

# ULI Boston/New England Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) Program



#### Central Square, Lynn, MA

ULI Boston Urban Visionary TAPs Sponsor



#### Mission

To provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

ULI is a research and education institution with nearly 30,000 members worldwide representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines, working in private enterprise and public service.

#### ULI at the local level

- Boston/New England District Council covers nearly all of New England
- Over 1,100 Members—developers, architects, planners, public officials, financiers, students, etc.

#### City of Lynn, MA

ULI Boston/New England is committed to supporting the communities of New England in making sound land use decisions and creating better places. A Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) brings together of a group of ULI members with a range of professional expertise to provide focused, collaborative consultation to a local government or qualifying non-profit organization.

#### This TAP

- Sponsored by the Lynn EDIC, MassDevelopment and Eastern Bank
- This panel looked at the full range of options from an unbiased perspective.
- Panelists include experts in the fields of architecture, development, retail, investment, and banking.
- Panelists have donated their time
- Final Deliverable Written report (8weeks) will be available at http://boston.uli.org



#### **TAP Panelists**

#### **TAP Co-Chairs**

Joe Bator, Eastern Bank Larry Spang, Arrowstreet

#### Panelists

David Bennet - Architect Fran DeCoste – TR Advisors Phil Giffee – NOAH Richard Henderson - MassDevelopment Maureen McAvey, ULI Haley Suminski, Hunt Mortgage Group

Tania Hartford -- MassDevelopment Calvin Hennick – Report Writer Michelle Landers – ULI Boston Director

#### Address the following questions:

Boston/New England

- Public investment in the target area has been consistently applied for 15 years, can you identify a targeted strategy which would lead to private investment in the area?
- Private property owners in the target area refuse or are financially unable to redevelop their properties which fit a best/higher use model successfully employed in other gateway communities; what tools and or resources can you bring to bear that haven't been explored in the past 15 years?
- What additional steps should the City of Lynn take to encourage investment in the area?



#### **The Process**

## Briefing

Panelists met with sponsors and received briefing materials

### Site Visit:

 Panelists toured Market Street, Central Ave, Sutton Street, Liberty Street

# Panel interviewed stakeholders today including:

- City officials
- Elected Officials
- Local business leaders
- Private property owners
- Local institutions
- Local arts and cultural agencies
- Downtown Resident







- Existing employers
- MBTA station
- Waterfront
- NSCC campus
- Arts District starting to flourish
- Diversity is an ASSET
- Emerging restaurant area

- Auditorium capacity
- Significant architecture
- EDIC has focused on downtown in past with visible results
- Food manufacturing/service











Square

Festival Plaza Food Trucks Retail Kiosks

NSCC



- Farmer's market (and possibly Flea Market) under Viaduct
- Place kiosks on Viaduct plaza with product storage under Viaduct
- Host Food Truck evenings when events are happening
- Work with the MBTA to create validated parking at the MBTA garage
- Bring NECC's Culinary Program to a Central Square building, with ground floor restaurant
- Engage with Lynn Arts to ensure the building stays arts-focused
- Consider a Business Improvement District (BID) and/or Main Streets Program



Boston/New England

- Establish and enforce regulations for downtown parking lots that includes setbacks, fencing, landscaping, paving and striping standards.
- Hold weekly meetings of City Inspectional Services, Health, Fire, Police staff to discuss problem properties and enforce codes to make owners clean up or sell.

• **Be Proactive** on securing Tax Credits for desired developments – New Markets, Historic

Boston/New England

- Explore a District Improvement Financing program for public infrastructure improvements
- Aggressively market existing EDIC programs/tools
- Focus on improving downtown amenities to strengthen the market and increase demand for housing
- Recent rezoning will help make development more feasible (e.g. parking ratios)
- Work with MBTA to create long term dedicated parking in garage for residential development



- Conduct a detailed market study/survey to determine unmet needs/demographics
- Approach successful local entrepreneurs to create a second location downtown
- Provide low-interest loans for tenant fit out
- Create design guidelines and design review board tied to façade program
- Attract a gym on edge of district that will attract area commuters as well
- Build on Zimmans
   – create a design district and pull it towards
  Central St



## Summary

- Increase Active Uses Downtown
- Identify Strategic Assets
- Improve Connectivity



#### **Questions?**

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