

7/24/10 (19)

Christine Joyce

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 6:09 PM
To: Manager Department
Subject: ARRT Letter to MPO re 2011-14 TIP

Attached for Board of Selectmen action is a draft comment letter concerning the Assabet River Rail Trail for the MPO's FFY 2011-14 Draft TIP. Comment was August 4th, it was extended to day to the 10th.

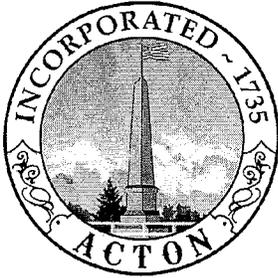
This letter is intended be a joint letter from Acton and Maynard.

I sent it to Maynard for review and comment, so there may be a few changes. Changes should be minor. I will provide the final in time for the meeting.

The letter makes reference to a letter from Stow under separate cover. I received the Stow letter today. It is the attached pdf file.

Roland Bartl, AICP
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7/22/2010



Board of Selectmen

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July 26, 2010

Mr. David Mohler, Chair
MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116-3968

**Re: Draft 2011–14 Transportation Improvement Program
Assabet River Rail Trail - Project 604531; HPP 1761**

Dear Chairman Mohler:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Boston Region Draft 2011-14 Transportation Improvement Program. These comments pertain to the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT), a multi-use path from Acton to Marlborough.

Design Funding:

The Towns of Acton and Maynard, with Acton as lead community, have worked diligently to continue development of the ARRT – Acton/Maynard section from the South Acton Commuter Rail Station through downtown Maynard to the Maynard/Stow town line. Acton and Maynard have the 100% design under contract to AECOM and had completed the preliminary design almost three years ago. The updated 100% design project scope for roughly \$940,000 (including the non-federal match) and related documents were submitted last winter for MassDOT and FHWA review. Through the past months our staff has been working with them to answer all their detailed questions. We expect a design agreement and notice to proceed any day, although we have not been given any commitment for a specific date.

Since the last time we wrote, the Town of Stow has acquired a +/-2-mile long right-of-way section for the ARRT from the Maynard/Stow line to Sudbury Road in Stow and is now ready to begin the design using the available HPP funding. This is a seamless continuation of the Acton/Maynard section. Stow is commenting under separate cover.

Acton and Maynard fully support Stow's effort to advance the Assabet River Rail Trail in that town and look forward to continue our long-standing ARRT partnership with Stow under the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the five ARRT communities - Acton, Maynard, Stow, Hudson, and Marlborough.

We are sending this letter at this time to request that the MPO continue listing the High Priority Project HPP 1761 in the 2011-14 TIP to make sure

- (1) that we can access the HPP funding in the next Federal Fiscal Year in the event that the Acton/Maynard design agreement is delayed unexpectedly, and
- (2) that Stow can access the HPP funding to design their 2-mile continuation of the Acton/Maynard section in conjunction with the Acton/Maynard section.

Construction Funding:

We believe it is realistic to assume that the ARRT design for the Acton Maynard section plus the 2 miles in Stow will be fully ready for construction in two to three years. We note that construction funding for the ARRT is scheduled in the MPO's Long Range Plan, Journey to 2030, for sometime between 2011 and 2015. However, the Draft 2011-14 TIP lists the ARRT under the heading "Projects staff would (or have previously) recommend for programming if funding was available".

We request that the MPO do everything possible to program the construction funding for the ARRT in the TIP for FFY 2014. If this is not possible, we ask that the ARRT be considered as a prime candidate for future TIP amendments should additional funding become available or in the event that available funding frees up and need to be reallocated

Thank you for your interest in the Assabet River Rail Trail and the continuing commitment of funds to support its development.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF ACTON

TOWN OF MAYNARD



Town of Stow
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Stow, Massachusetts 01775

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July 20, 2010

David Mohler, Chair
Transportation Planning & Programming Committee, Boston MPO
c/o Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Priorities for FFYs 2011-2014

Dear Mr. Mohler;

On behalf of the Town of Stow, I am writing to comment on the draft TIP. The Board of Selectmen has reviewed the potential projects for the TIP for FFYs 2011-2014 and compared them to the projects identified in the current TIP for FFYs 2010-2013. The Town of Stow requests that the following projects remain on the TIP for FFYs 2011-2014:

- Design funds for the Hudson-Stow section of the Assabet River Rail Trail (HPP 1761), ID# 604531, for FY2011
- Construction funds for the Acton-Maynard-Stow sections of the Assabet River Rail Trail, ID# 604531, for FY2014

The Assabet River Rail Trail, Phase 2 project for Acton and Maynard was identified in the proposed plan as a project that staff would recommend if funding was available. As you know, the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) has High Priority Project (HPP) classification with earmarked federal funding. The Town of Stow has acquired a two-mile right of way for the ARRT and would like to connect to the Acton-Maynard segment presently under design. There is sufficient HPP money in the earmark to provide the 80% of design funds necessary for the two-mile section in Stow. We would like the HPP funding for designing the Stow section to be available for FY11. With the Stow section designed, we will then have a five-mile, continuous section of trail ready for construction in FY2014.

The AART Steering Committee continues to work collaboratively to bring about the next phase of trail. Moreover, this trail is supported as a priority project by the MAGIC subregion, per its letter to you of April 26, 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Laura Spear
Stow Board of Selectmen, Chair