



Commission on Affairs of the Elderly

THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor

EMILY SHEA
Commissioner

July 5, 2013

Frank DePaola
Administrator, Highway Division
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Administrator DePaola,

On behalf of the City of Boston Elderly Commission, I applaud your perseverance, commitment and hard work to ensure the safety of our City's residents by providing enhanced improvements to the Accelerated Bridge Program. These renovations will provide a safe and accessible means of traveling to the general public.

In light of the fast growing population of older adults in our City, I ask that you consider including pedestrian underpasses on the Boston side of the river. I believe that with the inclusion of underpasses, this project has the potential to meet the current and future needs of Boston's older population.

Pedestrian friendly walkways will afford Boston's older adults the ability to be more independent and will encourage them to stay mobile and healthy. Time controlled traffic lights on city streets do not always allow enough time for older adults to safely cross at busy intersections. The Charles River underpass project will eliminate the fear associated with moving slowly and offer a more enjoyable outing to those that may not otherwise make an effort to venture outside. This will also help to diminish social isolation.

I look forward to the successful completion of this important development that will enable elders to remain independent and lead a higher quality of life in the city they love.

Sincerely,

Emily K. Shea