



BOSTON  
WATERFRONT  
PARTNERS

June 25, 2019

Mr. Martin J. Walsh, Mayor, City of Boston  
Mr. Chris Osgood, Chief of Streets, City of Boston  
1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

Re: Redevelopment of the Northern Avenue Bridge

Dear Mayor Walsh & Chief Osgood,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the redevelopment of the Northern Avenue Bridge.

The [Boston Waterfront Partners](#) are a group of residents, advocates, and organizations working together to make the city's waterfront open, inviting, and vibrant for all. Together, we envision a waterfront where family recreation spaces and neighborhood businesses thrive. Where public and private investment come together for the long-term health of the city. A space we all can enjoy, benefit from, and feel welcome in.

We believe that the redevelopment of the Northern Avenue Bridge presents a unique opportunity to move one step closer to achieving this vision. The Northern Avenue Bridge has long been viewed, from an urban planning perspective, as the gateway to the Seaport, connecting the Greenway, Financial District, and Downtown area with the Fort Point and South Boston waterfront neighborhoods. It is a critical pedestrian link between two high-traffic areas of the Harborwalk, connects businesses on either side of the bridge, and significantly increases activation of the surrounding areas.

With the Moakley Courthouse directly connected to the bridge, we understand the need for increased safety protocol in the event of emergencies and terrorist threats. For safety and security reasons, we are willing to consider emergency vehicle use in case of emergencies. However, we strongly oppose allowing private vehicular traffic to make use of the bridge as it would do little to alleviate the current traffic issues on Seaport Boulevard and would substantially decrease the pedestrian value of the bridge.

Today we are writing to ask that the City of Boston advance a proposal that, except for emergency vehicle use, prohibits vehicular access on the new Northern Avenue Bridge. A bridge designed for the people of our city, not for its cars, is an important milestone in the progress you have made to a more equitable, welcoming, and resilient waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Boston Waterfront Partners

*Conservation Law Foundation  
Fort Point Neighborhood Association  
Friends of the East Boston Greenway  
The Harborkeepers  
Neponset River Greenway Council  
Piers Park Sailing Center  
Trustees of Reservations  
Barr Foundation*

[bostonwaterfrontpartners.org](http://bostonwaterfrontpartners.org)