

Grounding McGrath: Determining the Future of the Route 28 Corridor



Study Purpose

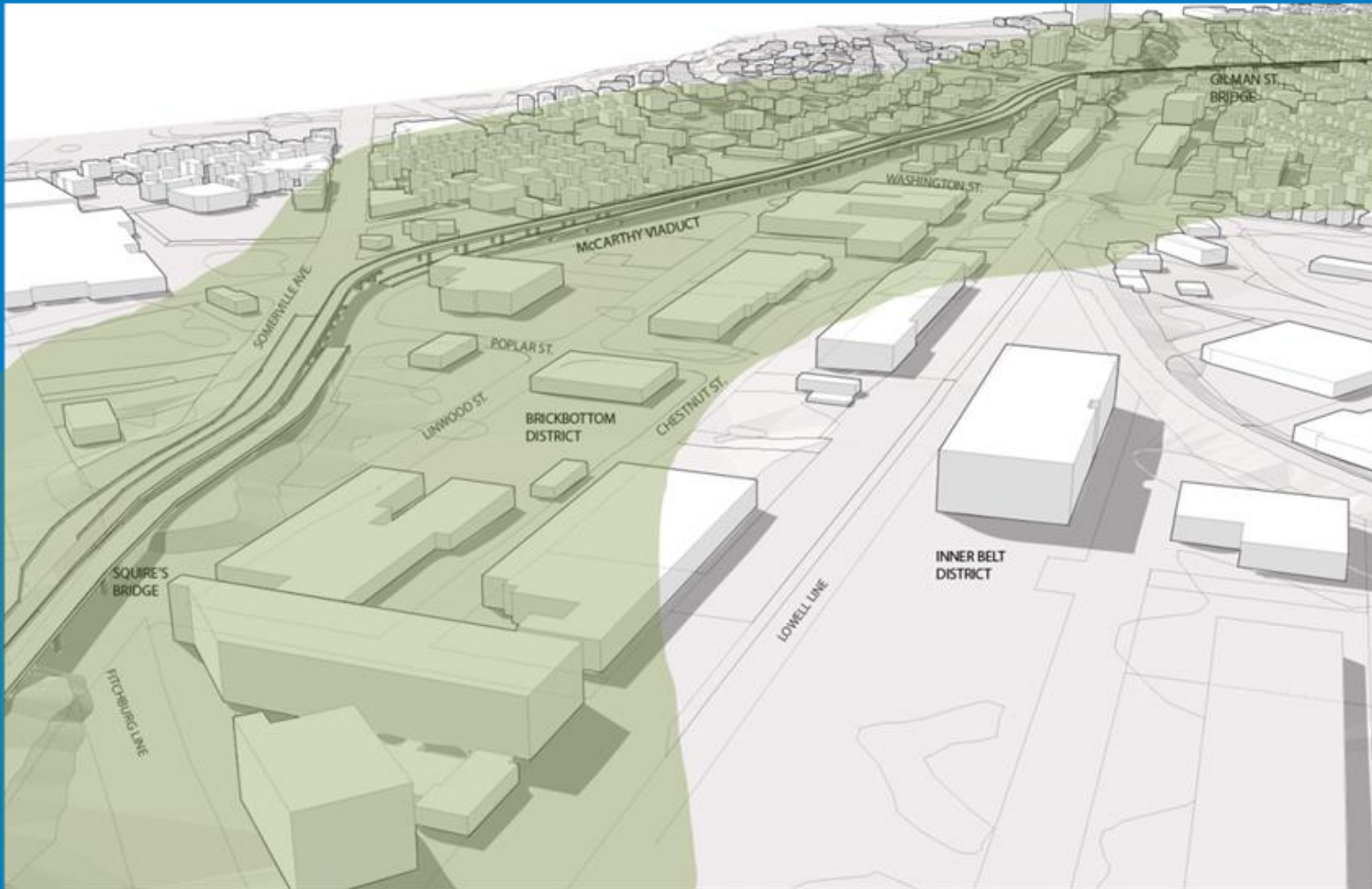
Examine transportation issues and develop solutions

- 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



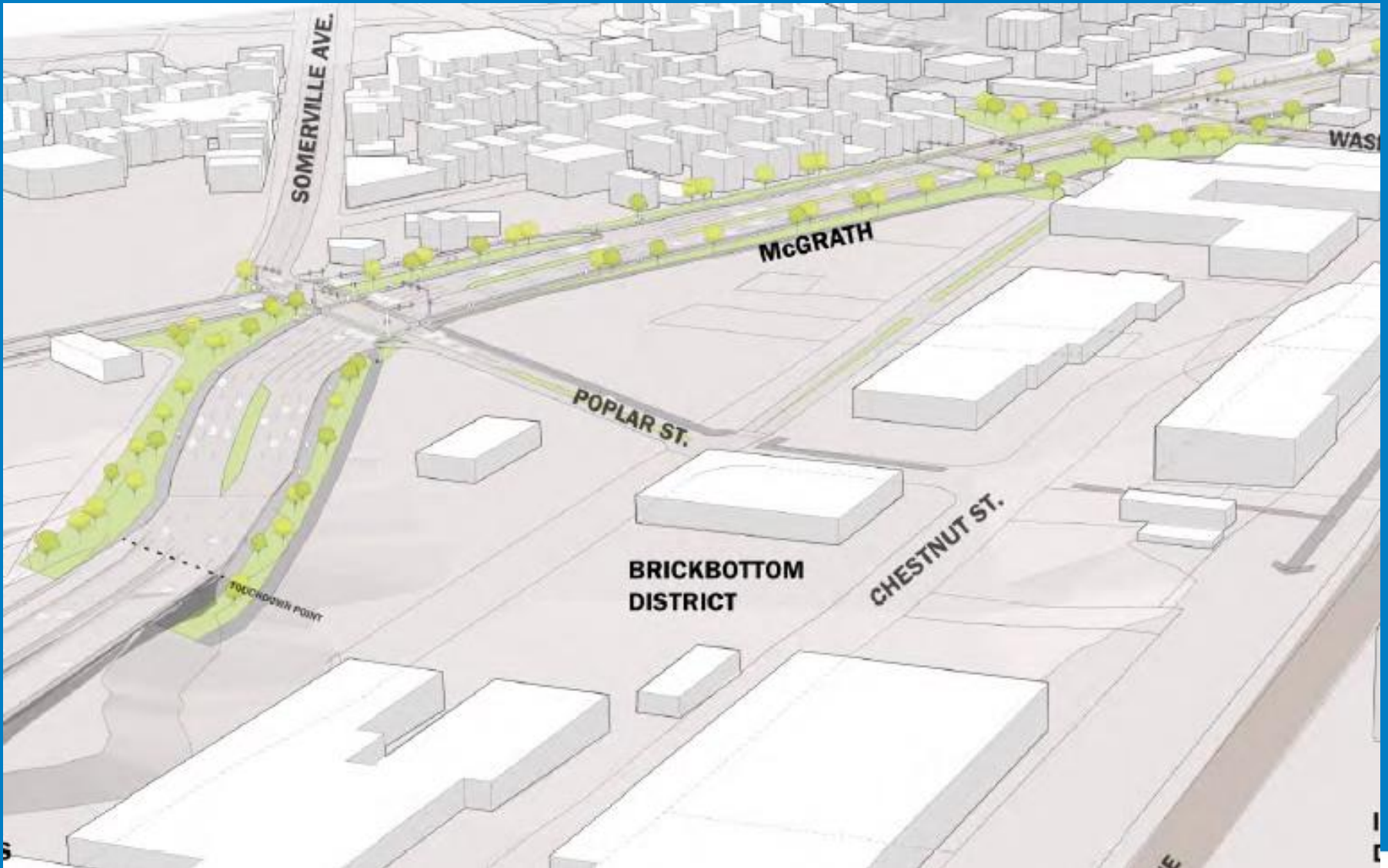
Examples of Baseline Health Data for Consideration in HIA

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



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/groundingmcgrath/Home.aspx

