

# Retail Land Use Initiative

## Business Association Feedback

### **East Cambridge Business Association – November 13, 2018**

- Would like to see: galleries, maker spaces, educational classes, doggie day care, and commercial kitchens
- Can current restaurants rent out their spaces to other possible food users?
- Does this affect non-conforming uses in residential areas, such as Hampshire Street near Columbia Street?
- How is the initiative looking at change of use issues, such as a laundromat changing into a barber shop on Mass Ave.?
- PTDM requirements has been a challenge for some of the newer retail leasing, such as the new the new spaces at Cambridge Crossing
- If the city continues to encourage bike lanes, it should reduce the parking requirements for small businesses

### **Cambridge Local First – December 17, 2018**

- Also heard from business owners the need for mixes of uses – such as retail with an educational component
- Important to update the table with modern uses
- Cleaning up definitions will be important in order to reduce confusion in zoning interpretation
- Fast Food SP is a hindrance for local businesses
- Make sure to look at what's allowed in each district and non-conforming areas
- Reduce needs for variances and SPs – costing small business owners money

### **Harvard Square Business Association – December 18, 2018**

- Take out the fast food requirement
- Reduce parking requirements for retail and entertainment uses
- Allow more diverse performance and entertainment venues
- Are there ways to speed up the written decisions for BZA?
- Allow for different day and night uses, such as a café being allowed to sell beer and wine in the evenings