# **BOARD APPROVED**

**MEMORANDUM** 

**FEBRUARY 14, 2019** 

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (BPDA)\*

AND BRIAN P. GOLDEN, DIRECTOR

FROM: JONATHAN GREELEY, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AISLING KERR, PROJECT MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS ON BLOCK F IN SEAPORT SQUARE

PROJECT, SOUTH BOSTON

**SUMMARY:** This Memorandum requests that the Boston Redevelopment Authority

(the "BRA") d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA"): (1) co-petition the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission ("PIC") to discontinue certain portions of an existing pedestrian easement along Seaport Boulevard; (2) authorize the Director to co-petition PIC to accept a new pedestrian easement along Seaport Boulevard; and (3) authorize the Director to enter into a Petition by Seaport F Retail Owner LLC and the Boston Redevelopment Authority for Approval of

Grant of Easement (Seaport Boulevard) for the new pedestrian

easement.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Seaport Square Project site consists of approximately 23 acres of land, defined by an L-shaped series of development blocks and generally bounded by Northern Avenue and Seaport Boulevard (between Old Sleeper Street and Pier 4 Boulevard) and by Stillings Street, Boston Wharf Road, East Service Road and Pier 4 Boulevard and B Street (between Seaport Boulevard and Summer Street). In 2010, the

<sup>\*</sup> Effective October 20, 2016, the BRA commenced doing business as the BPDA

Seaport Square Project received approval for the construction of approximately 6,335,200 square feet of Gross Floor Area of mixed uses from the BRA under Article 80B of the Code (the "Code"). The City of Boston Zoning Commission approved a Planned Development Area Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 78 on October 13, 2010, which has since been amended six times.

On November 16, 2017, the BPDA voted to (i) authorize issuance of a Determination waiving the requirement of further review pursuant to Section 8A-6.2 of the Code in connection with the Notice of Project Change (the "NPC") for the Seaport Square Project, and (ii) approve the Amended and Restated Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 78, Seaport Square Project, South Boston (the "PDA Plan") pursuant to Section 80C of the Code. The project described in the NPC, proposed to develop approximately 13 acres of land comprising approximately nine individual building sites (the "NPC Project") currently owned by Seaport Square Development Company LLC and its affiliates (the "Developer"). As part of the NPC Project, the Developer proposed the construction of a new MBTA Silver Line head house (the "MBTA Silver Line Head House") at the southwestern corner of Seaport Common, located on Block F of the Seaport Square Project.

# **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT COMMISION ACTIONS**

In connection with the plans for the construction of the new MBTA Silver Line Head House on Block F, the Developer has been working with the City Public Improvement Commission ("PIC") on amending an existing pedestrian easement, granted by Petition by MS Seaport Block F, L.L.C. and the Boston Redevelopment Authority for Approval of Grant of Easement (Seaport Boulevard) (the "Existing Pedestrian Easement"). Due to the BRA's property interest in a portion of Block F for District Hall, the City is requiring that the BPDA be a co-petitioner to the PIC for the discontinuance of certain portions of the Existing Pedestrian Easement (See attachment A) and acceptance of a new pedestrian easement (See attachment B), along Seaport Boulevard. PIC will hold a new business meeting on both matters on February 28, 2019 and co-petitions will be required by the BRA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is therefore recommended that the BRA (1) authorize the Director to co-petition the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission ("PIC") to discontinue certain portions of the Existing Pedestrian Easement; (2) authorize the Director co-petition PIC to accept a new pedestrian easement along Seaport Boulevard; and (3) authorize the Director to enter into a Petition by Seaport F Retail Owner LLC and the Boston Redevelopment Authority for Approval of Grant of Easement (Seaport Boulevard) for the new pedestrian easement.

Appropriate votes follow:

#### **VOTED:**

That the Director be, and hereby is, authorized to (i) petition the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission ("PIC") for the discontinuance certain portions of an existing pedestrian easement along Seaport Boulevard; (ii) petition the PIC for the acceptance of a new pedestrian easement along Seaport Boulevard; and (iii) enter into a Petition by Seaport F Retail Owner LLC and the Boston Redevelopment Authority for Approval of Grant of Easement (Seaport Boulevard) for the new pedestrian easement, subject to such terms and conditions as the Director deems to be in the best interest of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and to take such other actions deemed necessary and appropriate by the Director in connection with the forgoing.



