



Restored Windjammer: Maine

PART I INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The Old Harbor plan will demonstrate how a major transportation project, the relocation of Interstate 195, can be transformed into an important civic and economic development opportunity by increasing access to Providence's riverfront through significant public and private development.

B. HISTORY OF PROJECT

During the last decade one of the goals of the Providence Foundation, the City, and the State has been to integrate the reclamation of the waterfront with transportation and urban development. In 1983 these entities sponsored the four-part Providence Waterfront Study. The first part, Memorial Boulevard Extension and River Relocation, is well into construction and will soon be completed. The possibility of relocating Interstate I-195 presents the opportunity to go forward with the second part - The Old Harbor, and the third part - Fox and India Points.

The Memorial Boulevard Extension Project (MBE) will improve traffic distribution and circulation, create riverwalks and parks, relocate rivers and bridges, and dredge the rivers for boat traffic. The MBE Project has established a broad precedent as a multi-modal transportation corridor that has been endorsed by a consensus of governmental, civic, and citizen groups. It points the way for the I-195 project to go forth as a Phase 2 extension of its predecessor. Many of the proposals in the Old Harbor Plan have the potential of a similar linkage.

The I-195/Old Harbor plan is sponsored by the Providence Foundation and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, State of Rhode Island, and City of Providence. Planning began in November 1991 and developed with the input of the Planning Advisory Committee during a series of monthly meetings concluding in May 1992. A public workshop for the Old Harbor Plan was held in September 1992 at the Providence Waterfront Festival. The planning process has been closely coordinated with RIDOT's I-195 Environmental Impact Study process scheduled for completion in 1993.

C. PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Identify land areas created by the relocation of Interstate 195 and its access roads.
- Establish street patterns disrupted by the construction of I-95 and I-195. Minimize further disruption in the design of the relocated I-195.
- Develop a plan for land use and establish a consensus regarding the balance and characteristics for private development, parks, riverwalks, public facilities, and tourist attractions such as museums.
- Identify accessible waterfront made available by the above relocation.

- Define the nature and potential of a reclaimed "Old Harbor."
- Strengthen relationships between the Old Harbor with Downtown, the East Side, and the River Relocation Project.
- Complete the extension of Memorial Boulevard along Allens Avenue to an improved interchange at Thurbers Avenue.
- Define a program of implementation and funding