The State of Equity in Metro Boston

Rail~Volution 2012

October 16, 2012
MetroFuture: By 2030, we will:

- Be responsible stewards of our resources, passing on an environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable region to our children.
- Involve more people in making the decisions that shape their lives.
- Build safe, healthy, and welcoming communities.
- Ensure that all residents fairly share the costs and benefits of the region’s growth.
- Give people affordable and convenient options for where they live, work, and play.
- Create a world-class region that is vibrant, competitive, and connected.
Goals describe the MetroFuture vision in general terms.

Objectives support each of the goals. They are more specific and largely numeric.

Indicators are tied to as many of the objectives as possible. They are regularly collected data points.

**MetroFuture Goal #29:** More workers will graduate from high school and go on to college or career training opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective: 98% of 25-34 year olds will have a high school diploma or equivalent (up from 91% today, and 89% if Current Trends continue).</th>
<th>Objective: 90% of high school graduates will go on to 2- or 4-year college (up from 79% today).</th>
<th>Objective: Only 10% of graduates from public high schools will need to take remedial courses during their first year of college (down from 37% today).</th>
<th>Objective: 91% of all working-age adults (ages 25-65) will have a high school diploma or equivalent, up from 90% today and 85% if current trends continue.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator: Educational attainment rates</td>
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</table>
Regional Indicators Reports

Indicators reports will monitor the region’s progress towards achieving the MetroFuture goals.

First come “baseline reports” that establish the numbers against which progress will be measured. Future reports will tell us whether we are trending towards our goals - or away from them.

We highlighted equity-related goals first, because meeting them is crucial to achieving the vibrant region envisioned in MetroFuture.
What is “Equity”? 

"’Equity means all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential.’’

- King County, Washington developed this definition
Selected MetroFuture Equity Goals

#15: There will be less regional segregation as all municipalities increasingly reflect Metro Boston’s growing diversity.

#16: Low-income households will be able to find affordable, adequate, conveniently located housing.

#24: Residents in all communities and of all incomes will have access to affordable, healthy food.

#38: More minority and immigrant workers will have opportunities to advance on the career ladder, acquire assets, and build wealth.

All the MetroFuture goals are at www.metrofuture.org
Selecting Indicators

1. Assemble “universe” of potential indicators
2. Assess indicators for credibility
3. Assess indicators for availability
4. Determine final list of indicators to track
The State of Equity in Metro Boston: Key Findings
Demography is Destiny

The State of Equity in Greater Boston

Note: Ages are grouped in 10 year intervals, except for children aged 0-14 years old. The geography is the 164 cities and towns in the Metro Future Region. Source: Census 2010.
Inequity Impacts Children

Low Birth Weight Correlated with Race/Ethnicity and Education

- Less than high school and GED
- High School Graduate
- Some post-secondary education
- College Graduate

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Inequity Impacts Teens

High School Dropout Rates, 2009

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009. Indicates the percentage of students in grades 9-12 who dropped out of school between July 1 and June 30 prior to the listed year and who did not return to school by the following October 1. Dropouts are defined as students who leave school prior to graduation for reasons other than transfer to another school.
Inequity Impacts Adults

Estimated Foreclosure Rate, January 2007 - June 2008
Percent of mortgages with foreclosure starts
- < 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5% - 7%
- > 8%

*These rates were estimated by HUD for the administration of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Rates are defined as the estimated number of foreclosure starts per 100 mortgages by census tract. Estimates were cross-checked against Equifax reports by HUD for validity.

Source: HUD

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Inequity Impacts Seniors

Greater Boston Poverty Rate by Age

“State of Equity” Moving Forward

State of Equity part 2 is developing policy recommendations to “bend the trends” towards a more equitable region.

MAPC is undertaking an internal review of agency priorities, practices, and culture.

Equity is increasingly informing agency work in other areas, particularly our implementation of MetroFuture.
Sustainable Communities

Metro Boston Consortium for Sustainable Communities

2010 Regional Planning Grant to implement MetroFuture

Equity was at the heart of the application.
Metro Boston Consortium For Sustainable Communities
Organizational Chart

Consortium Steering Committee
(27 Members)

- Appointed by MAPC Exec. Committee
  - Municipal (7)
  - Gubernatorial (2)
- Appointed by Cabinet Secretaries (3)
- Appointed by MSGA/Action Boards
- Elected by Caucus (9)
- Elected At-Large*
  - General (2)
  - Equity Focus (1)

Municipalities
- City of Boston
  - Inner Core (2)
  - Regional Urban Centers (2)
  - Maturing Suburbs (1-2)
  - Developing Suburbs (1-2)
  - MAPC Gubernatorial Appointees
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
  - Exec. Office of Housing & Economic Development
  - Dept. of Transportation
  - Exec. Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
- MA Smart Growth Alliance
- Action For Regional Equity

Caucuses
- Healthy Communities
- Affordable Housing
- Fair Housing
- Healthy Environment
- Regional Prosperity
- Transportation Choices
- Funders
- Researchers & Academics

*Any municipal or caucus member that does not already have a seat on the Steering Committee may run for an at-large seat. All consortium members may vote for the three at-large seats.
Equity in the Selection of Projects

The Consortium requested proposals for local projects to undertake through Sustainable Communities.

Of the seven project selection criteria, four deal with equity in whole or in part:

• MetroFuture and Program Objectives
• Key MetroFuture Goals: Equity
• Process – Inclusive Participation
• Process – Mitigation of Adverse Impacts

These criteria are worth eight of a total of thirty points.
Place-Based Projects 2012

Urban Green Infrastructure in the Mystic River Watershed

Will help to reduce water pollution and improve environmental quality in one neighborhood in Chelsea, an environmental justice community just north of Boston.

Project emphasizes engaging a variety of stakeholders including the neighborhood’s resident community, municipal agencies, local institutions, and businesses.
Place-Based Projects 2012

Transit-Oriented Development in Fields Corner

Led by Viet-AID, a community based organization serving the Boston neighborhood, particularly its large Vietnamese population.

Will help mobilize the community around a shared vision of growth without displacement, as well as supporting green affordable housing and local entrepreneur assistance.
### Equity Outcomes

#### Closing the Participation Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure Number or Label</th>
<th>Objective/Goal Description</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target Year</th>
<th>Project Target</th>
<th>Actual To Date</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-01</td>
<td>Participation Gap</td>
<td>Percent Minority</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>See below.</td>
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<td>A-02</td>
<td>Participation Gap</td>
<td>Percent Rented</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<td>A-03</td>
<td>Participation Gap</td>
<td>Percent Non-English Speaking Household</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<td>A-04</td>
<td>Participation Gap</td>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>.16</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>.16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Questions? Comments?

regionalindicators.org
mapc.org/sustainablecommunities

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