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# Wentworth will increase on-campus student housing rate

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 15, 2010 11:57 AM

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(Courtesy: Boston Redevelopment Authority)

A sketch of the proposed addition and renovation to Beatty Hall.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Wentworth Institute of Technology's 10-year master plan, which received city approval Tuesday evening after a year-long community process, is projected to provide enough housing to accommodate nearly all of its students who reside independently in Boston.

The plan [shows the expansion of the college](#) along Huntington Avenue in Mission Hill from a predominantly commuter school a decade ago to having a larger, more prominent campus for its gradual-growing enrollment of 3,400 full-time undergrads.

Currently, the school houses more than 61 percent of its student population on campus with the capacity to house 71 percent. Upon completion of its decade-long plan, Wentworth projects to be able to house 97.5 percent of a critical segment of its student population -- those residing independently in Boston.

Over the course of the 10-year proposal, the school also plans to build a new engineering building and move its athletic fields to Parker Street from the current site across from the Museum of Fine Arts. The school will also build a seven-story, 305-bed dorm on Huntington Avenue after having constructed a 473-bed and 360-bed dorm in 2001 and 2005, respectively, along that roadway.

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Two of the [institutional master plan's](#) five projects – which will each go through its own Article 80 process – on the school's 35-plus-acre campus are expected to break ground in 2011 around springtime, said city and school officials.

The first project of those two has a \$10-million price tag and would consist of a 7,000 square-foot, two-story addition and the renovation of approximately 23,000 square feet of existing space in the Flanagan Campus Center at Beatty Hall, which is located near the corner of Ward and Parker Streets, to allow more room for student activities and events, said an approval announcement from the city redevelopment authority.






The second project will be a \$12-million, 18,000-square-foot, three-story addition to the rear of the Ira Allen Building, located on Parker Street near the roadway's intersection with Ruggles Street, to provide for state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, classrooms and offices for the school's math and science curriculum, city officials said.

The two projects combined are expected to create nearly 200 construction jobs, and the first project will bring with it seven new permanent staff positions, the announcement said.

Referring to the first scheduled project, the city redevelopment authority said, "The central goal of this project is to increase the quality and quantity of space available for student activities and events within this facility, and allow for a substantial increase in the number of supervised student activities and social events which can be held on campus each semester. These new programs will strengthen the attractiveness of Wentworth's student residences and will serve to keep more students on-campus during nights and weekends."

And, in regards to the second project, the city said, "The development of this new facility will allow the academic departments significantly to improve the instructional technology and lab equipment utilized in their experiential, 'hands-on' approach to learning."

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