

COALITION FOR ANDERSON BRIDGE UNDERPASS

c/o Charles River Conservancy, 43 Thorndike Street S3-3, Cambridge, MA 02141

May 13, 2016

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary of Transportation
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA

RE: Inclusion of the construction of the Anderson Memorial Bridge underpass for bicycles, pedestrians and runners in MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan

Dear Secretary Pollack,

On behalf of the members of the Coalition for the Anderson Bridge Underpass, I am writing to urge you to include costs for the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle underpass on the Boston side of the Anderson Memorial Bridge in MassDOT's five-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP).

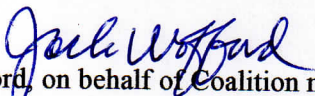
We appreciate the support of your office, Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin, and Project Manager Michael Trepanier for this project, and are pleased that 25% design and permitting of this underpass is well underway.

When built, this underpass will be a major step toward enhancing the Charles River parklands and ensuring the longevity of one of the Boston area's major assets. The underpass would be an extremely important addition to the excellent surface changes now under construction at the Anderson Bridge, eliminating the need for many users (pedestrians, runners, cyclists, and others) to cross the busy surface intersection of ramps from Soldier's Field Road and JFK/North Harvard Street. Designed to tunnel through the bridge abutment, it would significantly increase the safety of pathway users and greatly expand mode shift opportunities for countless MassDOT commuters, tourists and other users looking to get out of their cars and get on a bicycle. As such, the underpass will significantly modernize the Charles River pathway system, thereby enhancing healthy activity, and improving the environment. At an estimated \$4million construction cost, it is cost-effective considering the many benefits it will produce.

Given major shifts seen toward increases in bicycle commuting, this underpass is a long-awaited and much-needed addition to the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bicycle Path. Again, we urge you to include this project in the CIP to ensure funding for this crucial project.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan, and applaud the progress this plan has made toward a transparent and sustainable funding process for MassDOT projects. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Jack Wofford, on behalf of Coalition members:

Boston Preservation Alliance – Greg Galer, Executive Director
Boston Society of Architects – Jack Glassman, Chair of the Historic Resources Committee
Boston Society of Landscape Architects – Elena Saporta, Chair Advocacy Committee
Cambridge Running Club – Jon Puz
Charles River Conservancy – Renata von Tscherner, President
CommonWheels Bicycle Collective – Galen Mook
Institute for Human-Centered Design – Katherine Blakeslee, Consultant
LivableStreets Alliance – Ken Kruckemeyer, Board Member
Sierra Club, Massachusetts Chapter – Cathy Buckley
Walk Boston – Wendy Landman, Executive Director

cc: Thomas J. Tinlin, Highway Administrator, MassDOT
Michael Trepanier, Project Manager, MassDOT