

Transportation at MIT

THE TASK: You are assigned to teams of five, to discuss issues as a group, with each student responsible for the research and write-up of one of five problem areas. The task is to make a recommendation to the President of MIT which includes both substantive recommendations and recommendations for process. The five specific issues are:

- 1) Appropriate re-design of Massachusetts Avenue. In particular, consider the proper design at Mass Ave and Vassar Street, Mass Ave and Memorial Drive, and at 77 Mass Ave, including consideration of depressing Mass Ave to achieve a pedestrian connection similar to that at Harvard near the Law School.
- 2) Appropriate re-design of the Vassar Street railroad corridor, including intersections at Memorial Drive/BU Bridge, Mass Ave and Main Street.
- 3) Appropriate re-design of Memorial Drive, including the Kendall Square area, sailing pavilion, Mass Ave., Vassar Street/BU Bridge location.
- 4) Appropriate re-design of Kendall Square, including the intersection at Main and Cambridge, Sloan School expansion, and other land use issues.
- 5) Cross-cutting issues, such as parking policy, transit pass policy, transit service, attitude towards Urban Ring, bicycle policy, housing, classroom, laboratory, and architectural policies.

APPROACH: Walk the areas and observe them, review information you can access, define the primary issues that should be addressed and a process for dealing with them.

You can get information at the MIT website (web.mit.edu) There is a link to "Evolving Campus" which includes "MIT Building Projects". You can also access "Cambridge/Boston" from the Evolving Campus site and get the "Town/Gown" report. Also, traffic studies done for I.P.O.P. projects are on file at Broadway (an annex of Cambridge City Hall). Several MIT projects (Stata, undergraduate residences, Media Lab) looked at issues at Vassar, Mass Ave, and Kendall Square areas.

You are free to swap groups if it is more convenient. Each paper should be 5-10 pages.