



Implementation

Keeping the momentum going...

The efforts of this planning study should not be considered the end of the journey towards getting this plan implemented. This plan should be used to further advance peoples understanding of the shared vision and the future potential of what the North River Canal Corridor can become. Many of the pieces of the plan will require additional consideration as development proposals are put forth and as various members of the community establish the means by which projects should be reviewed and partnerships should be built. The following section outlines some of the next steps that should be considered to ensure that this plan keeps the momentum going.

Future of the Working Group

The Working Group played a major role in not only the creation of the issues and opportunities and vision statement, but also the creation of the Master Plan itself.

As parts of this plan move forward the consultant recommends that the Working Group works with the City to understand what the nature and future roles of the group should be. The future of the Working Group could potentially be supplemented with additional members, or conversely subdivided into focus groups that take on various portions of the plan which are best suited to the interests and expertise that members have.

Establishing early action items

A major consideration for this plan was to ensure that it be visionary on the one hand, while being practical and achievable on the other. The result of these two approaches is that there will inevitably be items of the plan that are longer-term and many that can be considered for early action items. Moving forward, the City

and Working group should establish a list of items that can be explored and considered for near term advancement.

These could potentially include the following;

- Work with the development community to ensure that future proposals respond to the various elements of this plan.
- Use the 22x34 Poster “Illustrative Plan” to advocate and educate people regarding the future goals and qualities of the North River Canal Corridor.
- Develop a clear understanding of how the implications and recommendations from this plan affect existing zoning.
- Build relationships with existing property owners to seek ways to accomplish short term access from the surrounding neighborhoods to the canal and waterfront
 - From Mason Street to Commercial
 - From Franklin to the MBTA Station
 - Along the river’s waterfront
 - Between Commercial Street and Flint
 - From Flint to Grove
- Work with the community to identify methods to enhance the maintenance of Leslie’s Retreat Park
 - Clean-up programs (Adopt a Park program, Etc.)
- Work with the City to understand how an improved pedestrian connection can be established between Franklin Street and the downtown (via the MBTA Station) on the City owned parcels.
- Pursue baseline traffic improvements
 - Pedestrian and Safety improvements
 - Operational improvements
 - New signals
 - Converting Flint Street into a one-way street
 - Incorporating the extension of Hanson in the RFP/ redevelopment process

Implementing the Plan

Many of the Working Group members acknowledged the importance of creating a means by which the plan can be implemented to ensure

that its goals and design characteristics are being considered. There are many methods by which the items in this plan can be put into a framework for review. These include:

Implementation Committee

The City may wish to establish an implementation committee with a membership similar to that of the working group to assist in implementing the goals of the plan.

Rezoning

Some of the recommendations of this plan may already be consistent with current zoning, while others may need to be considered for future zoning updates.

Establish a Design Review Committee

In addition to the regulatory requirements of zoning, there are circumstances when Design Review Committees can be established to review potential development submissions as they occur. Following the model of this successful design review board of the Salem Redvelopment Authority, the City may wish to explore appropriate design review for this study area.

Future Permitting

Given the location of this study area, it should also be noted that certain projects could be subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Massachusetts Chapter MGL Chapter 9, sec. 26-27c as amended by St. 1988 c.254, and/or local historic district review. In addition, several sites may have brownfields issues that will require subsequent permitting and site clean up/rehabilitation. Massachusetts Chapter 91 Regulations will also apply to sites that fall within that jurisdiction.

Longer-Term Planning Goals and Coordinating Planning Efforts

The Master plan also has recommendations that are most likely to occur in the longer-term. In addition to the recommendations this plan, it should be noted that there were numerous planning studies that were being undertaken within or adjacent to the planning area that will ultimately impact the recommendations that are included within this plan. While this plan responds to many of the preliminary ideas that are being pursued in other planning studies, it should also be noted that this plan does not necessarily endorse the preliminary concepts from those plans that were available at the time of this study. There are, however, many circumstances where the recommendations of this plan are structured to advance and complement the future potential of these additional studies. Some of the longer-term goals and planning coordination of efforts include;

- The extension of Commercial Street to the MBTA Site and Bridge Street.
- The implementation of Commercial uses (Given the current soft market related to commercial uses)
- North Shore major investment study
 - The MBTA is exploring several options to improve rail options to Salem. One of options being studied would use the rail line that runs along the canal.
- The Federal Court reconstruction project

To ensure that the longer-term goals are kept on the “radar screen”, this plan should be coordinated with other planning efforts that are currently being undertaken within the North River Canal Corridor. Some of these include:

- North Street Reconstruction
 - This could affect the design of the North and Franklin Street intersection and the pedestrian signalization at that intersection.

- MBTA Study Parking Garage Study
 - This could affect the relocation of the existing at-grade crossing and access points to the future garage, as well as, and the redevelopment of the waterfront edge.
- State Court Study
 - This could affect the final design of the intersection of Bridge Street and North Street
- Bridge Street
 - This could affect the design character of the street (i.e. landscaped median or not), several new access point to the Park as well as the general operation of the street (i.e. on-street parking during off peak demand)

