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TO: City Planning Commission

FROM: Jamie Murphy, Staff

RE: Proposed Temporary Walkway at the Huntington Place Convention Center, 1 Washington Blvd. **(DEPARTMENTAL REPORT)**

DATE: October 19, 2026

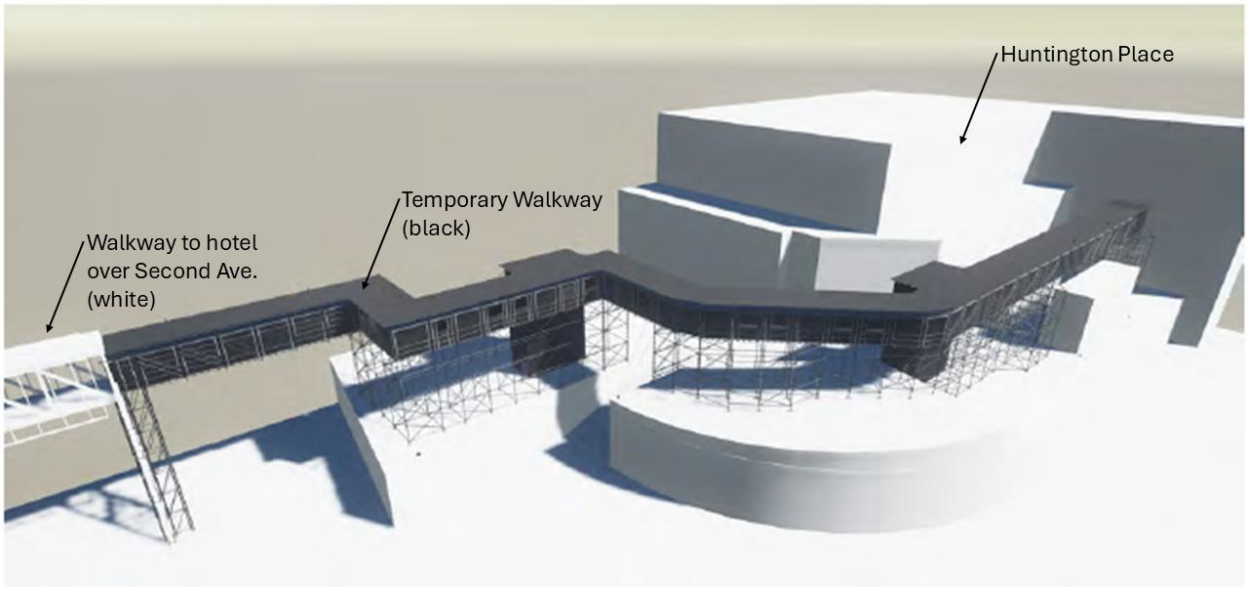
Nature of Request
The staff of the City Planning Commission (CPC) has received a request through the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) to review a proposed temporary walkway to connect the new JW Marriott Detroit Water Square hotel (currently under construction) to the convention center until the permanent addition is constructed. The permanent addition to Huntington Place was reviewed and approved by the CPC in April 2025.



Approximate area of the proposed temporary walkway

Background
In 2025, an addition to the back (west) side of Huntington Place was approved by the CPC and City Council. The purpose of the addition is to provide a direct pedestrian connection to the new hotel currently being constructed directly to the west across the new Second Avenue extension. This will allow people to walk from the hotel to the convention center without having to go outside; providing a more comfortable experience regardless of the weather.

The hotel is projected to open in early 2027, but the addition to Huntington Place to provide the connected walkway will not be completed until Fall 2027 (approximately). The temporary walkway is proposed as a solution in the meantime. The location of the temporary walkway will not interfere with the construction of the permanent addition except for a small section that will be removable during certain phases of the construction.



Rendering of Temporary Walkway looking northeast

Review and Recommendation
As this is a temporary installation and no permanent changes are proposed, CPC staff have determined that no special district review is required and no action is required by the CPC or City Council.



Rendering of permanent addition to Huntington Place

Attachment: Proposed plans

cc: Dara O'Byrne, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Dept. (PDD)
Greg Moots, PDD
David Bell, Director, Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environment (BSEED)
James Foster, BSEED
Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel
Daniel Arking, Law Department