

Hello everyone,

We have appreciated the public comments received regarding the draft Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for the Austin Street Parking Lots. The BPDA would like to respond to some of the common themes and questions that have been raised through this process:

- **Timing with PLAN Charlestown:** Any highly advantageous proposal must conform to PLAN Charlestown, which is explained in the planning context section of the RFP. The BPDA anticipates bringing the proposals submitted for the site's redevelopment to the community for feedback in late 2023, which is when PLAN Charlestown is anticipated to be completed, so the two can be understood together. The design and permitting phase for this project will follow the adoption of PLAN Charlestown into zoning.
- **Building heights:** The RFP prioritizes the creation of affordable housing, family housing opportunities, open space with sports practice fields, improved public realm and transit connections, artist uses, and ground floor activation on this site. The design guidelines state that the concentration of building height should exist along I-93 and step down closer to Rutherford Ave. We look forward to receiving responses to determine the best configuration of these uses and reviewing these proposals alongside the Project Review Committee (“PRC”), which will be entirely comprised of members from the Charlestown community. **Applications for the PRC will be issued on June 1st 2023 and will be due on June 30th 2023.** All materials related to the PRC will be found on the [Austin Street Parking Lots Disposition Planning webpage](#). There will also be opportunity for additional public comment following development team presentations of the proposals.
- **Traffic / issues with the T / Rutherford Ave:** The new development must be oriented strategically to make easy connections to/through the site and to nearby community amenities, such as the Community College Orange Line station, existing/planned and new bus stops, landmarks, and public parks. The City and the BPDA are committed to providing capacity and access to the bike-share network and bike parking, offering a suite of transportation demand management (TDM) strategies, improving pedestrian amenities and connectivity, and encouraging and enhancing public transportation use.

We anticipate publishing the RFP the first week of May. We expect responses for the RFP to be due back on July 10th 2023 at 12pm. If you have any questions about the RFP process, please reach out to Natalie Deduck at [natalie.deduck@boston.gov](mailto:natalie.deduck@boston.gov).

Thank you,  
Natalie