Metro Boston DCR Parkways Study

DCR Public Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 - 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Shriners Hospital for Children Auditorium – 51 Blossom Street, Boston
DCR Mission Statement

To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.
Parkways Study Meeting #1

Meeting Goals
• Introduce the project
• Discuss network vision

Agenda
• Project introduction
  – Context
  – Project goals and outcomes
  – Next steps
• Open house
  – What is your vision for the parkways?
Context

Roads as parks = Parkways

Source: DCR Historic Parkways Preservation Initiative
Context

Over time, parkways become routes for local and regional through traffic
Truman Parkway
Nonantum Road
Henderson Boardwalk
Mystic Valley Parkway
Toole Design Group’s Mission Statement

Safe streets for people of all ages and abilities
DCR Reservations

DCR Parkway Study

- DCR Parkway in Study
- DCR Reservation
- Shared-Use Path (existing and proposed)
- On-Street Bike Facility (existing)
- MBTA Mass Transit
- MBTA Commuter Rail
- MBTA Bus Route
- Major Road
DCR Parkways
DCR Parkways

- Many Parkways (e.g. Memorial Drive, Truman Parkway, Morrissey Boulevard) are already multi-modal or are currently being studied as part of separate project.
- These parkways are not included in this study.
**DCR Parkways**

- All other parkways in the metropolitan Boston area will be addressed in this study.
DCR Parkways

- All other parkways in the metropolitan Boston area will be addressed in this study.
Parkways Study Vision...

• The Parkways of the Boston Metropolitan Region provide safe and comfortable access and mobility for people of all ages and abilities.

• The Parkways are an integral component of the regional walking and bicycling networks.
...and Goals

- Safety
- Comfort
- Connectivity
- Health
- Recreation
- Conservation
- Sustainability
- Equity
Safety
Comfort
Connectivity
Health
Recreation
Conservation
Sustainability
Equity
Urban Paths and Parkways Committee (UPPC)

- Formed to better incorporate public input into DCR projects
- Representatives from stakeholder groups
- Executive Committee advises this project
What this plan will consider

- Parkway cross sections
- Walking (sidewalks, paths)
- Bicycling (on- & off-street)
- Intersections
- Safety
- Crossings
- Connections to DCR and non-DCR facilities
- Accessibility
- Drainage
- Bridges
- Transit access
What this plan will do

- Set priorities for maintenance activities and capital improvements
What this plan will do

- Identify immediate short-term improvements that can be rapidly implemented
What this plan will do

• Provide policy and design guidance for improving the parkways for all travel modes
What this plan will do

- Articulate a long-term vision for enhancing the parkways
What this plan will do

For every parkway, this plan will provide:

• **Short-term Recommendation**
  – What can be achieved through maintenance e.g. repaving program
  – Study will provide new cross section for every parkway

• **Long-term Recommendation**
  – Requires new construction/reconstruction
  – Includes changes to curbs, new sidewalks, paths, separated bike lanes, etc.
Demonstration Construction Project

• Hammond Pond Parkway
  – Beacon Street (Newton) to Horace James Circle (Brookline)
  – Develop 100% Design Plans
  – Hold Public and stakeholder meetings
Public Participation Tools & Methods

- Future meetings
- Email list to subscribe for updates
- Website
Tools & Methods (continued)

- **Wikimap**
  - Describe your current route
  - Describe your desired route
  - What prevents you from using it now
  - What are the issues
Next Steps

• Complete base mapping
• Assess parkway conditions
• Continue to coordinate with stakeholders, municipalities, etc.
• Continue public outreach
Open House

5 Stations
• Wikimapping
• North subregion
• South subregion
• West subregion
• What is your vision for the parkways?
For more information:

If you have comments or suggestions:
Submit Online:  http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/submit-public-comments/
Write:  Department of Conservation and Recreation
        Office of Public Outreach
        251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
        Boston, MA 02114

Deadline:  Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety.

If you have questions or concerns, or wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-specific listserv: contact DCR’s Office of Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or Mass.Parks@state.ma.us.