationships between owners, lessees, and tenants, and give the City and developer an easy point of contact and authority. The Organization of Owners would have the authority and obligation to act on behalf of all the property owners in achieving compliance with the NZO and the conditions of the special permit. The Organization of Owners would be a contact for an advisory council consisting of representatives from the adjacent neighborhoods, the developers, and City staff to ensure continued compatibility of the uses within the Development Parcel with its surroundings during and after construction.

6. Parking: How can we encourage shared parking?

One of the benefits of mixed-use development is the potential for sharing of parking at different times of day or days of the week. Traffic and parking studies are typically required for large projects and it is particularly important to evaluate the potential for maximizing shared parking opportunities and strengthening the use of alternative modes of transportation to foster a model transit-oriented development. Separating rental of apartments and rental of parking spaces in the residential units can provide a reward to tenants who do not own a car, and make available parking spaces to those who must drive. Consideration of maximum parking limits rather than minimums can also be used to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation and reduce traffic impacts. Peer reviews are routinely required for such an analysis (selected by Planning Department at developer's expense) demonstrating that parking is sufficient for the combination of uses proposed. After grant of a special permit, changes to the combination of uses could require review and approval by the Planning Director showing that sufficient parking continues to accommodate any new combination of uses.

7. Site Plan and Special Permit Processes: How should these be addressed?

Two-tiered review. Pursuant to the spirit of implementing the Mixed-Use Centers Element, the Planning Department recommends a two-tiered review for development of this site: 1) conceptual application followed by 2) final approval of engineered drawings. The initial conceptual application would show the general plan for the entire site and proposed building footprints. The Board would review the conceptual plan and provide tentative approval for certain site plan elements that would require engineering detail before final site plan review. The Board of Aldermen could still also offer recommendations prior to considering final approval as part of the special permit.

Post-construction traffic study. Ongoing monitoring of traffic can ensure consistency between the projected and the actual traffic impacts of a development. Monitoring would begin at least a year after the first certificate of occupancy and continue for at least two more years and would include all vehicles traveling to and from the site at all entrances/exits. If traffic impacts exceed projections by more than 10%, studies will be made of roadway Level of Service. If the level of service is degraded from pre-construction, the Board of Aldermen can require additional mitigation.

Project phasing. While the schedule of phases should be set out in the special permit, the text for the zone could allow the project to be built over time.. All public improvements must occur at the same time or before the phase of development which relies upon them. Phasing is very helpful in allowing projects to respond to changing market conditions and the complexity and expense of developing an entire large site at once.

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND NEXT STEPS

At the working session on January 23rd, the focus will be on defining the Board's policy objectives. Planning staff will review the policies and tools to obtain its goals and will facilitate a discussion to seek consensus in an effort to begin crafting a new zoning district that incorporates the Board's vision and preferred regulatory approaches. A chart/matrix will be provided to assist the committee in assessing the various options and outcomes.

ATTACHMENT A: CASE STUDIES

Case Studies of Mixed Use

University Park in Cambridgeport

Property Owner: MIT

Developer: Forest City

Total Sq. Ft. 27 acres (multiple parcels over 8 city blocks, 23 acres excluding roads)

Site-Specific Zone: Yes, Article 15 "Cambridgeport Revitalization Development District"

Year Started: Zoning approved Jan. 1988 after four year process to develop Master Plan

Development Details:

The zone capped the total development at 2.3 million square feet. It required a minimum of 400 housing units, of which 150 were to be affordable at some level (50 low, 100 moderate) and allowed a maximum of 150,000 square feet of retail space. This cap on the retail space was enacted due to concerns that new retail would take away business from existing commercial centers, primarily Central Square.

Using these parameters as a guide, the completed development contains 720 housing units, 75,000 square feet of retail (including a 50,000 square foot supermarket and restaurants), a 120,000 square foot hotel, 1,380,000 square feet of office, primarily R&D and flex spade, and 180,000 square feet of open space (including a 53,000 square foot park/common). Total FAR is 2.3 over the 23 acres not including the public roadways. Building heights are mostly five to eight stories with one 20-story residential tower.

Critique of the Project:

Overall, University Park has been very successful both financially and design-wise. The developer is currently looking to expand onto adjacent parcels. The retail portion of the development has been less successful with complaints that it is "sterile" and that there is "not enough retail to create a vibe" for urban activities.

Keys to Success

• The City enacted a site-specific zone that was compatible with a visionary master plan of the area

- Total square footage was capped, retail was further limited and a minimum number of housing units were required, but there was flexibility about where these uses could go on the site.
- The location of parking is also flexible and was consolidated rather than provided directly adjacent to the use it serves
- The overall project was built in phases; however, there were housing and beneficial open space thresholds that were required to be met before a new phase of commercial building could proceed
- Outside of zoning, the City of Cambridge, MIT (property owner) and Forest City (developer)
 entered into tri-party agreements on issues such as design guidelines, traffic mitigation, housing
 and land transfer/infrastructure that provided the developer with enough predictability and
 confidence early in the process to invest money in the development.

Newton Centre in Newton

Property Owner: Various

Developer: Multiple

Total Sq. Ft.: xx acres (multiple parcels within ¼ miles of the Newton Centre MBTA station)

Site-Specific Zone: No, mostly zoned Business 1, or MR and SR

Year Started: 1720

Development Details:

Newton Centre developed over time beginning in 1720 with the construction of a central meeting house in Newton. In 1830, the first transit line, the Boston and Albany Railroad, was built linking Newton Centre to Boston. The village developed as a transit-oriented village out of necessity. Multi-story buildings were constructed with a mix of commercial space on the first floor and housing above, where the shopkeepers often lived. Although much of this housing has been converted to other uses over the years, there is still a strong residential presence in and around the village center. While Newton Centre was not developed or planned all at once, like Riverside will likely be, it is an example of an existing transit-oriented, mixed-use, vibrant pedestrian-oriented village center that we often seek to emulate in new developments.

Critique:

Overall, Newton Centre is a compact transit-oriented village center with a mix of retail, office and residential uses. Initially, the mix of uses were dictated by necessity and were therefore mostly

complementary to each other. More recently, and specifically in difficult economic times, the mix of use has become more homogeneous. This situation is due in large part to multiple land owners each trying to lease their own vacant parcels. Unlike a shopping mall, there is no central leasing agent who ensures that the village acts as a cohesive commercial district with a myriad of compatible uses.

Keys to Success:

- Development in Newton Centre was necessarily phased over time with structures and uses that met the needs of a growing village. There was no need to "time the market" for a particular use.
- Planning a new mixed-use development all at once can be difficult. The real estate market, and as a result the financial market, is cyclical. At any given time, a developer may be able to build multi-family housing, or office buildings or retail space, but it is rare that the introduction of all of these uses will be financially feasible at the same time.

Mashpee Commons in Mashpee

Property Owner: Mashpee Commons Ltd. Partnership (Cornish Associates)

Developer: Same

Total Sq. Ft. 40-45 acres

Site-Specific Zone: No, although transfer of develop rights (TDRs) were used to increase density

Year Started: 1985

Development Details:

The development was planned as mixed-use development with 210,000 square feet of first floor retail/restaurant space, and 35,000 square feet of offices and 30,000 square feet of residences on the upper stories. One hundred housing units were initially permitted with no affordable housing requirement. Only 40 apartments (mostly a mix of studio and one-bedroom units with only two two-bedroom units) have been built to date. The apartments are treated as an amenity to provide "eyes on the street" and lights in the windows at night to improve security. They are not crucial to the success of the project and do not pay for the cost to construct a building.

More development is expected on adjacent parcels over the next several years including additional commercial development, with a Panera Bread restaurant and a bowling alley, and a 40B housing project. The housing development will contain a mix of apartments, townhouses and single-family

homes with a total of 380 additional housing units. Although the project has been approved by the Cape Cod Commission, the property owner is waiting until the market improves to begin construction.

Critique of the Project:

Mashpee Commons accounts for approximately 1% of the Town of Mashpee's tax revenue. Currently, there are no children living in the development so at present there are no school impacts. However, this situation is likely due to the unit size and the lack of open space on the site and will change when the new units are built under the 40B permit.

By design there are no office uses on the ground floor as these uses do not enliven the streetscape. This restriction is not required, but is a long-standing policy of the property manager.

Keys to Success

- The developer is careful to phase the project and build only what he can lease at any given time.
- With one property owner, the mix of uses can be controlled for optimal compatibility.

Station Landing in Medford

Property Owner: National Development

Developer: Same

Total Sq. Ft. 16 acres

Site-Specific Zone: No, although City did amend an existing zone to allow residential uses on site

Year Started: ?

Development Details:

The project contains **one million square feet of development** with a mix of uses including **587 housing units** (460 apartments and 127 condominiums), **160,000 square feet of office**, **75,000 square feet of retail** and a **50,000 square foot gym**. As a transit-oriented development there is flexibility as to the number of required parking spaces and their location on the site.

A Master Plan for a phased development was approved in the early stages of the project with provisions that if there were significant deviations from that Master Plan, the developer would return for site plan approval. No special permit was required for the project in the approved zone. The developer was also

permitted to transfer develop rights between lots to allow flexibility within the confines of the approved Master Plan.

Critique of the Project:

Both the developer and the City of Medford believe that this project is a success. The developer did not receive any particular incentives from the City although the site had been previously slated for an Urban Renewal retail/office park and was ripe for redevelopment. When the initial plan fell through financially, National Development bought the property and proposed the current development. The City was pleased to see this area redeveloped and encouraged the project.

The City of Medford does not have an inclusionary housing ordinance. As a result, there is minimal affordable housing on the site (only five units!).

Keys to Success

- "One key element of the success of Station Landing is that it all went up very quickly. This was
 important in order to create a live-work-play environment that incorporated retail, office space,
 and parking. All of the elements have to be able to work together for success" (Ted Tye,
 Managing Partner, National Development as quoted in the MAPC report "The Station at
 Riverside A Smart Growth Analysis, September 2011)
- A Master Plan was approved at the start of the development process. Any subsequent significant changes had to be brought to the Planning Board for site plan approval.
- The location next to a transit stop allowed the development to be built with less parking than would normally be required. A survey indicated that approximately 67% of residents regularly use public transportation (MAPC report, September 2011).

Location	Total Sq. Ft. of Site/Development	% of Development Retail and Restaurants	% of Development Office	% of Development Residential	% of Development Other Use	% of Site Open Space
University Park, Cambridge	23 acres/2.3 million sq. ft.	3	60	32	5 (hotel)	18
Newton Centre, Newton	126 acres (1/4 radius from MBTA station/ 3,882,000 sq. ft. (approx.)	10.5	4.5	85	N/A	N/A
Mashpee Commons, Mashpee	40 – 45 acres	76	11	13	N/A	N/A
Station Landing, Medford	16 acres/ 1 milllion sq. ft.	7.5	16	71.5	5 (gym)	N/A
Chestnut Hill Square, Newton (as approved)	11 acres/340,000 sq. ft.	44	18 (medical office)	29	9 (gym)	20?
Coolidge Corner, Brookline						
Cleveland Circle, Brookline/ Boston						
Riverside Proposed Docket Ianguage	12.7 acres/592,200 sq. ft. (estimated with parking garage and 5,000 sq. ft. community center)	2	25	38	35 (parking garage)	N/A