Coordinating Regional Initiatives with Local Partners
Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation

Community Building

Youth Development
- STARS Reading Club
- STARS Summer Camp
- STARS II Leadership Class
- The Spot Teen Cafe
- Park Patrol
- Girls Talk

Fairmount/Indigo Line
- Access to Rapid Transit
- Green Space
- Housing
- Businesses
- Services
- Jobs

Neighborhood Beautification
- Boston Shines
- National NeighborWorks Week
- Neighborhood Backyards Parks
- Project Community Care Day

Crime and Safety Awareness
- Stakeholders Group
- Youth/Adult Peace March
- National Night Out

Leadership/Capacity Development
- Tenant and Neighborhood Associations
- Fairmount Fellows Program

Resources/Referrals
- Fair Foods
- Resident Resource Guide
- Neighborhood Network Center
- Emergency Planning

Marcos Beleche, Director of Community Organizing and Resident Resources
Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation

“Residents are the foundation for strong communities. If you don’t have great residents willing to participate, you don’t have community.”  - James Darby, Neighborhood Activist, Aspinwall Street

“Participating citizens are the foundation to a strong community”  - Joan McCoy, Neighborhood Activist, Torrey Street

“Safety, voice, and opportunities are the foundations for strong communities”  - Thomas Bennet, Small Business Owner, Washington Street

“Strong families make for a strong community. People looking out for each other: That’s being a good neighbor”  - Juanita Smith, Neighborhood Activist, Champlain Circle
“A leader does not have to be one person. A leader can be a group of people that is focused on getting things done.”

- Thomas Bennet, Small Business Owner, Washington Street

“A leader is someone that can listen...and has got to be willing to do a lot of leg work.”

-Juanita Smith, Neighborhood Activist, Champlain Circle
“A leader is someone willing to stand up for the community, not afraid to put our issues on the table and not back down”

-James Darby,
Neighborhood Activist,
Aspinwall Street

“A leader is one that is informed, concerned and a bit aggressive as well.”

-Joan McCoy,
Neighborhood Activist,
Torrey Street
“Jobs and people working together are the key to economically healthy neighborhoods”
-Juanita Smith, Neighborhood Activist, Champlain Circle

“The key to economically healthy neighborhoods is networking and having consensus about the things that are acceptable to everybody in order to make them long-lasting and stable.”
-Thomas Bennet, Small Business Owner, Washington Street

“The key to a healthy economy in our neighborhood is a diverse business district that has something everyone could use.”
-James Darby, Neighborhood Activist, Aspinwall Street

“The key to an economically healthy neighborhood is employment…Everyone who wants and is able to work has a job.”
-Joan McCoy, Neighborhood Activist, Torrey Street
Resilient Communities, Resilient Families:
Supporting Local Neighborhoods, Looking for Regional Intersections

Melissa Jones, Program Officer
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

• Founded in 1979, with the goal of supporting community revitalization

• Neighborhoods were rebuilt:
  – 271,000 Affordable homes
  – 40 Million Square feet of retail space
  – 132 school developments
  – 157 child care facilities
  – 225 playgrounds
  – $10B in resources for cities

• The Work Remaining to be done
Sustainable Communities

• Impacting the nexus of quality of life issues in a neighborhood:
  • Family Economic Stability
  • Economic Development & Jobs
  • Quality Education
  • Health Disparities
  • Housing
The Next Phase

• Community leadership & empowerment
  – Organizations
  – Local Residents

• Community Driven Plans As Investment Tools
  – LISC as advocate and intermediary
Putting the Pieces Together In Boston

• Resilient Communities, Resilient Families
  – Putting Neighborhoods in Driver Seat for Community planning
  – Coordinating Funding on behalf of their interests
  – Special focus on reconnecting residents and organizations
  – Special focus on reframing institutional relationships
Our Neighborhoods

- Warren Street Corridor
- Codman Square/Four Corners
- Mattapan
Why Codman?

• **High Capacity Neighborhood & Leaders**
  – 30 year old Neighborhood Develop Corp
  – 30 year old health center
  – 30 yr old senior center
  – 2 vibrant organizing agencies

• **History of Success and Innovative Thinking**
  – Health Center focused on social determinants of health

• **Leadership of Transit Oriented Development**
  – Fairmount Line
  – Levedo Development (24 units of housing, commercial space)
  – 157 Washington Street (24 units of housing, commercial space)
  – Talbot Station (40 units housing, community space)
  – Whittier School Apartments (45 units)
Our Coordinating Role

• Locally
  – Technical Assistance for the process
  – Raising profile of neighborhood priorities through ‘special initiative’ energy
  – Coordination with Local Funders; Access to National Resources

• Regionally
  – Supporting other initiatives
  – Maximizing funding, being smart
When Is An Issue Regional, When Is it Local?

- **National Model, Local Context**: How much flexibility in the process? Surveys, One on Ones, Neighbor Circles.

- **Flexibility in Funding Allocation**: Can everything be spent on staffing and agencies, what must be held for projects that arise from resident organizing?

- **When to be neighborhood focused, when to work across neighborhoods**: Transit, Weatherization?

- **Funder Interests, Local Interests**
Local Placemaking In Action

Great Neighborhoods
Ina Anderson, Partnerships Director
Great Neighborhoods
Boston’s Fairmount Indigo Line
Lawrence
Collaboration
Implementing MetroFuture
Making a Greater Boston Region

Amy A. Cotter
Director of Regional Plan Implementation
The MetroFuture Vision

- Be responsible stewards of our resources, passing on an environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable region to our children.

- Involve more people in making the decisions that shape their lives.

- Build safe, healthy, and welcoming communities.

- Ensure that all residents fairly share the costs and benefits of the region’s growth.

- Give people affordable and convenient options for where they live, work, and play.

- Create a world-class region that is vibrant, competitive, and connected.
The MetroFuture Process

1. Talk to people about their vision for the region

2. Create a model projecting the region’s major trends

3. Work with others to create alternative futures

4. Evaluate the alternatives and select a preferred future

5. Develop a strategy for implementation
From Plan to Action!

Making our goals . . .

The MetroFuture plan includes 65 specific goals in 6 general categories:

Implement Coordinated Plans
Build Regional Collaboration
Invest in a Skilled Workforce
Protect Natural Landscapes
Democratize Information
Focus Economic Growth

Sustainable Growth Patterns
Population and job growth will be focused in developed areas already well-served by infrastructure.

Housing Choices
A diverse array of housing choices will meet the needs of the region’s residents.

Healthy Communities
Residents will be safe, healthy, well-educated, and engaged in their community.

Regional Prosperity
A globally competitive regional economy will provide opportunity for all the region’s workers.

Transportation Choices
An efficient transportation system will offer more choices and make it easier to get around.

Healthy Environment
Natural resources will be protected thanks to a strong “environmental ethic.”

Support Healthy Families
Coordinate Transportation Alternatives
Expand Access to Housing
Enable Compact Growth
Conserve Natural Resources
Improve City Life and School Quality
Strengthen Municipal Finance
MetroFuture Growth and Preservation Areas

**Metropolitan Core**
- Job growth built around medical and educational institutions, and other major industries
- Improved schools, safety, parks attract families and retirees
- Build on role as the “hub” of the regional transportation network

**Regional Hubs**
- Rebirth of industrial cities and downtowns
- Focused growth in major suburban economic centers
- Best prospects for new transit outside of Metro Core

**Suburban Centers**
- Maximize potential of major towns centers and existing transit
- Mixed-use growth expands housing choice and tax revenue
- New local bus connections and bike-pedestrian paths

**Priority Conservation Areas**
- Areas with significant natural, scenic, agricultural, and recreational values

**Transportation Corridors**
- Multi-modal investments to support growth
- New transit allows people to circulate around MetroCore, as well as “in and out.”

Note: The study area for the MetroFuture project (164 cities and towns) is somewhat larger than the MAPC region to account for trends that do not recognize regional boundaries and to ensure compatibility with the Regional Transportation Plan being developed concurrently by the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.
In October 2010, the Obama Administration awarded the Metro Boston Consortium for Sustainable Communities a $4 million Regional Planning Grant to implement MetroFuture.
Six Areas of Activity

Sustainable Metro Boston – Program Structure

**Fill Plan Gaps**
- Regional Housing Plan
- Fair Housing Impediments
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Entrepreneur Assistance Planning
- "Most Wanted" Datasets

**Regional Indicators**

**Tools, Models, Best Practices**
- MetroFuture "template"
- Community Planit
- Stormwater utilities
- Anti-displacement strategies
- Housing Production Plans
- 3-D computer models
- Bike & ped. infrastructure
- Entrepreneur assistance

**Place-Based Planning**
- Municipal land use planning
- Compact growth planning & zoning
- CDC planning & pre-development
- Regional TOD funding
- Anti-displacement strategies
- Housing Production Plans
- Office & industrial park retrofits
- Urban open space planning
- Local pedestrian & bike planning
- Agricultural preservation programs
- Wastewater treatment planning
- Stormwater financing programs

**State & Regional Policy**
- Zoning Reform
- Global Warming Solutions
- Transportation Reform
- Transportation investment
- Economic development
- Wastewater treatment

**Consortium Dialogue & Capacity Building**
- Regular full Consortium meetings
- Cross-cutting work groups
- Equity & Development Leadership Institute
- Subregional Councils