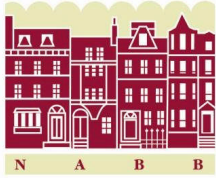


Neighborhood
Association of the
Back Bay



August 9, 2010

John Palmieri, Director
c/o Jay Rourke, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Jay.Rourke.BRA@cityofboston.gov
617-918-4317

Re: Liberty Mutual Proposed Project

Dear Director Palmieri:

I am writing to reiterate the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay's concern that full documentation of the environmental impacts of the new Liberty Mutual campus have not been provided to the BRA and the public for analysis and evaluation. We have particular concern with the lack of the data that would support the illustrations of potential shadow impacts on the Public Garden, the Common, and Copley Square.

The proponents admit that the **project will create shadow on the Boston Common**, but they do not provide information to quantify the amount of shadow, nor do they provide back up data necessary to verify or challenge their conclusions. We ask that the BRA require Liberty Mutual to provide the entire study report. We also ask that the BRA provide the community with all documentation received from the proponent (or their experts) and any information prepared by the BRA staff (or their consultants) on the topic of shadow and sunlight.

Secretary Bowles specifically required a study, but Liberty Mutual only provided conclusions, not the study which provide those conclusions, as the Secretary required.

We request that the BRA evaluate the shadow impacts and verify the location, time, and the duration of shadows, if any, that would affect public spaces.

A second concern is the traffic study, which did not include the impacts of a bridge over a major City street. The private bridge is a component of the project that does not have our support and does not have the support of Kairos Shen or the BCDC, among others. This is based on testimony at a recent BCDC hearing. The negative impacts related to the bridge over a wide, major street, especially a bridge at such a low height designed as a constantly changing mass and illuminated as an architectural element spanning the public way, on vehicular traffic may be considerable. These issues have not been discussed at any public forum. Such impacts could be considerable. In addition, we believe that insufficient consideration has given to insure pedestrian flow on streets adjacent to the site.

We recommend that the BRA Board not take up this project until the environmental impacts are fully studied and presented to the public and all questions are fully vetted.

Very truly yours,

Ann Gleason, Chair

cc: Mayor Thomas Menino
Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz
Rep. Martha Walz
Rep. Byron Rushing
Rep. Aaron Michlewitz
Councilor Michael Ross
Councilor William Linehan
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