



Hub developer bids on Pike land

Proposal calls for 1,700 residential units

By JOHN STRAHINICH

In what could be a closing chapter on the controversial Central Artery/Ted Williams Tunnel project, a major Boston condo player is proposing three residential and office towers, and two smaller buildings, on land that now includes the Big Dig's headquarters, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority announced last night.

Boston Residential Group submitted a bid to build nearly 1,700 condo and rental apartments, plus about 577,000 square feet of commercial and retail space and more than 2,000 parking spaces, according to a company spokeswoman.

The so-called Gateway Center Development would go up on four Pike parcels south of Kneeland Street, including one that is

the site of the old Wang building, now Big Dig headquarters.

The company's president, Curtis Kemeny, announced plans in September to buy the former Tower Records building in the Back Bay and convert the upper floors into 54 luxury condos.

"We are pleased to have received a significant proposal from a developer that has track record of doing projects throughout the city," said Stephen Hines, the Pike's development director.

The proposal for the ambitious project will be closely reviewed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Artery Completion Task Force, and the South Bay Area Task Force, which represents Chinatown and Leather District neighborhood groups.