Mayor Walsh, Community Celebrate Opening of UMass Boston’s Section of HarborWalk

Calling it a neighborhood jewel that will further connect UMass Boston to the community, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh in September joined Chancellor J. Keith Motley, local officials, and community members in celebrating the university’s newly constructed section of the HarborWalk.

“This truly adds to the beauty of our city, and adds to the beauty of the neighborhood,” Walsh said.

Motley said the HarborWalk Improvements and Shoreline Stabilization Project has made the new section welcoming for walkers, joggers, cyclists, and everyone who wants to enjoy the waterfront.

“Today, it’s almost impossible to remember the way this path looked before—a rocky trail obscured by just enough vegetation to scare people away from using it,” Motley said.

“Now our HarborWalk is accessible, well lit, and welcoming.”

The 800-foot stretch of shoreline on the north side of the UMass Boston campus, between the JFK Library and Museum and Harbor Point Apartments, opened to the public over the summer.

The renovated HarborWalk features a paved walkway, restored shoreline, benches, bike racks, lighting, gathering spaces, native plants, and an area to display artwork. Signs with historical narratives are also slated for installation. The project, which began in July 2014, placed 3,200 tons (6.4 million pounds) of stone along the shoreline to stabilize it before adding the walkway and other amenities.

Granite blocks unearthed during the Big Dig project were donated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

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New Signs of Our Campus Transformation

Our physical transformation at the University of Massachusetts Boston continues to accentuate our status as the capital city’s urban public research university, overlooking the beautiful Boston waterfront.

This fall, we celebrated the opening of 800 feet of new HarborWalk along the north side of campus. Mayor Martin J. Walsh and other friends and neighbors joined the festivities in honor of new connections the pathway creates between our university and the city.

We’ve also made considerable progress on University Hall, formerly known as “General Academic Building No. 1,” and expect its completion in a few short months. The state-of-the-art facility will include new chemistry labs, performing arts spaces, a recital hall, and a theater. Its 500-seat auditorium is taking shape, and you can see its copper cladding, a cost-effective and durable material that reflects our creative spirit, glistening in the sun.

Once it opens, University Hall will complement our newly opened Integrated Sciences Complex beautifully. To power our new buildings efficiently, we are designing a 40,000-square-foot sustainable energy facility that will recapture heat to produce electricity, saving on costs and keeping our facilities running during power outages.

We’re also excited to announce that our Beacons baseball team will soon have a field to call “home.” This summer, we broke ground on a shared baseball complex with Boston College High School to be named J. Donald Monan SJ Park. The stadium, scheduled to host games next season, is the result of a public-private partnership with the Yawkey Foundation and will feature Fenway Park field dimensions, a replica Green Monster, and grandstands for 500 fans.

Our Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project is underway as well, set for a 2017 completion date. Crews are digging trenches for modern utility corridors that will replace outdated ones in our decommissioned parking garages. The new roadways that are under construction will soon bring new sidewalks, bike lanes, tree lawns, and a new northern gateway to campus.

In the meantime, we continue moving forward with the expansion of our Bayside Lot, which first requires demolition of the decommissioned Bayside Expo Center as we develop a use for the site that suits the needs of our urban university.

We are so proud of how far we’ve come and of where we are headed. I invite you to learn more by reading this issue of Building Connections.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley

HarborWalk (continued from page 1)

The HarborWalk links UMass Boston to the JFK Library and to Carson Beach and Castle Island.

Students from Dot Art have created the first sculpture for the HarborWalk. The children visited the beach several times over the summer to gather shells, seagrass, and stones for their sculpture, which is built on a recycled wooden cake that celebrated the 375th birthday of Mather Elementary, the first public elementary school in the nation.

Motley thanked Vivien Li, former head of the Boston Harbor Association, for her leadership in fostering the creation of the HarborWalk. Li is leaving Boston for Pittsburgh after decades of hard work bringing city residents closer to the water’s edge.

Walsh spoke of how many cities create their own HarborWalks for visitors and tourists to see the ocean.

“This is ours,” Walsh said. “People will come by here, but this truly is Dorchester’s own, and Southie’s own.”

Chancellor Motley talks with the young artists from DotArt, who created the first art installation to be displayed on the new stretch of HarborWalk.
Design for Energy Producing Facility in Progress

A new, environmentally sustainable energy producing facility that will provide centralized heating and cooling for future UMass Boston buildings is currently in the design phase.

The 40,000-square-foot facility will be located on what is currently Lot 150, behind the Service and Supply and Quinn buildings. It will recapture heat to generate electricity, which will save money and generate emergency power for ongoing research in the event of an outage.

Architecture firm Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc., has presented designs to the university, the UMass Building Authority, and the project manager, Jacobs Engineering Group. The plans provide aesthetically pleasing treatments for the exhaust stack and other mechanical equipment, and include features that will allow for educational tours.

Project completion is targeted for spring 2018, in time to provide climate control for the first residence hall.

Bayside Lot Adds Temporary Parking and Permanent Improvements

UMass Boston is moving to expand temporary parking at the Bayside Lot from 1,300 to approximately 1,900 spaces while major campus construction takes place, including the completion of parking garages.

To create these additional spaces, the Bayside Expo Center will be demolished. One of the center’s buildings suffered a partial roof collapse during last winter’s historic snowfall. The remainder of the building will be taken down in 2016.

The UMass Building Authority awarded the demolition contract to McConnell Enterprises Inc. from Braintree.

Demolition of the building is a step toward reviving the once-idle waterfront property. The Bayside Lot will undergo a number of improvements after demolition is complete. New pedestrian-oriented walkways will connect Mt. Vernon Street to the Dorchester Shores Reservation and the HarborWalk. Improved lighting, site security devices such as blue light phones, bike racks, new landscaping, and a second bus shelter will make Bayside a more welcoming place for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Additionally, new bioretention areas with plantings and an improved drainage system will collect and manage stormwater.

Bayside will continue to be used for temporary parking until UMass Boston builds parking garages on campus. The university is still evaluating options for the long-term use of Bayside that will fulfill the immense potential of the site for the university and our Columbia Point neighbors.

Construction Updates

Construction updates are posted on the UMass Boston website, available on the homepage at www.umb.edu. To view the construction webcams or sign up for updates to be delivered to your email inbox, go to www.umb.edu/construction. If you have questions or concerns, call 617.287.5000 or email us at construction@umb.edu.

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A YEAR OF BEGINNINGS AT UMASS BOSTON

The UMass Boston campus has been transformed in incredible ways this year. In March, President Barack Obama joined us to celebrate the opening of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. Just days later, we cut the ribbon at the official opening of our Integrated Sciences Complex. During the summer, we broke ground on Monan Park—a new NCAA-standard athletic complex we will share with Boston College High School—and opened the new section of the HarborWalk for friends and neighbors of the university. Here are some of our favorite photos from this year of growth and change.

Chancellor Motley cuts the ribbon at the new ISC. With him are former UMass President Robert Caret, Mayor Walsh, and Board of Trustees Chair Victor Woolridge, along with students, faculty, and staff.

Vice President Joe Biden presides over a mock session in the replica U.S. Senate chamber at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

President Obama waves to the crowd during opening festivities at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.
Vice Chancellor Charlie Titus, UMass Boston baseball Head Coach Brendan Eygabroat, Boston College Chancellor Father J. Donald Monan, Beacons player Bryan Dupre, and Chancellor J. Keith Motley break ground on the new Monan Park athletic complex, which will be shared by UMass Boston and Boston College High School.

The new stretch of the HarborWalk on the north side of campus has quickly become a haven for runners, cyclists, and ocean lovers.

Chancellor Motley is joined at the HarborWalk opening by Boston Harbor Association outgoing leader Vivien Li, Mayor Walsh, Boston City Council President Bill Linehan, and state Representative Kevin Honan.

The Beacons’ new baseball field, shown in this rendering, will include a replica Green Monster.
Punch List

✓ Quadrangle and Demo Study Underway
The university has begun to study deconstruction of the substructure, Science Center, and pool buildings, and the development of a central campus quadrangle, a signature project of the campus master plan. Sasaki Associates is leading the study, which is funded and managed by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance.

✓ Architect Selection Underway for Parking Garage
The university and the UMass Building Authority are moving forward with plans to construct a new parking facility on campus and are selecting an architectural firm for the project. The university is reviewing two possible locations for the structure, as identified in its master plan, and is in the process of deciding which one to build on. The parking structure will contain approximately 1,400 spaces, and will house a new Department of Public Safety headquarters. The building authority selected Skanska as the project management firm.

✓ Healey Library Waterproofing/Roof Replacement Underway
The second phase of the Healey Library waterproofing/roof project will be completed by the end of the year. The project includes installing new roofs on six terrace locations on the 11th floor, removing the surrounding parapet walls, installing waterproofing and railings, and replacing windows on the two plaza-facing terraces.

✓ Study Phase for GAB No. 2 Completed
UMass Boston is currently wrapping up the programming and study phase for General Academic Building No. 2, the next academic building called for in the master plan. The building will be situated adjacent to Wheatley Hall, near the Campus Center, on what used to be the South Lot. The university is in the process of identifying and securing funding for the project.

✓ Renovations to Existing Academic Buildings Readied for Design
UMass Boston is now completing the programming phase of its project to renovate existing academic buildings on campus. The Renovations to Existing Academic Buildings (REAB) project will improve the student and instructional experience by enlarging classrooms, and will extend the functional life of academic buildings through upgrades to spaces (walls, floors, ceilings, and more) and the addition of new furniture.

The project also includes improvements to wayfinding and overall occupant comfort in McCormack Hall, Wheatley Hall, and on the eighth floor of the Healey Library. The REAB project is slated to begin construction in fall 2016.

✓ Public-Private Partnership to Pave Way for Housing
Working with the UMass Building Authority, the university is preparing to enter a public-private partnership in a joint venture with a development team to build a 1,000-bed, freshmen-only residence hall on campus.

The residence hall will be located on the current site of Parking Lot B, near the softball field. The university’s master plan calls for another 1,000-bed facility to be constructed in the future.

✓ Fox Point Dock Replacement Planned
While roadway construction is underway, Marine Operations is planning to replace and upgrade the Fox Point dock, which supports research, Boating in Boston, university events, and community activities. The improvements, which are targeted for spring completion, will include accessibility upgrades to enhance ADA compliance.
Utility and Roadway Work Progressing

Utility and roadway work is progressing all over campus. To provide utilities needed for the new University Hall, work has focused on installation of a modern utility corridor that runs from the Morrissey Boulevard entrance and along the southern and eastern sections of University Drive. Construction of new roadways along these portions of University Drive, including the new roadway alignment at the Campus Center, is also underway.

Utility installation and roadway construction will soon begin on the north side of campus. Traffic changes needed to accommodate the next phases of work are under review.

Work in the lower levels of the Campus Center, Healey Library, McCormick and Wheatley halls, and the Quinn Administration Building will tie utility systems in those buildings to the new utility corridor.

University Hall Crew Prepares for Students

Clockwise from bottom right: Crews place copper on an external wall of University Hall; windows are installed in the building’s ocean-facing atrium; and chemistry teaching labs are outfitted in the new academic building.
The new Integrated Sciences Complex gleams at the Morrissey Boulevard entrance to campus, welcoming visitors and students. The cutting-edge ISC increases opportunities for learning and research at UMass Boston.