



*Will be distributed
Thursday by email.*

October 19, 2017

Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO
Members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization
Suite 2150
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Secretary Pollack and Members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization:

We are writing to express our concerns that in planning for Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square (RA/SS), the City of Boston has not used state-of-the-art data and modeling tools, has not explored a surface option solution, and has prematurely moved toward selecting a preferred option without adequate financial analysis. On May 18, 2017, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) presented a "preferred" design that effectively rebuilds the current underpasses at Sullivan Square (SS) and Austin Street, and continues to place regional traffic flow above our local quality of life. In addition, the selected option is inconsistent with the City's planning goals as stated in the GoBoston 2030 Vision and Action Plan, Imagine Boston 2030, and the Citywide Resilience Strategy, which all recognize the importance of and seek to implement multiple modes of travel. Hundreds of Charlestown residents have made clear their preference for open space along a narrowed Rutherford Avenue, and for the 2013 MAPC-funded Design Study concept for Sullivan Square.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region requires difficult decisions regarding included projects, given current funding constraints. It is imperative, therefore, that projects included be designed efficiently and cost-effectively, and consider capacity management/mobility, clean air/clean communities, transportation equity, and economic vitality. (FY2018-FY2022 Final TIP, pg. ES-5)

In addition to attached Lower Mystic Regional Working Group (LMRWG) letter sent out recently, and which we request that you consider, we note several factors which fail to meet MPO goals:

- BTD's data indicates most intersections at Sullivan Square will be at LOS A during morning and afternoon peak traffic in its Underpass Option design, a roadway capacity inconsistent with MPO goal of capacity management, and which violates clean air/clean communities goals by encouraging an increase in driver use of the corridor.
- BTD failed to use contemporary traffic assumptions exhibited in studies of McGrath Boulevard, thus effectively estimating future demand overly conservatively.
- BTD did not fully explore a Surface Option design which could provide reasonable levels of service in what is a dense urban setting. The cost of such an option remains undetermined. We believe the decision to proceed with an Underpass Option is premature and presents a substantial cost risk to the TIP.

Prior to any funding decision for the Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square (RA/SS) project, we urge MassDOT and the MPO to request the City of Boston to carry out further analysis including:

- Use of VSSIM software to model the project, incorporating the same demand assumptions used in the nearby McGrath Boulevard project (e.g., Peak Hour Factor (PHF) of 0.98), and by incorporating traffic demand management in the region as recommended by the LMRWG; these calculations should be accompanied by calculations of disappearing traffic, and by consideration of induced demand generated by the design options.
- Creating a Surface Option (S/O) concept design and cost estimate, offering reasonable levels of service for a dense urban setting like that at Sullivan Square/Austin Street, and by comparing the S/O cost to the cost of an Underpass Option.
- Producing a Traffic Impact and Analysis Study (TIAS) and making public its assumptions for mode split and annual traffic growth.
- Generating and publishing calculations of pedestrian delay at each intersection.

Finally, a surface design allows for significant development along Rutherford Avenue, and in a redesigned Sullivan Square. The current underpass design eliminates much of that potential. We urge the MassDOT to require the City to calculate future revenue lost when comparing the Surface and Underpass Options (as is done in the State's I-Cubed program) and not just construction costs.; There are significant financial implications for loss of revenue if several the RA/SS developable parcels are lost, revenues that cannot be replaced by highly unpredictable air right development over a relocated underpass.

In conclusion, Charlestown's long history of community engagement has contributed to superior designs which enhance our quality of life, and have lead to extraordinary redevelopment in the town. The suppressed Mystic Tobin Bridge connections and City Square Park are but two examples of this community engagement. We urge the MPO again to ask the City for further comprehensive analysis as we have described. Thank you very much for your attention and time.

Thank you very much,

Ivey St John for

the Rutherford Corridor Improvement Coalition (RCIC)

RCIC is a coalition of advocates supporting the rebuilding Rutherford Avenue & Sullivan Square to reflect goals and objectives of Boston 2030 and Go Boston 2030. We seek to return these streets to urban residential & commercial use, reflecting conditions in the other parts of Charlestown.

SURFACE OPTION PETITION SIGNERS (OCTOBER 2017)

10/18/2017

| # | First Name | Last Name | Address | (street | City/Town |
|----|-------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| 1 | Barbara | Babin | 8th | Street | Charlestown |
| 2 | Jessica | Bethune | Somerville | Avenue | Somerville |
| 3 | Dwight | Biddle | Sydney | Street | Charlestown |
| 4 | Gitte | Blanchet | Washington | Street | Charlestown |
| 5 | Nathan | Blanchet | Washington | Street | Charlestown |
| 6 | Tom | Blazej | | | Melrose |
| 7 | Robin | Blesius | Cordis | Street | Charlestown |
| 8 | Amy | Branger | Tremont | Street | Charlestown |
| 9 | Lee | Braun | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 10 | John | Brigham | Pleasant Street | Court | Charlestown |
| 11 | Morgan | Brown | Mead Street | Court | Charlestown |
| 12 | Rachel | Brown | Mead Street | Court | Charlestown |
| 13 | Helen | Bryan | Pearl | Street | Charlestown |
| 14 | Eric | Buckley | Thacher | Street | Boston |
| 15 | Suzanne | Crowther | Concord | Street | Charlestown |
| 16 | William | Cummings | Adams | Street | Somerville |
| 17 | Karen | Dean-Smith | Washington | Street | Charlestown |
| 18 | Alison | Dinsmore | Main | Street | Charlestown |
| 19 | Robert | Dinsmore, M.D. | Main | Street | Charlestown |
| 20 | Fay | Donohue | Adams | Street | Charlestown |
| 21 | Laura | Dziorny | Elm | Street | Charlestown |
| 22 | Matthew | Engler | First | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 23 | Brooke | Evans | Mead | Street | Charlestown |
| 24 | Darren | Evans | Mead | Street | Charlestown |
| 25 | Mary | Fahey | Shipway | Place | Charlestown |
| 26 | Nate | Fillmore | Marcella | Street | Cambridge |
| 27 | Chad | Fix | Green | Street | Charlestown |
| 28 | Kathleen | Flanagan | Bradford | Street | Everett |
| 29 | MB | Flanders | Cedar | Street | Charlestown |
| 30 | Michael | Fogg | Mystic | Street | Charlestown |
| 31 | cindy | gamble | Cedar | Street | Charlestown |
| 32 | Nancy A. | Gentis | Russell | Street | Charlestown |
| 33 | Corinne | Greene | Bunker Hill | Street | Charlestown |
| 34 | Jeffrey | Greene | Bunker Hill | Street | Charlestown |
| 35 | Tom | Haley | Bunker Hill | Street | Charlestown |
| 36 | Charlie | Harris | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 37 | Jill | Harris | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 38 | Pamela | Harris | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 39 | Glenn | Hassan | Rutherford | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 40 | Robert | Hassell | Washington | Street | Charlestown |
| 41 | Katie | Houghtaling | Chestnut | Street | Charlestown |
| 42 | IveySt | John | First | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 43 | Patricia H. | Johnston | High | Street | Charlestown |
| 44 | Allison | Jordan | Monument | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 45 | Stephanie | Katsompenakis | Rutherford | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 46 | Edward | Katz | Monument | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 47 | Irene B | Kershaw | Constitution | Road | Charlestown |
| 48 | Dave | King | Lawnwood | Place | Charlestown |

| # | First Name | Last Name | Address | (street | City/Town |
|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| 49 | Dan | kovacevic | Prescott | Street | Charlestown |
| 50 | Alice | Krapf | Sullivan | Street | Charlestown |
| 51 | Nancy | Krepelka | eighth | Street | Charlestown |
| 52 | James | Labeck | Russell | Street | Charlestown |
| 53 | Tom | Lamar | Adams | Street | Somerville |
| 54 | Monica | Lamboy | Pearl | Street | Charlestown |
| 55 | Lynne | Levesque | Lawrence | Street | Charlestown |
| 56 | Chuck | Levin | Bunker Hill | Street | Charlestown |
| 57 | Liz | Levin | Bunker Hill | Street | Charlestown |
| 58 | David | Maltzan | Magazine | Street | Cambridge |
| 59 | Lucia | Matule | Monument | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 60 | Charlotte F. | Maynard | Sackville | Street | Charlestown |
| 61 | Amanda | McCabe | Wall | Street | Charlestown |
| 62 | Colin | McCarthy | Adams | Street | Somerville |
| 63 | Don | McMillan | Warren | Street | Charlestown |
| 64 | Sarah | McMillan | Warren | Street | Charlestown |
| 65 | Chris | Mian | Rutherford | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 66 | Chandler D. | Miller | Kelley | Court | Charlestown |
| 67 | Jill | morelli | Harvard | Street | Charlestown |
| 68 | Adeline | Mullin | Pleasant | Street | Charlestown |
| 69 | Samantha | Musher | Pinckney | Street | Somerville |
| 70 | Bridget | Nyhan | Washington | Street | Charlestown |
| 71 | Rainer | Plaschka | | | West Roxbury |
| 72 | John | Popp | Mt Vernon | Street | Charlestown |
| 73 | Sarah | Porter-Braun | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 74 | Jaclyn | Powers | Short | Street | Charlestown |
| 75 | Jeffrey B. | Powers | Monument | Square | Charlestown |
| 76 | Amanda | Reinfeld | Wallace | Court | Charlestown |
| 77 | Sky | Rose | | | Somerville |
| 78 | Arun | Sannuti | Amherst | Road | Watertown |
| 79 | Ashley | Schafer | Winthrop | Street | Charlestown |
| 80 | Alison | Silveira | Mystic | Street | Charlestown |
| 81 | Derek | Silveira | Mystic | Street | Charlestown |
| 82 | Jennifer | Smartt | Harvard | Place | Charlestown |
| 83 | Jennifer | Smith | Baldwin | Street | Charlestown |
| 84 | Matthew | Soule | Douglas | Road | Medford |
| 85 | Scott | St. Pierre | | | Charlestown |
| 86 | Ryan | Starr | Baldwin | Street | Charlestown |
| 87 | Benjamin | Stoddard | Russell | Street | Charlestown |
| 88 | Deirdre | Sullivan | Mount Vernon | Avenue | Charlestown |
| 89 | Amy | Sutherland | Cordis | Street | Charlestown |
| 90 | Karen | Taylor | Lindall | Court | Boston |
| 91 | Annette | Tecce | Prescott | Street | Charlestown |
| 92 | Garry | Waldeck | Main | Street | Charlestown |
| 93 | David | Yashar | Union | Street | Charlestown |
| 94 | Emma | Yashar | Union | Street | Charlestown |
| 95 | Jennifer | Zinner | Pleasant | Street | Charlestown |
| 96 | Rainer | | | | West Roxbury |