

With BRA's Blessing, Developers Ready to Rebuild and renovate

Saturday July 18, 2015 | by Tim Logan



New life for six old buildings downtown. A big waterfront apartment complex in East Boston. Senior housing in Brighton.

And a Theater District hotel with 180-square-foot rooms.

These were among the projects approved by the Boston Redevelopment Authority Thursday night; in total, the agency gave the go-ahead to some \$515.6 million in development.

One of the biggest projects is Congress Square, the renovation of an entire city block of buildings in the Financial District, between Congress and Water streets. Developer Related Beal plans to turn six office buildings into a boutique hotel, new housing, and office space.

Also approved was Clippership Wharf, which would put 492 apartments and condos on 12 acres on the waterfront in East Boston. Developer Lend Lease plans to move forward on the long-stalled project and won approval to add housing units and subtract parking spaces from a plan approved in 2003.

The move comes after the city-owned property's operator proposed a controversial plan to update the tired marketplace.

National Development received the BRA's OK to build senior housing instead of market-rate apartments at a project on Cleveland Circle in Brighton. The development, on the site of the old Cleveland Circle cinema, will also include a 162-room hotel.