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

Re: Soldiers Field Road at North Beacon Intersection Improvement Project

May 6, 2025

Dear DCR Project Team,

On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy, thank you for your ongoing efforts and for hosting the Apr. 17, 2025 public meeting regarding the Soldiers Field Road at North Beacon Intersection Improvement Project. We appreciate the opportunity to engage with DCR and the community on this important initiative.

As stewards of the urban Charles River parklands, we strongly support improvements that enhance safety, environmental quality, and equitable access to the riverfront for all users. This intersection plays a critical role in connecting local neighborhoods to recreational and natural resources along the Charles.

While we commend DCR for addressing this challenging site, we have significant concerns that the current designs, as presented, do not fully meet the goals of creating a safe throughway that enhances the overall park experience. The proposed multi-lane intersections and complex crossings create barriers rather than connections for pedestrians and cyclists and prioritize vehicle throughput over community and environmental well-being.

We believe there is a clear opportunity to do better. We support many of the points in the written comments from community advocates (Tony D’Isodoro, President, Allston Civic Association, *et. al.*) and the Charles River Watershed Association—especially requests to reduce the number of lanes and continue DCR’s successful road diets—and prioritize short single-stage crossings,

separated paths for cyclists and pedestrians, and equitable access to the riverfront and associated recreational facilities.

We urge DCR to continue collaborating closely with local residents, elected officials, transportation partners, and advocacy groups to refine the design. Together, we can realize a vision for Soldiers Field Road that not only improves multimodal transit but also strengthens community connections and protects the natural beauty of the Charles River.

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