

MEMORANDUM

JUNE 13, 2013

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
PETER MEADE, DIRECTOR

FROM: KAIROS SHEN, CHIEF PLANNER
RICHARD MCGUINNESS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WATERFRONT
PLANNING
CHRIS BUSCH, SENIOR WATERFRONT PLANNER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION
SERVICES FOR THE EAST BOSTON GREENWAY NARROW GAUGE
LINK PATHWAY FENCE, EAST BOSTON, MA

SUMMARY: This Memorandum requests the Director to give authorization to advertise for bids for construction services for the replacement of a chain link fence associated with the development of the East Boston Greenway Narrow Gauge Link Pathway.

BACKGROUND

The Narrow Gauge Link comprises a missing portion of the East Boston Greenway, a linear park constructed along an abandoned railroad right-of-way, connecting several significant open space areas, including Piers Park, Bremen Street Park, Wood Island Bay and Belle Isle Marsh (the "Narrow Gauge Link"). The completion of a pathway along the Narrow Gauge Link will establish a continuous pedestrian and bike pathway through East Boston, from Piers Park along East Boston's waterfront, to Constitution Beach. The project area is approximately 1/3 of a mile and extends from the terminus of the Greenway's Wood Isle Link, to be constructed by the Massachusetts Port Authority ("MPA") in 2013, to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Constitution Beach recreation area. A component of the project involves the replacement of a fence separating the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ("MBTA") Blue Line right-of-way from the Narrow Gauge Link.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") Board has previously authorized a contract with Fay, Spofford and Thorndike on November 15, 2012 for the development of a conceptual design and scope for construction of the pathway. A concurrent request has been filed with the BRA Board, associated with this memorandum, to amend Fay, Spofford and Thorndike's contract to develop final construction documents for the multi-use pathway, including the replacement of a fence separating the MBTA's Blue Line right-of-way from the Narrow Gauge Link.

The MBTA has indicated that the fence replacement work must occur when Blue Line Service and electrical infrastructure is not in service. The BRA would like to advance the advertising of bids for the fence replacement component of the project to take advantage of scheduled Blue Line closure windows during August and September 2013, and avoid significant budget expenditures which would be required to facilitate service shut-down during non-scheduled closure periods. BRA Board approval will be requested for the advertisement of bids for the remainder of the pathway work and execution of contracts at future Board meetings.

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES CONTRACT

The scope of work includes the removal of an existing chain link fence and the installation of a new black vinyl coated chain link fence, support posts and foundations.

BID PROCESS

This bid for construction services will be advertised and solicited in accordance with Chapter 30, section 39M, of the Massachusetts General Laws. The advertisement will be published in the State Central Register, the Boston Herald and with trade publications.

FUNDING

Funding for this project has been provided through the City of Boston capital fund.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, BRA Staff recommends that the Secretary be authorized to advertise for bids to remove an existing chain link fence and replace it with a new one separating the MBTA's Blue Line right-of-way from the Narrow Gauge Link.

An appropriate vote follows:

VOTED: That the Director be, and hereby is, authorized, on behalf of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, to authorize the Secretary to advertise for bids for construction services in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Ch. 30, section 39M, for the replacement of a chain link fence along the Narrow Gauge Link in East Boston