HISTORIC NORTH AND SOUTH DAM – NEW CHARLES RIVER BASIN

MDC CONTRACT NO – PL97-046-D1A

July 18, 2000 CAC Meeting

List of Project Objectives

- Clarify and enhance the existing pedestrian route along the Monsignor O'Brien Highway.
- Strengthen links between the existing pedestrian route on the Monsignor O'Brien Highway and the waterfront routes on both banks.
- Create a continuous riverfront pedestrian route linking the Boston-side Esplanade to the Riverwalk on the Cambridge-side bank through the introduction of bridge links and new pedestrian pathways.
- Simplify vehicular movement around The Museum of Science.
- Highlight the existing entrance into The Museum of Science. Strengthen pedestrian links to encourage movement towards the entrance from Monsignor O'Brien Highway and the proposed pedestrian bridge from North Point Park.
- Enhance existing areas of open space at either end of the dam crossing. Provide nodes of activity in these areas for riverfront users through the adaptive reuse of existing historic structures in these areas.
- Reorganize and simplify vehicular movement at these activity points and reduce vehicular access to increase pedestrian priority and safety.
- Reorganize existing uses of land on the Boston Side to create specific zones of active and passive recreation.
- Strengthen existing green buffer along Storrow Drive and at the intersection with Monsignor O'Brien Highway.
- Enhance the existing open space around the historic pavilion to provide an attractive setting for this historic structure.

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PRESENTATION MATERIAL LIST

1) **List of Project Objectives**
2) **Existing Conditions Plan**
3) **Site Analysis Plan**
4) **Pedestrian Bridge and Walkway Design Options and Criteria**
5) **Sketch Design Options**

- Stables and Boathouse
- Option 1 – Vehicular Access and Optimum Parking
- Option 2 – Access Only
- Option 3 – Pedestrian Route
- Existing and Proposed Conditions Sections

- Museum of Science Frontage
- Option 1 – Sidewalk Widening
- Option 2 – Museum Level Pedestrian Route
- Existing and Proposed Conditions Sections

- Washburn Pavilion
- Option 1 – Paved Plaza and Bus Turnaround
- Option 2 – Informal Green Space and Waterfront Routes
- Option 3 – Paved Plaza and Waterfront Viewing Area

- Boston Side Open Space
- Option 1 – Optimum Parking
- Option 2 – Informal Open Space, Play Area and Parking
- Option 3 – Informal Open Space, Play Area and Tennis Courts

- Museum River Frontage
- Option 1 – Cantilevered Route (restricted access to the Museum)
- Option 2 – Cantilevered and Riverfront Route (allowing access to the Museum)

6) **Existing Conditions of Historic Structures**

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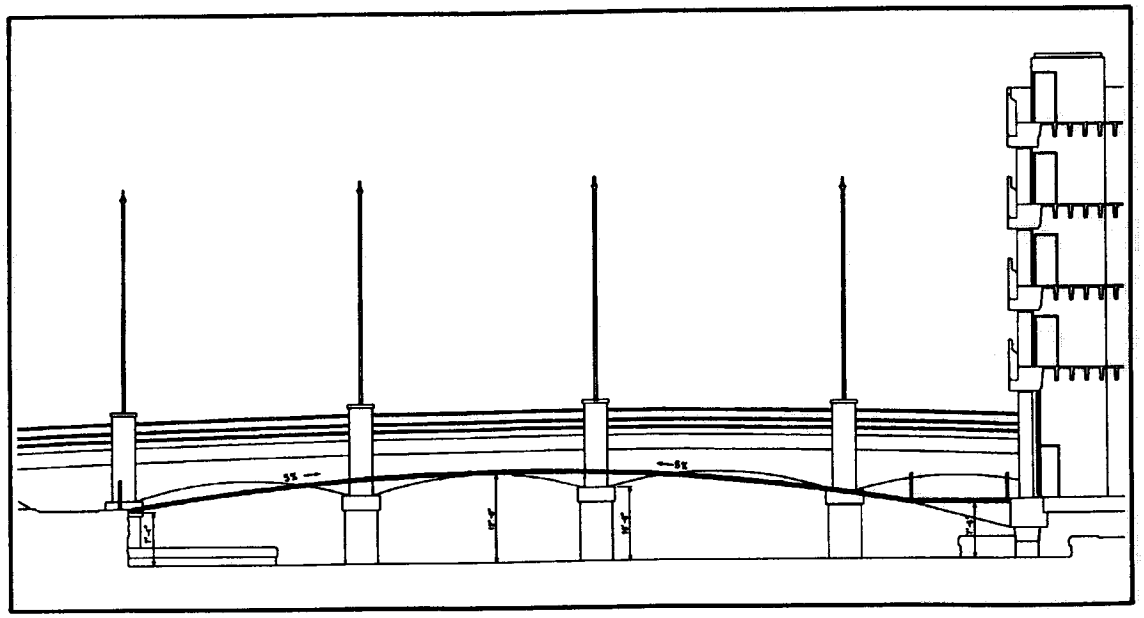
DESIGN CRITERIA

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT THE LECHMERE CANAL

- A clear span of 12' over the Charles River with no piers in the water.
- A dramatic statement along the River to serve as a gateway to Lechmere Canal and Museum area.
- Maintain an average clearance of 10' over the water.
- Slopes of 5% as a maximum.
- A minimum width of 12' between pedestrian railings.
- A structure compatible with the context and the Museum buildings.
- Efficient and economical structure
- A transparent and elegant structure to improve the views along the River.



CRITICAL CLEARANCES

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DESIGN CRITERIA

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

- Walkway supported with a minimum number of piers in the water or as a cantilevered structure.
- Reduced impacts to the Museum building.
- Slopes of 5% as a maximum.
- A minimum of 12' between pedestrian railings.
- Efficient and economical structure.
- Separation between walkway and Museum facilities.
- Creation of an attractive edge along the Museum parking garage.
- A walkway compatible with the pedestrian bridge and the Museum area.

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DESIGN CRITERIA

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER CHARLES RIVER LOCK

- A clear span over the Canal with no piers.
- A moveable span structure.
- Clearance to match the clearance of the Craigie Bridge.
- Slope of 5% as a maximum.
- A minimum width of 12' between railings.
- Minimum length of access ramp necessary.