
SOUTH BOSTON

Officials break ground on D Street hotels

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Construction is expected to start soon on the two hotels slated for D Street in South Boston. On Thursday city officials joined developers and officials from the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to break ground on the project.

The \$140-million effort is being led by CV Properties, Starwood Hotels, and Ares Management and will add 510 hotel rooms to the area, according to a release from the MCCA, which manages the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and owns the land the hotels will be constructed on.

“These hotels will provide much needed mid-priced hotel rooms not only to the South Boston Waterfront but to Boston as a whole,” James E. Rooney, executive director of the MCCA, said in a statement. “This is the first of several groundbreakings we hope take place as we push Boston and Massachusetts towards being among the top meeting and convention destinations in the world.”

Both hotels, while designed to serve the BCEC and its clientele, will be privately owned and managed.

The 330-room Aloft Hotel, will be a modern style hotel aimed at serving the “next generation of traveler,” with shorter stays and less amenities.

The 180-room Element Hotel, will be an extended stay hotel aimed at providing more amenities such as a fitness center, bike-share, and public spaces.

“When we made the decision to enter the international meetings and convention industry with a state-of-the-art facility back in the 90s, we knew Boston would shine,” Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement. “Today, the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and the work of Jim Rooney have helped put Boston on the global stage. With the groundbreaking for these two new hotels, and the MCCA’s future expansion efforts, the sky truly is the limit.”

Located at 371–401 D St., the project was approved by the Boston Redevelopment Authority’s Board in May.

The hotels, expected to be open by 2015, are just the first phase of the convention center’s estimated \$2 billion expansion, according to the Boston Business Journal.

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