

As you know, a few months ago we selected a planning team to create a master plan for our Union Pier Cruise Terminal area and have been working very closely with the City of Charleston on this initiative.

Today, the S.C. State Ports Authority made the decision to broaden the approach of its Union Pier Cruise Terminal Master Plan, and to consider the use of additional portions of its Union Pier property along the Cooper River. This decision was a direct response to community input, which encouraged us to think more contextually in its planning effort.

Public participation continues to be a vital part of the planning process. We have received valuable feedback from the community through our listening session in late October as well as through many meetings with individual constituencies and comments submitted through www.UnionPierPlan.com.

Public input to date has centered around four recommendations:

1. Create a more attractive cruise terminal.
2. Offer more public access to the waterfront and additional uses for the property.
3. Address traffic issues.
4. Ensure that the plan is contextual, and fitting with other area plans.

Our goals for the Union Pier area remain to create a financially viable plan for a cruise terminal that reflects the character of Charleston and meets today's security requirements, as well as to provide more public access to the waterfront and additional uses for the property for the enjoyment of Charlestonians and the betterment of the economy.

In February, we hope to share preliminary thinking on the Union Pier master plan and provide the public an opportunity to provide feedback and input.

We welcome ongoing questions and input, and encourage your participation in the planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Newsome".

Jim Newsome