Riverside Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations February 2011 and January 24, 2012

Land Use and Zoning

- Consider providing compensation for residents living on Putnam Avenue, River Street, and Western Avenue due to the nature of the streets (i.e. emergency snow routes, no parking).
- Inform and involve the neighborhood on any proposal for the re-use of the vacant Riverside Neighborhood Health clinic on Western Avenue.
- Provide the development plans Bowl and Board site on Mass Avenue.
- Explore options to improve the streetscape along Massachusetts Avenue from Sullivan Square to Central Square, with more street tree plantings and maintenance of sidewalks.

Environmental and Transportation Planning

- Explore ways to reduce impervious surfaces such as driveways in the neighborhood.
- Explore mechanisms and ways to facilitate information to property owners and public housing to improve the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of their properties. Options should include green roofs, solar energy, and insulation, financing and grant programs.
- Keep residents informed of the construction plans and timetable for the reconstruction of the Western
 and River Street Bridges. Continue to work with and encourage MassDOT to include underpasses for
 pedestrian and biking as part of the reconstruction of bridges.
- Explain reasoning for the traffic calming project on Bay Street at Franklin.
- Outline how traffic calming projects are determined, the process, approval and notification.
- Consider traffic calming measures for Callendar Street.

Traffic Paring and Transportation

- Improve enforcement of truck /tour bus restrictions on Putnam Avenue, large tour buses using it for the route into Harvard Square.
- Increase enforcement of traffic laws and install additional speed limit signs on Western and Putnam Avenue at locations where pedestrians have difficulty crossing the street. Cones should be in crosswalks at these locations for the safety of pedestrians:
 - o Pleasant Street /Western Avenue
 - o Franklin Street/Pleasant Street
 - o Green Street/Putnam Avenue
 - o Surrey Street/Putnam Avenue
 - o Blackstone Street/Western Avenue
 - o Pleasant Street/River Street

- Evaluate installing a 4-way stop sign at Hancock and Green Streets.
- Determine if the signal timing on Mass Avenue between Central Square and MIT can be adjusted to reduce the back-ups it creates during rush hour.
- Evaluate the pedestrian crossing at Pearl Street and Mass Ave it slows traffic.
- Explore option to reduce cut through traffic from Western Avenue onto Howard and Soden Streets to avoid the Western Avenue back up during peak traffic hours. Signage of speed limits should be posted on residential streets to slow traffic.
- Improve biking conditions on Putnam Avenue.
- Continue to monitor and enforce regulations regarding idling: tour buses on Mt. Auburn Street, and Harvard Shuttle Buses on Cowperthwaite Street.
- Consider installing signage during Riverbend Park hours to redirect traffic away from residential streets.
- Explore ways that students living in dorms would not be eligible for City residential or visitor parking permits.

Housing

- Encourage the City to pursue remedies to address the vacant and deteriorating houses in the neighborhood, locations are:
 - o 194 Western Avenue
 - o 58 64 Banks Street
 - o 697 -699 Green Street

Economic Development

- Encourage higher quality stores for Central Square that includes: clothing for women, shoe stores, children clothing, this will also help to improve the image of Central Square. Explore incentives or conditions on retail establishments when seeking Special Permits or Variances in other parts of the City, that would allow these establishment to open smaller versions of their businesses in other areas of the City that are lacking in this type of service.
- Encourage and seek retail establishments which are small scale to serve the neighborhood, such as a
 fish restaurant (similar to the former Fishery Restaurant), Laundromat, a Central Square Goods,
 MarketBasket type grocery and sundries.

Open Space

• Explore options for the re-use of the building at Corporal Burns Park.

Department Conservation and Recreation

- Improve coordination between the City and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to address the maintenance issues and improvements to the riverfront between the Eliot Bridge and Lars Anderson Bridge.
- Consider establishing City responsibility for the bike paths along the Charles River.

Harvard University

- Provide information on how Harvard University routes its shuttle buses and determines the type of shuttles chosen for different routes.
- Explore allowing residents the use of the Harvard University shuttle system.
- Explore the use of the Harvard University parking garages for residents during snow emergencies.
- Explore the feasibility of making parking available at Harvard University garages for residents during the Western Avenue reconstruction project.
- Inquire as to the long range plans for Harvard Houses that are not deemed historical (i.e. Leverett House).

Other

- Work with the Cambridge Police Department to increase additional foot patrol in Central Square, a passive presence of officers would help to off-set the negative effects of the station closing.
- Establish a partnership with neighborhood group in organizing clean-up days that include streets, parks and playgrounds.