

Extra Information

9/22/08

Other Business



TOWN OF ACTON

472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9612
Fax (978) 264-9630
bos@acton-ma.gov
www.acton-ma.gov

Board of Selectmen

September 22, 2008

Dear _____:

The Acton Board of Selectmen is writing to express its continued strong support of the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) project. The ARRT is a valuable and exciting, alternative regional transportation project that will link residents, businesses, recreational opportunities, and public transportation in the five communities of Acton, Maynard, Stow, Hudson, and Marlborough. These five communities have worked together and participated in an Inter-Municipal Agreement and Steering Committee since the ARRT was placed on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in 1999. The relationship has been positive; the partnership has been solid.

Since the late 1990s, the Town of Acton has dedicated over \$200,000 in general funding (for appraisals, acquisition planning, surveys, legal fees, environmental insurance, etc.), \$170,000 from Community Preservation Act funding, and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time on the ARRT. The Town, with the assistance of federal/state funding, has installed public sewers in South Acton and 40 bicycle lockers at the MBTA train station, which is the northern intermodal terminus of the ARRT. Acton has applied for and received federal and state monies/grants for the ARRT. The Town also has worked for many years with the MBTA and Acton landowners resulting in a fully assembled ARRT right of way in Acton.

There needs to be reliability and predictability in federal, state, and local plans and programs. Feasible transportation projects with over a decade of clearly positive political and strong financial commitment should remain on the books. The Town of Acton is prepared to take on the responsibility of day-to-day, annual and long term operation and maintenance of the Acton portion of the trail once it is completed (reserving the right to apply for or use federal/state funds to assist if necessary). Now the Town just needs the trail! We strongly recommend that the MPO and Transportation Planning and Programming Committee support the completion of this project by restoring funding for the ARRT in the next TIP, and listing it as a specific project line item in the Regional Transportation Plan. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Rosenzweig, Chairman

cc: Senator Pamela Resor