

State Street Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Meeting held April 1, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

GPI Project #: MAX-2017041.05

DATE PREPARED: April 7, 2020

LOCATION: Videoconference via Google Hangouts

ATTENDEES: Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Kevin Glynn, Rose Kennedy Greenway
Brendan Kearney, Walk Boston
Thomas Nally, A Better City
Ruth Raphael, National Park Service
Ed Reynolds, Custom House Resident
Nathaniel Sheidley, Revolutionary Spaces
Stephanie Upson, Boston Cyclists Union

STAFF: Ashley Biggins, Public Works Department
Jim Fitzgerald, BPDA
Rachel Graham, Public Works Department Intern
William Moose, Boston Transportation Department
Kennan Rhyne, BPDA
Al Vilar, Boston Transportation Department
Zach Wassmouth, Public Works Department
Joe Johnson, GPI
Carolyn Radisch, GPI

PURPOSE: Advisory Group Meeting

This meeting was held via video-conference due to the social distancing guidelines set by the CDC in response to the Corona Virus -19 emergency. Ashley Biggins welcomed the group and provided introductions. Carolyn Radisch provided an overview of trends generating demand for curbside space including online purchasing and on-demand deliveries (e.g., grub hub, uber eats, etc.), TNC (transportation network company – shorthand for Uber/Lyft) activity and mobility shifts (bicycling, scooters, transit). She presented the results of GPI's September 2019 field survey of the curbside regulations and utilization on State Street and immediately connecting streets, and three potential concepts for reallocating loading and delivery spaces on State Street. The meeting was then opened up to a general discussion.

The following notes summarize the main points of the discussion as initiated by Advisory Group members.

Discussion:

Ed Reynolds:

- Ed would be interested in reactions by people using State Street given how the curbside use concepts may work for some folks and not for others. He indicated that the curbside regulation should cater toward and support the activity envisioned for the adjacent sidewalk. Ed was listening

via telephone and did not have the benefit of the presentation graphics. He will review the presentation afterwards and will send any follow-up thoughts to Ashley.

Brendan Kearney:

- Brendan had a question about the assumed length of 20' and if that was utilized for the tour buses. It was clarified that this length was assumed for all curbside uses regardless of the vehicle length for the specific use.
- Brendan wondered if the curbside regulation could change based on seasonality. For instance, tour buses may be higher in certain months and spaces may not be needed in off-season months.
- Brendan reiterated that some deliveries will need to occur while businesses are in operation and may not be able to be restricted to designated times of day.

Greg Galer:

- Greg agreed that organizing the curbside uses to be more consistent would be a big improvement over the current layout which is rather random and disorganized. Better uniformity and consistency should lead to better compliance.

Nat Sheidley

- Nat prefers to have no parking and loading on State if possible and prioritize space for through traffic, people and bicyclists while maintaining the sightlines between Long Wharf and the Old State House which were historically connected. It would be ideal to visually connect these landmarks. If it is not possible to totally remove parking, a second choice would be the option to put loading on the south rather than the north side of State Street.
- With respect to the tour spaces, Nat believed that they are generally used during cruise season (October) to move people from the Seaport to downtown and back. He suggested coordination with Old Town Trolley.
- He reiterated that the view from Long Wharf to the Old State House needs to create an inviting connection.
- Nat asked if the planned loading survey will be distributed and if the results will be provided to the AG. Ashley responded that the survey will be distributed when normal operations resume, and those results will be shared with the AG once available.

Ruth Raphael:

- Ruth agreed with what Nat said regarding an inviting connection between Long Wharf and the Old State House. Ideally remove as much commercial traffic off of State Street as possible.
- Ruth also wondered if folks knew about the available spaces that were not located immediately along State St.

Tom Nally:

- How do we decide what loading scenario will work best? As previously mentioned, he indicated that the curbside uses should enhance and support whatever activity is desired on the adjacent sidewalk.
- Tom supports wider sidewalks on the north side of State Street.

Ashley noted that the presentation would be made available to the Advisory Group, if requested, and members are welcome to send further thoughts

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.