

BOSTON COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN NOTIFICATION FORM FOR RENEWAL



SUBMITTED TO

Boston Planning & Development Agency
Boston, Massachusetts

SUBMITTED BY

Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Boston College submits this Institutional Master Plan Notification Form to renew without change its recently expired Institutional Master Plan, under Section 80D-5 .2 (e) of the Boston Zoning Code (“Waiver of Further Review of Unchanged Plans”) for an additional four year period, ending on July 31, 2025. Below is a review of the history and current status of the Boston College Institutional Master Plan.

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In the spring of 2004, Boston College ("the University") embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning initiative to assess its academic program and to set institutional goals for the next decade and beyond. After several years of planning, a strategic plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees in February of 2006. Following two years of consultation with the surrounding neighborhood, Boston College submitted an Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF) outlining the institutional needs of the University in December of 2007. In response to a Scoping Determination issued by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), Boston College submitted an Institutional Master Plan (IMP) in June of 2008. The IMP was ultimately approved by the BRA on June 10, 2009, renewed in 2013 for a four-year period, and renewed in 2017 for a four-year period through June 20, 2021.

Since the IMP was approved in 2009, four amendments have been approved by the BRA. The First Amendment to the IMP reflected de minimus dimensional changes to the Thomas More Apartments located at 2150 Commonwealth Avenue. The First Amendment went into effect in October 2013. The Second Amendment to the IMP reflected a proposed change for the renovation of 2101 Commonwealth Avenue (formerly known as the Cardinal's Residence) for a University Conference Center and the McMullen Museum of Art. The Second Amendment went into effect in May 2014. The Third Amendment to the IMP reflected de minimus dimensional changes to the Margot Connell Recreation Center project located at 200 St. Thomas More Road. The Third Amendment went into effect in July 2016. The Fourth Amendment to the IMP added the Fish Field House located at 12 Chestnut Hill Driveway as a Proposed Institutional Project. The Fourth Amendment went into effect in March 2017.

1.2 BOSTON COLLEGE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive educational heritage.

Boston College pursues this distinctive mission by serving society in three ways:

1. By fostering the rigorous intellectual development and the religious, ethical and personal formation of its undergraduate, graduate and professional students in order to prepare them for citizenship, service and leadership in a global society.
2. By producing nationally and internationally significant research that advances insight and understanding, thereby both enriching culture and addressing important societal needs.
3. By committing itself to advance the dialogue between religious belief and other formative elements of culture through the intellectual inquiry, teaching, learning and community life that form the heart of the University.

1.2.1 MAJOR PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The Strategic Plan

Since 1975, the University has engaged in a comprehensive, long-range strategic planning process to guide its institutional vision and assess its academic programs. In 2006, the Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan entitled "Excellence, Distinction, Leadership: Boston College in the 21st Century," which was the result of a two-year assessment and planning process that involved more than 200 faculty, staff, and students.

Building on the prior 10-year strategic plan, the University announced a new strategic plan in 2017 entitled "Ever to Excel: Advancing Boston College's Mission" that encompassed four strategic directions:

1. Re-envisioning liberal arts education
2. Enhancing the commitment to student formation
3. Bolstering scholarship and research
4. Expanding connections to Boston and communities around the world

Initiatives to support the four strategic directions include a new integrated science building, the endowment of as many as 100 faculty positions, increased options for interdisciplinary study and collaboration and upgraded facilities.

The Campus Master Plan

Upon the completion of the 2006 Strategic Plan, the University developed a long-range Campus Master Plan that would provide the University with an opportunity to achieve excellence by using the strength and distinctiveness of its campus to reinforce its mission and strategic objectives. During this process, the University established the following six guiding principles essential to fulfilling its institutional objectives:

1. Create One Campus—That the former Archdiocesan property become fully integrated with the Boston College campus, and that the 120-acre Chestnut Hill Campus, the 40-acre Newton Campus and the 65-acre Brighton Campus each provide a notable setting that contributes to the campus learning environment and the life of the University.
2. Develop Mixed Campus Uses—That Boston College’s campuses host a mix of academic, residential and co-curricular facilities, and provide open space areas that foster a vibrant and engaged University community.
3. Emulate the Character of the Middle Campus—That the new facilities on the Lower Campus reflects the distinctive character of the Middle Campus with its combination of Gothic architecture and collegiate open spaces, linked quadrangles, and walkways.
4. Provide Appropriate Campus Density—That campus development emulates the Middle Campus’ proportion of open space to building space, reflecting the Middle Campus height (four to five stories) and open-space pattern, while respecting the character of the surrounding community.
5. Promote Student Formation—That the Lower and Brighton Campuses develop undergraduate student housing reflecting the University’s commitment to student formation that supports intellectual development and responsible student behavior in smaller living communities.
6. Achieve Sustainability—That development on each campus achieve higher levels of energy efficiency and champion the natural environment, and that sustainability goals be carefully considered with each project.

1.3 STATUS OF IMP PROJECTS

The 10-Year Plan called for the creation of 21st-century classrooms and laboratories, new and renovated student residence halls, replacement of a 55-year-old student center, replacement of a 44-year-old recreation center, and the addition of much-needed playing fields. The following is a list of renovation and new construction projects that have been completed or are in progress in Boston and Newton:

Boston

1. Renovation of 129 Lake Street (formerly known as Bishop Peterson Hall) for administrative office space, completed in October 2011.
2. Development of the Cadigan Alumni Center at 2121 Commonwealth Avenue (formerly known as the Chancery) for administrative offices for University Advancement, completed in February 2012.
3. Renovation of 2101 Commonwealth Avenue (formerly known as the Cardinal's Residence) for a University Conference Center and the McMullen Museum of Art, completed in February 2016.
4. Construction of Thomas More Apartments at 2150 Commonwealth Avenue consisting of 490 student beds and the University Health Center, completed in August 2016.
5. Renovation and conversion of Reservoir Apartments (formerly known as 2000 Commonwealth Avenue) to create a 540-bed student residence hall, completed in August 2016.
6. Construction of the Harrington Athletics Village on the Brighton Campus consisting of a baseball field with 1,000 seats, softball field with 300 seats, and a grass recreational field, completed in March 2017.
7. Construction of the Fish Field House, an indoor practice facility housing a full-size football field, strength and conditioning space and offices serving the football program, as well as other campus recreation programs, completed in August 2018.
8. Construction of the state-of-the-art Margot Connell Recreation Center with two pools, basketball courts, indoor track, fitness and weight areas, multi-purpose recreation courts, a climbing wall, and outdoor recreation center, completed in July 2019.
9. Construction of the Pete Frates Center, an indoor practice facility, batting cages, lockers rooms, strength and conditioning space and offices for the baseball and softball programs, completed in November 2020.

Newton

1. Construction of Stokes Hall humanities building with classrooms and faculty offices, completed in December 2012.
2. Renovation of St. Mary's Hall for the Jesuit Community residence and academic space for the University's Woods College of Advancing Studies, and the Communication and Computer Science departments, completed in December 2014.
3. Construction of 157,000-square foot Integrated Science Building housing research labs, maker space, classrooms, offices, and the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and

Society focusing on climate, energy, and water research. The building is anticipated to be completed December 2021.

1.4 WAIVER OF FURTHER REVIEW OF UNCHANGED PLANS

Boston College requests that the BPDA apply the procedure of Section 80D-5 .2 (e) of the Boston Zoning Code (“Waiver of Further Review of Unchanged Plans”) and waive further review of this IMPNF after finding that (i) no new Proposed Institutional Projects are planned; (i) no changes in the Institutional Master Plan are proposed that would constitute a change in use, dimensional, parking or loading elements of the Institutional Master Plan; and (iii) no significantly greater impacts would result from continued implementation of the approved Institutional Master Plan than were originally projected.

