



Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

**Department of Planning and
Community Development**

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Alison Steinfeld
Director

To: Select Board and Mel Kleckner
From: Meredith L. Mooney, Economic Development and Long-Term Planner
Cc: Alison Steinfeld, Kara Brewton
Date: April 1, 2021
Re: Local Rapid Recovery Plan Program Update

Overview:

Last month, the Town of Brookline was notified that it was a grant recipient of the state's Local Rapid Recovery Plan (LRRP) program, an initiative included in the Baker Administration's economic recovery package announced in October 2020.

The Town will receive \$90,000-worth of technical assistance to develop a comprehensive plan, which will include about a dozen projects, to support commercial area recovery efforts in Coolidge Corner and JFK Crossing. Even though this project is focused on Coolidge Corner and JFK Crossing, staff are hopeful that projects included in the LRRP will be applicable to other commercial areas, as well.

Process and Timeline:

In mid-March, Economic Development Division staff began working with a Plan Facilitator assigned to Brookline by the Department of Housing and Community Development's Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI), which is administering the Local Rapid Recovery Program.

The LRRP process will take place over the next five months, concluding in August with a finalized Local Rapid Recovery Plan for Coolidge Corner and JFK Crossing. This process will progress in three phases: diagnostic, project recommendations, and plan development. In addition to guidance from the LRRP Plan Administrator, the Town will also have access to various subject matter experts to evaluate and explore project ideas. A PDF copy outlining the Rapid Recovery Planning process is attached for reference.

A survey, which will close on April 8, was distributed to JFK Crossing and Coolidge Corner businesses and organizations last week as part of the LRRP's initial data collection process. That survey, which is intended only for Coolidge Corner and JFK Crossing businesses and non-profit organizations, is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRRPBiz>.

The Small Business Development Committee (SBDC) and the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) will be the primary committees providing feedback and guidance to staff and the Plan Administrator throughout the development of this plan. An LRRP kick-off meeting, facilitated by Economic Development staff and the Plan Facilitator, Ann Burke, will be held during a joint EDAB-SBDC meeting on Monday, April 5 from 6:30-7pm. The agenda for the kick-off meeting is also attached.

Next Select Board Update on the LRRP Process:

Economic Development Division staff will present the final Local Rapid Recovery Plan for Coolidge Corner and JFK Crossing to the Select Board in late summer or early fall, unless the Select Board requests an earlier update, or more frequent updates, on the Rapid Recovery Plan development process.