



Community Meeting Notes

Meeting Number: 5
Project: BBF Pathways Conceptual Design
Date: October 9, 2024
Attending: Lauren Bryant (BPRD)
Shanna Dixon (BPRD)
Miguel Rosales (Rosales Partners)
Kyle Zick (KZLA)
25+ public community members

Evans Way Bridge

- Design Concepts: Three bridge design options were discussed. There was some consensus for option 2, which blends traditional and modern elements. Although the historic bridge was wood, that material cannot be considered given the short longevity and high maintenance needs. Color studies will be part of the next phase of design. The design should follow Secretary of Interior Standards.
- Accessibility: A barrier to identify the end of the path (where the bridge was removed) for visually impaired. The proposed bridge will be fully accessible.
- Landscape: There is concern about protection of the vegetation around the proposed bridge. Some vegetation will need to be removed to provide clearance for the new bridge, but no large trees will be removed.
- Budget & Timeline: The project's construction budget is \$1.2M, though only \$650k in CPA funding is secured. The timeline for completion is dependent on fundraising, with design potentially complete by spring 2025.
- Bridge Usage: The bridge will be designed for pedestrian use only. The structure will be capable of supporting vehicles for emergencies. Bicycles will not be allowed on the bridge or in Back Bay Fens Park, aligning with BPRD policies. The perimeter DCR paths do accommodate bicycles.

Pathway Project Discussion Points:

- Motorized bikes, especially used for food delivery, are identified as a growing safety issue.
- There is a call for collecting data on incidents involving cyclists and pedestrians.
- Questions were raised about how cyclists can access the Rose Garden, with a suggestion for dedicated bike parking.
- Suggestions were made to designate one or two pathways for cyclists, using distinct paving or striping to avoid conflicts with pedestrians. BPRD policy does not permit bicycling in Boston Parks. Cycling is allowed on Agassiz Road (a DCR facility).
- Karen from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy advocated for DCR to complete a project of the perimeter paths around Back Bay Fens Park.
- Schedule: the pathway project will apply for permits from the Boston Landmarks Commission and the Boston Conservation Commission this fall. The project bid documents will be complete this winter, so the project can start construction in 2025.

Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

4228 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02131

t: 617-451-1018 e: kzick@kylezick.com www.kylezick.com