

Final Class 2003

Three Topics:

1. Look at how your experience in these neighborhoods relates to the questions of commercial district decline and revitalization where we began the course
2. Discuss your reflections on how the planning process and your role as a planner in facilitating community understanding
3. Complete class evaluation forms

Any Housekeeping items on the reports or presentations?

Revitalization

1. At the beginning of the class, we discussed the causes of commercial district decline in cities: suburban out-migration of people and businesses, rapid racial change, concentrated poverty, government policies and private business practices that contributed to out-migration, racial fear and dis-investment. To what extent are these still in play and relevant to Mission Hill and Egleston Square? Were you still confronting the need to reverse these causes and their consequences or the challenges faced in Boston neighborhoods in 2003 fundamentally different?
2. What are the advantages and constraints of commercial districts as a revitalization focus? How relevant is commercial district revitalization to improving conditions and quality of life for these neighborhoods and residents? What special role or advantages does it offer? What are its limitations?

Reflections

1. What did you find most helpful in developing your own understanding of the commercial district?
2. What was most helpful in sharing and conveying this understanding to the client and broader community stakeholders?
3. Consider what types of information and what types of activities/interactions fostered greater understanding and perhaps resolved some of these issues.
4. What does your experience with the Main Streets project suggest about what helps you function effectively as a planner?