

Carol Holley  
39 Pope Rd.  
Acton, MA 01720

April 27, 2009

Honorable Niki Tsongas  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas,

As clerk of the East Acton Village Planning committee, now dissolved, I wish to cite from the East Acton Village Plan, January, 2004, Page 170:

“EAVPC strongly supports the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and sees it as a significant transportation, recreation, and historic asset for Acton and EAV. The main reasons are as follows:

First, there is strong support for the BFRT among residents and business owners. When East Acton residents and Town Meeting attendees were asked to rate their potential rail trail use, the majority said they expected to use the rail trail occasionally to very frequently. Almost half (48% of East Acton residents said they expected to use the trail “Very Frequently”. Among the 46 respondents to the business survey, only two expected to have the BFRT to have an unfavorable effect on their business or property; 23 expected it to have a favorable effect.

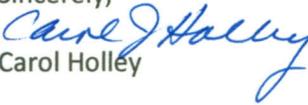
Second, the BFRT will bring increased pedestrians and bicyclists to EAV and is an important part of making EAV more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly.

Third, the BFRT will provide residents an important and healthy route to travel to destinations in EAV...destinations along the southeastern part of Great road and the northern part of main Street...and eventually destinations to the north as far as Lowell....In addition to simply transportation, the BFRT will provide excellent recreational opportunities in East Acton; the trail is being designed to appropriate for multiple non-motorized uses, including hiking, walking....etc.

Fourth, because it bisects the East Acton Village Green, the BFRT is a significant and highly visible part of the Green. The Green will provide a convenient place for people to stop and rest, learn about EAV history through the kiosk displays, and enjoy Ice House Pond.”

As a 34 year resident of East Acton, I would second all the above reasons for strongly supporting the rail trail.

Sincerely,



Carol Holley