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- news
- events
- discussions
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JAMAICA PLAIN

Updated plans for JP center to be unveiled next week

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 7, 2010 01:40 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

New plans for a two-mile corridor in Jamaica Plain's commercial center – including a less-radical plan to redesign the Monument Square area – will be unveiled at a meeting next week.

On Monday, city officials and project advisory committee members will present the latest draft proposal at the Agassiz School cafeteria on Child Street from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

The design plans were last presented in [late September](#) which was followed by a one-month public comment period. Feedback on those conceptual designs has been used to update the proposal.

The project focuses on transportation, business, and streetscapes in a core commercial area of the neighborhood.

The city's redevelopment authority, the mayor's neighborhood services office, a community advisory group, and a project consultant, McMahon and Associates, are working together to improve the area from the Jackson Square T station on Centre Street to the Forest Hills T station on South Street.

Monument Square's proposed changes, which received the most attention during the latest meeting and comment period, are one aspect of the broader plans.

City transportation officials said in [early November](#) they were developing a less-radical alternative to redesign the Monument Square area that would retain much of the square's existing structure.

That second option, to be presented at next week's meeting, will address concerns over the loss of on-street parking spaces and the belief that the plan may slow the flow of traffic through the square, Vineet Gupta, director of planning for the Boston Transportation Department, said last month.

Under the original plan, the green space surrounding the square's Civil War monument would be expanded, resulting in the loss of as many as 20 parking spaces, the rerouting of traffic, and the installation of a new traffic signal, according to Gupta. A "carriageway" running through the park area surrounding the monument would be open only to pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency vehicles.

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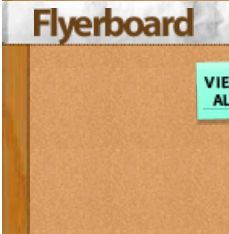
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While Gupta said the alternative proposal “would maintain for the most part what’s in the square today,” the plan includes several changes – expanding the area around the monument and improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety – that are less drastic than the design idea presented in September.

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