



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

August 20, 2019

Para Jayasinghe
City of Boston Public Works Department
One City Hall Plaza, Room 710
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Northern Avenue Bridge, Fort Point Channel, Boston, MA; MHC# RC.2913

Dear Mr. Jayasinghe:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission have reviewed the Project Notification Form (PNF) and information that was submitted to this office by AECOM, received on July 29, 2019. The staff of the MHC have reviewed the information submitted and have the following comments.

The information provided contemplates the following options: rehabilitation of the historic Northern Avenue Bridge, the replication of the historic Northern Avenue Bridge, and the replacement of the Northern Avenue Bridge. The PNF states that the project is in "conceptual phase." The Project Description (section 2.0) from AECOM states, "The City of Boston Public Works Department (PWD) proposes to rebuild the Northern Avenue bridge..." and "...PWD has conceptual designs to present to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other consulting parties to initiate the Section 106 consultation process for opening of the Northern Avenue Bridge."

The information provided lists a number of federal funding sources and permitting agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for funding and the United States Coast Guard, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service for permits.

Additionally, The Northern Avenue Bridge has previously been subject to Section 106 review as part of a 1989 project that constructed a new bridge next to the Northern Avenue Bridge. The lead federal agency for the 1989 project was the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The "conditional no adverse effect" finding made by FHWA in 1989 required that a Preservation Plan be developed for the Northern Avenue Bridge.

The MHC looks forward to the lead federal agency's finding of effect and initiation of the Section 106 process.

With regards to the information and analysis submitted, the MHC notes that the analysis of cost, construction and life cycle costs do not separate out the potential reconstruction (replication in new materials) of the historic Northern Avenue Bridge. Rehabilitation and reconstruction are grouped together, even though the materials and construction would be completely different. The MHC requests that reconstruction be considered as an individual alternative.