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Somerville Planning Board approves Union Sq. Station Associates' Coordinated Development Plan

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Somerville, MA The Somerville Planning Board voted unanimously to support Union Sq. Station Associates' (US2) Coordinated Development Plan (CDP), a plan that will propel Union Sq. into the future as an economic engine for the city. In another crucial step, the Board of Aldermen also voted to approve District Improvement Financing (DIF) for Union Sq., setting in motion crucial upgrades to Union Sq.'s infrastructure.

"Votes to approve the DIF and the CDP are the culmination of decades of careful planning by residents, stakeholders, business and the city and will spark the creation of an employment center in Union Sq.," said Greg Karczewski, president of US2. "We are proud to be creating a true economic hub and place where startups and entrepreneurs can grow, families can work and live and residents can enjoy new amenities and more open space. We look forward to working together to make that collective vision a reality."

"The Somerville Planning Board and Board of Aldermen have secured a bright future for Union Sq.," said mayor Joseph Curtatone. "This is one more step in the progress we've made towards creating the employment center that we've been envisioning for so long, and additional housing options, including affordable units, that we are working as a region to increase. We're eager to keep moving forward so that Somerville residents will have more job opportunities, access to housing, and new amenities within their community."

The CDP is a blueprint that maps to the goals set by the Union Sq. Neighborhood Plan, which includes new commercial, housing, open and green space. Now, the stage has been set for growth and the evolution of a 2.4 million s/f mixed-use employment center in Union Sq. that will garner \$11.3 million in annual tax revenue through commercial development.

At full build-out, the \$1 billion project will include 1.4 million s/f of new work spaces for companies that will generate 5,000 new permanent jobs, along with more than 4,000 new construction jobs and millions of dollars in job linkage payments to support local workforce development initiatives.

Desperately needed housing and new open space and retail are also planned. This mixture of commercial and residential uses will activate Union Square during work hours and in evenings, bringing in significant new spending to neighborhood businesses. Community benefits include a \$5.5 million contribution to the Green Line extension and millions in infrastructure improvements, better connecting Union Square and opening it up as a key driver of the regional economy.

With the approval of the CDP, design review of the first phase of the project will begin. Construction of the first development phase, a mix of commercial and residential uses, is slated to begin in 2018.

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