

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS Department of Purchasing JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR

To: All Parties on Record with the City of Somerville as Holding Request for Qualifications

(RFQ) 14-49SRA for Selection of a Master Developer Partner for Certain Union Square

Disposition Parcels

From: Angela M. Allen, Purchasing Director

Date: January 22, 2014

Re: Responses to Questions from Prospective Offerors, Sign-In Sheet from January 17th

Briefing Session

Addendum No. 2 to RFQ 14-49SRA

Please acknowledge receipt of this Addendum by signing below and including this form in your proposal package. Failure to do so may subject the proposer to disqualification.

X
Name of Authorized Signatory
Title of Authorized Signatory

Update Regarding Submission Requirements:

The City of Somerville intends to post all responses to the Union Square RFQ on the City's web site. As per Section 9.10 of the RFQ, Distribution of Responses, the respondents are required to submit one original and ten copies to the City of Somerville's Purchasing Department. In addition, respondents will also be required to submit an electronic copy of their complete proposal on a CD/DVD.

Questions from Prospective Respondents:

1. Does the city have a financing plan for the new library, public safety building, etc?

The Commonwealth has allocated \$18 million dollars in grant monies toward the construction of a new public library. The Union Square Revitalization Plan anticipates that these grant monies, along with the revenue stream from the structured parking and new private commercial space will be the initial basis of helping the finance development of the D1 block. Further, the City and the Master Development partner will work together to explore any and all financing mechanisms, public and private, to initiate and complete development of the D1 Block.

2. What are the City's expectations regarding parking. How many spaces per dwelling unit; how many spaces per 1,000 sf of commercial office? The D2 parking requirement on any conventional basis will result in a pretty big garage.

Parking requirements in the TOD and CCD zoning districts in Union Square are established in Section 9.17 of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance. Section 9 also identifies strategies for shared parking and/or reduction in parking for certain uses which would be allowed by special permit. The ordinance also allows parking for multiple sites within Union Square to be shared, thereby allowing a master developer to build a garage on a portion of one development site that can serve parking needs for other development sites. The City expects the development of the square to meet its own parking demand, without impacting residential on-street parking in abutting neighborhoods. If a development team can establish that the overall parking requirements under zoning are significantly greater than the quantity of parking that is actually needed to build and operate the complete development, the development team and the city will need to work with the community to adjust these zoning requirements accordingly.

3. What the status of site control for D2 and other blocks?

The SRA has completed the site assembly process for the D2 Block. Presently, the City has made a request in its FY14 Capital Improvement Plan for funding to provide for the acquisition of the privately held properties within the D1 Block. When complete and when combined with the publicly owned properties, the D1 Block site assembly will be finalized. In addition, former owners of properties within the D2 block are expected to be relocated by the Spring of 2014.

4. Is the City actively pursuing site acquisitions on ALL blocks?

No, it is anticipated that aside from the City's site assembly on the D1 and D2 blocks, the Master Developer will be responsible for site acquisition for the other five blocks. In the event of an impasse, the SRA may decide to utilize its ability, but only as a last resort and with the financial backing of the Master Developer Partner.

5. What is the timing expectation of the selected developer to move forward on subsequent blocks after D2?

The RFQ is written with the expectation that the Master Developer partner will proceed with all dispatch as site assembly and market conditions dictate. As an example, certain actions by the public sector must be completed before development and construction can proceed on the D1 and D2 blocks. For the other five blocks, however, the SRA would encourage development to proceed at the earliest possible moment.

6. Is there the flexibility to redesign the MBTA stop to fit within the D2 building?

One of the motivating factors to proceed with the Master Developer approach was the need to coordinate design and operational matters with the MBTA on Block D-2. Section 1.3 of the RFQ refers to the future development of the D-2 Block by stating, "A series of structures or a single structure articulated as though it were a series of structures, is anticipated for the North Prospect Block" [D2].

7. How are business owners with existing businesses on targeted parcels responding to the City's plans to redevelop their sites?

Each situation is unique. Every property owner or existing business with a disposition block that is relocated as a result of this initiative will be entitled to technical assistance and financial support. The City has said publicly and on numerous occasions that there are existing businesses within Union Square that we absolutely want to see be a part of the new Union Square. Some of these existing businesses contribute to the unique sense of place in Union Square and we very much want to retain and enhance that sense of place.

8. Has the City entered into discussions with the US Government on the disposition of an active Post Office on Washington St.? If so or not, how are things progressing?

In July, 2013, the Union Square Post Office received designation as a Local Historic District. USPS has been actively marketing the Union Square property for some time. Based upon information gathered from private sources, an agreement has been reached to sell the property and the transaction is expected to occur in the near future.

9. Is there a projected traffic count for the drop off at the Union Sq. Green Line Extension?

At the time of design the drop off is only for the MBTA's "the Ride" program and was estimated at no more than 6 drop offs per hour. It should be noted that the drop off is intended for "the Ride" and must provide a clear line of site from the drop off point to an entrance to the station.

10. Is there a projected number of trips via Green Line extension?

If the question is asking for the total number of projected "transit trips" – that is 45,000 a day. If the question is just for Union Square, more information is available here: http://greenlineextension.eot.state.ma.us/

11. Section 9.11(f)(12) says list any actions taken by any regulatory agency or litigation involving the entity or its agents or employees with respect to any past development projects. Will you clarify the nature of the action taken? Do you mean negative actions taken by a regulatory agency or are you looking for any action taken, which would include any zoning approvals, MEPA approvals, etc. that we obtained throughout our 20 plus years in business?

Respondents should disclose any negative litigation or other regulatory actions. However, respondents may also wish to highlight any litigation or regulatory actions that are relevant or illustrative of successful strategies undertaken in similar developments.

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BETA GOVE	781-255-1982	Cellis & Beta-inc. Com	Craig Ellis, Katha Baster	
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Redgate	617-7à1-6070	Lisa, Serafin@redgate-18	con Lisa Serafin	Jon
Rodgati	617-904-7108	lizbeth.bello@redgate-	re.com Cirboth Bellu	JC BULBU
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