



January 27, 2012

To: Kristina Johnson
Principal Planner
City of Quincy

Through: Keri Pyke, P.E., PTOE
Howard/Stein-Hudson
Project Manager

From: Nathaniel Curtis
Howard/Stein-Hudson
Public Involvement Specialist

RE: **Planning Board Meeting**
Meeting Notes of January 11, 2012

Executive Summary

On January 11, 2012, members of the City of Quincy team for the Adams Green Project appeared before the Quincy Planning Board to provide a brief overview of the project. Following an introduction by the City's principal planner, Kristina Johnson, a brief presentation was given and several questions from planning board members answered. The presentation was similar to the one given on December 6, 2011, but touched on some new elements, including the progress of the consultant team's efforts since the December meeting.¹

Overview of the Presentation

- Howard/Stein-Hudson (HSH) is the lead consultant for the City of Quincy's Adams Green Project. The goal of the project is to develop the infrastructure that will allow the Adams Green Park to achieve its full potential as a green focal point for downtown Quincy and a contiguous public space connecting the MBTA station, City Hall, and the Church of the Presidents.
- The idea of creating this new center for Quincy comes from a 2006 downtown master plan. Some elements of this plan are already complete or under construction.
- HSH's history on the project began in 2010 with a feasibility study to see if it would be possible from a traffic standpoint to close the section of Hancock Street between City Hall and the Church of the Presidents.
- The project is funded through a federal earmark that was originally intended to pay for construction of the Mayor Hannon Parkway. As the Parkway's construction was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the federal earmark was repurposed for use on this job.

¹ Readers interested in seeing the December 6, 2011 meeting minutes and presentation can do so at: <http://www.adamsgreen.info/documents.html>.

- The projected timeline for the job is to have all design work completed by the fall of 2012 with construction beginning in 2013.
 - Areas of focus for the project include the Washington Street/Coddington Street intersection, the space defined by the MBTA station, City Hall and Church of the Presidents, the Temple Street/Washington Street intersection and along Washington Street to Granite Square. From a traffic perspective, the work encompasses 22 intersections and is receiving information on many others from the Street-Works project.
 - Project activities between the December 6th meeting and the one summarized herein have included:
 - Collecting traffic data.
 - Modeling traffic conditions.
 - Incorporating the Hannon Parkway into traffic models.
 - Addressing pedestrian safety at the Washington Street/Coddington Street intersection.
 - Ongoing activities include:
 - Traffic analysis.
 - Crash analysis.
 - Developing the results of the parking turnover study – some modest commuter parking is taking place.
 - Determining how best to allocate space on Washington Street to provide for bicycle and transit accommodations while continuing to effectively move vehicle traffic.
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Comments Received during the Q&A Session:

- Members of the planning board asked several questions. These questions and their answers are summarized below:
 - Once the section of Hancock Street in front of City Hall is closed, Washington Street will need to serve the displaced traffic. If this street is not widened, can it serve the additional load? While this question is still being answered in detail with input from Street Works, HSH's 2010 feasibility study indicates that Washington Street should be able to cope with the additional traffic.
 - How much of the project is impacted by Street-Works? The Adams Green project is being directly coordinated with Street Works. This includes sharing of traffic models.
 - The new park area should be well lit to ensure that it does not become an undesirable area at night. The project team is aware that lighting is a major concern. A balance needs to be struck between providing adequate lighting and contributing to light pollution. The project team is currently looking at different lighting fixtures including LEDs and working out the correct spacing for street lights.
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Next Steps

The next milestone in the public involvement process will be the second public information meeting to be held during February 2012. This will be followed by the 25% design hearing.