

January 10, 2022

Via Email

Nupoor Monani
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall, Ninth Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02201
nupoor.monani@boston.gov

Re: Comments on Harvard Enterprise Research Campus Project, located at 100 – 112 Western Avenue, Allston Supplemental Information Document

Nupoor Monani:

Charles River Watershed Association (“CRWA”) submits the following comments on the Supplemental Information Document (“SID”) for the Enterprise Research Campus Project located at 100 Western Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, filed with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (“BPDA”) Office on November 23, 2021. This project consists of developing an approximately Phase A of a 14.2-acre parcel located at 100 – 112 Western Avenue in the Allston neighborhood of Boston.

CRWA submitted comments to MEPA on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) on October 8, 2021, and to BPDA on the Draft Project Impact Report (“DPIR”) on October 25, 2021, both of which requested additional information and clarifications on responses to our comments submitted on the Environmental Notification Form / Environmental Impact Report processes. While we do appreciate that additional materials were provided in the SID, based on our review of the information, CRWA has further need for additional clarifications. The following is organized in accordance with the numbering included in Chapter 2 of the SID. Generally, we are pleased to see the project proponent increase tree canopy and permeable area, expand and clarify stormwater management approaches, and provide additional information about climate resilience measures, but we continue to look for additional details about the holistic plan and impacts to the neighborhood now and in the future.

Comment 10.2

The response does not fully answer the question. We were looking to see the modeling results /output of the evaluation of the stormwater system’s ability to handle peak flows associated with anticipated larger storm events of the future. We understand that this information will be made available to CRWA and the public in future MEPA and BWSC filings and will comment at a later date.

Comment 10.4

The response does not answer our question. We continue to attempt to understand:

1. Where will it flood on Phase A and Phase B of the ERC?
2. Where will it flood in the upstream neighborhoods?
3. Where will it flood in the downstream neighborhoods?
4. How deep will the water be?

We want to understand these scenarios during present and future conditions including considering the new on-site and roadway drainage systems with and without the NASDEP.

We do understand that the Project Proponent only has control over Phase A and Phase B, however, this project is a piece of a larger thought and vision and this information needs to be made available by the appropriate entity to CRWA and the public.

Comment 10.10

We did not want to note that the percentages exclude the “building ground floor footprints” which is somewhat misleading and implies greater coverage than the site will actually have.

Comment 10.12 & Comment 10.13

We understand that BWSC permitting is the next review point for this question.

Comment 10.17

We note that the response did not address the entire question. While we appreciate plantings and green space was added, there is still a significant concern with the overall Allston Landing tree canopy. This

Comment 10.20

It appears that the question provides responses for BMPs that are being used to get “credit” for water quantity or quality management. What about the lifespan of the green roofs?

Comment 10.21

We appreciate that the Project Proponent shared a list of local community organizations that were engaged, the community events that were attended, and events held by the Project Proponent as part of the community engagement and outreach.

Below are the remaining outstanding questions/comments in regards to community engagement:

- We would like to see specific numbers in regards to community events (i.e., number of residents that were interacted with at each community tabling event, at the two site walks, and at the two project greenway tabling events; how many translators, and for what languages were available at each event, etc.)

- How were in-person events shared with the community to ensure maximum engagement especially from the EJ populations and particularly with non-English speakers, and was follow-up information provided to residents?
- We request that the Project Proponent include plans for future community events that the Proponent plans to attend and what resources, languages, and accommodations will be provided at those events, and how those events will be advertised to ensure maximum exposure to all Allston-Brighton residents.
- Is the online survey only available in English? Is there another link available in other languages that were shared with the community? Will the survey results be publicly available? If yes, when will they be shared? If not, please provide an explanation.
- We still request the Proponent produce a summary of the door-to-door canvassing (what materials were shared with residents and in what languages, feedback gathered, how many houses/residents were engaged, etc.)

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Janet Moonan, PE
Stormwater Program Director



Dira Johanif, MSc
Program Associate for Community Resilience