

Wednesday, July 9
MetroFuture Strategy Session, Arlington

Following a presentation of MetroFuture's goals and draft implementation strategies by MAPC Executive Director Marc Draisen, participants offered comments and questions.

Discussion with Marc Draisen:

1. While Arlington can establish a local conservation strategy, this can be usurped by 40B. Why is this? MetroFuture should prevent this from happening. (*Strategy 1 and 9 aim to address this issue.*)
2. Transit must be brought up to adequate and enjoyable usage before the general public will stop using cars or seek transportation alternatives. (*This is difficult for two reasons: a lack of transparency in the complex transportation funding process and a complicated decision making process on transit project funding decisions.*)
3. What is the relationship between county and regional planning and what input has the Administration given to MetroFuture and do they support it? (*Some Administration officials have reviewed and are supportive of plan.*)
4. A land should be removed from Route 2 to extend the Red Line. Build a garage at 128 to take T to Alewife (*This could be a good idea, though the extension of transit is not conclusive in solving transportation problems.*)
5. Who makes these things happen/ decisions for change? (*It comes down to people like those participating in the Strategy Sessions.*)
6. Regionalization is a big deal to Arlington. There are many ways for the Town to save money. We have talked to different communities depending upon what we're looking to save money on. How do you develop overlays on a variety of these things showing where regionalization would work and what might be shared?

Arlington has also been involved in failed regionalization projects. Contractual details are important regarding cost savings. How can the Arlington Board of Selectmen work with MAPC to help implement Strategy 2? Who will help to create partnerships? (*DLTA can be used to assist at the local level – focus on regionalization – substantial amount of money will be used on this effort for next year. Bill that would ease Inter-municipal Agreements currently being signed by Governor.*)
7. The walk/ bike objective is essential to transit.

8. The objectives should be stronger; this democratic process will make them stronger. Then recommendations should be made. *(MAPC is tweaking some objectives while making recommendations, simultaneously.)*
9. Should the RPAs have authority such as that provided to CCC? Seems intuitive to have greater strength for the RPAs to enhance powers over land use. *(Working collaboratively with cities and towns to affect real, positive change is MAPC's priority.)*
10. How will recommendations be prioritized, who will be the partners, and what are the timelines for getting things done? *(MAPC with the Council and MF constituencies will help to prioritize recommendations annually.)*
11. How will MAPC get all municipal governments to work together? Tools and systems are not working to accommodate working together. *(Municipalities need to be provided with consistent and funded guidance on regionalization issues.)*
12. The relationship between perceived quality of educational systems and housing costs, and school choice issues should be addressed in MF. Have you considered ways to encourage regionalization of educational services by focusing on funding issues? *(Strategies 8 and 12 may help get at this issue. The State has not funded regional school initiatives which make them a challenge to recommend.)*
13. How is the plan approved and by whom? *(By law, by the MAPC Council, 137 people).*
14. The Green Line extension not well thought-out within the region.
15. Many people at a town level will not sort through and filter out key details of the program that are most important to their community. Will MAPC assist communities at the local level, making presentations, outside of this small group, to help people understand and adopt policies, etc.? *(Council members may help move this forward. Municipalities may use MF as a lens for making local land use decisions. Other regions have used a cross-acceptance process that we may pursue.)*
16. It's a great idea to live close to transit/ work/ etc., but it's expensive to live in the Inner Core, including Arlington. What kind of recommendations can this plan make with regard to broadening affordable housing? *(Strategy 3 is focused on these issues and is available online for your review and comment.)*