

# BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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August 30, 2018

Ms. Brona Simon  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
The Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125  
Re: The Speedway Headquarters, Brighton

Dear Simon,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is Boston's primary, non-profit advocacy organization that protects and promotes the use of historic buildings and landscapes in all of the city's neighborhoods. With 36 Organizational Members, 104 Corporate Members, and a reach of 35,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on projects that impact the historic character of the city.

The Alliance is a long supporter of preservation and rehabilitation of the 1899 Charles River Speedway Building, a Boston gem. Collaborating with the Brighton-Allston Historical Society, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Historic Boston, Inc., the Alliance supported a public design charrette and a study to explore options for reuse of the site. We are thrilled with the result and the proposal from the Architectural Heritage Foundation (AHF) to fully rehabilitate and reactivate this historic location. We feel that AHF is abundantly capable of executing this complex project successfully.

The Alliance strongly recommends that the Massachusetts Historical Commission award the Speedway project the requested tax credits for the benefit of this special site, the neighborhood, and the city of Boston. We have for years looked forward to rehabilitation of this threatened but highly significant historic asset, and now a solution to benefit the neighborhood is at hand. We urge MHC to prioritize this request.

Sincerely,



Greg Galer  
Executive Director