

Agassiz Neighborhood Study

▪ ▪ *A D D E N D U M* ▪ ▪

Recommendations and Action Plan



Introduction

This document is an addendum to the Agassiz Neighborhood Study (2003), a joint report of the Agassiz Neighborhood Study Committee and the Cambridge Community Development Department. The purpose of this addendum is to serve as a guide to the implementation of the recommendations, providing a list of all recommendations from the study along with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Study Committee met between April 2000 and December 2001, during which time it heard presentations from City staff, discussed issues, and held public forums. The topics addressed by the committee included housing, land use and zoning, urban design, transportation, open space, institutional uses, and economic

development. Through this process of learning, discussing, gathering feedback from the community, and working towards consensus, the committee developed a set of recommendations to guide future improvements in the neighborhood. This set of recommendations was published as part of the Agassiz Neighborhood Study in April 2003.

Some of the recommendations from this study are being addressed through the ongoing programs of city departments. Other recommendations will be addressed through future action items, which could take place within a short-range, medium-range, or long-range timeframe. In some cases, recommendations are being addressed through actions taking place on a citywide scale.

In the following “Recommendations and Action Plan” table, items that are part of the city’s present or future action plan are denoted by a ■ symbol. An estimated timeframe is also provided for each action item, describing whether it is expected to occur within a short-range (less than 2 years), medium-range (2-6 years), or long-range (6-10 years) period.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
H1	In order to maintain a diverse community, the City of Cambridge should explore affordable housing opportunities in the Agassiz neighborhood as they may arise.	<i>Affordable Housing Programs Ongoing</i> The Housing Division of the Community Development Department actively pursues opportunities to develop affordable housing throughout the city, including in Agassiz. Through prior budget allocations to the Affordable Housing Trust, current allocations through the Community Preservation Fund, and other means, the City has helped to create approximately 2600 units of affordable housing across the city since 1995. For example, in 1995 the City worked with Harvard University to transfer ownership of about 100 Harvard-owned, previously rent-controlled units to Homeowners Rehab, Inc., which maintains the units as affordable housing for the community. About 50-60 of these units are located in Agassiz.
H2	The City should explore the possibility of allowing single room occupancy buildings in more residential districts and acquiring land or structures for this use.	 Lodging houses, a type of single room occupancy housing, are not allowed in Residence B districts, which are characteristic of Agassiz. However, lodging houses are allowed in other zoning districts, such as Residence C-1, Residence C-2A, and Business A-2 districts. In addition, these latter districts allow studio apartment units without any minimum restrictions on size, though there are limits on the number of units that can be built on a particular lot. The Housing Division pursues opportunities to create affordable housing throughout the city, and will consider opportunities to create single room occupancy housing as they arise.
H3	The Committee recognizes that, by developing dormitories, institutions help to reduce pressure on other renters in the neighborhood. However, any new student housing construction in the Agassiz neighborhood should be low-density and compatible with the existing scale and character of the neighborhood.	<i>Policies and Zoning Regulations in Effect</i> The City's Growth Policy explicitly encourages universities to provide housing to its students, and also asserts that the existing scale and character of residential neighborhoods should be preserved. Zoning regulations in Agassiz are intended to regulate the scale and character of institutional development in order to be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, all projects larger than 50,000 square feet and other development meeting certain criteria are required to undergo a special permit project review by the Cambridge Planning Board (Article 19 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance). The Planning Board considers the Cambridge Growth Policy, and the effect of a project on the character of a neighborhood, when it reviews a development proposal.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H4	The City of Cambridge should pursue the affordable housing funds available through the Community Preservation Act.	CPA Funding in Use In Fiscal Year 2004, \$8.4 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding were allocated to housing. This represents 80% of the total CPA funding allotted to Cambridge for this year. The Housing Division will continue to work with the Community Preservation Fund Committee to highlight the need for funds to continue to create affordable housing.

■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe

Short Range - less than 2 yrs; Medium Range - 2-6 yrs;
Long Range - 6-10 yrs

LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
LU1	Harvard University should implement the recommendations of the Hammond/ Gorham edge committee, in order to create a more friendly campus edge with open quadrangles.	<i>Overlay Zoning Regulations in Effect</i> Harvard University submitted zoning recommendations to the Cambridge Planning Board, which were adopted into the Zoning Ordinance in 2002 as the Hammond and Gorham Streets Transition Overlay District (20.11). The text of the Zoning Ordinance is available at the Community Development Department website: http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD .
LU2	The City's Community Development Department (CDD) should prepare an inventory of lots by size in the C-1 district showing the potential build out of lots over 6,000 square feet. This inventory should be presented to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.	■ <i>FUTURE ACTION – Short Range</i> The Community Development Department will perform such a study starting in Fiscal Year 2005 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005).
LU3	The Agassiz neighborhood should consider establishing a neighborhood conservation district.	 The formal process of establishing a neighborhood conservation district involves a few steps. First, a petition signed by at least ten neighborhood residents must be submitted to the Cambridge Historical Commission (CHC). If the CHC approves the petition, the City Manager appoints a Study Committee to undertake a one-year process of defining the purpose and scope of the neighborhood conservation district. The resulting study is presented in public hearings before the CHC, and is then forwarded to the City Council, which may establish the neighborhood conservation district by a majority vote. The City Manager then appoints a permanent Neighborhood Conservation District Commission. For more information, please contact the CHC at 617-349-4683. Also, the brochure "Neighborhood Conservation Districts in Cambridge" is available in PDF format on the CHC website: http://www.cambridgema.gov/~Historic/ncd_brochure.pdf .
LU4	A transition buffer zone should be created where the C-2A District abuts the C-1 District (where Lesley University abuts the neighborhood).	<i>Transition Zoning Regulations in Effect</i> Current zoning regulations require that any new building in the C-2A district that is within 125 feet of the C-1 district must adhere to the same yard setback regulations as new buildings in the C-1 district. ■ <i>CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING UNDERWAY – Short Range</i> Lesley University is currently involved in a campus master planning process, and will present its plans to the Cambridge Planning Board when they are complete. Zoning changes may be discussed as an outcome of this master planning process.

URBAN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
UD1	New buildings should be harmonious with existing neighborhood residential aesthetics.	<i>Design Guidelines and Review Procedures Ongoing</i> According to Article 19 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, adopted in 2001, the Planning Board considers a set of design guidelines during the special permit review process, which is required for any development greater than 50,000 square feet as well as other developments meeting certain criteria. Design guidelines are intended in part to ensure that new development does not conflict with the existing aesthetics of a neighborhood. In addition, certain areas of the city have specific design guidelines, such as the North Massachusetts Avenue Design Guidelines, which are intended to ensure that future development in the Mass Ave corridor is compatible with existing commercial and residential uses.
UD2	Pedestrian rights-of-way in the neighborhood should be preserved and maintained. Example: Francis Avenue to Museum Street.	<i>Zoning Regulations in Effect</i> Under Article 19 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, large development projects are reviewed to ensure that pedestrian travel is encouraged. Special attention is paid to preserving existing and expected pedestrian rights-of-way through large development sites. Additionally, some special measures are taken to ensure that pedestrian connections be provided through large institutional campuses. For example, the provisions of the Hammond and Gorham Streets Transition Overlay District (Zoning Ordinance 20.11) specify that at least three pedestrian points of access must be provided in order to allow residents to pass through.
UD3	Utility companies should be encouraged to place utilities underground whenever feasible.	<i>Utility Placement Procedures Ongoing</i> The City's Pole and Conduit Commission encourages the placement of cables underground where practical, especially communications cables leading to major points of access and to private commercial establishments. However, placing existing utilities underground is difficult, involves high infrastructure costs that would result in higher rates for consumers and property owners, and is not always feasible.

URBAN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
UD4	The City should plant and maintain street trees.	<i>Tree Planting and Maintenance Ongoing</i> The City strives to plant 150-300 new trees each year. It is also dedicated to pruning every public tree, both on the street and in its parks and cemeteries, every four to five years. The Parks & Urban Forestry Division of the Cambridge Department of Public Works, which includes the City Arborist, Forestry Supervisor, and two forestry maintenance crews, is responsible for the planting and care of public trees, reviewing plans for tree planting and tree removal, and educational outreach. For information on Urban Forestry, call 617-349-6433 or visit the following web page: http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/parks/forestry.html .

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
T1	Encourage non-automobile travel.	<i>Programs Ongoing</i> As recommended in the Cambridge Growth Policy, the City takes a number of measures to encourage non-automobile travel. Some policies that discourage automobile travel include the Vehicle Trip-Reduction Ordinance, the Parking and Transportation Demand Management Ordinance, and the Climate Protection Plan. The City's Environment and Transportation Division also offers services to support non-automobile travel, including staffing the Cambridge Pedestrian and Bicycle Committees, incorporating pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly measures into roadway improvements, sponsoring the annual "Go Green" Month, and supporting private transit systems such as the EZRide Shuttle.
T2	Encourage Harvard and Lesley Universities to implement intra-city transportation options for their communities.	Harvard University currently offers shuttle service within its Cambridge campus for members of the University community. The Harvard-supported "m2" bus, connecting Harvard Square to the Longwood Medical Area in Boston, can be used by the public as well. Lesley also runs shuttles, one from its main campus in Agassiz to Porter Square, and another from the main campus to the Art Institute of Boston buildings in Kenmore Square.
T3	Encourage the MBTA to institute a bus route from Porter Square to Kendall Square along Beacon St and Hampshire St. Although this is a natural transportation corridor, no public transport goes along the length of this route.	Porter Square and Kendall Square are connected by subway service via the MBTA Red Line. The #83 bus, providing service between Porter Square and Central Square every 20 minutes, follows Somerville Avenue, Park Street, and Beacon Street in Somerville, then Hampshire Street and Prospect Street in Cambridge. The #83 bus connects with the #64/68 bus, which connects Harvard Square with Kendall Square via Broadway.
T4	Support efforts to promote system-wide improvements in MBTA bus service. Example: Harvard Square to Coolidge Corner.	<i>Collaborative Efforts Ongoing</i> The City works with the MBTA on a range of bus-related system improvements. City staff meet regularly with the MBTA to address timely issues, such as the temporary Green Line closure and #83 bus service during improvements to Russell Field. The City also supported the MBTA's contract change to manufacture new trackless trolleys with left side doors, and as a T Advisory Board member, Cambridge voted to fund the continuation of Night Owl service. Additionally, the City works on its own and with the MBTA to install bus shelters, benches, and improved signage.

■ **ACTION ITEM - Timeframe**

Short Range - less than 2 yrs; Medium Range - 2-6 yrs;
Long Range - 6-10 yrs

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T5	Encourage alternative fuel transportation.	■ ALTERNATIVE FUEL PROGRAMS UNDERWAY – Short Range Starting in fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005), the Department of Public Works will begin to use all biodiesel-fueled vehicles. Harvard University is also converting its diesel fleet to biodiesel. Climate Protection Measures in Effect In 2003, the citywide Climate Protection Task Force issued the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan, intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city. The plan, which was adopted by the City Council, recommends a target of a twenty percent reduction from 1990 levels. To reach this goal, the City has worked to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commuting through Parking and Transportation Demand Management, to improve facilities for walking and biking, and to promote transit improvements.
T6	Support efforts to implement urban ring transit system.	Efforts Ongoing The City continues to work with the MBTA and neighboring communities on plans for the Urban Ring.
T7	Implement traffic calming as neighborhood streets are resurfaced.	Traffic Calming Program Ongoing The City maintains a list of traffic calming requests and looks for opportunities to coordinate these with roadway projects such as resurfacing. City departments work together to establish priorities, based on factors such as the severity of speeding problems, the ability to coordinate with other projects, and proximity to schools and playgrounds. City staff work with the neighborhoods in developing specific plans. For more information, contact the Traffic Calming Project Manager at 617-349-4655 or visit the Environmental and Transportation Planning webpage: http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/envirotrans.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T8	Promote safer pedestrian crossings at: a. Massachusetts Avenue at Garfield Street. b. Oxford Street at Kirkland Street. The Committee supports Harvard's relocation of the shuttle stop to the Memorial Hall circular driveway. c. The exit from the Science Center on Oxford Street. d. Kirkland Street at Irving Street. The existing crosswalk does not correspond to the one at Cambridge and Irving Street, disrupting a logical pedestrian route. Crosswalks should be on both sides of the street. e. Kirkland Street at Holden Street. At present there is only a crosswalk on the west side of the street, not the east side. Crosswalks should be on both sides of the street. f. The end of Holden Street to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences park entrances.	Project Completed The Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department has installed "Yield to Pedestrian" signs and has upgraded the crosswalk to a 24-inch wide zebra/international type. This will be examined as a potential location for curb extensions during future roadway construction in the area. ■ FUTURE ACTION – Long Range Future traffic calming plans for this location include a raised crosswalk. Also, Harvard has moved its shuttle stop, which has a new shelter. No Planned Action A marked crosswalk currently exists at this location. No Planned Action The suggested location does not have a ramp down from the sidewalk, so a crosswalk at this location would not be wheelchair accessible. Additionally, at least two parking spaces would have to be removed to provide adequate sight lines for the suggested crosswalk. The existing crosswalk will be re-painted every season until the roadway is repaved. No Planned Action The suggested location does not have a ramp down from the sidewalk, so a crosswalk at this location would not be wheelchair accessible. The existing crosswalk was upgraded to a 24-inch zebra/international type in fall 2003. No Planned Action During a previous traffic calming project in this area, neighborhood residents determined that a crosswalk would not be appropriate at this location.
T9	Make resident only parking at night on Oxford Street from Everett to Wendell.	■ FUTURE ACTION – Short Range A work order has been issued to post "Two-Hour Parking 8AM-6PM" and "Resident Permit Parking 6PM-8AM" signs on the west side of Oxford Street from Everett Street to Wendell Street and on the east side of Oxford Street from Everett Street (extension) to Hammond Street. This work order should be completed by August, 2004.
T10	Provide Zipcar spaces in Harvard and/ or Lesley parking lots.	Harvard currently provides 5 Zipcar spaces in its parking lots. Lesley provides one space. More information about the Zipcar service, including the location of vehicles, can be found on the Zipcar website: www.zipcar.com.
■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe Short Range - less than 2 yrs; Medium Range - 2-6 yrs; Long Range - 6-10 yrs		

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS1	The City of Cambridge should work with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to explore the feasibility of constructing a park over the commuter rail line adjacent to the Porter Square T stop. If that fails, we recommend putting one of the many parking lots in the square underground and using the above ground area for a park. Porter Square is the location in Cambridge that is furthest from any parks, and creating a park over one of these locations is our most visionary and most expensive recommendation.	<i>Open Space Study Completed</i> The report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee (2000) recognizes Porter Square as a priority area for the establishment of open space. The City will continue to explore and pursue opportunities for the creation of open space in this area. ■ <i>ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION – Short Range</i> The area above the commuter rail line is owned by the MBTA, which is currently seeking to lease development rights to a private developer. Community vision for the future use of this site is being discussed in a series of City-sponsored public meetings focusing on Porter Square and Lower Mass Ave, occurring in the winter and spring of 2004. Additionally, all of the parking lots in the Porter Square area are privately owned. Lesley University, which owns some of these parking lots, is currently involved in a campus master planning process. In its most recent Town-Gown presentation, Lesley indicated that it may move its parking underground and increase open space as part of its overall development in the Porter Square area.
OS2	The City of Cambridge should pursue the open space preservation funds available through the Community Preservation Act.	<i>CPA Funding in Use</i> The Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) requires that a city or town spend at least 10% of its annual community preservation funds on community housing, at least 10% on historic preservation, and at least 10% on non-recreational open space. "Non-recreational open space" specifically excludes urban recreational parks, such as sitting areas, playgrounds, or athletics fields. Before a city or town can spend any CPA funds on urban recreational parks, it must first spend 10% of its community preservation funds for that year on natural resource areas such as watersheds, wetlands, forests, or other types of non-recreational open space. In past years as well as the present, Cambridge's Community Preservation Fund Committee has voted to allocate 80% of Cambridge's CPA funds to affordable housing, 10% to historic preservation, and 10% to non-recreational open space. For the current year, Cambridge's open space allotment is being dedicated to projects associated with Fresh Pond and the upland watershed area. In the long term, the use of CPA funds for non-recreational open space may free up alternate sources of funding for the creation and preservation of recreational parks.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
OS3	The Committee recommends enhancing the recreational use, especially the passive recreational use, of Sacramento Field. 1. The City of Cambridge should consider renaming Sacramento Field to Sacramento Park. 2. New signage should be placed at the main entrance to Sacramento Field on Sacramento Street. 3. The recently re-opened second public access route to Sacramento Field/Park should be maintained	■ FUTURE ACTION – Medium Range Whenever future renovations occur at Sacramento Field, the Community Development Department will discuss with the neighborhood changing the signage to read “Sacramento Park”. Project Completed New signage was put in place by the Department of Public Works in 2003, as requested. Maintenance Ongoing Maintenance of this access route by the Department of Public Works is periodic and ongoing.
OS4	Encourage the closing of Oxford Street for community celebrations.	The City of Cambridge welcomes community organizations holding large Special Events open to the general public. Special Events require the approval of several City departments. Requesting approval involves sending a letter to the City Manager 30-60 days in advance describing the event in as much detail as possible, including the date(s), location, purpose, and length of time. This information is forwarded to the Special Events Committee, which will discuss the request at a public meeting. To hold a Block Party, it is necessary to obtain a Temporary Street Closing Permit from the Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, which requires that an application and an Abutter Approval Form be submitted at least 7 business days prior to the date of the party. For applications and information on permit fees, call 617-349-4700 or go to the following web page: http://www.cambridgema.gov/~Traffic/onstreet/sop_index1.html.
OS5	Encourage prompt removal of all graffiti by property owners - including City street signs and U.S. mailboxes.	Graffiti Removal Ongoing The Department of Public Works operates a graffiti hotline at 617-349-6955. Residents are encouraged to call to report incidents of graffiti for prompt clean up, and to receive information about removing graffiti from private property. Reports of graffiti on US mailboxes are sent to the US Postal Service, which has an ongoing process for re-painting mailboxes tagged with graffiti.

■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe

Short Range - less than 2 yrs; Medium Range - 2-6 yrs;
Long Range - 6-10 yrs

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS - (cont.)

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS6	Encourage the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to continue its tree-sponsorship program.	The Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) has maintained a fund to sponsor the planting of street trees through the Residential Street Tree Programs sponsored by the City's Department of Public Works (see OS7). ANC's program was put on hold while sewer separation work was underway in Agassiz and tree planting was difficult. However, ANC hopes to revive the program in the near future.
OS7	Encourage residents to take advantage of the City's sidewalk tree program.	<i>Residential Street Tree Programs Ongoing</i> The Cambridge Department of Public Works has published a brochure with information on Residential Street Tree Programs. Through the Client Tree Program and the Commemorative Tree Program, residents, business owners, and organizations may request that a tree be planted on the street near their building or home for a fee. For more information, please call 617-349-6433 or visit the following web page: http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/parks/forestry.html .

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
I1	In conjunction with their residential projects, Harvard and Lesley should consider including housing for their hourly-wage employees.	Harvard has a goal of providing housing for 50% of its graduate students and some of its faculty and affiliates within the next ten years. Most recently, it has acquired condominium housing on Pleasant Street for sale to its faculty members and affiliates, and according to its 2003 Town-Gown Report, it plans to construct additional housing for faculty and graduate students in the Riverside neighborhood. In the past, Harvard has made land available for the construction of affordable housing in Cambridge, and supports the development of affordable housing through the 20/20/2000 loan and grant program. Harvard also plans to develop affordable housing for the community as part of its housing development in Riverside. More information about Harvard's housing programs is available from its Office of Government, Community Affairs and Public Affairs, 617-495-4955.
I2	Harvard and Lesley should inform Cambridge residents of upcoming events open to the public.	A calendar listing of events is published in the Harvard Gazette and online at: www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar. Lesley events are listed at: www2.Lesley.edu/events_search.html. More information about Harvard's community programs is available from its Office of Government, Community Affairs and Public Affairs (617-495-4955). Harvard also publishes a catalog called <i>Harvard in the Community: A Directory of Harvard University Community Service Programs</i>, which lists ongoing events and facilities open to the public.
LES1	The University should improve the landscaping at the Oxford Street side of 47 Oxford Street.	In its 2004 Town-Gown Report, Lesley University indicates 47 Oxford Street as a building for potential future renovation. Currently, Lesley is involved in a campus master planning process, and has agreed to return to the Cambridge Planning Board to discuss its plan as it nears completion.
LES2	Lesley should work with a neighborhood committee to discuss development issues with Agassiz.	Lesley is currently involved in a master planning process, and has discussed its plans with the Cambridge Planning Board (as part of the Town-Gown reporting process) as well as with neighborhood groups, including the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and Porter Square Neighborhood Association. A representative from Lesley has also been appointed to serve on the Agassiz Working Group, specifically to discuss development issues in the Harvard Law School / Lesley Main Campus area.

■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe

Short Range - less than 2 yrs; Medium Range - 2-6 yrs;
Long Range - 6-10 yrs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED1	The Committee encourages the creation of pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-oriented uses of commercial spaces along Massachusetts Avenue and throughout the Agassiz neighborhood.	<i>Programs and Services Ongoing</i> The City undertakes a variety of programs to encourage pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-oriented uses of commercial spaces throughout Cambridge. The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department provides services to support and assist small, diverse retail, such as counseling and façade improvement programs for income-eligible business owners. For example, the Indian Club restaurant in Agassiz recently participated in the City's façade improvement program. Also, improvements to sidewalk and roadway infrastructure, such as upcoming improvements to Harvard and Porter Squares, make sidewalk spaces safer and more desirable for pedestrians. ■ <i>PROCESS UNDERWAY – Short Range</i> Discussion related to supporting retail in the Mass Ave corridor has been taking place in a series of City-sponsored public meetings on Porter Square and Lower Mass Ave, occurring in the winter and spring of 2004.
ED2	The City should develop a formalized plan to communicate with the Agassiz Neighborhood Council about types of new businesses that would be useful in the neighborhood. Example: Currently, a bakery is needed in the neighborhood.	<i>Business-Locating Support Programs Ongoing</i> In an effort to help match businesses with suitable locations, the Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department maintains a database of vacant commercial space and provides a free SiteFinder Service to businesses seeking space in Cambridge. ■ <i>PROCESSES PLANNED AND UNDERWAY – Short Range</i> Discussion related to supporting retail in the Mass Ave corridor has been taking place in a series of City-sponsored public meetings on Porter Square and Lower Mass Ave, occurring in the winter and spring of 2004. Additionally, a symposium on ground floor retail in the city was held at the Cambridge Planning Board in June 2004. This included presentations by City staff on the Cambridge context, the City's efforts to assist retailers, and a regulatory overview, and was followed by a panel discussion. A follow-up discussion will occur at the Planning Board in August.
ED3	The Committee supports Harvard's established practice of reduced rents to diverse retail tenants.	



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