



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 28, 2009

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas,

As Chair of the Acton Historical Commission, I can assure you that our Commission is 100% behind the efforts of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. We strongly support High Priority Project (HPP) funding for Phase 2A (Acton, Westford, Carlisle) and 2C (Concord) of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT).

The BFRT is extremely popular project supported by Town and State elected officials, and by thousands of citizens. The re-use and activation of this historic industrial and agricultural corridor is important because it gives access to important historical artifacts significant in Acton's history; an 18th C. mill, a 19th C. ice house operation, an 18th C. pencil Factory. These are key industrial artifacts that will be highlighted by the BFRT.

The BFRT is also critical as a transportation corridor for Acton both internally and externally: internally in that it will give a much needed non-vehicular crossing of Route 2 in an area where there are no crossings; externally in that along with other rail trails, it helps create the important non-radial connections / routes that are frequently lacking in greater metropolitan areas. The BFRT is especially important because it will (in phase 2C) connect to the West Concord train station.

With the chance of losing funding for transportation enhancement projects like the BFRT that have been in the planning process for such a period of time, it would be a shame not to complete the exercise with actual construction. For these reasons we wholeheartedly support your efforts to give the BFRT high priority project status.

Thank you for your consideration and your support for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Sincerely,

Peter Grover, Chair
Acton Historical Commission