OVERVIEW

SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK GREENWAY EXTENSION PROPOSAL

Background Information, Shared November 2021

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jennifer Leonard** <jleonard@skillslibrary.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 3:40 PM
Subject: Information about the Southwest Corridor Park Extension concept // plus funds for design work
To: Norwood, Jennifer (DCR) <jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us>, Tracy O'Brien <tracyobrien611@gmail.com>, Skalinski, Stefan (DCR) <stefan.skalinski@state.ma.us>, McClanan, Noah H (DCR) <noah.h.mcclanan@state.ma.us>, Cashman, Craig R (DCR) <craig.r.cashman@state.ma.us>

Here is some information to follow up on our JP dog park conversation this morning!   In another email, I'm also forwarding the set of maps and photos that we shared this morning.  [map attached below]

Members of the Stony Brook Neighborhood Association (SNA (the neigbhorhood association along the Southwest Corridor nearest Forest Hills) have been advocating for many years to make the land alongside the tracks between Forest Hills and McBride Street into a Southwest Corridor Park Extension.   In this area, the Southwest Corridor Park's current parkland is only on the other side of the orange line tracks.  Because of the rapid re-development of the SNA neighborhood, neighborhood residents have felt that it would be helpful to add an extension of the bike path and greenspace to the SNA side.

The land is (we believe) un-used (or currently un-used) MBTA land.   A few years ago, SNA members, with support from Liz Malia's office, especially Natalie Kaufman, initiated contact with the MBTA (Mark Boyle) and DCR (Leo Roy and perhaps an earlier Commissioner, and I think the DCR legal office) to advocate for this concept, but did not get any clear path forward.)

Fred Vetterlein, who has helped to lead much of this work, is a PMAC member, and the PMAC leadership team has been supportive of the concept.

The original proposal has been to turn the whole strip of land between Forest Hills and McBride St. (just before English High School) into greenspace.   The most recent concept is to start by focusing on turning a shorter portion of this strip of land, between McBride St. and the new Burnett St. park and garden, into a greenspace, with a multi-use path (for bikes, etc.)  and with a long & narrow dog park.   The space is about 40 feet wide, sufficient to have a dog park, pathway and greenery.

As part of the community benefits conversations among the BPDA, SNA and developers,  $75,000 has been set aside for design work to support this concept.

Here is some background information about the money ($75,000+) set aside by developers to support design work.   We can supply more information if, hopefully, this idea starts to move forward!

[1.] Recent news article about the Burnett St Park and Garden (which is on private land, a community benefit of the new Burnett St. housing development):

[After a Decade of Planning and Work, the Burnett St. Garden and Park Is Open for Residents to Enjoy | Jamaica Plain Gazette](http://jamaicaplaingazette.com/2021/07/15/after-a-decade-of-planning-and-work-the-burnett-st-garden-and-park-is-open-for-residents-to-enjoy/)

See this description of additional community benefits:

"Vetterlein added that aside from the mural, the community garden and park, and the community room, there are funds available for creating a connection between the garden and park to the Southwest Corridor Park (SWPC) at McBride Street.

 Additionally, a suggestion has been made to turn the vacant land between the Orange Line and the Extra Space storage facility into a dog park, which has been highly requested by many dog owners in the neighborhood.

 “There is over a quarter mile of unused land running from McBride to Forest Hills Station that could eventually be linked and perhaps the SWCP can be grown into the space,” he said."

[2.]  FROM 2013:

October 17, 2013 - Memorandum from developer to BPDA (pledging $25,000 to support design work for a Southwest Corridor Extension):

<http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/2852f7e2-0110-4d13-ab21-fccab495662d>

(Search/Find the word "extension" within this document to find this info)

[3.]  FROM the BPDA Cooperation Agreement in 2017:

On Mon, Jun 12, 2017 at 9:29 PM, frederick vetterlein <fsvetterlein@gmail.com> wrote:

Below is the new version of the**BPDA Cooperation Agreement** that defines what the developer of the Flanagan Seaton Site has to provide for the community.  I’ve copied the paragraph concerning the SWCP Ext. Thanks to pressure from the BPDA, particularly Marie Mercurio, senior planner, we’ve been absolutely promised the 25K plus the additional 75K.  And we have 10 years to make it happen and if that doesn’t work, the money can go to another community project.

Southwest Corridor Extension.  Prior to obtaining an initial full building permit from ISD for the first Phase of the Project, Lot 3 Owner shall provide to the Agency $25,000 towards planning of the development of the Southwest Corridor Extension.  Promptly after issuance of the final Certificate of Occupancy for the last Phase of the Project, Lot 3 Owner shall provide to the Agency $75,000 towards development of the Southwest Corridor Extension.  Each of the $25,000 and $75,000 payments (collectively, the “Southwest Corridor Extension Payments”) shall be held by the Agency in an escrow account established and administered by the Agency and shall be disbursed by the Agency to one or more community groups which is/are responsible for the planning and/or development of the Southwest Corridor Extension when the Agency deems it appropriate to do so in its sole but reasonable discretion.  The community group(s) to receive such funds shall be designated by the Agency.  Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the construction of the Southwest Corridor Extension does not commence within 10 years of the Authority’s receipt of the aforesaid $75,000 payment, then the Agency shall have the right, in its sole but reasonable discretion, to reallocate all or a portion of the Southwest Corridor Extension Payments for a different community benefit in the vicinity of the Project Site.