Phil Cohen, Project Manager

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square

Boston, MA 02201

RE: 1000 Boylston Street Project

Dear Mr. Cohen;

As a Back Bay resident. I am writing to you to express my opposition to endorsing the 1000 Boylston Street design as currently proposed, and highlight several serious concerns.

I understand that the Project Notification Form states that the community wants this project, but I completely oppose the current design, as do many of our friends and neighbors in this part of Boston.

The height and massiveness of the buildings are extremely inappropriate for this site.   This is not only my personal view, but also a conclusion from  the Civic Vision for Turnpike Air Rights prepared by the BRA, and from guidelines prepared by the Citizens for Reasonable Turnpike Development; it is the community view for this part of the Back Bay/this section of Boston.

The building appears to create many problems for the neighborhood, and offers nothing that the neighborhood needs.

As plans proceed, I would also ask the planning and design changes to address:

-         ensuring there is no further traffic congestion in the neighborhood

-         ensuring there is no negative impact on the neighborhood from increased wind

-         increasing access to a park/green space, which we know can literally increases lifespans, as well as improving physical and mental health of residents of the community   (actual dedicated public green space, not just a courtyard within a building, or grass under a highway flyover)

-         no reductions in sun on the Fens, the Commonwealth Ave mall, the Esplanade, or even substantial shadows on city streets and sidewalks

It is essential to have a thorough environmental impact study so we can understand all the true impacts of the design.

Once such a project is built, there is no going back.  It can be a permanent blight on our wonderful section of Boston, with its key links in Olmstead’s Emerald necklace.  Please don’t allow private developers to do such damage to our lovely city; we can protect its historic beauty and meet the current needs as a busy modern metropolitan area without these terrible results.

Respectfully submitted,

**Paula Griswold**