Parcel C was a residential plot of land that was taken by the City and razed during urban renewal. The Parcel C protests successfully blocked a 1993 deal between the BRA and Tufts/NEMC to create a 455-car parking garage in Chinatown. These protests mobilized residents around health and safety concerns, as well as a history of urban renewal, highway construction, and broken promises from agencies like the BRA. After a year of organized struggle, the deal was defeated. Today, Parcel C houses the offices of multiple community organizations and the Metropolitan apartment complex.

Parcel 24 was a plot of land taken through eminent domain for the construction of I-90. In 2002, the Asian Community Development Corporation launched a campaign to reclaim the parcel for Chinatown. In 2007, ACDC won the right to develop Parcel 24 into 300 housing units, including 145 units of affordable housing, at 66 and 88 Hudson St.

In response to the MassDOT’s plan to build the DD off-ramp in Chinatown, a task force was created by the Chinese Progressive Association to protest. Chinatown residents rallied against the off-ramp, which would have increased traffic and air pollution in Chinatown. The community coalition was successful in stopping the ramp from being built.

The first Chinatown Community Master Plan is published, reflecting the community’s desires for affordable housing and curbing institutional expansionism.

The initial proposal for Interstate 93 (Central Artery) required demolishing large sections of Chinatown, including the recently constructed Merchant’s Building. Organized protests from local business and community leaders pushed the BRA to reroute the highway, lessening its impact on Chinatown. Half of the Merchant’s Building was sacrificed in order to save more Chinese homes and businesses. At the end of its construction in 1959, the I-93 displaced 14 Chinatown families - significantly fewer than the initial plan of 290 families displaced.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

If you are a resident living near the highways, you can:

Go outside when there is less traffic and try not to exercise too close to the highway.

Go outside when it is more windy and the temperature is warmer. There is more air pollution on cold and calm weather days.

Close your windows and turn on your air conditioner when possible. If you have the means, use a high quality air filter indoors.

Join a group that is working to reduce air pollution, or learn more about pollution in your own community.

Both residents and non-residents can demand that policymakers, planners, and developers provide more repair and protection to residents who live near the highways. Some examples of strategies to reduce exposure to air pollution include:

Building design:

**Filtration**: Properly maintained building air filters can effectively improve indoor air quality. Exposure reduction: 50-90%

Urban design:

**Wall barriers**: Barriers can reduce pollution and noise levels, but in areas with high levels of local traffic, pollution can get trapped on the non-highway side. Exposure reduction: 10-50%

**Land use and design**: Sensitive land uses should not be placed down-wind from the pollution source, and design practices that increase air flow can help move polluted air away. Exposure reduction: 10-50%

Air inlet: Indoor air quality can be improved by moving air intake vents as far away from traffic as possible (e.g. on the roof). Exposure reduction: 50%

Decking over highway: With proper design, over-highway decking can remove a lot of air pollution, with the added benefit of linking urban areas and adding productive land. Exposure reduction: 40%

Parks: Well-designed parks play an important role in well-being and improving environmental conditions. Exposure reduction: 40%

How do we demand change?

**Use your voice**: attend public meetings and speak your concerns

**Reach out to your local representatives**: ask for them to support legislation that you and your community care about

**Start local**: get involved with your local community organizations

**Educate**: share what you've learned with others (and give this zine to a friend)!

To learn more about ongoing activism around environmental justice in Chinatown and get involved, visit our website or scan the QR code:

[www.washingchinatown.com](http://www.washingchinatown.com)