Urban Renewal
City Council Check-In
September 19th, 2019
Proposal to DHCD Regarding 14 Urban Renewal Plans

August 5, 2019
Maggie Schmitt, Urban Renewal and Relocation Coordinator
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Housing and Community Development
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

By hand delivery
Re: BPDA Proposal Regarding 14 Boston Urban Renewal Plans

Dear Ms. Schmitt,

In connection with the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) letter to the Boston Redevelopment Authority (now doing business as the Boston Planning & Development Agency) hereinafter, the “BPDA”) dated August 3, 2016, regarding approval of fourteen (14) Boston Urban Renewal Plan extensions (the “DHCD Approval Letter”), the BPDA submits to DHCD the attached proposal.

The DHCD Approval Letter specified certain conditions required for the BPDA to follow regarding DHCD’s approval. As specified in the DHCD Approval Letter, under condition 3, the BPDA is required to, “Within 3 years of the date of this approval, BRA will submit to DHCD a proposal for what the BRA intends to do with its Urban Renewal Plans over the remaining years of the 6 year extension…”

The BPDA submits the attached proposal in compliance with the DHCD Approval Letter. Per the attached proposal, the BPDA will submit a final proposal regarding the 14 Boston Urban Renewal Plans by August 14, 2020, when further community engagement on the proposed future of the Urban Renewal Plans is complete.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this letter and proposal.

Thank you,

Christopher Breen
Urban Renewal Manager
Urban Renewal Community Engagement - Phase 1

North Station
School Franklin
Park Plaza
Brunswick - King
Boylston Essex
Kittredge
Urban Renewal Area Agenda

1. Urban Renewal Background
2. Urban Renewal Action Plan
3. Land Disposition Agreement Inventory Update
4. Analysis and Inventory of BPDA Owned Land
5. Community Feedback
North Station
North Station Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Public Meeting hosted on June 18th, 2019
- Advertised in Boston Guardian, Post Gazette North End, Regional Review
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
North Station Urban Renewal Goals

- Remove the Elevated Structure of the MBTA Green Line to eliminate blight.
- Provide a safe, comfortable and attractive public transportation system at North Station.
- Provide for rehabilitation of Boston Garden.
- Maximize river edge walkways.
- Provide adequate utilities, landscaping, streets and lighting services.
- Provide a lively mixture of active uses which reinforce each other and stimulate day and evening activity.
North Station Urban Renewal Plan Area
MBTA Air Vents
TD Garden Passageway (Easments)
Central Business District: School-Franklin
School Franklin Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Public Meeting hosted on June 19th, 2019
- Advertised in Boston Guardian
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
School Franklin – Goals

• To eliminate blighted conditions, deterioration, obsolescence, traffic congestion, incompatible land uses and other environmental deficiencies in order to facilitate sound development and orderly growth.

• To promote and expedite public and private development and investment in the area through new commercial facilities and the improvement of public utilities and services.

• To provide the basis for stabilization of property values and to encourage rehabilitation of existing real property so as to prevent decline of the area.

• To remove deteriorated, substandard and dilapidated building and structures which prevent new investment.

• To encourage increased acceptance of mass transit within the area.
School-Franklin Urban Renewal Plan Area
OLD CITY HALL
Parcel A-3 : Irish Famine Memorial
Park Plaza
Park Plaza Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Community Meeting Held on June 24, 2019 at the Revere Hotel
- Advertised in the Boston Guardian and Boston SUN
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
Park Plaza – Goals

• To facilitate the creation of a high density, mixed use community in the heart of the city.
• To facilitate redevelopment of existing garages, obsolete public buildings, and private development opportunities.
• To preserve and enhance historic resources of the area.
• To create improved connections from Chinatown through Back Bay.
• To support expansion of the area’s Institutional and Mixed Uses.
• To increase tax revenue by redeveloping underutilized parcels.
Park Plaza
Urban Renewal
Plan Area
Parcel C-T-1
China Trade Building
Brunswick-King Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Community Meeting Held on June 25, 2019 at the Grove Hall Community Center
- Advertised in the Bay State Banner
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
Brunswick-King - Goals

• To promote and expedite public and private development.
• To ensure public health and safety.
• To strengthen the pattern of local neighborhood activities including the development of parks and open space to support existing and proposed residential uses.
• To promote stability of existing low and moderate cost housing stock through rehabilitation and new construction.
• To provide land for public facilities in need of expansion.
Brunswick – King Urban Renewal Plan Area
Parcel P-2 Ceylon Park
Intervale Street and Terrace
R-3: 27 & 29 Fernboro Street
Central Business District: Boylston - Essex
Boylston-Essex Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Community Meeting Held on July 15th, 2019 at the Revere Hotel
- Advertised in the Boston Bulletin, Boston Guardian, Boston Sun
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
Boylston-Essex – Goals

- To aid in reversing the economic decline of the older commercial sector of the City
- To eliminate blighted conditions
- To improve traffic flow and increase accessibility with the downtown area for vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- To facilitate the efficient use of land within the area for commercial and public purposes
- To encourage increased acceptance of mass transit within the area by station modernization and appropriate location of entrances and exits
Boylston-Essex Urban Renewal Plan Area
Kittredge Square
Kittredge Square - Goals

- Insure the public health and safety.
- Promote and expedite public and private development.
- Strengthen the physical pattern of local neighborhood activities including the development of parks and open space to support existing and proposed residential uses.
- Promote stability of the existing housing stock through rehabilitation and new construction.
- Provide a number of low and moderate cost housing units through rehabilitation and new construction.
- Preserve and enhance the area’s historical and architectural value.
Kittredge Square Urban Renewal Community Meeting

- Community Meeting Held on July 16th, 2019 at Roxbury Community College
- Advertised in the Bay State Banner
- BPDA Calendar and Urban Renewal Mailing List
- Social Media and Community Groups
Kittredge Square Urban Renewal Plan Area
Parcel 34B: 25 Linwood Street
Parcels at Rear of 115-121 Cedar Street
Cedar Street Garden
Parcel A-1: 23 Highland Street
21 Morley Street
Urban Renewal Community Engagement - Phase 2

- Government Center
- Downtown Waterfront
- Campus High School
- South Station
- South Cove
- Fenway
Urban Renewal Community Engagement - Phase 3

Charlestown  South End
Washington Park  West End
Urban Renewal Action Plan Summary

• Create BPDA Urban Renewal Web page as Information Conduit
• LDA Inventory
• BPDA Owned Inventory
• Review Boundaries of Existing Plans via Community Process
• Explore Creation of new Urban Renewal Plans via Community Process
• Review Existing Procedures for Disposition in a manner that reflects community goals and priorities.
• BPDA Zoning Viewer
• Provide updates on Progress
Thank You!

Next Update : May 2020