

Zoning by Design

Presented by: George J. Proakis, AICP

June 8, 2015

We will transmit this city . . . greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

- From the Oath of the Athenian City State

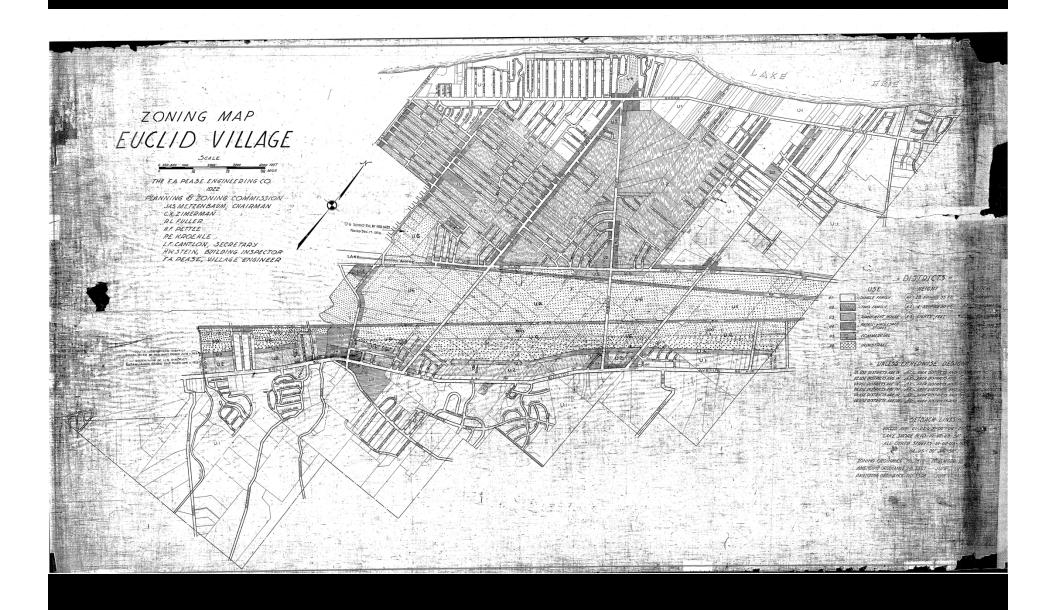






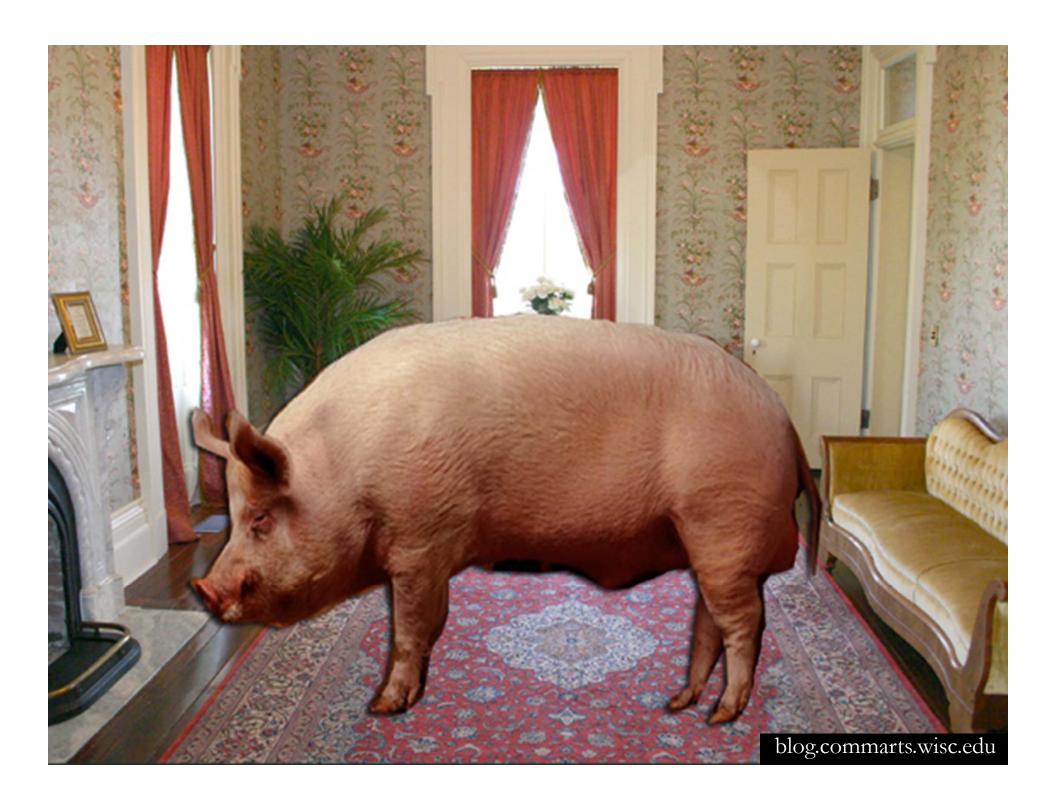


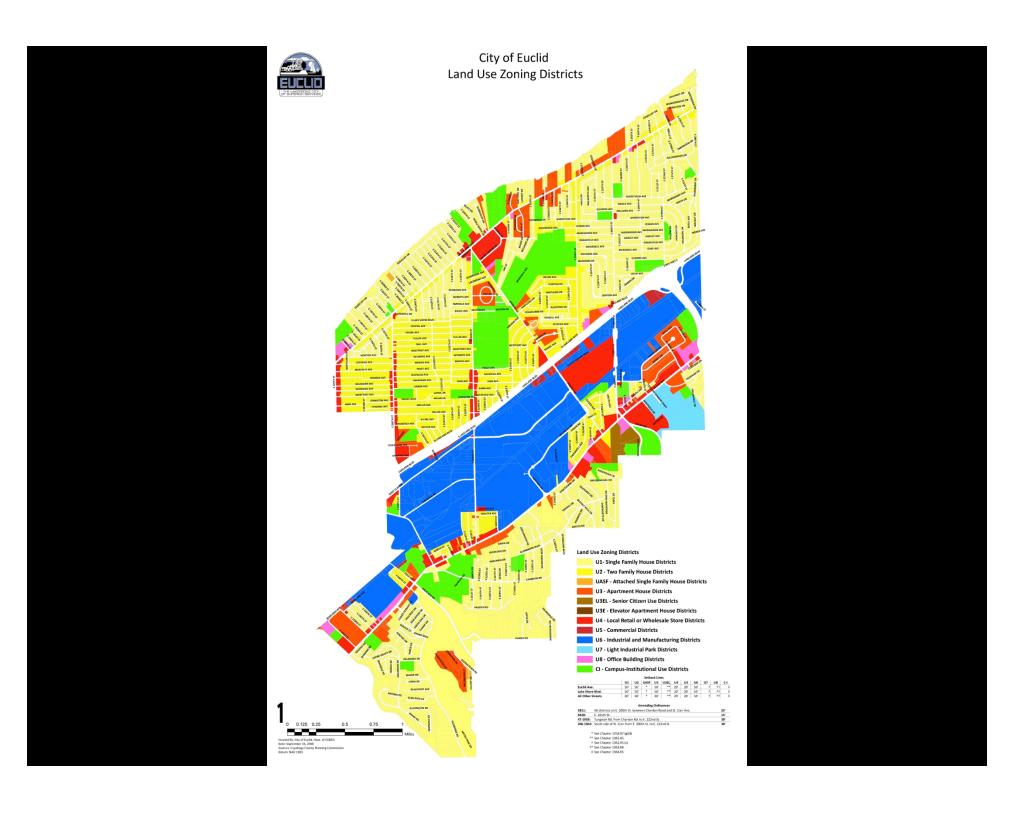
Photo: City of Euclid

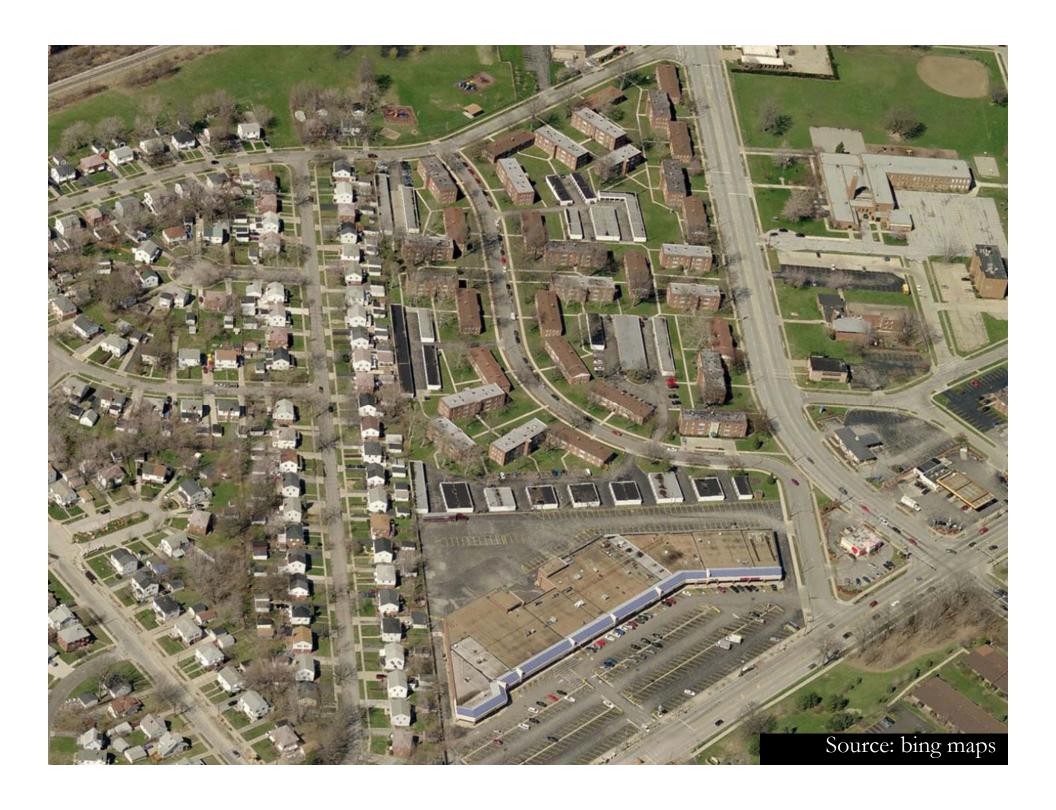




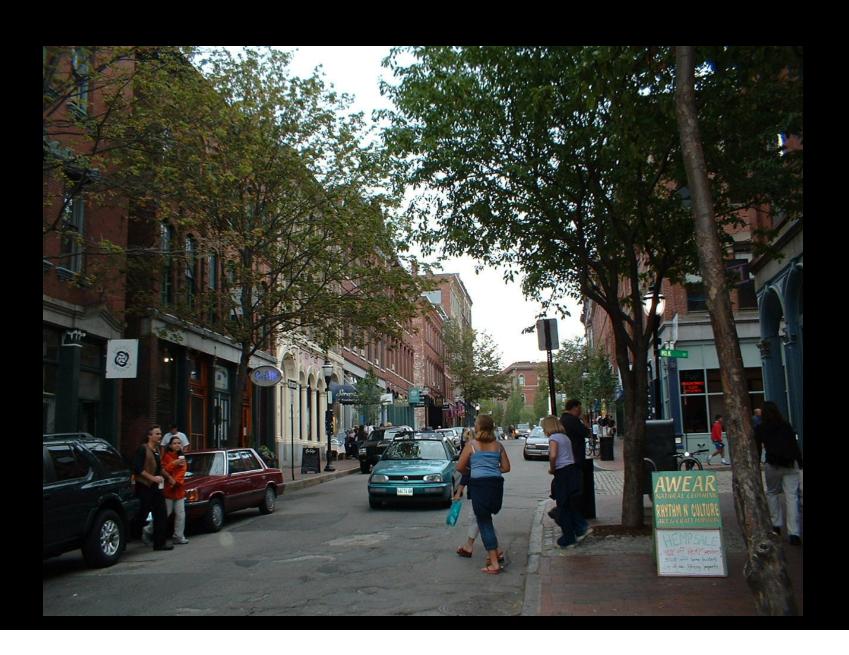














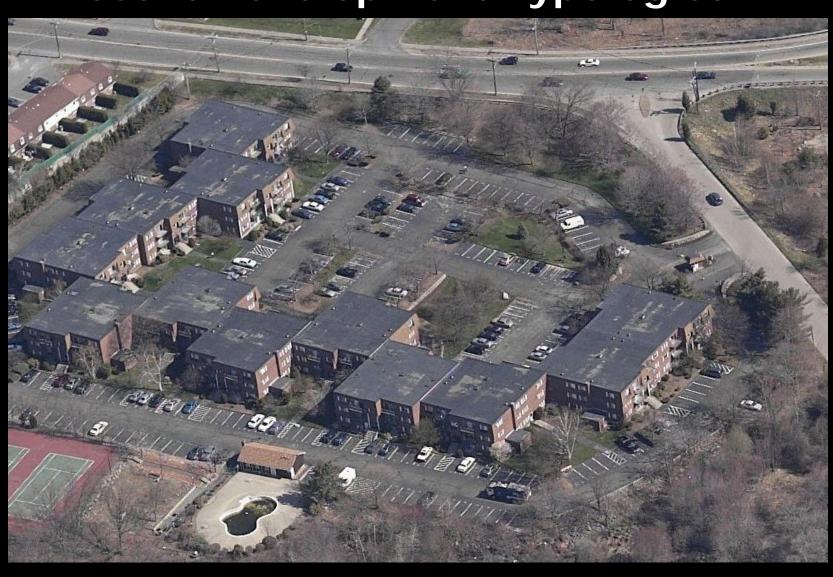
















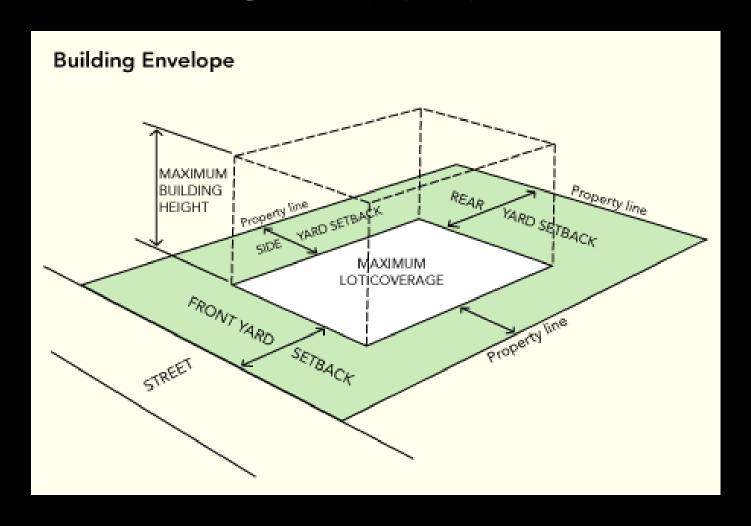


Conventional Zoning Tools:

Existing Tools

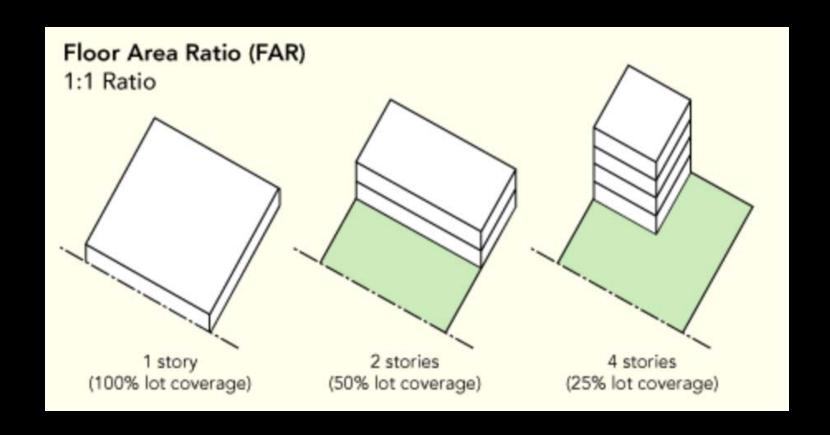
- Setbacks
- FAR
- Open space
- Parking requirements
- Subdivision / street standards
- Regulation of uses
- Special permits

Setbacks



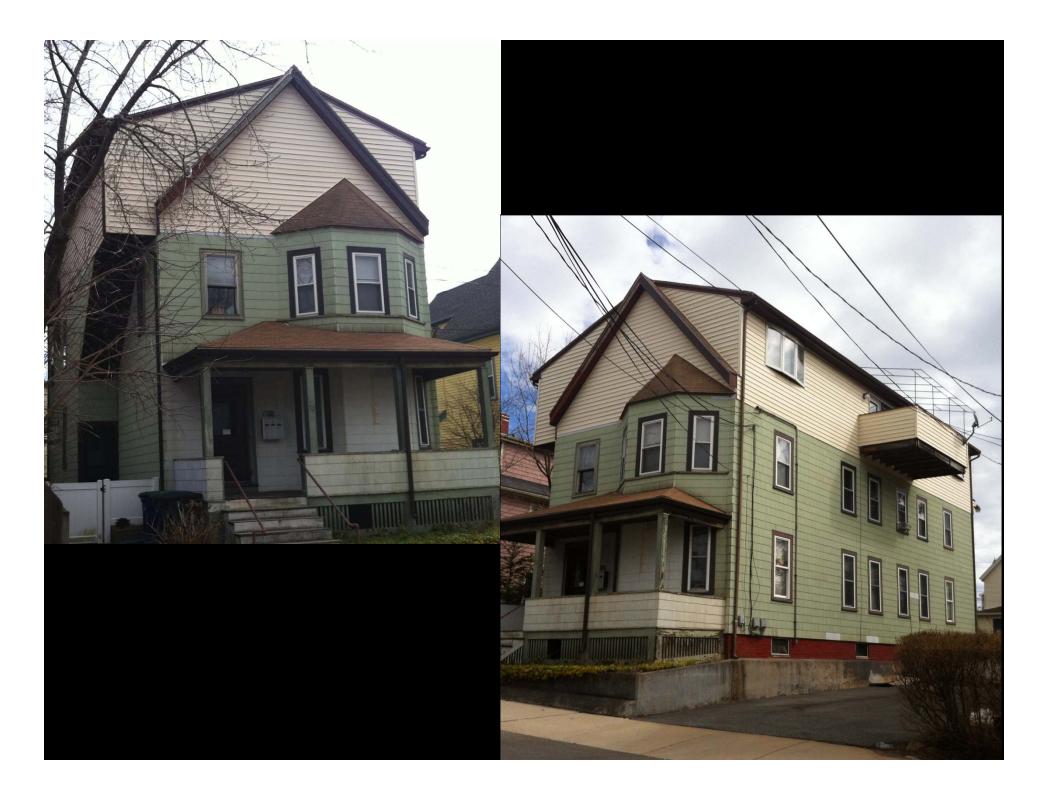


Floor Area Ratio









Zoning Tools: Open Space



Zoning Tools: Open Space



Zoning Tools: Parking Requirements



Zoning Tools: Street Standards



Zoning Tools: Regulation of Allowed Uses

- 19. Baths, Turkish
- 25. Boxing arena
- 28. Chinchillas, retail sales
- 41. Eleemosynary institutions
- 42. Embalming business
- 95. Physical culture institution
- 109. Potato chip manufacturing
- 127. Tombstones, retail sales
- 135. Turkish Baths

Zoning Tools: Special Permits

- "designed in a manner that is compatible with the existing natural features of the site and is compatible with the characteristics of the built and unbuilt surrounding areas."
- "consistent with the general purpose of this ordinance"
- "where practical, new or infill building construction should share the same orientation to the street as is common in the neighborhood"
- "will not create adverse environmental impacts"

Somerville, MA

• 4.5 sq miles

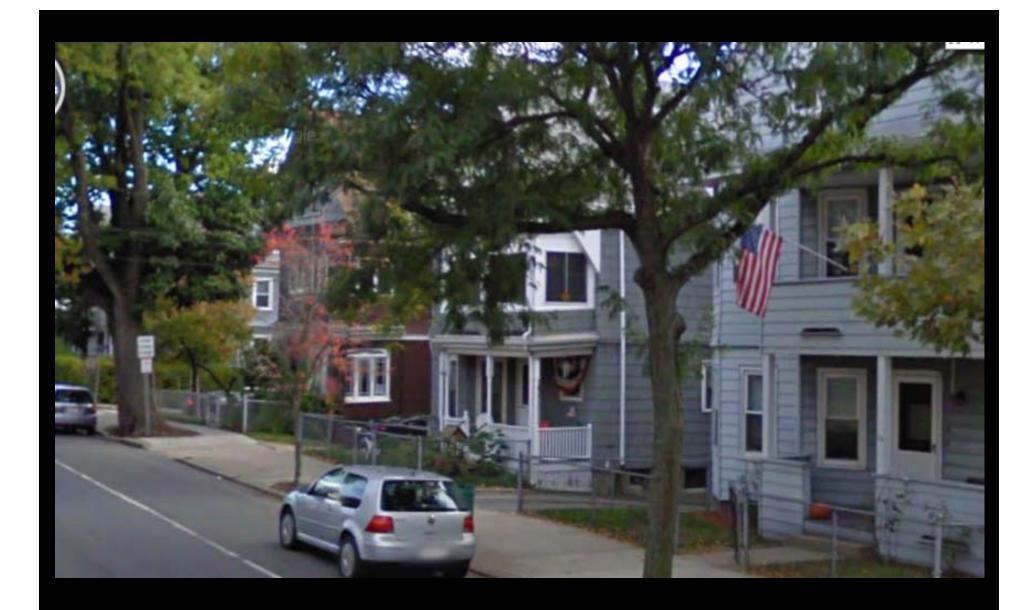


• 70,000+ population

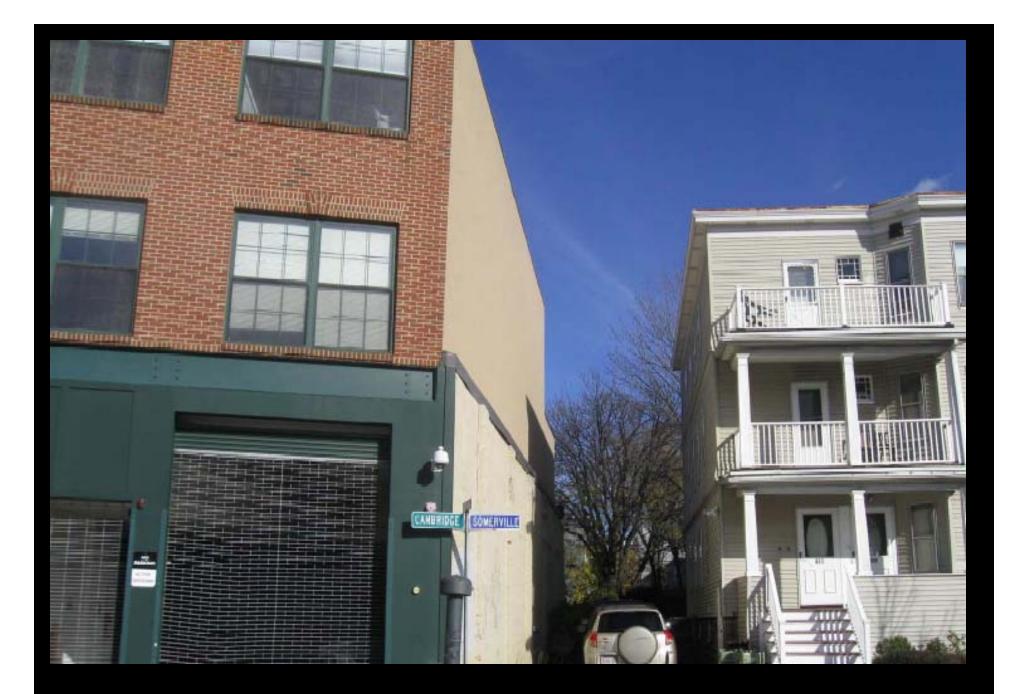
- North of Cambridge, MA
- Densest city in New England
- A city of squares

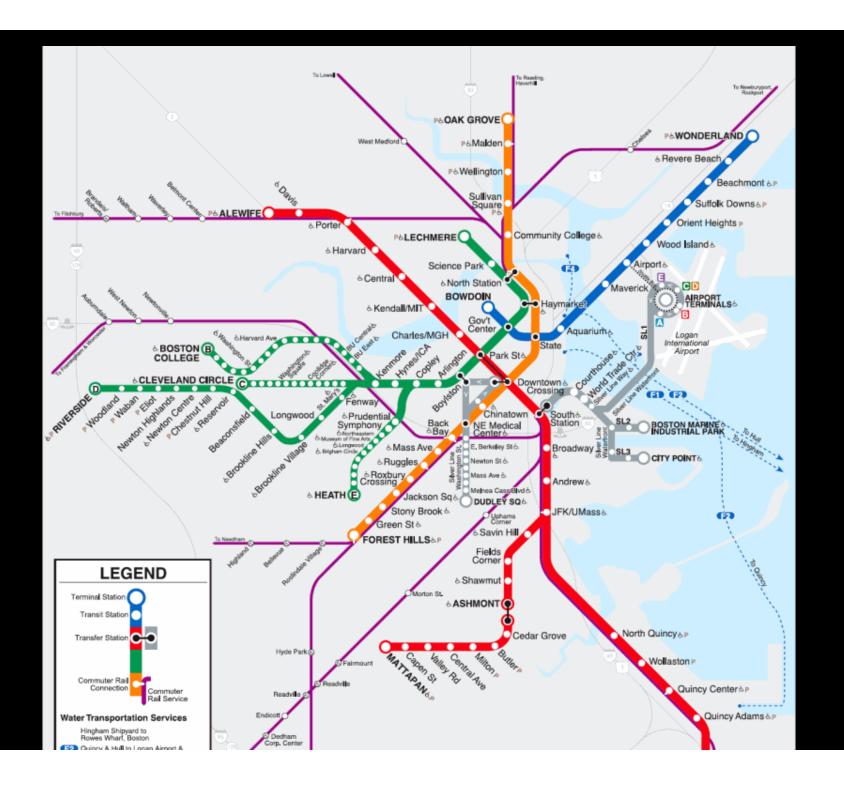








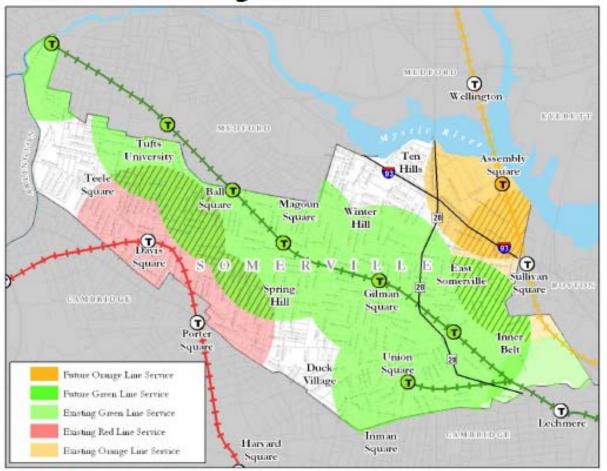


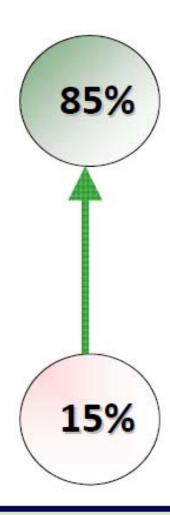




Somerville Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030

Growth is Coming ...







Somerville: an exceptional place to Live, Work, Play and Raise a Family

ZONING in 1925

BUILDING ZONE ORDINANCE

of the

City of Somerville Massachusetts

(ADOPTED, December 30, 1925)



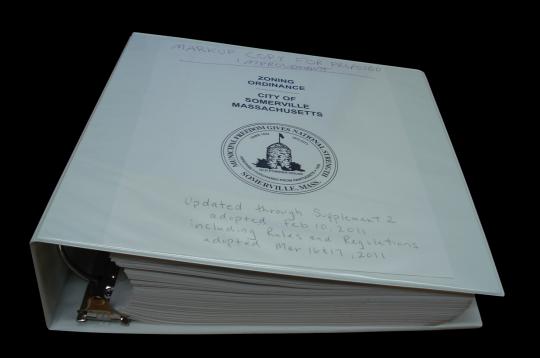
Printed by the SOMERVILLE PRINTING CO. **Building Form**

Uses

Administration

Map and Districts

ZONING in 1990



Building Form

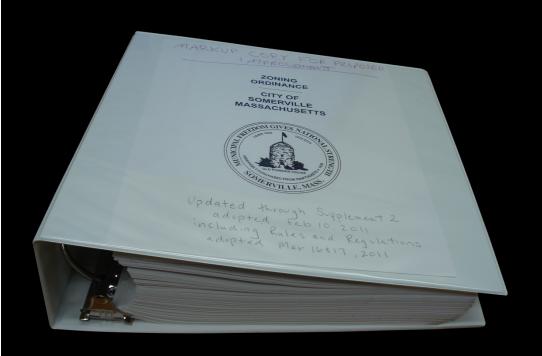
Uses

Administration

Map and Districts

and more

ZONING in 2014



Building Form

Uses

Administration

Map and Districts

and more

State of the Art... For 1990

State of the Art... For 1990





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"We know what the appliance is







"We know what the appliance is

Now we need to find the plugs to connect it to the existing power grids."

- Villages, towns and cities
- Good designs
- Great neighborhoods
- Walkable streets
- Transit-oriented development
- Smart growth



- Board of Aldermen
- ZBA
- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Town Engineer
- Fire Chief
- State Regulators
- Etc.

"We know what the appliance is

Now we need to find the plugs to connect it to the existing power grids."



- Form-based codes
- Performance standards / Simple Use Tables
- Special districts
- Innovative parking solutions
- Easy to read documents

"We know what the appliance is

Now we need to find the plugs to connect it to the existing power grids."



PLAN FIRST

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Regional Housing Need
- Changes in Family Type

- Demand for Development is Changing
 - Mixed Use
 - Transit Oriented
 - Creative spaces





City of Somerville, Massachusetts Comprehensive Plan | 2010-2030



30,000 Jobs



125 New Acres



6,000 Housing Units



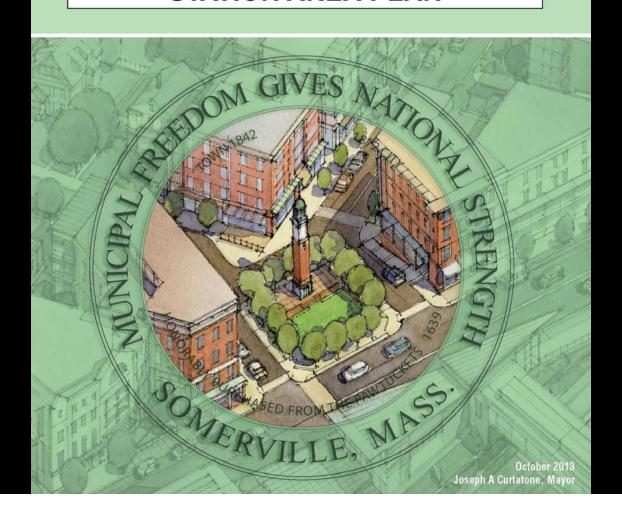
50% Mode Split



85% of Development in Transformative Areas

GILMAN SQUARE

STATION AREA PLAN















GROWTH

AND

CONSERVATION



City of Somerville, Massachusetts Comprehensive Plan | 2010-2030

Endorsed by the Somerville Board of Aldermen April 12th, 2012

Adopted by the Somerville Planning Board April 19th, 2012



Somerville: an Exceptional Place to Live, Work, Play, and Raise a Family



City of Somerville, Massachusetts Comprehensive Plan | 2010-2030



30,000 New Jobs as part of a responsible plan to create opportunity for all Somerville workers and entrepreneurs



125 New Acres of Publicly-Accessible Open Space as part of our realistic plan to provide high-quality and well-programmed community spaces



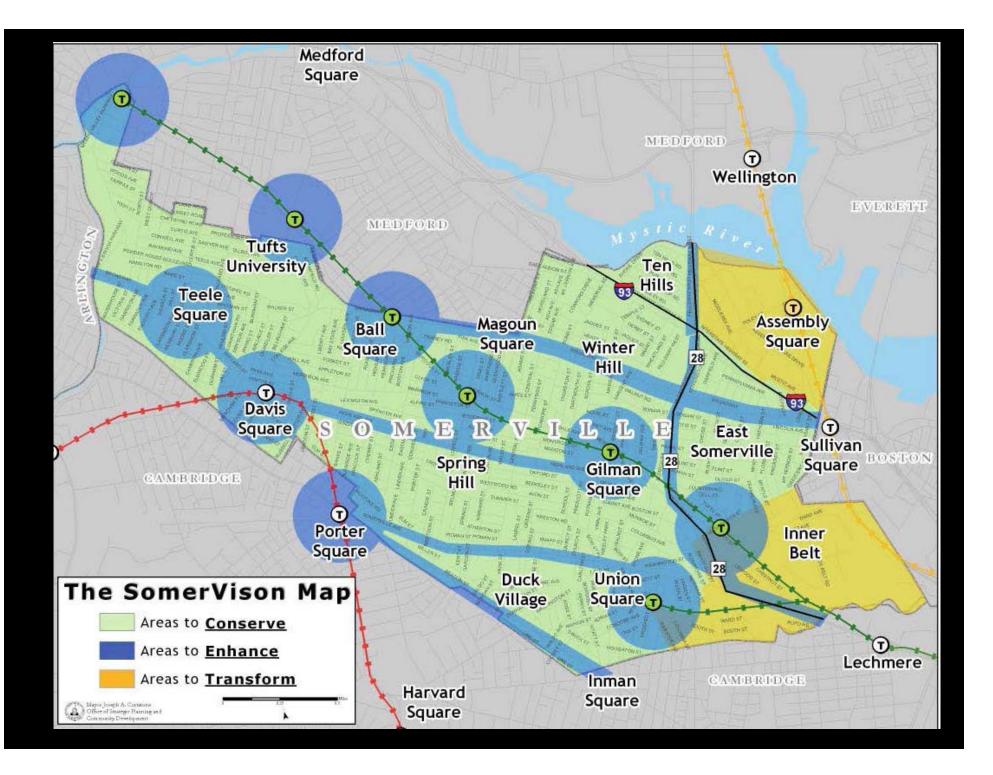
6,000 New Housing Units - 1,200 Permanently Affordable as part of a sensitive plan to attract and retain Somerville's best asset: its people.



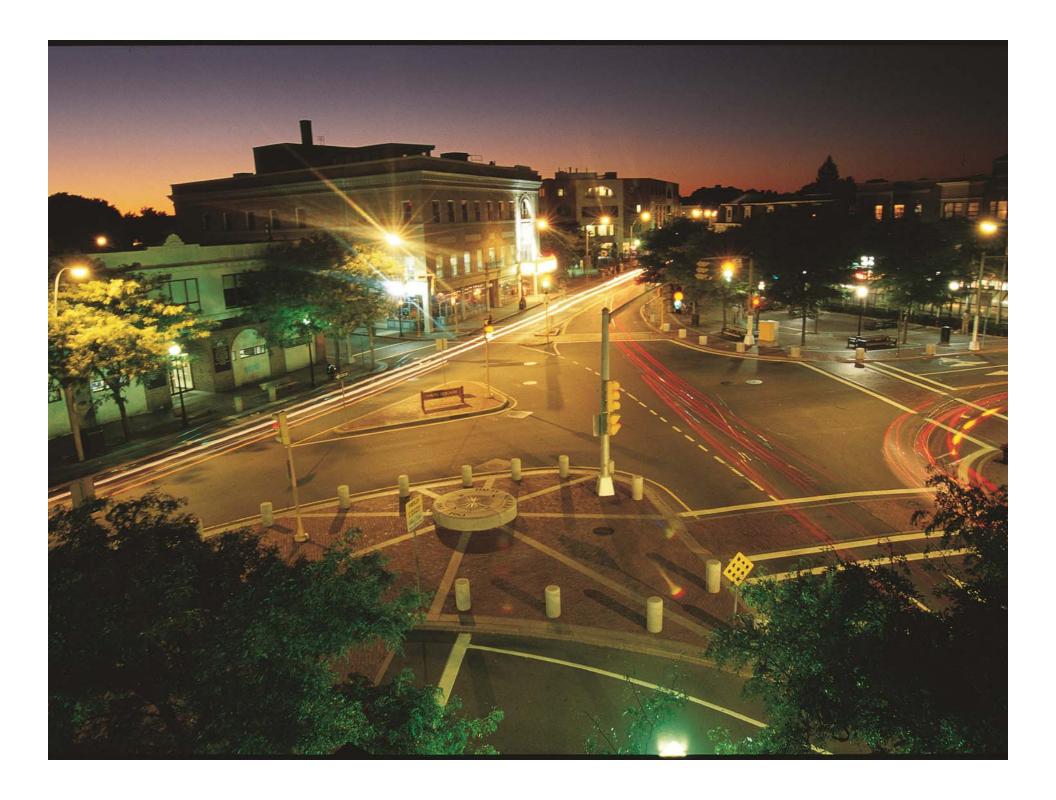
50% of New Trips via Transit, Bike, or Walking as part of an equitable plan for access and circulation to and through the City.



85% of New Development in Transformative Areas as part of a predictable land use plan that protects neighborhood character









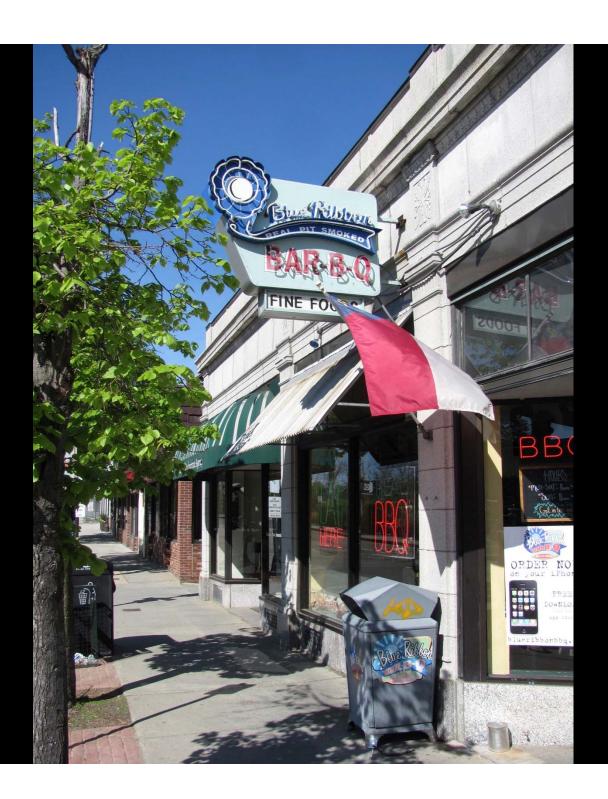


MEASURE AND REGULATE WHAT YOU CARE **ABOUT**









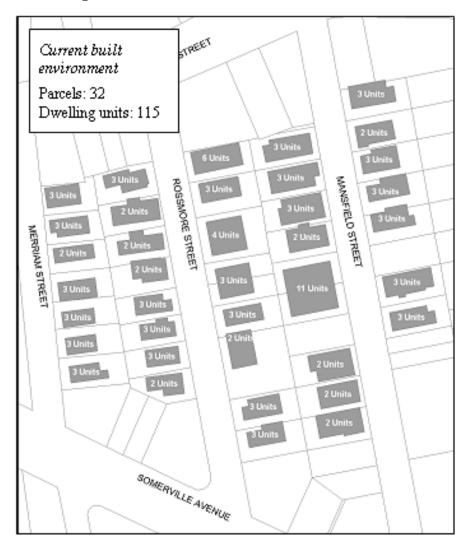
A conforming house:



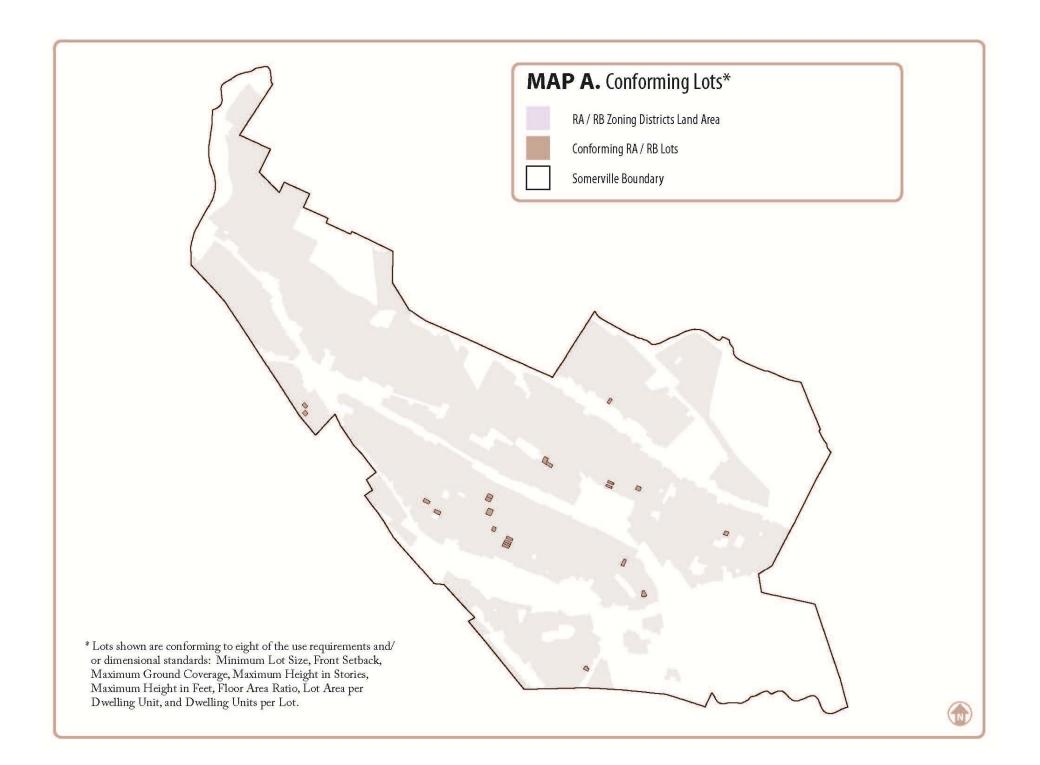
A non-conforming house:



Comparison of Current Built Environment to Result Mandated by Zoning: Sample RB District





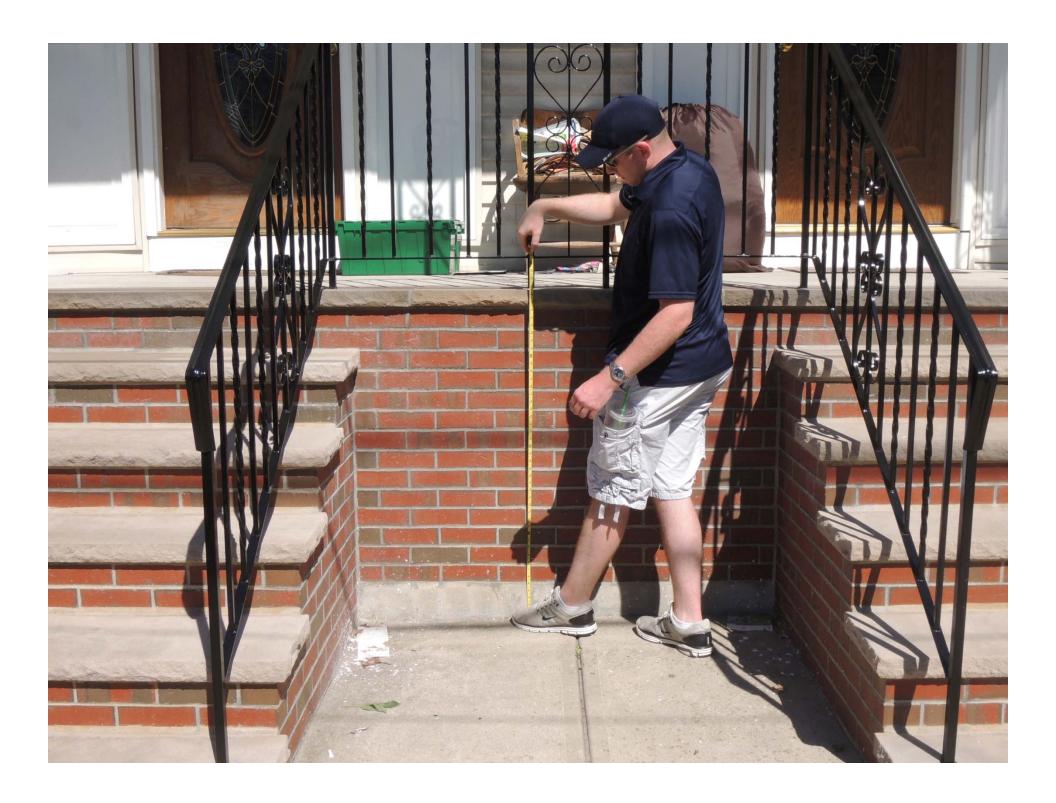




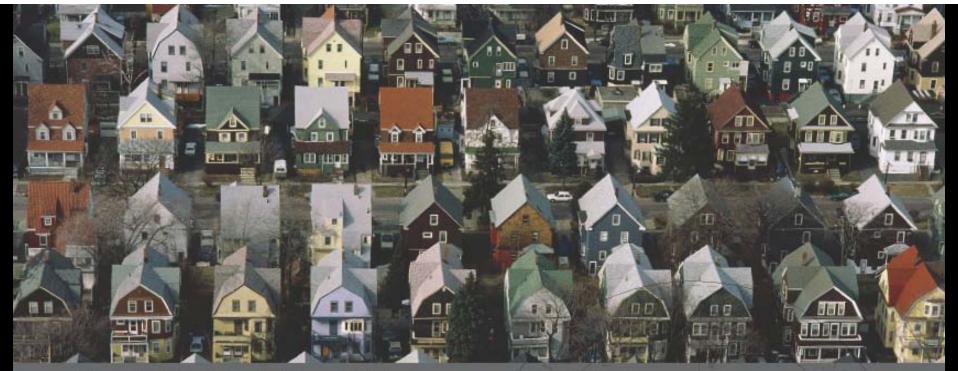
City of Somerville Zoning Overhaul











RESIDENTIAL SYNOPTIC SURVEY

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOSEPH A CURTATONE, MAYOR

Somerville, MA (Inman Square)

RESIDENTIAL SYNOPTIC SURVEY

17-19 LEWIS ST

ELEVATION



LOT PATTERN

FRONTAGE



LOT/BUILDING INFO

11/00	Lot Width	41' 7"
	Lot Depth	
	Lot Area	
	Number of Buildings	1
Pr	incipal Building Height (Stories)	3 Stories
	Principal Building Width	24' 4"
	Principal Building Depth	45' 4"
	Principal Building Disposition	Edgeyard
	First Floor Above Grade	4' 9"
	Actual Front Setback	13' 9"
	Actual Left Side Setback	8' 9"
	Actual Right Side Setback	8' 8"
	Lot Coverage	
	Additions?	
	Number of Units	6
	Parking Location (Access)	Side (Driveway)
	Number of Spaces	
	Roof Type	Flat
	FRONT ENCROACHMENT TYPE(S)	DEPTH
	Door Canopy	
	Door Surround	
	Stoop	
	Portico	
	Porch (3/4)	8'5"
	Bay	3 ft.

DETAILS



STREETSCAPE



THOROUGHFARE INFO

Adjacent Public Frontage Width	6' 4"	
Sidewalk		
Furnishing Zone	3' 7"	
Planting Technique		
Tree Sequence		
Movement Lanes/Width		
Parking Lanes/Width	2x 7 ft.	
Traffic Flow		
Total Laneway Width	26' 4"	
Total Right of Way Width		

Somerville, MA (Central Hill)

DEVELOPMENT PATTERN SURVEY

7 BERKLEY ST

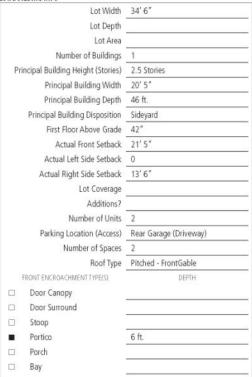




LOT PATTERN



LOT/BUILDING INFO







STREETSCAPE



Adjacent Public Frontage Width
Sidewalk
Furnishing Zone
3 ft.

Planting Technique
Tree Sequence
Movement Lanes/Width
Parking Lanes/Width
Traffic Flow
Total Laneway Width
Total Right of Way Width

Somerville, MA (North Davis)

RESIDENTIAL SYNOPTIC SURVEY

27 WALLACE

ELEVATION



LOT PATTERN





LOT/BUILDING INF

LOT/BU	ILDING INFO	
	Lot Width	59′ 7″
	Lot Depth	
	Lot Area	101
	Number of Buildings	1
Pr	incipal Building Height (Stories)	1.5 Stories
	Principal Building Width	20' 5"
	Principal Building Depth	
	Principal Building Disposition	Edgeyard
	First Floor Above Grade	3' 10"
	Actual Front Setback	19' 5"
	Actual Left Side Setback	21 ft.
	Actual Right Side Setback	18′ 7″
	Lot Coverage	
	Additions?	
	Number of Units	
	Parking Location (Access)	Attached Garage (Driveway)
	Number of Spaces	2
	Roof Type	Pitched - Mansard
	FRONT ENCROACHMENT TYPE(S)	DEPTH
	Door Canopy	
	Door Surround	
	Stoop	93
	Portico	
	Porch (1/2)	7' 4"
=	Bay	3"

ETAILS



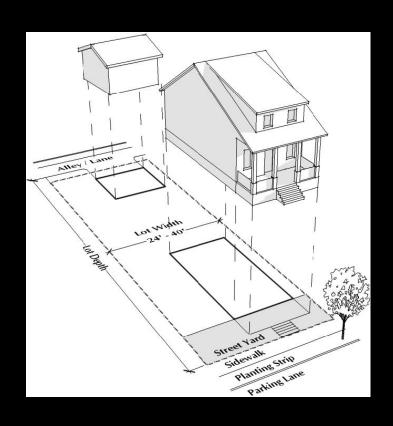
STREETSCAPE

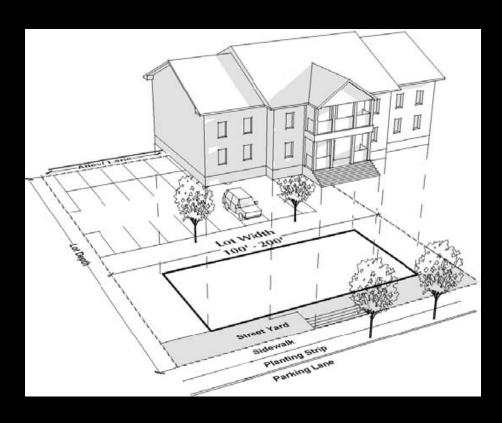


THOROUGHFARE INFO

Adjacent Public Frontage Width	6' 10"	
Sidewalk	3 ft.	
Furnishing Zone		
Planting Technique	Tree Pit	
Tree Sequence		
Movement Lanes/Width		
Parking Lanes/Width	2x 7 ft.	
Traffic Flow	One Way	
Total Laneway Width		
Total Right of Way Width	26' 4"	

BUILDING TYPES





COTTAGE

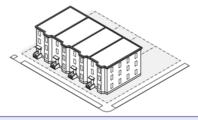
APARTMENT BUILDING

TABLE 3.1 Buildings Types



Apartment Building

A large floor plate, multi-story, residential building type with more than six dwelling units.



Row Houses

A moderate to large floor plate, residential building type consisting of three (3) to ten (10) side by side dwelling units.



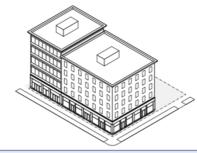
Shop House

A house building type with the ground story converted for commercial use and the residential appearance of upper stories maintained.



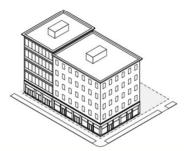
Neighborhood Store

A moderate floor plate, single story building type designed for commercial purposes.



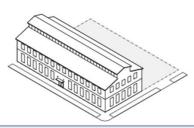
Mixed-Use Building

A multi-story building type with ground floor commercial and upper story residential uses with six or more dwelling units.



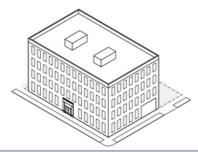
Commercial Building

A multi-story building type limited to commercial uses



Production Building

A moderate to large floor plate, up to two story building type, often naturally lit with a monitor, clerestory, or sawtooth roof.



Fabrication Loft

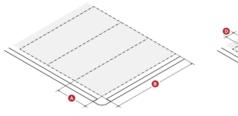
A moderate to large floor plate, multi-story building type subdivided for multiple tenants, often designed with tall ceilings, expansive windows, wide corridors, and service elevators. Article 3. Building Standards Principal Building Types

HOUSE
 A moderate floor plate, detached, residential building type with up to two vertically stacked dwelling units.

a. Lot Standards

LOT DIMENSIONS

b. Placement





Ø	Width (min)	32 feet
0	Depth (min)	80 feet
	LOT COVERAGE	
	Permeable Surface (min)	35%
	Landscape (min)	25%

BUILDING SETBACKS		
Contextual Front Setback (see §.3.B.2.b)	Requ	uired
Primary Front Setback (min/max)	10 feet	20 feet
Secondary Front Setback (min/max)	10 feet	20 feet
Side Setback (min)	5 f	eet
Rear Setback (min)	20	feet

	PARKING SETBACKS	
0	Primary Front Setback (min)	20 feet
0	Secondary Front Setback (min)	10 feet

Principal Building Types Article 3. Building Standards

HOUSE (cont.)
A moderate floor plate, detached, residential building type with up to two vertically stacked dwelling units.

c. Height & Massing





MAIN BODY		
Facade Build Out (min)	50	1%
Width (min/max)	22° min.	28' max
Depth (min/max)	28' min.	48' max
Building Height (max)	2.5 storie	es (28 ft.)
Story Height (min/max)	9 ft.	12 ft.
First Floor Elevation (min)	2	ft.

PERMITTED BUILDING COMPONENTS		
Awning	See §3.D.2	
Entry Canopy	See §3.D.3	
Bay	See §3.D.4	
Balcony	See §3.D.5	
Deck	See §3.D.6	
Dormer Window	See §3.D.8	
Cross Gable	See §3.D.9	
Side Wing	See §3.D.10	
Rear Addition	See §3.D.11	



Т		FACADE COMPOSITION		
	3	Ground Story Fenestration (min/max)	20% min.	50% ma
Ĺ	0	Upper Story Fenestration (min/max)	20% min.	50% ma

PERMITTED BUILDING FRONTAGE	(1 required)
Stoop	See §3.E.2
Portico	See §3.E.3
Porch, Projecting	See §3.E.4
Porch, Engaged	See §3.E.5

USE & OCCUPANCY	
Use Category	Residential
Dwelling Units (max)	2
Outdoor Amenity Space (min)	1/ Dwelling Uni

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Article 3. Building Standards Principal Building Types

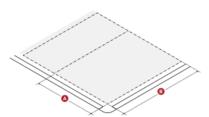
15. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

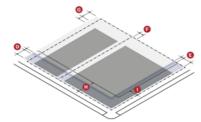
A multi-story building type limited to commercial uses.

a. Lot Standards

Permeable Surface

b. Placement





	LOT DIMENSIONS							
0	Width (min/max)							
	3MU, 4MU, FAB, CI	30 ft. 1	50 ft					
	5MU - 10MU	30 ft. 2	200 ft					
0	Depth (min)	-						
	3MU, 4MU, & FAB	40 ft.						
	5MU - 10MU	100 ft.						
G	Area (max)	-						
	3MU & FAB	20,000 sq.	ft.					
	4MU & CI	28,000 sq.	ft.					
	5MU	40,000 sq. ft. 45,000 sq. ft.						
	7MU & 10MU							
	LOT COVERAGE							

	BUILDING SETBACKS				
	Contextual Front Setback (see §.3.B.2.b)	Required			
0	Primary & Secondary Front Setback				
	3MU & 4MU (min/max)	2 feet	12 feet		
	5MU - 10MU (min/max)	2 feet	15 feet		
	FAB & CI (min/max)	2 feet	12 feet		
0	Side Setback (min)	0	0 ft.		
	Side Setback Abutting NR (min)	51	ft.		
0	Rear Setback (min)	10	ft.		
	Rear Setback Abutting NR (min)	15	ft.		

00 sq. ft.		PARKIN
	0	Primary
		31\
10%		40
	0	Seconda
		Surfa
		Struc

PARKING SETBACKS	
Primary Front Setback (min)	-
3MU & FAB	20 feet
4MU - 10MU, CI	30 feet
Secondary Front Setback (min)	-
Surface Parking	10 feet
Structured Parking	2 feet
3MU - 5MU, FAB, CI	2 feet
7MU & 10MU	30 feet

Principal Building Types Article 3. Building Standards

d. Uses & Features

FACADE COMPOSITION Ground Story Fenestration (min) 3MU, 4MU, FAB, & CI

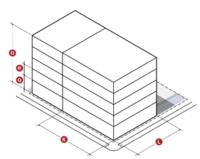
Upper Story Fenestration (min/max)

5MU - 10MU

Blank Wall (max)

COMMERCIAL Building (cont.)
A multi-story building type limited to commercial uses.

c. Height & Massing



|--|

60%

70%

20% min 50% max.

20 ft. (1 required) See §3.E.7 See §3.E.8 See §3.E.9

	MAIN BODY	
D	Facade Build Out (min)	80%
D	Floor Plate (max)	-
	3MU & FAB	15,000 sq. ft.
	4MU & CI	22,000 sq. ft.
	5MU	30,000 sq. ft.
	7MU & 10MU	-
	Up to 5 stories	36,000 sq. ft.
	Above 5 stories	20,000 sq. ft.
D	Building Height (min)	-
	3MU - 10MU	2 stories
9	Building Height (max)	-
	3MU & FAB	3 stories (45 ft.)
	4MU & CI	4 stories (55 ft.)
	5MU	5 stories (70 ft.)
	7MU	7 stories (100 ft.)
	10MU	10 stories (135 ft.)
9	Ground Story Height (min)	-
	3MU & FAB	12 ft.

PERMITTED BUILDING FRONTAGE	(1 required)
Forecourt	See §3.E.7
Lobby Entrance	See §3.E.8
Storefront	See §3.E.9
Terrace	See §3.E.10
Lightwell	See §3.E.11
PEDESTRIAN ACCESS	
Principal Entrance Spacing (min)	30 ft.
USE & OCCUPANCY	
Tenant Space Depth (min)	
3MU & FAB	20 ft.
4MU - 10MU, CI	30 ft.
Permitted Use	See Article 5: Use Provisions

PERMITTED BUILDING COMPONENTS				
Awning	See §3.D.2			
Entry Canopy	See §3.D.3			
Bay	See §3.D.4			
Balcony	See §3.D.5			

14 ft.

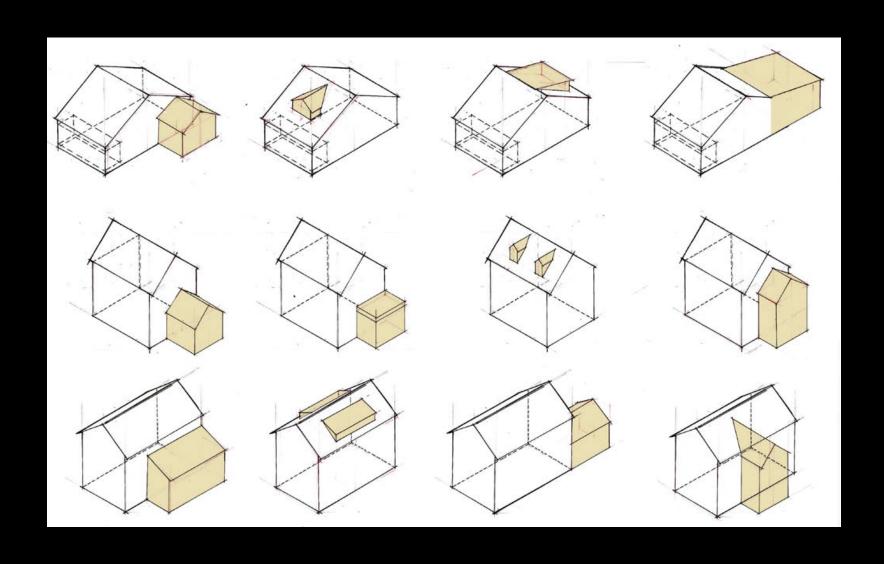
9 ft.

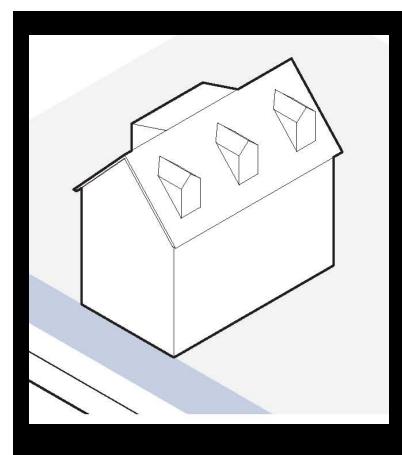
4MU - 10MU, CI

Upper Story Height (min)

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BUILDING COMPONENTS





DIMENSIONS

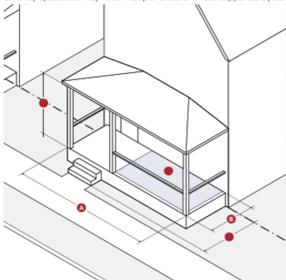
Width (max)	24 feet or 50% of the eave length of the main roof (whichever is shorter)
Front & Rear Wall Setback (min)	3 ft. 6 in.
Side Wall Setback (min)	<u>1 ft. 6 in.</u>
Ridge Line Setback (min)	1 foot
Roof Slope (min)	4:12
Fenestration (min)	50%

STANDARDS

- i. Setbacks are strictly enforced regardless of permitted dormer width.
- The maximum permitted width of a dormer applies to single, multiple, or attached combinations of dormers on each side of a roof.

4. PORCH, PROJECTING

A frontage type featuring a wide, raised platform with stairs leading to the principal entrance of a building. Porches provide outdoor amenity space and may have multiple levels or a roof supported by columns or piers.



DIMENSIONS

Width (min)

10' or 50% of facade width, whichever is greater

Depth (min)

6 feet

Ceiling Height (min)

8 feet

Furniture Area, Clear (min)

6 feet x 6 feet

Permitted Encreachment (max)

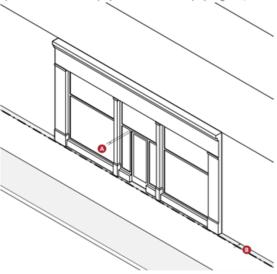
10 feet

STANDARDS

- Paving, excluding driveways, must match the abutting sidewalk unless paved with pervious, pourous, or permeable materials.
- Stairs are not permitted to encroach onto any abutting sidewalk.
- Stairs may lead directly to ground level, an abutting sidewalk, or be side-loaded.
- The porch balustrade must permit visual supervision of the public realm through the posts and rails.
- A porch may be screened provided the percentage of window area to wall area is seventy percent (70%) or greater. Permanent enclosure of a porch to create year-round living space is not permitted.

STOREFRONT

A frontage type conventional for commercial uses featuring an at grade principal entrance accessing an individual ground story space and substantial display windows for the display of goods, services, and signs.



DIMENSIONS

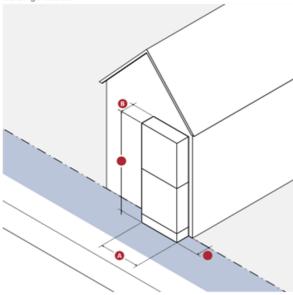
Distance between Fenestration (max) 2 feet
Depth of Recessed Entry (max) 5 feet

STANDARDS

- When storefronts are setback from the front lot line, the frontage must be paved to match the abutting sidewalk.
- Open ended, operable awnings are encouraged for weather protection.
- Bi-fold glass windows and doors and other storefront systems that open to permit a flow of customers between interior and exterior space are encouraged.

4. BAY

A window assembly extending from the main body of a building to permit increased light, multi-direction views, and articulate a buildings facade.



DIMENSIONS

 Width (max)
 50% of Facade or Elevation

 Depth (min/max)
 12 inches
 3 feet

 Fenestration (min)
 60%

 Height
 Height of the building

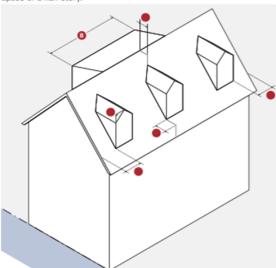
 Permitted Front Encroachment (max)
 3 feet

STANDARDS

- Bays must have a foundation extend all the way to ground level or be visually supported by brackets or other architectural supports.
- Bays projecting over the sidewalk of a public thoroughfare must have two (2) stories of clearance and require compliance with all City Ordinances.

8. DORMER WINDOW

A window or set of windows that projects vertically from a sloped roof, designed to provide light into and expand the habitable space of a half-story.

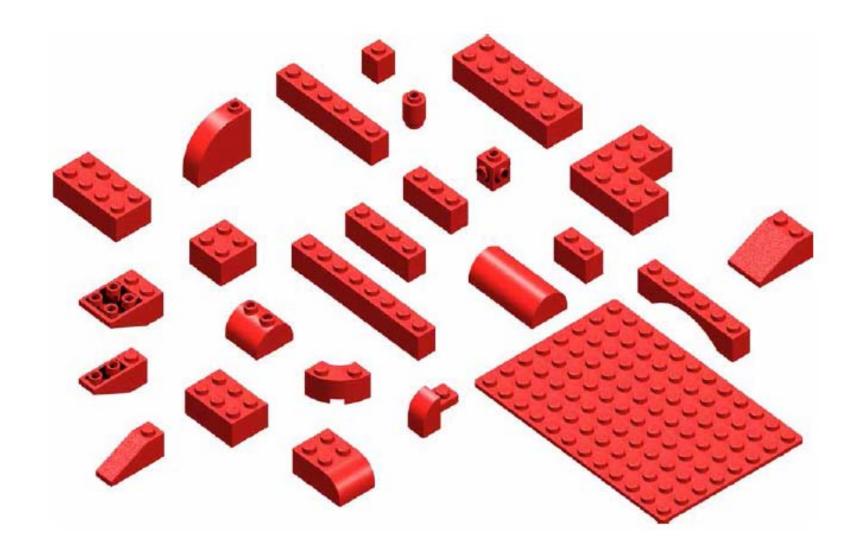


DIMENSIONS	
Width (max)	24 feet or 50% of the eave length of the main roof (whichever is shorter)
Front & Rear Wall Setback (min)	3 ft. 6 in.
Side Wall Setback (min)	1 ft. 6 in.
Ridge Line Setback (min)	1 foot
Roof Slope (min)	4:12
Fenestration (min)	50%

STANDARDS

- Setbacks are strictly enforced regardless of permitted dormer width
- The maximum permitted width of a dormer applies to single, multiple, or attached combinations of dormers on each side of a roof.



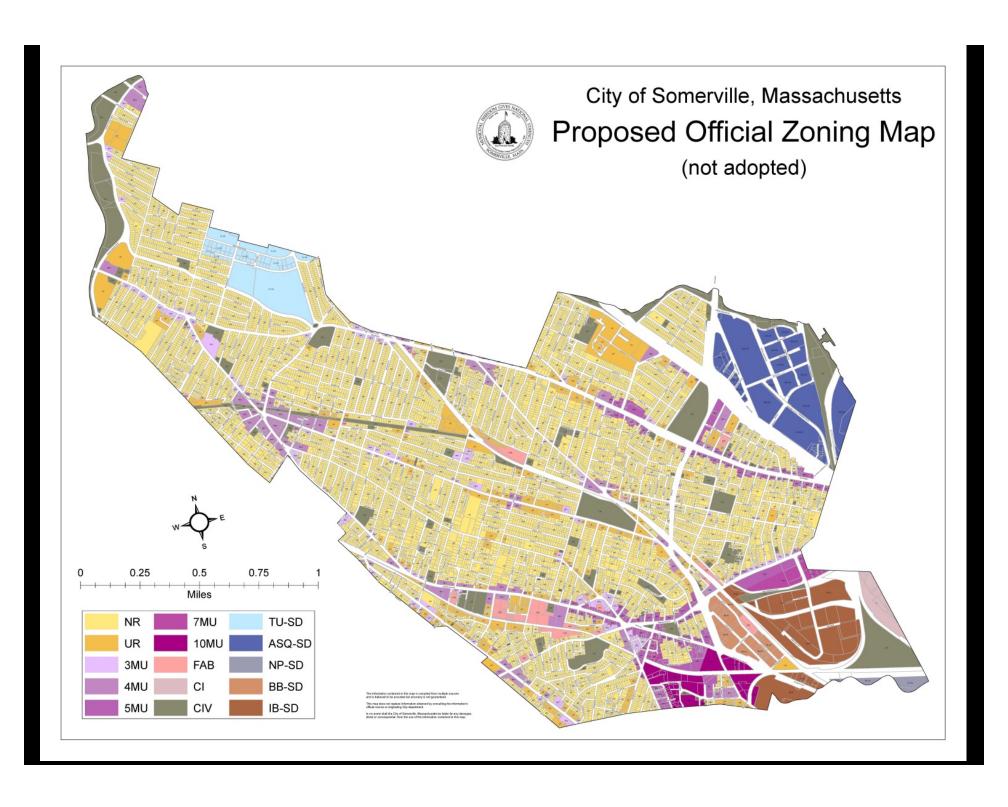


The Lego Group

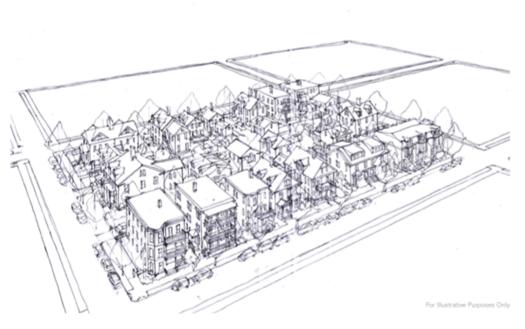




MAP THE PLAN



A. NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENCE (NR)



1. INTENT

a. To conserve already established areas of detached and semi-detached residential building types.

2. PURPOSE

- a. To permit the development of one- & two-unit detached and semi-detached residential building types on individual lots.
- b. To provide for the discretionary review of three-unit detached and semi-detached residential building types on individual lots.
- c. To permit the adaptive reuse of already existing civic & institutional facilities as arts & creative enterprise uses.
- d. To permit the adaptive reuse of already existing commercial buildings as neighborhood stores.
- e. To promote diversity in housing, including unit type, size, bedroom count, and affordability.
- To provide the community with a predictable outcome from development and redevelopment.

3. BUILDING STANDARDS

- a. Permitted Building Types
 - i. The following building types are permitted in the Neighborhood Residence district:

 - Y House
 - Y Paired House
 - Y Duplex

 - SP Triple Decker SP Paired Triple Decker

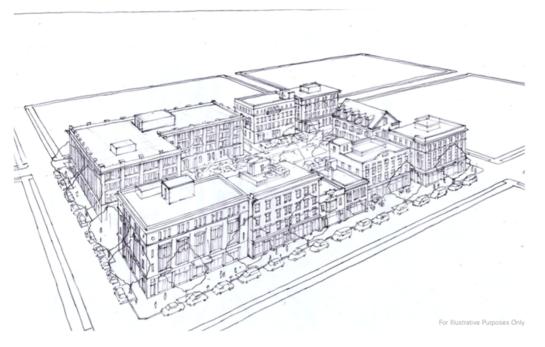
 - Y by Right
 - L by Right with Limitations
 - SDP by Site Development Plan
 - SP by Special Permit

- L Neighborhood Store

- ii. See Article 3. Building Standards for the standards for each type.

Article 2: Base Districts 4-Story Mixed-Use (4MU)

D. 4-STORY MIXED-USE (4MU)



1. INTENT

a. To accommodate small- and medium-scale, mixed-use building types that do not exceed four (4) stories in height and neighborhood-serving commercial uses that provide convenient access to daily needs.

2. PURPOSE

- a. To permit the development of mixed-use and commercial building types.
- b. To promote diversity in housing, including unit type, size, bedroom count, and affordability.
- c. To promote housing for smaller households on the upper floors of residential mixed-use buildings.
- d. To promote quality commercial space for neighborhood serving commercial uses.
- To provide the community with a predictable outcome from development and redevelopment.

3. BUILDING STANDARDS

- a. Permitted Building Types
 - The following building types are permitted in the 4-Story Mixed-Use district:



- SDP Apartment Building
- Y by Right L by Right with Limitations
- SDP by Site Development Plan
- SP by Special Permit
- ii. See Article 3. Building Standards for the standards for each type.



ENCOURAGE INNOVATION









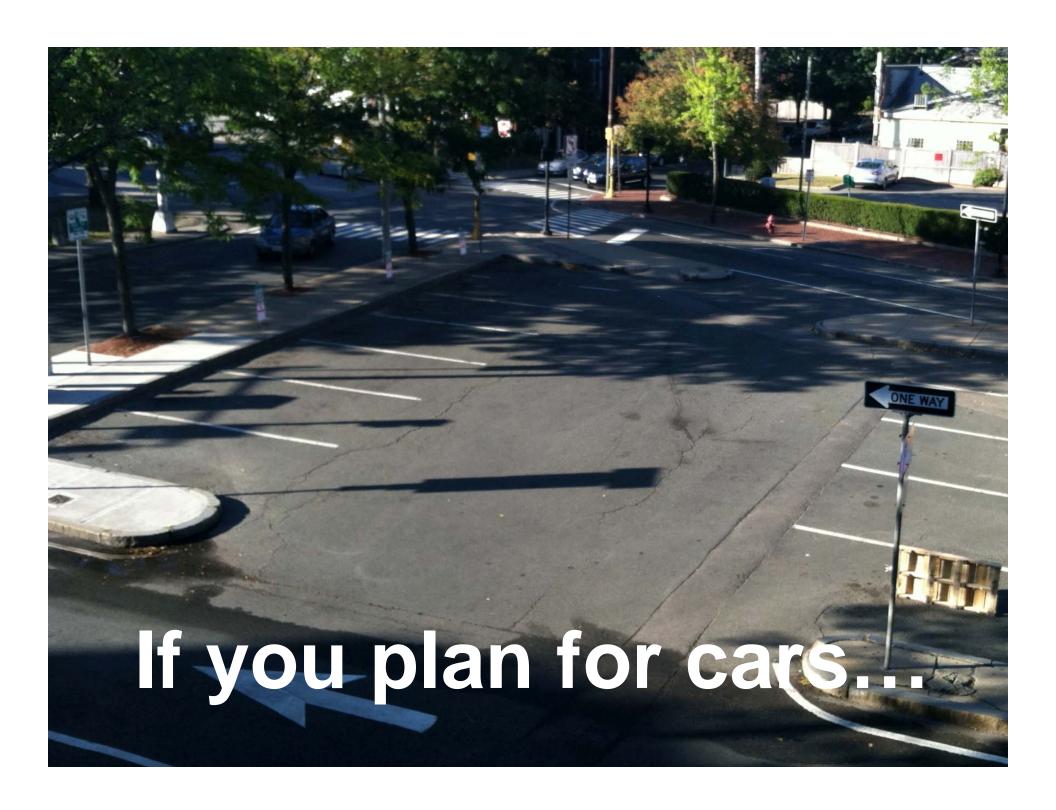
Y - by Right L - by Right with Limitations SP - by Special Permit N - NOT Permitted	Neighborhood Residence	Urban Residence	3-Story Mixed-Use	4-Story Mixed-Use	5-Story Mixed-Use	7-Story Mixed-Use	10-Story Mixed-Use	Fabrication	Commercial Industry	Civic
COMMERCIAL SERVICES (CONT.)										
Business Support Services	Ν	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N
Caterer/Wholesale Food Production	N	N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	Υ	Υ	N
Day Care Service (as noted below)										
Adult Day Care Center	N	N	L	L	L	L	L	N	L	N
Child Day Care Center	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N
Maintenance & Repair of Consumer Goods	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N
Personal Services (except as noted below)	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N
Body-Art Establishment	N	N	N	SP	SP	SP	SP	Υ	N	N
Gym or Health Club	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N
Funeral Home	N	N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	N	N	N
Health Care Provider	N	N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	N	N	N
Recreation Facility	N	N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	N	Υ	Υ

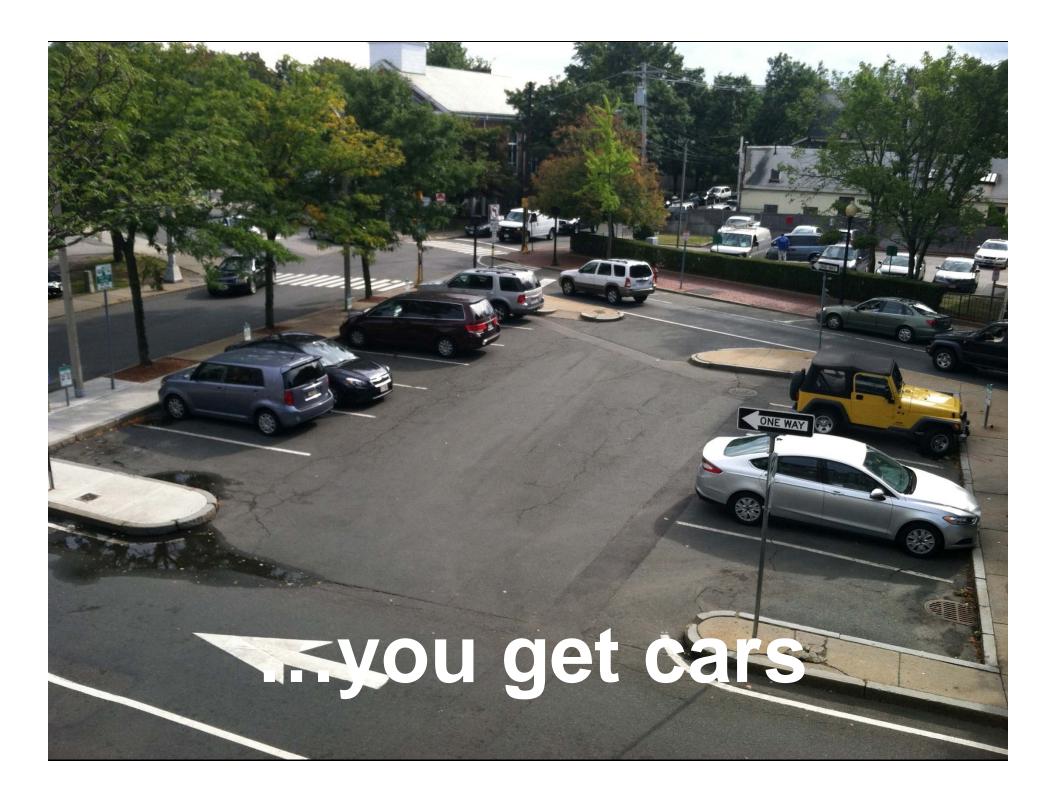
Somerville 'Fabrication' Zoning

- Art Gallery: Display and sales of artwork
- Artisan Enterprise: Production of hand-fabricated goods
- Creative Studio:
 - Cultural industries
 - Copyright industries
 - Content industries
 - Patent industries
- Culinary Incubator: shared commercial kitchen
- Design and Fabrication Center: Tools for small manufacturing
- Fabrication Laboratory: DIY workshops
- Work/Live creative studio: Living in an art studio
- Delivery Business



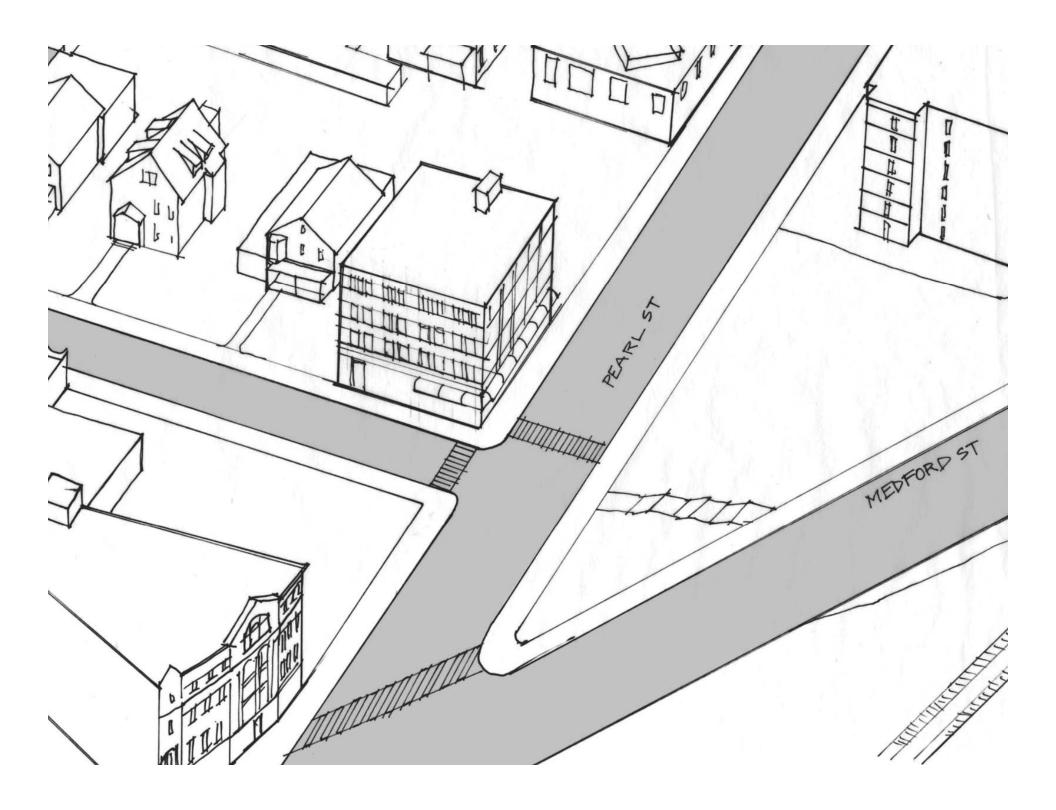
PEOPLE BEFORE PARKING

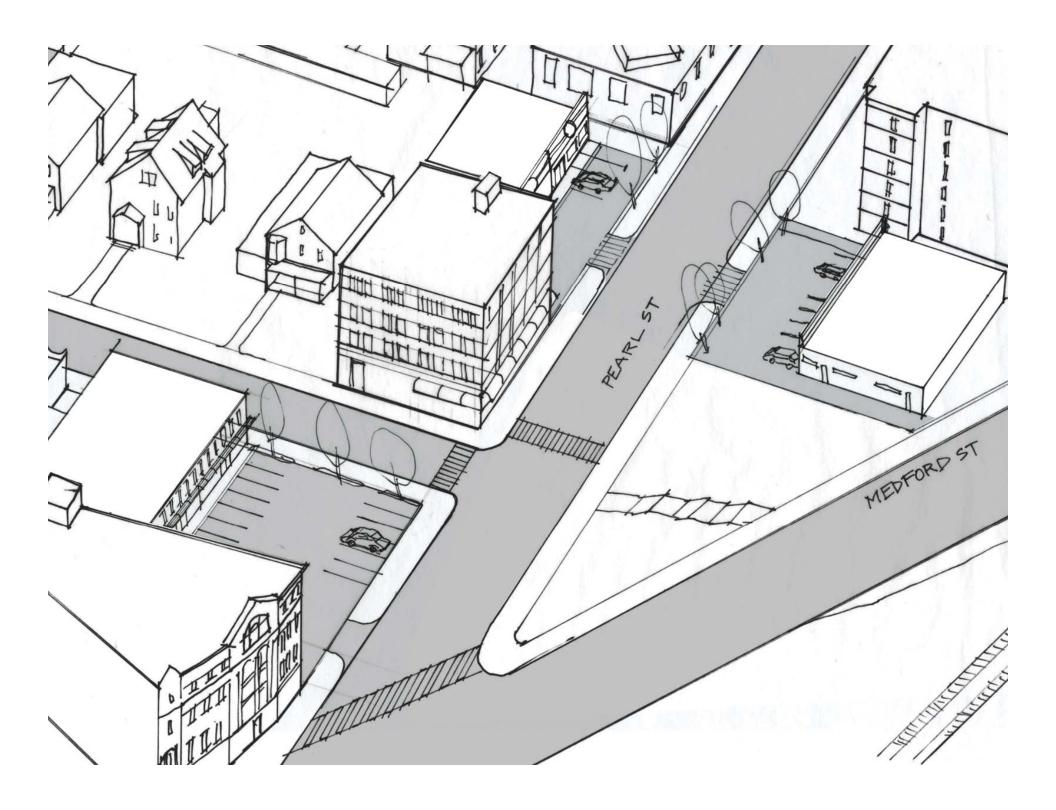


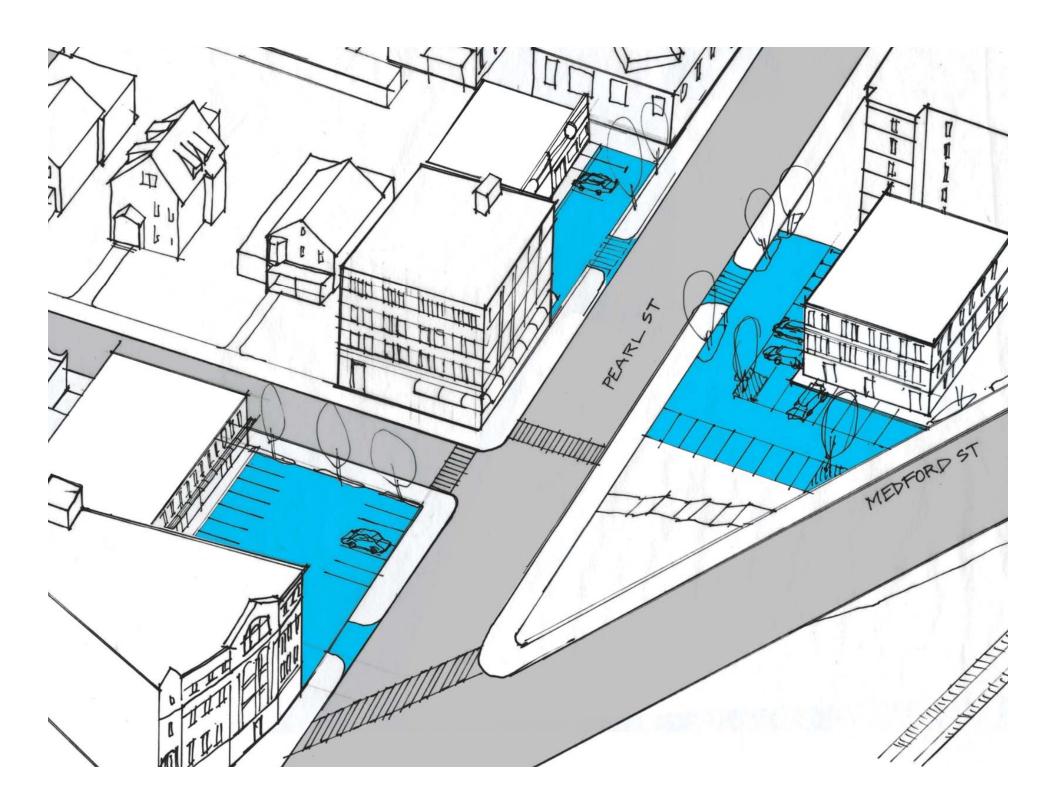








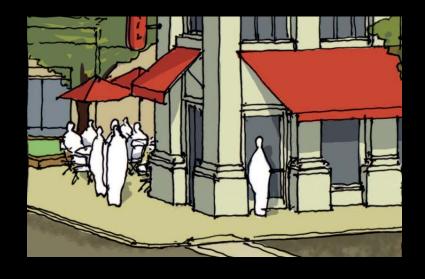


















ADMINISTRATION IS NOT EASY

Administration

- Do you need that special permit?
- Which board does what?
- Is it customer friendly?
- Is there professional input?
- Is it fair?

Zoning GIV



www.somervillema.gov/zoning

www.somervillebydesign.com