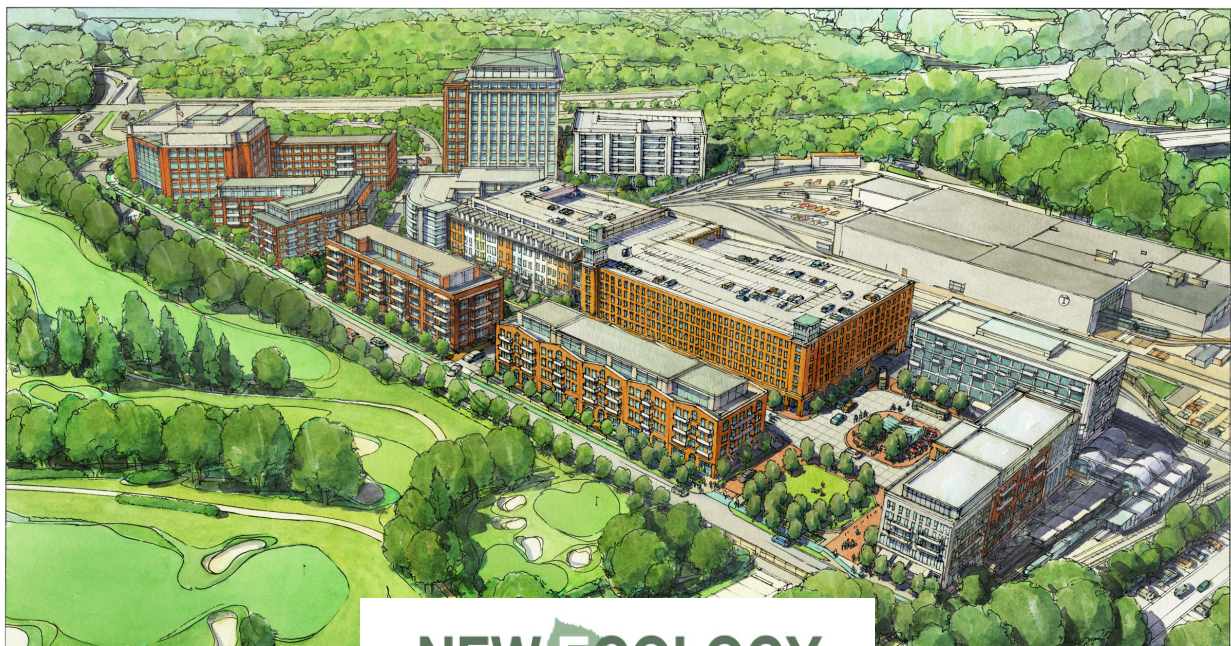


Sustainability Strategic Plan

Riverside Station Mixed-Use Redevelopment
Newton, MA
September 26, 2019



PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The Riverside Station Mixed-Use Redevelopment project (the “Riverside Development”) presents a unique and generational opportunity to transform the sprawling automobile parking lot located at the Riverside MBTA multi-modal transit terminal. The proposed project will create a compact, walkable, and transit-oriented development that will create a new energy-efficient neighborhood. It will also substantially improve and reduce the impacts to the surrounding environment created by the existing parking facility by reducing the amount of paved areas and incorporating green infrastructure as recommended in the City of Newton’s *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan*. By creating a dense community adjacent to multiple modes of transit, the project will reduce the automobile dependency of both new residents and commercial tenants.

In addition to both minimizing environmental impact and improving access to transit, indoor environmental air quality and occupant comfort are at the core of the community vision adopted by the design team for the Riverside Development. To implement these broad sustainability principles, the project will incorporate the Green Newton *Green Building Principles* including minimizing building operating energy by methods that include Passive House design, minimizing embodied carbon, incorporating all-electric mechanical systems, and minimizing the carbon footprint for transportation. These standards dovetail with the 30-year roadmap identified in the *Citizens Climate Action Plan*, which also has a specific focus on encouraging the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). Mark Development understands the importance of a holistic, integrated design approach in achieving such ambitious goals, and has assembled a design team that has the experience and expertise necessary to realize this vision.

Mark Development is committed to be a leader in sustainability in the Newton community and pledges the following commitments for the Riverside Development:

1. Passive House design for the residential portions of buildings 4,5,6,7,8 and 10
2. Electrification for the residential portions of buildings 4,5,6,7,8 and 10
3. Embodied Carbon analysis guiding material selection
4. Solar Ready design on all building roofs and parking garages
5. Rainwater Reuse for Irrigation
6. Electric Vehicle Charging stations for 10% of the project parking spaces¹

¹ The quantity of EV charging stations within the MBTA parking spaces are to be determined by the MBTA

RIVERSIDE REDEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

PASSIVE HOUSE DESIGN STANDARDS

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in 2018 that clearly stated that eliminating greenhouse gas production by 2050 is needed in order to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change. As outlined in the Newton Citizens Climate Action Plan, the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy (NCCE) agrees with the IPCC and urges Newton developers to achieve these climate goals through Passive House design.

The Passive House building standards represent the future of building energy efficiency by encompassing stringent energy usage intensity thresholds combined with field performance testing to validate overall building performance.

The PHIUS mission statement clearly defines the goals of the standard which are directly aligned with the IPCC goals: "To develop and promote North American passive building standards, practices, and certifications for buildings, professionals, and products to create structures that are durable, resilient, comfortable, healthy, and super energy efficient."

The Riverside Development has made the commitment to design and build the residential portion of the buildings 4,5,6,7,8,and 10 to Passive House standards. All six buildings will be registered for certification by PHIUS.

These buildings will incorporate the following Passive House design techniques:

- High performing thermal envelope with continuous insulation
- Airtight construction with low air change rates
- Balanced mechanical ventilation systems for improved indoor air quality and comfort
- High performance windows and doors to manage solar energy and minimize leakage

The Passive House certification process will be overseen by multiple experienced Certified Passive House Consultants (CPHCs) to ensure the project team has ample program guidance. Emphasis will be placed during schematic design to leverage MassSave incentives and identify key design challenges, solutions and decisions.

ELECTRIFICATION

As outlined in the Carbon Free Boston Summary Report 2019, "Achieving carbon neutrality will require Boston's buildings to be highly efficient and to move away from fossil fuel use for heating and other services. New buildings can be built to the highest possible performance standards, while avoiding the lock-in of fossil fuels." The impact of building design on the total greenhouse gas emissions in Boston is identified further in the report, "The GHG emissions from the use of

electricity, heating oil, natural gas, and steam in Boston’s buildings account for more than two-thirds of the city’s total emissions.”

Passive House design achieves the objective of reducing building energy usage intensity relative to code-compliant buildings. However, to minimize dependence on carbon fuel sources and corresponding GHG emissions, these buildings need to switch to all-electric design where feasible. Due to higher energy costs for electricity relative to natural gas, many projects face an innate challenge to overcome this imbalance to construct feasible projects. When Passive House design is coupled with electric heating, cooling, and domestic hot water generation, the impact of energy usage is reduced in overall life-cycle cost thereby increasing project feasibility.

The Riverside Development has made the commitment to design and build the residential portion of the six new residential buildings with all electric sourced heating and cooling systems (heat pumps, variable refrigerant flow systems, etc.) in addition to electric domestic hot water generation, where practicable, based on space type and utility metering.

EMBODIED CARBON

As project operational energy consumption is reduced through Passive House design and other sustainability measures, the carbon emissions occurring during the construction phase becomes more prominent in the overall building life-cycle emissions.

To further understand these impacts, a preliminary embodied carbon analysis was performed to evaluate various envelope wall assemblies implemented for a previous project constructed by Mark Development. New Ecology, Inc. (NEI) examined the thermal performance of numerous wall assemblies in conjunction with embodied carbon to compare the impact of various construction materials.

The Riverside Development will continue to evaluate material selection during the design phase and consider both embodied carbon and thermal performance during the wall assembly selection process. High performance wall assemblies with low embodied carbon and high thermal performance will be identified and evaluated for use during individual building design.

SOLAR READY DESIGN

The Riverside Development team will build on the positive impacts of the efficiency described above by incorporating electrical, structural, and other design elements that make the building “solar ready” for renewable energy systems. Solar Ready design means that the project team will engage in a roof mapping exercise to identify roof areas suited to renewable energy system integration, and that those areas of the roof to have the structural capability to carry the dead load and uplift loads of a renewable energy system. In addition, Solar Ready areas of the roof will be free and clear of any mechanical systems or plumbing penetrations, which are a major contributor to reduced potential in terms of system size and production. All required electrical chases from the roof into the electrical room will be included in the design and construction of the building, and space will be left free and clear in mechanical rooms for location of inverters.

The development of renewable energy systems in Massachusetts currently is more challenging due to the end of the SREC market, the reduced incentives under the new SMART program, and changes to net metering caps and requirements. Mark Development will continue to monitor the solar market and assess the feasibility of integration of renewable energy systems into the project. Mark Development is reviewing lease proposals from solar engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) companies to install solar panels on building rooftop areas and install a solar canopy over parking garage top deck areas. This type of agreement would achieve the goal of implementing solar PV at the Riverside Development.

SITE DESIGN AND WATER REUSE

By the Riverside Development’s very nature, it will present a substantial environmental benefit to both its immediate surroundings and the area as a whole. Located adjacent to the Charles River, the reduction of impacts from stormwater runoff are of key importance. The existing parking facilities at both the Riverside Terminal and the adjacent Hotel Indigo represent over 10 acres of asphalt pavement that contribute substantial amounts of stormwater runoff directly into the Charles River, which is essentially untreated. By relocating and consolidating the parking into multiple structures, automobiles will be parked where they are protected from the elements, and the salt, sand, and petroleum contamination associated with open-air parking will be drastically reduced.

The Riverside Development’s site is currently a heat island hot spot, registering higher temperatures than the surrounding neighborhood due to the high percentage of impervious asphalt surface. The redeveloped site will provide more pervious green space and replace large sections of asphalt with buildings with high solar reflectance white roofs, reducing the heat island effect. In recent urban climate preparedness studies, large buildings with white roofs

and pocket parks resulted in the most significant heat island reductions relative to other land cover types such as asphalt parking areas or low-density asphalt shingle-roofed houses (<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Climate/~media/A3977AB1B6AB47D7BEE02AE4D0B1410B.ashx>).

The proposed redevelopment of the site will incorporate several Low Impact Development (LID) measures to promote the treatment and return of groundwater to the subsurface aquifer. Portions of the lower roof areas that are visible to residential tenants may include planted “green roof” systems. A “green roof” contains live plants in a lightweight soil medium that is designed to retain precipitation. The water is then absorbed by the plants and returned to the air through transpiration. This process removes dissolved contaminants including phosphorus when the roof is designed as a passive system that is not fertilized or watered. Phosphorus is a particular contaminant of concern in the Charles River watershed, of which the project site is a part. Additionally, on-street parking areas will be paved with pervious pavement to collect and infiltrate the “first flush” of stormwater from the streets before they reach the closed drainage collection system. The project will also include a subsurface stormwater retention and infiltration system designed to treat and retain stormwater within the site, further improving the water quality in the watershed and reducing the strain on the municipal drainage system.

A portion of the retained stormwater (cleaner roof drainage) will be utilized for site irrigation to reduce outdoor water consumption for the site.

LEED NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Riverside Development will follow the LEED Neighborhood Development design strategies to integrate ten buildings into one cohesive site. Sidewalks, intersections, perimeter landscaping, and main façade will welcome the community members and visitors based on LEED design criteria strategies. Landscaping and site improvements will further emphasize the social and environmental priorities of this project. Outdoor spaces will be designed to encourage social engagement, turf will be minimized on the project, and plantings will be drought tolerant and appropriate for the microclimates specific to each planting area.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

As outlined in the Carbon Free Boston Summary Report 2019, electric vehicle infrastructure needs to be drastically improved to meet the cities goals. *“Any remaining cars and trucks driving into and around Boston in 2050—including ride-hailing services—must run on low- or zero-GHG fuel or electricity. The City, region, and Commonwealth, along with utilities and other private sector partners, must help accelerate an affordable market transformation toward electric*

vehicles. Programs to support electric vehicle purchases and to build out local and regional electric vehicle infrastructure will help make EVs a more economic, convenient, and accessible solution.”

Riverside Development residential and commercial tenants, visitors, and the community alike will desire access to EV charging parking spaces for both convenience and climate change mitigation. Mark Development understands that provisions for electric vehicle charging stations need to be implemented during construction to avoid extensive costs of upgrading the electrical infrastructure at a future date. Therefore, Mark Development is planning to implement EV charging parking spots at the Riverside Development for at least 10% of the project parking spaces. This does not include the MBTA parking spaces, however it is anticipated that the MBTA will choose to include a significant quantity of EV charging spaces as well.

TRANSPORTATION

It is expected that by its design, the project will exhibit a substantial reduction in demand for automobile use with many residents opting to forgo car ownership altogether and office tenants reverse-commuting from the Boston area. The site boasts extreme proximity to the adjacent light rail Riverside Terminal, which makes the site an appealing candidate for a development of this scale. In addition to the light rail facility, several bus and shuttle lines will reward residents, hotel guests and commercial employees with easy, affordable, and clean transportation methods to the surrounding communities, downtown Boston, and even New York City.

The Riverside Development is planned as a full-service neighborhood and will include a variety of amenities including restaurants, retail spaces, and other services. This will ultimately mitigate the need for site occupants to depart the Riverside Development. A new connection to the surrounding Charles River Reservation will afford residents and employees access to acres of parks, trails, cross country skiing, golf and other recreational opportunities all without the need for an automobile.

In addition, the design team will employ a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan including short term and long term bike parking, Zip Car availability on the property, and designated spots and charging stations for low emitting vehicles and electric cars (and financial incentives for use of public transit by residents and commercial users).

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Mechanical systems selected and sized to meet the minimal heating and cooling loads and ensure comfort will complement the advanced building envelopes incorporated in the design. The design team has performed a life cycle cost analysis of the preliminary design for the first residential building to facilitate informed decision-making around envelope design and mechanical system

selection. This analysis provides a more holistic view of the implications of the performance, operating cost, and carbon impacts of options under consideration.

The life cycle cost analysis includes all-electric systems (heat pump and VRF) compared against natural gas-based hydronic systems. This evaluation informed preliminary mechanical system design options and allowed the MEP consultants to understand the design principles early in the design stage.

The design team included Massachusetts incentive programs during the life cycle cost analysis that support installing VRF and air-source heat pump systems for mixed use buildings.

Low flow, high performance fixtures that meet or exceed the EPA WaterSense standards will also be integrated to reduce water and energy use while maintaining tenant comfort.

LIGHTING AND ELECTRICITY

Appliances will be top performers in function, design, energy, and water efficiency. Electrical load will be reduced through smart lighting design that takes full advantage of the efficient, reliable, and attractive LED fixtures and lighting controls that are now available.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Of equally important consideration are the indoor air quality impacts of our approach. Mark Development is committed to providing individuals and families with a living environment that enhances their lives and health. Mark Development will accomplish this through two methods: ventilation and material selection. Ventilation systems will be designed to provide fresh supply air directly to each apartment. Toxins and contaminants will be minimized through careful specification of low VOC and no added urea formaldehyde materials.

As a result of designing to Passive House standards, the residential spaces will meet the U.S. EPA Indoor airPLUS program requiring careful selection and installation of the following:

- Moisture control systems
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Combustion venting systems
- Radon resistant construction
- Low-emitting building materials.

TRAINING, TESTING, AND VERIFICATION

Managing the transition from modeled performance to achieving real world performance is a main focus for this project. A series of on-site trainings, inspections, testing, and continuous feedback to the team will be the primary tools used to ensure designed and modeled approaches translate to performance achievement.

As part of this process, the Riverside Development team will:

- Hold a pre-construction trades training focused on trade specific best practices around performance based construction;
- Review submittals for greening compliance;
- Conduct testing and inspections by certified HERS and PHIUS raters that include:
 - Foundation insulation inspections
 - Insulation and air barrier inspections
 - Mock-up level duct leakage and compartmentalization testing
 - Final duct leakage testing
 - Final compartmentalization testing
 - Flow testing on water use fixtures
- Train and educate the buildings operations staff on the green features of the building and how to operate and maintain them; and
- Train and educate the residents of the buildings on the green features and how to minimize environmental footprint.

FUNDAMENTAL COMMISSIONING

Fundamental commissioning provides another critical layer of oversight that will be integrated into the Riverside Development. Heating, cooling, ventilation, domestic hot water, lighting, and other mechanical systems will be submitted to performance testing and verification process to ensure proper installation and operations. As part of this process, a certified commissioning agent will:

- Develop and implement a commissioning plan
- Verify installation and performance of systems to be commissioned
- Provide a summary commissioning report to the building owner