

MetroFuture Strategy Dialogue  
June 25, 2008  
Braintree Public Library  
South Shore Coalition and Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC)

MAPC on-site staff: Tim Reardon, Steve Winter, Jim Gallagher

- Tim Reardon facilitated the dialogue, Steve Winter recorded. With the group, Tim reviewed the MetroFuture “Regional Plan” document, dated May 2008.
- We first reviewed Goals and Objective, and finished by going through the Implementation Strategies---with much two-way discussion throughout the session.

Participant input listed as “Questions” or “Comments”

### **QUESTIONS:**

- What is your definition of “vacant land” as far as MetroFuture projections go?
- There were several questions about zoning designations and their applicability to land use.
- Do the projections regarding educational attainment account for Special Education (SPED) students?
- Are there any studies that correlate where people live and where people work?
- Are there employer subsidized programs for the provision of mass transit?
- Where can municipalities find funding to help them make their plans coordinate with regional and state plans?
- How would MAPC get compliance from municipalities in coordinating plans?
- There is a lot of talk in the plan about saving money through efficiency. Is the Governor on board with eliminating mandatory police details?
- How would you “adjust” Prop 2 ½?
- Don’t we all think that people are leaving Massachusetts because of higher taxes?
- If we close the telecommunications property tax loophole---and generate revenue there---won’t that cost be passed on to the customers? Why is that a win?
- I think a regional plan is a good thing. Municipalities do not want to be told what to do by the state government. But municipalities do not want to be told what to do by MAPC either. What is the solution?
- How is a Regional Plan going to “reduce and eliminate homelessness”? That’s a stretch.
- Don’t we have guidance counselors in our high schools to help students get into college?

- I like the idea of the plan, but how do we remove corruption from our municipal projects?

### **COMMENTS:**

- A lot of MBTA service delivery issues seem to be issues of incompetence and mismanagement. We wanted a monorail to Greenbush.
- MetroFuture plan asks us to work for a system that prioritizes limited state funding towards a coordinated plan. We (towns) know that it is not what you do but who you know.
- Coordinate plans mean nothing with 40B in use. What cities and towns are looking for is protection from 40B. The state should change the requirement for affordable housing from 10% of all housing stock to 10% of non-affordable stock.
- Town Boards (Planning, Zoning Appeals, Conservation Commission) need to understand a lot of the issues in MetroFuture. It would be good if learning this stuff was a prerequisite to serving on a board.
- It could be that kids aren't motivated enough to work hard in college because they know that entitlements will be there for them as usual.
- I don't want to be hoodwinked. Why should I put my voice into a planning process when I know that State Reps and Senators will do what they please anyway?
- All of this (planning with MetroFuture) sounds great, but I don't see all of the players in the state---MAPC, House and Senate, Congressional, RPAs, towns---working together. I just don't see it.
- If we could get the Massachusetts Teachers Association out of the schools and the private sector more involved as partners in underperforming public schools, we could solve our problem we have of not educating kids in public school.
- Transit-oriented development attracts transient populations and appurtenant social ills such as drug abuse.