Engage, Influence, Act
The Role of Community Planning in the Organizing Arch

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Somerville Community Corporation
Interaction: Having Fun with Community Participation
East Somerville Community Map
East Somerville Community Mapping Project

This is a community map of East Somerville, located just northwest of Boston. Click on each icon to learn about the neighborhood. Where are the community gardens? Do the bus stops have benches or shelters? What intersections have more foot traffic at different times in the day? Take a look at East Somerville through the eyes and ears of people who live here.
Creating the Community Plan
The ESI Community Action Plan
Adopted by East Somerville Community
October 10, 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective Sorted by Importance:</th>
<th>Community Partner to Lead (as of 10/10/07)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow=top objective</td>
<td>✓=Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green=very Important</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue=somewhat important</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs 2: Community Benefits Campaign, Assembly Square</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing 2: Produce more units</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing 1: Preserve expiring use buildings</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing 3: Prevent mortgage foreclosures</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs 3: Support small businesses through networking services</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imm 1: Create immigrant organizing committee</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing 4: Campaigns to get more money for affordable housing</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools 1: protect services for English Language Learners</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs 1: Create Workers resource group</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imm 2: Sanctuary City campaign</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imm 3: Bring groups together to create Emergency Plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth 2: Form a group to external Open Gyms and youth programming</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth 1: Youth-employment training center</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools 2: full service school model</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access 4: Host group of ESOL providers to expand and improve ESOL services</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EJ 1: Tackling indoor and outdoor air pollution</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access 1: Create/update resource guide for services</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access 5: Computer literacy classes</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streetscape 3: City community planning process for Broadway</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Corridor Planning
Core Community Principles for Neighborhood Development Along the Green Line Corridor

As part of Community Corridor Planning, a grassroots initiative to engage Somerville residents in the land use planning of the Green Line Corridor, community members ratified a list of eleven core principles. The principles listed here were chosen from a larger list of principles generated by over 300 residents who participated at various community meetings held between April and October, 2009, which were then prioritized and ratified at a community meeting attended by 150 people on October 28, 2009. The community members engaged with CCP would like to see all decisions related to the planning of the Green Line and the land use in the half mile areas around the 7 proposed stations to reflect this list of Corridor Core Principles.

- **More Local Jobs**: We want a fixed percentage of respectable jobs of all types with good wages and benefits for Somerville residents, from construction to permanent.
- **Increase Commercial and Economic Development**: We want to see the creation of squares as destinations, with careful attention to mixed use of commercial/residential, reuse of buildings, and economic development to increase the tax base.
- **Keep and Add Local Businesses**: We want locally owned, culturally diverse, clean businesses in commercial areas with employees who live in Somerville.
- **Keep Somerville Affordable**: We want to make sure people of all economic means have the ability to afford housing and living costs, so that Somerville residents, such as child care workers, cab drivers, local business employees and others can stay here affordably.
- **Maintain Our Diversity**: Preserve and encourage economic and ethnic diversity of residents and businesses.
- **Improve the Green Environment**: We want a safe, environmentally friendly neighborhood with more green space, trees, and gardens; reduction of noise; avoidance of light pollution; and prevention of toxic chemicals in the air.
- **Encourage Walking and Biking**: We want to encourage walking and cycling, through safe, bike/pedestrian friendly design of streets and paths around and between stations.
- **Create Community Gathering Spaces**: We want both indoor and outdoor safe, public gathering spaces for community members.
- **Improve Access**: We want above standard, safe access to and between stations for people with disabilities, strollers, and pedestrians in general.
- **Community Involvement**: We want to make sure residents are included on an ongoing basis in the planning, design, and zoning changes to the stations and areas around them. Youth, artists, and others should help design stations, with attention to amenities. We need an easy and clear process for residents to address problems as they come up, with ways of immediately resolving unseen impacts.
- **Connecting Buses and Trains**: We want to ensure inter-modal access between neighborhoods and stations, for new train service to be adequate and speedy, and for existing bus lines to continue to serve areas not connected by train.
**EQUITY GOALS**

**Local Jobs:** 30% of new jobs in Somerville go to Somerville residents
- These should be good jobs with a living wage, full benefits, full-time schedule, and career opportunities
- Developers contribute to a jobs trust fund in order to provide residents with adequate training, including ESL training and job counseling
- Employers use a first source program to provide Somerville residents with opportunities for all new jobs

**Local Businesses:** Keep and add local businesses
- Mitigate the negative impacts of construction on businesses
- Preserve the current mix of small businesses and minimize turnover
- Maintain strong, diverse, stable, and safe business districts

**Affordable Housing:** Of new housing production, 20-35% should be permanently affordable for low- and moderate-income households
- Most new units should be in a transit walkshed
- Increase the amount of new housing dedicated for families of four or more

**Open and Green Space:** New acreage of accessible open, green, and growing space in environmental justice (EJ) neighborhoods
- Increase open space proportional to EJ communities
- Preserve and expand existing open space in EJ communities
- Encourage urban farming at new parks, gardens, and rooftops
- Improve public access, programming, and interactive activities at city parks

**Mobility:** Improve and increase mobility options in transforming areas as identified in SomerVision’s Transportation Goals
- Complete build-out of the Community Path Extension as part of the Green Line Extension
- Guarantee funding for complete build-out of the Green Line Extension
- Create a north-south bus route connecting Temple and Broadway to Somerville Avenue and Washington Street
- Improve and extend bike route connecting Temple and Broadway
- Replace McCarthy Overpass with at grade boulevard

**Land Use:** Community decision-making for public and neglected properties
- Increase community participation in planning discussions, especially among new immigrants, working class residents, and communities of color
- Work with negligent property owners to improve or release their property
- Obtain community amenities for disposition properties, prioritizing uses reflected in Equity Standards
From Vision to Action:
JOBS & JOB TRAINING

- Support the First Source Hiring Program
- Explore other resources to train local residents
- Leverage incubator spaces
- Create an access and opportunity committee
- Use community workforce agreements
- Work with socially responsible investors
- Incentivize employers to pay a living wage & provide benefits
- Ask employers to commit to local hiring
Cycle of Community Influence

- Evaluation
- Interactive Participation
- Community Planning & Vision
- Decisions and Implementation
- Organizing
Somerville Community Corporation

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