

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

MBTA COMMUNITIES (MGL c. 40A § 3A)

Development in

Dedham at a

Glance

Presented by Planning & Zoning Department

March 2022



What is this?

Anyone who spends time exploring Dedham's various neighborhoods and village centers will come to realize the town comprises a great diversity of development patters. As a town, Newton values its rich historical character and overall high quality of life.

Development in Dedham at a Glance is a working library of residential and mixed-use buildings in Dedham at different scales that visualize and help us understand different levels of density.

This analysis is a starting point to better portray there is not a one size fits all approach to complying with recent State legislation.



Why are we doing this?

In January 2021, Governor Baker signed an omnibus economic development package, which notably included the Housing Choice zoning reforms. The package included a new multi-familt zoning requirement for MBTA communities (Section3A), which Dedham is one of, where at least one zoning district of reasonable size permits multi-family housing by-right meeting the following criteria:

O1 O2 O3 O4

Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre

Not more than 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station.

Suitable for families with children

Thinking about actual buildings or developments in units per acre can be abstract and confusing. To better understand what this density actually looks like on the ground, staff is compiling building examples in Dedham with the intent to show that allowing a variety of building types is already common in Dedham, many with small footprints, could bring Dedham into compliance if allowed by right.

Density (units per acre) Requirement

The draft guidelines define gross density as "a units-per-acre density measurement that includes land occupied by public rights-of-way and any recreational, civic, commercial and other nonresidential uses."

However, looking at existing buildings and lots is a good place to start to better understand the variety of multi-family building types that could contribute to a compliant zoning district.

This document calculates density at a lot level, which is not the same as the density requirement within Section 3A



Building Categories

1-3 UNITS



4-9 UNITS



10-24 UNITS



25+ UNITS













Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database



Important Resources

The Housing Choice zoning reform amendments can be found in the following document:

https://www.mass.gov/doc/chapters-40-40a-40r-40s- redline-of-amendments-contained-in-h5250/download

DHCD released draft guidelines, to be finalized in summer 2022, for determining compliance with Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities:

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/draft-compliance-guidelines-for-multi-family-districts-under-section-3a-of-the-zoning-act#8.-location-of-districts-



Category: 1-3 Units



Address	27 Pine Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	0.28
# of units	2

7 Units / Acre

Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database



Category: 1-3 Units



Address	122 -124 Milton Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	0.22
# of units	2





Category: 1-3 Units



Address	160 Harding Terrace
Year built	1920
Lot size (acres)	0.12
# of units	3







Address	219 Lowder Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	1.5
# of units	7



Category: 10-24 Units



Address	37 Arcadia Avenue
Year built	1969
Lot size (acres)	1
# of units	13

13 Units / Acre

Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database

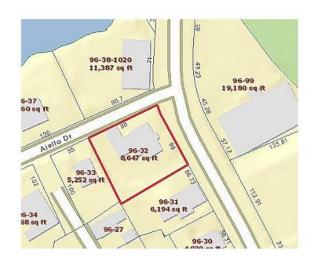




Address	114 Bussey Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	0.48
# of units	8







Address	193 Bussey Street
Year built	1900
Lot size (acres)	0.20
# of units	4





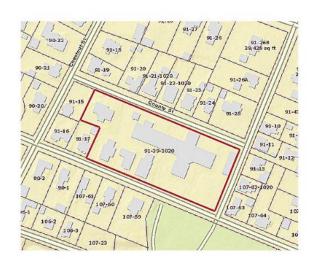


Address	29 Curve Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	0.22
# of units	5





Category: 10-24 Units



Address	47 Village Avenue
Year built	2003
Lot size (acres)	2.5
# of units	24





Address	978 Providence Hwy
Building Type	Mixed-use
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	1.30
# of units	48

37 Units / Acre

Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database





Address	360 Washington Street
Year built	2020
Lot size (acres)	0.28
# of units	27









Address	1000 Presidents Way
Building Type	Apartments
Year built	2005
Lot size (acres)	11.7
# of units	300

26 Units / Acre

Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database





Address	250 Station Circle
Building Type	Apartments
Year built	2007
Lot size (acres)	9.5
# of units	285

30 Units / Acre

Source: Dedham's Assessor's Database

