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# BU eyes 150,000-square-foot life sciences facility

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT | AUGUST 10, 2013

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Boston University has proposed a new seven-story, 150,000-square-foot life sciences and engineering building for the eastern part of its Charles River campus.

The project is part of an overall plan to significantly increase the amount of classroom, laboratory, and research space for science and engineering at BU, officials said.

For the past decade, BU has been trying “to keep pace with the burgeoning bioengineering industry, which was projected to triple in size over the early part of the 21st century,” university officials wrote in their latest plans, which were filed with the city last week. “Programs in life sciences and engineering have

continued to thrive, which has led to the need for additional research and laboratory space.”

The new Center for Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering Building would replace a university parking lot at 610 Commonwealth Ave. The university said the facility would “provide additional interdisciplinary research space for faculty and students in neuroscience and systems/synthetic biology.”

The proposed facility is one of eight buildings BU expects to construct within the next 10 years as part of its campus master plan, including another science and engineering research building on a half-acre site at 30-38 Cummington Mall. That facility would be up to 11 stories tall and as large as 165,000 square feet.

In 2005, the university opened a 188,500-square-foot life science and engineering building next door at 24 Cummington Mall.

The proposal for the Center for Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering Building must receive further city approval before it can be formally adopted into the master plan.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority has scheduled a public meeting for the amendment to be presented and discussed Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 101 of the Kenmore Classroom Building, 565 Commonwealth Ave.

The rest of the master plan — which is expected to cost more than \$750 million and includes a new dormitory, academic and research facilities, along with public realm projects and campus improvements — was approved by the city in early 2013 after more than a year of planning and review.

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