

April 5, 2021

Mr. Brian Golden
Director
Boston Planning and Development Agency
One City Hall Square – 9th floor
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Plan: Downtown

Dear Mr. Golden:

We, the below signatories, are members of the Plan: Downtown Advisory Group. As you know the Plan was the BPDA's initiative in response to the legislative requirements of C. 57 of the Acts of 2017, the City's Home Rule petition to exempt the Winthrop Square development project from the state's existing shadow laws. The purpose of this requirement was to create a cohesive planning framework for Boston's Downtown and to facilitate predictable and appropriate development and community benefits. The legislation stipulated completion of this study by July 2020. The BPDA's planning effort was well along to meet this deadline until it was "paused" because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has been one year since the planning effort, which was quite near completion, stopped. We understand that the BPDA has recently requested Board approval at its March 11 meeting to extend its contract with its consultant, NBBJ, until April 2022. This is welcome news, and we urge the BPDA to move forward as expeditiously as possible to reconvene the Advisory Group and resume the planning process. We very much look forward to completing a process that is critical to the thoughtful growth of Downtown, as we emerge from the pandemic and anticipate resumption of our full civic life. The Plan, along with the zoning and policy recommendations that will come out of it, promises to support growth while protecting the characteristics of the Downtown that make Boston the uniquely desirable City that it is.

Yours truly,

Robert Adams, Boston Society of Landscape Architects
Barbara Boylan, The Druker Company
Paul Chan, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England
Alison Frazee, Boston Preservation Alliance
Arturo Gossage, Chinatown Residents Association
Gilbert Ho, Chinatown Main Streets
Peggy Ings, Emerson College
Karen LaFrazia, St. Francis House
Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Lydia Lowe, Chinatown Community Land Trust
Herb Lozano, Roxbury Innovation Center

Beatrice Nessen, Friends of the Public Garden
MaryAnn Ponti, Saint Anthony Shrine
Seth Riseman, Boston Society of Architects, Urban Land Institute
Joyce Sanchez, Boston University
Rosemarie Sansone, Downtown Boston BID
Rishi Shukla, Downtown Boston Residents' Association
Ann Teixeira, Downtown resident
Theresa Tsoi, Chinatown Business Association
Tony Ursillo, Downtown Boston Residents' Association

Cc: Senator Joe Boncore
Representative Jay Livingstone
Representative Aaron Michelwitz
Mayor Kim Janey
City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George
City Councilor Michael Flaherty
City Councilor Julia Mejia
City Councilor Michelle Wu
City Councilor Kenzie Bok
City Councilor Ed Flynn