Grounding McGrath: Determining the Future of the Route 28 Corridor
Study Purpose

Examine transportation issues and develop solutions

- Somerville’s interest removing McCarthy Overpass
- Extension of the MBTA Green Line to Somerville and Medford
- Accelerated Bridge Program – McCarthy and Gilman Street
- MassDOT – Reduction of long-term maintenance costs
McGrath Overpass Existing Conditions
Focus Area
Goals and Objectives

- **Improve Access and Mobility**
  - Improve regional and local travel time
  - Improve health of residents
  - Facilitate multi-modal transportation opportunities

- **Promote Connectivity**
  - Identify new connections
  - Improve urban form/places
  - Improve access to open space
  - Support and/or generate economic development

- **Improve and Balance Functionality**
  - Enhance safety for all modes
  - Maintain regional travel capacity
  - Limit impacts on surrounding roadways

- **Provide Accountability**
  - Share benefits and burdens of changes
  - Limit impact to environment
  - Ensure long-term corridor maintainability
## Examples of Baseline Health Data for Consideration in HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Determinants</th>
<th>Health Outcomes</th>
<th>Data Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution – high gradient near roadways and scientific evidence that continues</td>
<td>Respiratory disease/illness (e.g., asthma), cardiovascular disease (e.g., heart attack), all-cause</td>
<td>MDPH Bureau of Environmental Health Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Portal</td>
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<tr>
<td>to emerge regarding health impacts</td>
<td>mortality, certain cancers</td>
<td><a href="http://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/">http://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to active transportation and increasing physical activity (e.g., access to</td>
<td>Benefits for reducing obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, premature mortality, improved</td>
<td>MDPH Bureau of Community Health and Prevention</td>
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<td>sidewalks, bicycle paths)</td>
<td>mental and physical health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to public transit mobility for vulnerable populations (people with</td>
<td>Access to goods/services that support health, such as groceries, clinics</td>
<td>MassDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>disabilities, elderly)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Safety</td>
<td>Injury to pedestrians, vehicle drivers, and cyclists</td>
<td>MassDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic: vitality of small businesses; property values and health care costs that</td>
<td>Multiple indirect impacts on health</td>
<td>Economist to be hired</td>
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<tr>
<td>could be reduced based on HIA outcomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Multiple indirect impacts on health</td>
<td>EEA/MDPH EPHT/MassDOT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boulevard
MDPH Challenges / Rewards

Challenges

1) Gaining familiarity with extensive MA transportation planning process (e.g. understanding the difference between a “study” and a “project”)
2) Better estimating when actual HIA begins – many alternatives proposed but only a few will undergo thorough evaluation
3) Determining who from each agency as well as the municipality where HIA is based should attend the training

Rewards

1) Establish a process for integrating baseline health data into a transportation project
2) Recognition that transportation partners not only see the importance of including health data but also demonstrating knowledge of health databases
MassDOT Challenges / Rewards

Challenges

1) Identifying appropriate transportation initiatives for inclusion of HIA process
2) Incorporation of HIA at appropriate point in the transportation planning/project development process
3) Leveraging existing transportation data and analysis to support objectives of HIA to minimize added effort and cost

Rewards

1) Broader understanding of transportation impacts and benefits
2) Responsiveness to community and stakeholder concerns
3) Opportunity to support other state goals of improved public health, improved air quality, reduced congestion, reduced greenhouse gas emissions
Project Website
www.massdot.state.ma.us/grounding mcgrath/Home.aspx