



QUARTERLY UPDATE - SUMMER 2015



The Bike Kitchen, Boston, MA: Reconnecting the historic Upham's Corner Comfort Station to its transportation related roots.

Message from Neil McCullagh
Executive Director of The American City Coalition - TACC

As we enter the second half of 2015, I am excited to share news about TACC's projects. With the support of our partners and the community, these past months have been both productive and positive for TACC.

We continue to advance economic development along the Fairmount Line in Boston through a critical project designed to support the attraction and retention of jobs in the neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of poverty. For this project, TACC is partnering with two great organizations, the [Initiative for a Competitive Inner City](#) and [Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation](#), to help facilitate a steering committee of community organizations and businesses that are committed to equitable development. Check out the update below.

As new business development and housing projects continue to emerge in Roxbury, TACC is making every effort to ensure that citizen-led groups are exercising strong leadership to inform and advance development that strengthens the neighborhood and creates economic opportunity for all residents. Currently, we are completing a needs and assets assessment of seniors; through this work, TACC is highlighting the needs and interests of older residents and supporting data-informed decisions that will help older residents to remain in their homes and age in place in Roxbury.

TACC itself is also undergoing some important changes. I am pleased to announce we have moved to our new offices in Dudley Square in Roxbury. We are excited to be part of this dynamic neighborhood and closer to the people, organizations, and projects that drive our work.

If you are in the neighborhood, I hope you will stop by our new offices; stay tuned for a save the date for our open house later this summer!

Warm Regards,



Neil McCullagh

From Our Community to Yours: An Update on TACC'S Work

HISTORIC BOSTON AND TACC NAMED TO DEVELOP HISTORIC COMFORT STATION IN DORCHESTER

The City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development has designated the redevelopment of the historic Upham's Corner Comfort in Dorchester to the partnership of [Historic Boston Inc.](#) (HBI) and TACC. HBI and TACC are working with Noah Hicks, founder of Dorchester's [Bowdoin Bike School](#), to repurpose the existing Comfort Station into The Bike Kitchen, a full-service bicycle shop and café, creating a sustainable future for this neglected and important historic structure. "The Comfort Station is an important part of

Upham Corner's history," Mayor Martin J. Walsh said. "We are thrilled to see it returned to use, and look forward to the continued revitalization of this important neighborhood." The joint proposal for the Comfort Station reflects the objectives of both nonprofit organizations to strengthen the Upham's Corner business district through their combined expertise in real estate development, historic preservation, and economic development. You can read more about the project in recent coverage in [The Boston Globe](#) and on our [blog](#).

FAIRMOUNT INDIGO CORRIDOR: DEVELOPING A JOB ATTRACTION AND RETENTION STRATEGY

In partnership with the [Initiative for a Competitive Inner City](#) and [Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation](#), TACC is working to advance a community-led job retention and attraction strategy for the Fairmount Corridor. TACC is supporting a partnership that seeks to identify a toolbox of city and state policies and investment strategies that can incentivize and encourage business and job location, retention, and expansion within both the industrial and retail sectors of the Fairmount Corridor. The initiative will leverage regional growth and best practices in job attraction and retention from the region and across the United States to attract and create jobs for Boston residents with the greatest need. TACC believes that jobs "anywhere" are not enough, as geographic proximity will increase the likelihood that an inner-city resident will be hired for a job by 50 percent.

AGING IN PLACE: ASSESSMENT REACHES 72% OF OLDER RESIDENTS AT ROXBURY'S MADISON PARK VILLAGE

TACC's work on an assessment for [Madison Park Development Corporation](#) to better understand the needs of older adults living at Madison Park Village has reached an important milestone. 72% of residents have now contributed their ideas through hour-long one-on-one interviews with our team of 12 bilingual surveyors. These interviews are critical to the comprehensive data collection needed to inform enhanced supportive housing and services models for residents. To learn more about the outreach strategies, please visit our blog for two posts on the project. In one post, [Shameeka Brown](#), an experienced interviewer, shares personal insight into resident participation and, in the other post, [Alexandra Curley](#), project director, shares her thoughts on this project and its relationship to the City of Boston's goals outlined in [Aging in Boston](#) as well as the city's new status as a World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Community; TACC seeks to contribute to promoting the healthy aging and social engagement of older adults in Roxbury.

HEALTH EQUITY: A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD UPSTREAM MULTI-SECTOR SOLUTIONS

Together with the [Boston Medical Center](#), [Boston Public Health Commission](#), and the [Boston Housing Authority](#), TACC is exploring upstream solutions to health equity by supporting economic opportunity and neighborhood and housing stability in Lower Roxbury. By bringing together organizations deeply engaged in health delivery and place-based efforts in the neighborhood, TACC seeks to reimagine existing inter-organizational

relationships in order to catalyze bold new ideas to address health disparities in Lower Roxbury. Our initial concept design was a finalist for [The BUILD Health Challenge](#), a national funding competition supported by The Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the de Beaumont Foundation, and The Advisory Board. You can read more about “Lower Roxbury: Developing a Healthier Neighborhood through Upstream Multi-Sector Collaboration” [here](#).

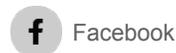
NEW OFFICE: TACC MOVES TO ROXBURY'S DUDLEY SQUARE

We are thrilled to finally be in our new offices at 2136 Washington Street in the heart of Roxbury's Dudley Square. On June 8, TACC moved across the street from the Haley House Bakery Cafe and near the new Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building and Tropical Foods. This new location features a space for community use that we hope will serve as a valuable asset to our new neighbors; we look forward to supporting others that share TACC's vision for collaborative projects that help urban families and neighborhoods flourish. Thank you for updating our contact information in your records: TACC, 2136 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Roxbury, MA 02119. Phone: [857.308.3015](tel:857.308.3015). Keep an eye out for an invitation to our open house later this summer!

STAFF TRANSITIONS

[Ronette Seeney](#) will be leaving TACC to begin the Master in City Planning degree program at the [School of Architecture + Planning at MIT](#). In June 2013, Ronnie joined TACC as an intern working with our partner organization, [Upham's Corner Main Street](#), and has been a valuable part of the TACC team ever since. Most recently, Ronnie held the position of Associate for Community Development focused on community engagement and capacity building in Roxbury, where she formed many lasting relationships. She brought an incredible level of energy to every project she undertook and, while she will be greatly missed, we look forward to collaborating with her in the future.

[Shameeka Brown](#) joins our staff as a Research and Social Services Fellow. Shameeka is currently working toward her Master's in Social Work at Wheelock College, and will spend her time at TACC partnering with Alex Curley on research, data evaluation, and program development. Previously, she worked on the Harbor Point Needs Assessment as a surveyor and on the Madison Park Needs Assessment as a surveyor and project coordinator.



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