



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### Survey Results Illustrate Continued Concern Over Impacts of Proposed Riverside Development

(Newton, MA) – The Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition (“RSNC”) recently conducted a survey of residents in the communities surrounding the Riverside T station. 120 residents responded to the survey. The overwhelming sentiment expressed was a concern over the impacts that will be caused by the latest proposal to develop the land being leased by the MBTA.

The thirty-minute survey included questions on preferences and priorities for site design, site use, and impact mitigation. The overall response was a concern that the amount of office and multi-family residential units proposed was going to have a detrimental impact on the neighborhoods. Respondents to the survey expressed a clear preference for mitigating additional traffic by creating direct access into the site from I-95. Of the options for proposed uses, respondents most preferred that a restaurant with fewer than 50 seats be located on the site. The most popular selection for neighborhood mitigation was the creation of pathways to and from the location.

“This community has looked long and hard at the situation and we have evaluated each proposal based on its merits,” said Bill Renke, co-chair of the RSNC. “The developers are continuing to improve upon their proposals, but this survey shows that when it comes to satisfying the concerns of the neighborhoods, we’re not quite there yet.”

“This is a good location for a development,” said Josh Krintzman, member of the RSNC Steering Committee. “But it has to be done right and done in a way that actually improves conditions in the city and surrounding neighborhoods. The survey comments truly demonstrate how thoughtful and constructive this community is being when it comes to collaborating on this development.”

“What astounds me is how many people continue to actively participate and engage in this process. Since the first concept plan was released in 2009, we’ve consistently had extremely high attendance at our community meetings, averaging about 200 people at each,” said Lynne Sweet, co-chair of the RSNC. “The survey completion rate and results show how concerned our neighbors are about the impacts that a development of this magnitude will have on our neighborhoods.”

A summary of the survey results and the survey itself are available on the RSNC website-  
<http://www.riversidestation.info/riverside/SurveyResults>.

The Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition was created in 2010 to advocate for the residents of the areas most affected by the proposed development at Riverside. It is run by a steering committee with members drawn from the Lower Falls Improvement Association, Lasell Neighborhood Association, and Auburndale Community Association. For more information about the RSNC or the Riverside development, please visit <http://www.riversidestation.info/>.

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