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## **VHB, WinnCompanies and the Boston Housing Authority begin phase one of Mary Ellen McCormack redevelopment for affordable housing**

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Boston, MA The first phase of the long-awaited, large-scale Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment project recently launched with secured funding and an upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the project's first building. VHB is partnering with WinnCompanies and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to provide construction design and site work services for the overall 3,300-unit complex, which will provide needed affordable housing, promote community connectivity in South Boston, and deliver multiple public benefits.

The initiative's primary objective is the one-for-one replacement of the 1,016 existing affordable residential units, with each household guaranteed the right to return, and the addition of 17 new buildings with more than 2,000 middle-income and market-rate apartments. The site is positioned in a highly desirable transit-oriented location near job centers, healthcare providers, and other valuable community amenities.

The first phase of the project will provide 94 affordable housing units and is set to be completed in fall 2026. To uphold permanent affordability for low-income families, the BHA will maintain ownership of the land. Seeking to transform the complex into a diverse, mixed-income, and vibrant neighborhood, the project team is centering sustainability, accessibility, and connection throughout the planning and development process.

In addition, the revitalization plan includes more than 70,000 s/f of retail and small business space, open green and recreational areas, and a two-way separated bike lane. The project's focal point is the new Community of Opportunity Center, which aims to create economic mobility, connect tenants with their greater surroundings, improve health outcomes, and cultivate a safe, secure, and flourishing space. The center will offer programs for job-training, children's activities, senior services, and educational classes.

VHB led the review processes for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and Boston Article 80 Large Project permits. Groundbreaking on the first building's construction is expected in June 2025.

Learn how VHB is partnering with municipalities and developers to create much-needed housing solutions in New England.

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