



# Meeting Summary

Project: MHD 77866 - Rose Kennedy Greenway Ramp Cover Project (Parcels 6, 12, 18)

Subject: Public Meeting No. 2

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Location: Boston City Hall/BRA Board Room

On the above noted date a public meeting was held at City Hall in the BRA Board Room (9<sup>th</sup> floor). There were just over 40 attendees including residents, MassDOT, BRA, City, and State officials. Meeting attendees are noted. An attendance list has been attached for reference. The public meeting was recorded by Matt Conti of NorthEndWaterfront.com and can be viewed at [http://northendwaterfront.com/2014/10/considering-greenway-ramp-cover-options-video/?utm\\_source=NorthEndWaterfront.com+E-Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=2dab906a4a-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e991d054da-2dab906a4a-26316469](http://northendwaterfront.com/2014/10/considering-greenway-ramp-cover-options-video/?utm_source=NorthEndWaterfront.com+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=2dab906a4a-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e991d054da-2dab906a4a-26316469).

The presentation/PowerPoint slides have been posted on the BRA website at <http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/getattachment/acbaa401-0ad0-4df2-bda5-1936ef3d8457>. The attached presentation was used to walk attendees through the project purpose, Parcel 6, 12 and 18 particulars and expected study schedule. The following items were discussed; however, it should be noted that this summary is not intended to be a complete record of the topics discussed. The entire presentation can be viewed at the sites noted previously.

## 1. General Information

- Lauren Shurtleff (BRA) opened the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting.
- John Romano (MassDOT) described the plan for covering the three ramp parcels, and noted that MassDOT's environmental commitment is about visual and aesthetic impacts, and not noise or air quality impacts. After providing an overview of parcel locations, he stated that the goal is to show what could be possible at each parcel – the technical “what can be done”. John added that it is intended that a formal comment period will follow the one of the next public meetings, which are scheduled for October 29, 2014 and January 8, 2015.
- Roch Larochelle (HDR) went on to describe the ramp & tunnel configurations, underground utility corridors, utility service connections, and structural design considerations for each of the three parcels. The shift of Ramp CS-SA on Parcel 12 during the Central Artery/Tunnel Project design phase was discussed, as the relocated boat section was not designed to accommodate building loading.
- Matthew Littell (Utile) continued by providing an overview of the Rose Kennedy Greenway as a whole in terms of pedestrian connectivity, land uses, active parcel fronts (*i.e.*, business fronting the Greenway), and view corridors before focusing on the three parcels being



studied for potential “covers”. Matt described the various types of “cover” that may be considered for each parcel, including vertical screening, horizontal covers, building concepts, etc.

- “Fly-through” visualizations of Parcels 6 and 12 were shown to the audience, presenting views from various vantage points along the corridor, and illustrating how each parcel connects to points North and South, both visually and physically.
- John Romano (MassDOT) wrapped up the meeting with a brief discussion on the expected study schedule, indicating that the Team would return for another public update in late October 2014. He then opened the meeting for public comments. Several major discussion topics have been summarized below.

## **2. Public Comment and Discussion**

- It was generally discussed among the group that Parcel 18 required the least potential work, if any, but that both Parcels 6 and 12 were lacking in important cross-connections.
- John McQueen, Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, noted that he really liked the Parcel 6 pedestrian concepts’ connectivity to the Boston Public Market, which is set to open in the Summer of 2015.
- David Roderick, a North End resident, asked about the affect of climate change on the ramp screening options. In particular, he was concerned with the effect of seasons on some of the vertical screening options under consideration. It was noted that these elements would be considered as the options are narrowed.
- Dave Goggins, a North End resident, asked if there was a legal requirement to cover all three parcel ramps. John Romano indicated that MassDOT is required to “cover” the ramps, however the definition of “cover” remains undefined in terms of the regulatory definition and could mean simply screening or a physical covering of the ramps. This study seeks to define what type of “cover” is preferred, based on input from local stakeholders before moving forward with a build alternative. John further described that a filing of a Notice of Project Change (NPC) would occur once a reasonable consensus had been achieved on the preferred options. Dave thanked the presenters for following through with the conceptual exercises, and agreed that Parcel 18 would be best left alone – but not Parcels 6 and 12. He also asked who would be the beneficiary of any revenues generated from a kiosk at Parcel 18. John Romano indicated that it would likely be a split between MassDOT and the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, however those details would need to be worked out.
- Dave Goggins followed up that it was difficult to finalize coverage before the parcel use decisions are made – he queried if the goal of this study was to determine what the ultimate goal is for each parcel and noted that parcel uses needed to be identified first. The presenters further discussed that that the parcel development would be an iterative process including local input on the desired uses but that this study will simply define whether to cover or screen the ramp portals and that a final designed solution of a park, public gathering space or otherwise would be completed later in the process once the regulatory agency endorses the overall intent.
- Dave Goggins finally asked what the timeline was for making those decisions, to which John Romano replied that no specific timeline is defined as yet; however, it is expected that the study phase will be completed by mid-2015, after which the team would enter into the design phase.



- Victor Brogna, NEWRA, noted that the results of partial covering affect not only air quality but also the height of resulting vertical members required to cover those portals. He offered that the less you cover, the less height you will have across the site and hopes local stakeholders understand the resulting visual impact. He went on to suggest that the Team name the Parcel 12 concept an “Observation Platform”. As for Parcel 6, he believed that there are not enough open space uses being provided for in other new developments and sees this as an opportunity to satisfy part of that local need.
- Bryan Webb, a North End resident, stated that the presentation offered a nice glimpse into the possibilities, and that MassDOT should consider maximizing open space opportunities for residents. He also stated that the cover options for both Parcels 6 and 12 really tied together the adjacent neighborhoods and added that he would like to see a Molasses Flood memorial on the Greenway, and passed around a conceptual design for such a memorial after the meeting.
- Anne Fanton, a former member of the Central Artery Environmental Oversight Committee, expressed concern that the Parcel 6 and 12 covers will look like big pedestrian overpasses. She asked if there was any way to look at private development for part of it? Bill Tuttle (MassDOT) responded that while it could be done, a private building would likely be a challenge due to the low anticipated revenue from such a small building.
- Sean Cummings, a Massachusetts College of Art and Design Student, commended the designers for making these spatially-exploratory visual models.
- Philip Frataroli, NEWNC, said that it would be disgraceful to have private development on any of these parcels. Regarding Parcel 12, he asked whether or not the designers had considered a signal mid-way across the ramps as they surface within the parcel. John Romano (MassDOT) said that there could be no crosswalk directly across the ramp exits due to sight distance issues and proximity to other traffic signals.
- Jane Forestall, a West End resident, asked if the State had allocated land to the original YMCA building concept for Parcel 6. John Romano (MassDOT) responded no. She then asked if the builder of any parcel cover building would be required to pay for the decking, to which John replied yes.
- Dan Nuzzo, a North End Resident, thought that the presentation was very positive. He asked about the possibility of any pedestrian counts on Cross Street, noting that if any numbers were available, it might be possible to evaluate if some pedestrians could be moved off of Cross Street and onto the Greenway. He agreed that some of the height challenges are softened by having the platform concept.
- Francine Gannon, a North End Resident, seconded Dan’s comment, and said that she was excited about the possibility of pedestrian circulation across Parcel 12. She added that the idea of an observation platform that could open up views to the North and South would be beautiful and expressed her support for this concept at this location.
- In a follow-up question, Dan Nuzzo asked that given the consensus on the elevated platform scenario on Parcel 12, how long would it take to fund it? Where would the money come from? Steve McLaughlin (MassDOT) explained that the funding is already in place for the design, however no construction funds have been allocated yet since the desired solution has not yet been defined. Once defined, the project(s) would need to be placed into the statewide capital program and would need to compete with other critical projects for funding.

The meeting was concluded at 7:50pm.



## **Meeting Attendees**

### **Ex-Officio Attendees:**

Patrick Lyons, Office of Massachusetts State Representative Aaron Michlewitz  
Maria Puopolo, Office of Massachusetts State Senator Anthony Petrucelli

### **City of Boston/State of Massachusetts Attendees:**

Emily Ashby, Utile  
George Batchelor, MassDOT  
Chris Busch, BRA  
Meera Deean, Utile  
Stephanie DiNezio, MassDOT  
Mark Gravallese, MassDOT  
Roch Larochelle, HDR, Inc.  
Matthew Littel, Utile  
Steve McLaughlin, MassDOT  
Lara Merida, BRA  
Kevin Morrison, HDR, Inc.  
Alwin Ramirez, MassDOT  
Dutin Rhue, MassDOT  
John Romano, MassDOT  
Lauren Shurtleff, BRA  
Michael Trepanier, MassDOT  
Bill Tuttle, MassDOT

### **Members of the Public:**

Victor Brogna, North End/Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA)  
Maria Ciampa, North End Resident  
Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com  
Lucas Cowan, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy  
Sean Cummings, Massachusetts College of Art and Design Student  
Nana Deng, Northeastern University Student  
Anne Fanton, Former member of the Central Artery Environmental Oversight Committee  
Jane Forrestall, West End Resident  
Phil Frattaroli, North End Waterfront/Neighborhood Council (NEWNC)  
Dave Goggins, Responsible Urbanites for Fido  
Francine Gannon, North End Resident  
Leslie Horn, Responsible Urbanites for Fido  
Laura Jasinski, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy



Jennifer Li, Boston University Student  
John McQueen, Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board  
Sy Mintz, Wharf District Resident  
Tom Nally, A Better City  
Daniel Nuzzo, North End Resident  
Anya Potter, Responsible Urbanites for Fido  
David Roderick, North End Resident  
Jim Salini, NEWRA  
Jen Slesinger, North End Resident  
Bob Sloane, Walk Boston  
A. Southworth, North End Resident  
Bryan Webb, North End Resident  
Nina Zannini, Paul Revere House