



Inner Core Committee Meeting Highlights

Wednesday December 7, 2011 from 9:30-11 at MAPC in the 3rd Floor Conference Room

Agenda

- Welcome and Community Exchange
- Inner Core Census Data Trends
- Sustainable Communities Funding for the Inner Core Committee

Welcome and Community Exchange

This was Manisha Bewtra's first meeting as Inner Core Committee Coordinator. Participants introduced themselves, and Inner Core Committee Chair Laura Wiener suggested folding community exchange into the discussion about Census data trends.

Inner Core Census Data Trends

Jamila Henderson, MAPC Research Analyst, presented demographic data trends for Inner Core communities featuring Census 2000 and 2010 data, recent American Community Survey data, and data from other sources. A PDF of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the Inner Core Committee website, <http://mapc.org/icc>.

Highlights and questions asked during the discussion:

- Slide 15 shows Municipal-Level segregation for the MAPC Region in 2000 and 2010 using the Dissimilarity Index. Ms. Henderson stated that the MAPC Region is more segregated than other metropolitan areas.
- Slide 19 shows Housing and Transportation Costs as a Percent of Income, using data from the Center for Neighborhood Technologies (CNT). Participants asked what is a reasonable threshold for housing + transportation affordability – given that the threshold used for housing alone is usually 30% of household income?
 - A participant asked whether household size was accounted for in this calculation of housing + transportation affordability.
 - A participant asked whether the data took housing tenure – the different impact on renters and owners – into consideration.
 - City of Revere Grants Program Manager Cate Blackford mentioned the following report: “A Heavy Load: The Combined Housing and Transportation Burdens of Working Families,” by the Center for Housing Policy, October 2006. Available at http://www.cnt.org/repository/heavy_load_10_06.pdf. The Center for Neighborhood Technologies was one of the contributors for this report.
 - After the meeting, Ms. Henderson researched the answer and stated that “the common threshold for housing and transportation costs as a percent of income is 45%, so households paying more than 45% of income on housing and transportation costs are considered cost burdened.”
- Household income is data from the American Community Survey (ACS). HUD CDBG uses Census 2010 data. But Census 2010 did not include income data, whereas Census 2000 did. The smallest geography available for ACS is often the Census Tract, and sometimes the Block Group. Previously, the data needed were available at the Block level. This poses a challenge for communities filing CDBG Entitlement Communities grants, EPA Environmental Justice grants, and other Federal applications.
- Most Census 2010 data is out. Correlative data – detailed Census information by race and ethnic groups – is available in Summary File 2 (SF2) for Census 2010.
- Laura Wiener, ICC Chair and Arlington Senior Planner, noted that Census data for Arlington regarding the housing vacancy rate, which went from 2-5%, and the # of new housing units did not seem accurate. Participants asked if

Census 2010 data could be amended. Ms. Henderson stated that population counts could be contested, but that she was unsure whether other data could be amended.

- The MAPC Data Services department is currently updating Community Snapshots – demographic profiles available on the MetroBoston DataCommon. These are expected to be launched at Data Day 2012, which will be held on January 27 at Northeastern. The MetroBoston DataCommon is currently being updated, and monthly MetroBoston DataCommon trainings will resume in February 2012.
- An American Community Survey and Census 2010 workshop will be offered to the Inner Core Committee to address some of the challenges ICC communities face in using recent data sets.

Sustainable Communities Funding for the Inner Core Committee

The Inner Core Committee will receive additional funding via the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to be expended by June 2012. These funds will be used to support the Subregional Coordinator's time as well as costs for special events and projects. Participants discussed the proposal for how these funds will be used and how the additional funding will affect the Inner Core Committee Work Plan in the coming months.

ICC Coordinator Manisha Bewtra stated that the draft proposal included:

- Funding for her staff time to visit each of the ICC municipalities to better understand Inner Core planning and development issues, and to troubleshoot barriers to regular participation in ICC meetings.
- Funding for a workshop on running good public meetings.
- Funding for a workshop and networking event that would bring together Inner Core municipalities and community-based organizations. The agenda would include a presentation on technical assistance offered by the Mel King Institute for Community Building.

Participants supported the first two tasks; outreach to the individual municipalities and a workshop on running good public meetings. They were hesitant about the value of the third task, and suggested that instead, a workshop on using Census and American Community Survey data would be more useful.

ICC Representatives Present

Manisha Bewtra, MAPC, ICC Coordinator
Bill Deignan, Cambridge
Denise Gaffey, Melrose
Marzie Galazka, Everett
Candace Havens, Newton
Tom Kadzis, Boston
Steve Magoon, Watertown
Rob Stevens, Quincy
Frank Stringi, Revere
Laura Wiener, Arlington, ICC Chair

Other Participants

Cate Blackford, Revere
Jamila Henderson, MAPC
Adam Kurowski, Arlington

Meeting Materials (available on ICC website, <http://mapc.org/icc>)

- Agenda
- Presentation on Inner Core Census Data Trends