Vision, Goals, and Strategies (Draft)

Vision
PLAN: Downtown will develop a new framework for the preservation, enhancement, and growth of Downtown Boston as a place for all, balancing livability, daylight, walkability, climate change preparedness, access to open space, affordability, and a dynamic mix of uses.

PLAN: Downtown will...

1. Preserve the cultural heritage and embrace the distinctive histories present in public spaces as essential to creating a unique and cohesive Downtown.
   a. Protect spaces that create distinctive identities in Downtown, highlighting the local, regional, and national significance of Downtown
   b. Support diverse arts and culture reflective of the local communities
   c. Integrate art into spaces and elements that more people interact with on a regular basis

2. Promote dense, mixed-use development to support job growth, housing opportunities, and 18 hour/7 days/week activity for residents, workers, and visitors.
   a. Accommodate growth while respecting the historical character of Downtown
   b. Expand family housing options
   c. Continue encouraging residential-focused development in Downtown Crossing and the Financial District.

3. Improve access to housing, cultural assets, and amenities for a diverse range of Boston residents across all neighborhoods, levels of affordability, stages of life, and backgrounds.
   a. Provide workforce/affordable housing on publicly-owned land (within mixed-use developments)
   b. Address housing stabilization in Chinatown
   c. Expand affordable housing stock for seniors
   d. Cultivate a walkable environment to promote the health and well-being of Downtown residents and visitors
   e. Incorporate the 2019 Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) Update into PLAN: Downtown once completed*

*Text in gray ensures coordination with another BPDA planning initiative, City policy, or City program.
4. Improve connections through, within, and to Downtown, with a focus on active transportation, transit, and non-vehicular modes of transportation.
   a. Review directionality to optimize circulation in Downtown without compromising wider area vehicular movement
   b. Improve transit services through a systems approach to upgrading infrastructure
   c. Prioritize high-occupancy and non-motorized transportation modes on all streets
   d. Encourage multimodal connections between north and south sides of Downtown
   e. Provide a high quality safe street environment for pedestrians and cyclists

5. Preserve historic building fabric and cultural institutions while advancing climate preparedness and resiliency measures.
   a. Protect treasured, shared cultural assets from contextually- and culturally-insensitive development and environmental threats
   b. Proactively identify important architectural context and zone accordingly (e.g. Chinatown Row Houses)
   c. Retain large portions of intact historic building fabric
   d. Continue to follow the Secretary of the Department of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*

6. Ensure that new development and public realm projects are resilient, and mitigate climate risks such as sea level rise, coastal storms, rising temperatures, and increased stormwater.
   a. Coordinate investments to adapt infrastructure to future climate conditions
   b. Incorporate near-term heat resiliency measures at building & district scales
   c. Provide consistent opportunity for shade throughout the public realm
   d. Reduce emissions related to transportation and vehicular traffic in Downtown, with a focus on improving traffic and logistics management
   e. Require compliance with net-zero emissions readiness*
   f. Refer to existing (or imminent) flood mitigation policies as captured in Article 25 CRB, the Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay district, and Article 37*

7. Encourage consistent, safe, healthy, and high-quality improvements to the public realm that welcome everyone year-round.
   a. Provide legible and safe connections between major green and open spaces
   b. Provide new public spaces and enhancements to existing spaces that improve pedestrian experience and offer new opportunities for flexible programming
   c. Continue to test innovative and new public realm ideas through pilot projects*

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8. **Support business development that maintains Downtown as a regional economic center.**
   a. Strengthen the role of Downtown as an active 18-hour/7-days/week life and work area in Boston
   b. Continue to maintain Downtown as a well-connected job center for the region.

9. **Promote the retention, growth, and diversity of ground-floor retail businesses, especially legacy and small businesses.**
   a. Require small-scale individual storefronts at street level in key areas
   b. Encourage the continuity of small scale business where possible
   c. Provide technical, institutional, and financial support to small & legacy businesses and entrepreneurs

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