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Director Dan Driscoll
Department of Conservation and Recreation
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 6620
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Memorial Drive Greenway Improvements Project, Phase III

December 20, 2024

Dear Commissioner Arrigo and Director Driscoll,

On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), I am writing to provide comments on the most recent updates from the December 12, 2024, public meeting on the Memorial Drive Greenway Improvements, Phase III. We are thrilled to see the 90% design completion for this Phase and commend DCR for its commitment to significant improvements on this crucial multimodal transport and recreational corridor along the Charles River.

We wholeheartedly support the road diet on Memorial Drive, the addition of new crosswalks, and the notable design improvements for pedestrian and cyclist safety. These changes will significantly enhance the experience and accessibility of the shared-use paths and riverfront parkland. We also want to express our appreciation for DCR's thorough community engagement process and the thoughtful incorporation of public feedback throughout the design phase.

As this project progresses, the CRC would like to offer our partnership in tree installation and care. We believe our expertise can contribute to the long-term success of the new plantings. In this regard, we respectfully advise DCR to update and uphold policies that ensure the health and survival of trees.

Specifically, we recommend:

- **Ensuring proper planting techniques for all new trees**
- **Implementing a comprehensive care plan for trees during their critical first years**
- **Developing a long-term maintenance strategy to support tree health**

By working together, we can avoid known pitfalls and execute a plan that guarantees the proper installation, care, and maintenance of trees for the long term. This collaboration will contribute to the overall success of the project and public benefit of the Charles River Reservation.

We commend DCR for its vision and dedication to improving this vital greenway. The CRC looks forward to continuing our partnership with DCR and supporting this transformative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jasinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent than the last name "Jasinski".

Laura Jasinski
Executive Director, Charles River Conservancy
ljaskinski@thecharles.org