



Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor
District 3

April 22, 2021

Loryn Sheffner
Department of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
1 Ashburton Place, 15th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Sheffner,

I am writing to you today in full support of the vision plan submitted by the Department of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, the work of the Community Advisory Board and the recommendations of the State Department of Health and Human Services for the future of the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street.

The Commonwealth desperately needs more supportive housing and behavioral health treatment locations focused on mental health and substance use disorder. I wholeheartedly support the state dedicating the 13 acre Shattuck campus to these important public health needs. We must not allow plans for these vital priority services to be derailed. There is no greater priority for the city or the state.

As you may know, the South End, Roxbury, and Dorchester communities, for which I represent, are affected by the situation on Mass Ave. & Melnea Cass. This redevelopment of the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street may just help ALL of our communities in the coming years and we need to see this through to fruition.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor, District 3



MICHELLE WU
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

May 18, 2021

Loryn Sheffner
Office of Real Estate
One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Sheffner,

I am writing today to weigh in on the proposed redevelopment of the Shattuck Hospital campus. Substance use disorder, homelessness, and mental health crises are challenges faced by individuals and families all across Boston and our broader region. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated Boston's deep health disparities by race and neighborhood, further destabilizing residents struggling with homelessness and the opioid epidemic and heightening the urgency of this public health crisis. As we consider the future of the Shattuck site, I urge the Commonwealth to integrate the plans for public health infrastructure with the concurrent planning processes for transit and open space to maximize civic benefit for all of Boston.

In April, the MBTA laid out its plans to renovate busyards across the Boston region in pursuit of full decarbonization of our transit system. In that proposal, the Arborway bus yard – a half-mile from the current Shattuck site, and closer to public transit and a major business corridor – is slated for overhaul, with construction scheduled for 2024 to 2026. MBTA representatives confirmed that they are open to a multi-use redevelopment, and researchers at Northeastern University have indicated that the site could comfortably house electric bus infrastructure alongside supportive housing, with the same cluster of on-site services – detox and recovery beds, emergency shelter, medication-assisted treatment, mental and physical health care – as in the preliminary Shattuck proposal, along with access to open space, public transit, and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

The preliminary proposal for the Shattuck redevelopment slates demolition for 2025, and a lengthy rezoning and permitting process could extend the timeline further. To bring supportive housing online as quickly as possible and meet the urgency of this moment, we need to ensure that all options are on the table. I urge DCAMM to work more closely with the MBTA and with the City of Boston to do its due diligence on the Arborway site. Since DCAMM has stated that it has already been in communication with the MBTA, this interagency due diligence should not slow down the process or delay the start of construction. If the Arborway site better meets the needs of unhoused residents, people seeking substance use recovery services, and the broader community, then we can't afford to let a myopic vision of the Shattuck site prevent us from pursuing a better, bolder solution. We need a coordinated approach to fulfill our promise as a housing-first city while accelerating progress towards our climate goals.

Residents with substance use disorder or experiencing homelessness must be met with compassionate care, including a built environment that affirms our shared responsibility to one another. In that vein, I also urge the Commonwealth to prioritize energy efficiency and sustainable design standards for this project to meet our goal of citywide carbon neutrality by 2040.

Finally, as an At-Large Boston City Councilor, I offer whatever support I can to ensure all stakeholders are at the table. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our public health infrastructure, deliver urgently needed services, and expand civic benefit for all Bostonians.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor At-Large



MICHAEL F. FLAHERTY
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

Loryn Sheffner
MA Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
1 Ashburton Pl, 15th floor
Boston, MA 02108

Ms. Sheffner,

I am writing to express my support for the Vision Plan proposed by the DCAMM for the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital renovation. This project will create critically needed increased capacity for addiction treatment services in the Commonwealth while also balancing the need for additional housing for vulnerable and underserved populations. The plan also includes significant public benefit through the cleaning of the existing site and improvements to public open space and was created by a variety of stakeholders, including the Franklin Park Coalition.

As evidenced by the ongoing public health crisis at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, it is vitally important that we pursue timely solutions to build capacity for public health services and supportive housing for vulnerable populations. With the reconstruction of the Long Island bridge and subsequent reopening of those facilities a long way off, the approval of this plan will give those in need hope that resources are on their way today.

This project would also support my calls to decluster support services around the Mass & Cass site. The burden of the currently clustered treatment facilities and services almost exclusively in that area is weighing heavily on the surrounding community and impacting their quality of life. The creation of a second, significant site for these services would help to alleviate these neighborhood pressures.

For the above stated reasons, I would like to offer my full support for this plan for the future of the Lemuel Shattuck hospital. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office directly at 617-635-4205, or Michael.Flaherty@Boston.gov.

Best,

Michael F. Flaherty
Boston City Councilor At-Large