



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

September 4, 2009

RE: Somerville Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Members – Welcome!

Dear Steering Committee Member:

As design of the Green Line Extension and Orange Line station at Assembly Square proceeds, it is clear that considerable positive change in Somerville's transportation network is well underway. In order to continue to improve the quality of life for city residents and workers and fully capture the benefits of the new transit investment, I believe that a city-wide comprehensive plan, built on a common vision, is needed. The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) is in the early phase of preparing the comprehensive plan. Attached is the Board of Aldermen report that provides an overview of the purpose of the new plan, outlines the anticipated schedule over the next 18 months and identifies the configuration of the Steering Committee to which you are hereby appointed.

The Steering Committee, composed of residents and businesspersons with diverse areas of expertise, will oversee and guide the planning process helping to shape those elements that will define the Plan. The Steering Committee is made up of Mayoral appointees, representatives from Wards across the city and At-Large, and representatives of Boards, Commissions, and business and community organizations.

The preliminary schedule of meetings through 2009 are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 15th, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
- Tuesday, September 29th, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
- Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
- Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
- Tuesday, November 17th, 6:30PM - 8:30PM
- Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

All meetings will be held at the Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell Street, 3rd floor. We anticipate the first four meetings to focus on getting to know one another, becoming knowledgeable with the components and process of the Comprehensive Plan, establishing roles and responsibilities, and understanding the five "Trends" reports (population, economic, transportation/infrastructure, housing, and land use). After establishing a baseline of understanding in these initial meetings we will meet on a regular basis approximately once a month until completion of the Comprehensive Plan.

Much of the work and discussion that you will be involved in will occur in smaller groups. These groups will be broken down as follows:

- Corridors, Commercial Squares & Growth Districts
- Neighborhoods
- Natural/Cultural Resources – Open Space, Services/Facilities & Education
- Transportation & Infrastructure – Transit, Roads & Pipes
- Housing – Policy & Programs

At the first meeting of the Steering Committee, we will discuss these groups in more detail and ask you to identify the top three groups in which you would like to participate for the duration of the planning process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership by serving on this important committee. Your hard work and dedication in the community upholds Somerville's status as an All-American City!

If you have any questions regarding the schedule or the Steering Committee's responsibilities, please contact Keith Craig, Project Manager, OSPCD, at 617-625-6600 x2500.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor