

## **DRAFT GOALS & EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### ***Introduction***

In the broadest sense, the goal of the East Milton Square Parking and Access Study is the development of plan for the redesign of the Square that addresses the needs of residents, local merchants and other key area stakeholders making use of all modes of transportation. To accomplish this, Howard/Stein-Hudson (HSH) the lead consultant of the project team assisting the Town of Milton with the study, will present to the community and Town a menu of three to five possible redesign options.

While the choice of which option to implement ultimately rests with the Town of Milton, public comment will have an influence on which option is chosen. Part of that influence stems from community comments on the project's evaluation criteria. These criteria will be used to assess the options created by the design team and help the Town make a determination as to which concept(s) should be implemented.

These criteria have been approved by the BCAC for sharing with the public at the initial community meeting on November 3, 2010. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, we encourage you to contact the project's public involvement specialist.

### ***Goals & Evaluation Criteria***

**Goal:** Address local concerns regarding parking

**Criteria:**

- Does the proposed option provide a supply of parking that meets the demand demonstrated by the parking turn-over study for parking by residents, users and employees of local businesses and government institutions?
- Does the proposed option supply parking where it is most needed to support local businesses?
- Does the proposed option make creative use of existing parking such as through sharing spaces among uses and/or businesses? For example, a restaurant with primarily a dinner business could make use of office parking that's mostly vacant by 5:00 p.m.
- Assuming the parking turn-over study shows that additional parking is required, does the proposed option identify short-term and long-term locations to add parking spaces to meet the need identified?

**Goal:** Provide demonstrable mobility benefits.

**Criteria:**

- Does the traffic model show shorter vehicles queues and improved Levels of Service (LOS) and delay at study area intersections?
- Do members of the BCAC and community feel as though the chosen option will make pedestrians feel more comfortable?

- Are crossing distances shorter and pedestrian pathways through the square more direct and easy to navigate?
- Does the option provide facilities for bicycles such as shared lanes; dedicated bicycle lanes, bicycle parking, etc?
  - Do bicycle accommodations provided connect to existing bicycle infrastructure and open spaces?
- Does the option make the best possible use of existing MBTA bus service to encourage access of East Milton Square by transit?

**Goal:** Improve safety in East Milton Square for all users.

**Criteria:**

- Does the concept create conditions favorable to reducing the frequency and severity of crashes in the area?
- Does the concept create conditions favorable to reducing the potential for conflict between vehicle movements?
- Does the concept reduce the potential for conflict between different transportation modes?
- Does the option incorporate traffic calming measures in East Milton Square itself to improve pedestrian conditions and where possible in the surrounding neighborhoods to slow or reroute cut-through traffic?
- Does the concept include an ongoing outreach component to help all users understand how to safely coexist in a redesigned East Milton Square?

**Goal:** Protect surrounding residential areas

**Criteria:**

- Does the option create changes in traffic circulation that could negatively impact the surrounding residential streets?
- Does the option combine enhancements to main roadways to keep traffic on them and traffic calming elements in neighborhoods to protect them from cut-through traffic?
- Does the option adequately protect residential neighborhoods from parking by commercial patrons and employees?
- Does the model of projected traffic conditions with improvements show that cut-through traffic declines or at least does not escalate, particularly in those areas identified as cut-through routes by local residents?

**Goal:** Foster local business

**Criteria:**

- Does the option create conditions that will support a broad mix of businesses in East Milton Square that can be accessed by the full range of modes?  
Conditions could include, but need not be limited to:
  - Appropriate zoning.
  - Improved wayfinding.

- Increased parking – *assuming it is required.*
- A safer, more enjoyable streetscape and nearby open spaces.
- Does the concept improve the economic environment making the Square a place that people see as a destination where they both want to go and spend time, either at work or recreation?
- Does the concept make the area more diverse in terms of types of retail?

**Goal:** Provide demonstrable environmental benefits.

**Criteria:**

- Does the traffic model show shorter vehicles queues and improved Levels of Service (LOS) and delay at study area intersections?
- Does the concept improve the pedestrian environment by reducing the number of traffic lanes adjacent to open space or providing an enhanced buffer between open space and moving traffic?
- Does the concept have the potential to reduce traffic noise by providing alternate modes of transportation?
- Does the concept reduce the amount of impervious surface and associated storm-water runoff?
- Does the concept offer opportunities for sustainable practice in materials or methods?

**Goal:** Improve the aesthetics of East Milton Square and activate open spaces within the square.

**Criteria:**

- Are aesthetic treatments in keeping with the community's overall appearance? Are they appealing and inviting? Do they encourage people to sit and stay?
- Does the option create conditions conducive to activating the Manning Community Park by offering improvements that make it a destination?
- Does the concept introduce new opportunities for open space, landscape/streetscape, public art, monuments, etc.?
- Does the option improve connections among existing and potential new open spaces so that the overall effect of the amenities taken together is greater than the sum of its parts?
- Does the concept contribute to a sense of place or gateway spaces that tell people they have arrived in a center of Milton?
- Does the concept provide new and/or improved public spaces for civic functions?

**Goal:** Develop a concept which takes into account projected land use changes over time.

**Criteria:**

- Does the concept take into account projected future land uses?

**Goal:** Balance cost with benefit.

**Criteria:**

- Is the option a good value for what it provides?
- Is the price so large that it inhibits the project's ability to be constructed?

**Goal:** Offer options that lend themselves to a phased approach.

**Criteria:**

- Does the option offer a stepped approach to solving the issues identified through the study, thus allowing for progress in the short- and long-term?
- Does the option offer opportunities to be completed in a phased manner that maintains traffic circulation for users and access to businesses and residences?

DRAFT