



## Honest Abe, Lincoln St. gets \$\$\$

By Erin Smith/ Staff Writer  
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Allston-Brighton may not boast the most green space in the city, but local grass and tree lovers are happy to spruce up the existing grassy expanses they do have.

Last week, the city awarded the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corp. a \$22,000 grant to design an improvement plan for the Lincoln Street Green Strip, a small, weedy, abandoned lot between Lincoln and Cambridge streets.

The grant, funded by the Grassroots Program through Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development, will be used to hire a surveyor and landscape architect.

The land, considered a gateway connecting the two sections of Allston divided by the Massachusetts Turnpike, is near a staircase and ramp that leads to two major bus stops.

"Literally hundreds of people that are commuting walk through there a day, and it would be great for them to see something that's beautiful," said Andria Post, director of the Grassroots Program.

Local activist Harry Mattison worked with the ABCDC last March to submit a grant proposal.

"The hope is to make it an attractive asset to the community. Right now, it's the place where trash gets dumped and weeds grow," said Mattison.

### Lincoln St. on up

Christina Miller, the open space organizer for the ABCDC, said she hopes the project will lead to a major improvement for the entire street.

Lincoln Street is notorious for its many accidents. Last June, 29-year-old Boston resident Kirsten Malone died from head injuries after she was struck by a car while riding her bicycle at the intersection of Franklin and Lincoln streets.

Neighbors have also been working with the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to improve landscaping and weigh in on proposals for a sound barrier along the Lincoln Street.

Last week, state Rep. Kevin Honan met with Turnpike officials and a neighborhood working group to make recommendations on where to put sound barriers.

The authority is building an 8-foot-tall snow fence along Lincoln Street that will cover from Waverly to Franklin streets, or about half of the nearly mile-long stretch of road that faces the Turnpike. Many neighbors hope to extend the fence the entire length of the street when construction starts this summer, although a few neighbors have raised concerns about the fence.

Some community members have suggested that the Turnpike landscape the area around the divide and cover the fence in ivy to prevent graffiti and add green to the area.

On the other side of Lincoln Street, Miller said the CDC hopes to work with the civic groups and engage neighbors in a planning process for the site.

There will be public hearings to devise a landscaping plan for the Lincoln Street green strip and once the plan is complete, the CDC will seek construction and landscaping grants from the Grassroots program next year, said Miller.

(Editor's note: To learn more about the project, contact Christina Miller at the Allston-Brighton CDC at 617-787-3874, ext. 215, or e-mail [miller@allstonbrightoncdc.org](mailto:miller@allstonbrightoncdc.org))

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