THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

EOT

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JAMES A. ALOISI JR.
SECRETARY

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

I am writing to request your support for High Priority Project (HPP) funding for Phases 2A (Acton, Westford, Carlisle) and 2C (Concord) of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). The BFRT is an extremely popular project, with strong backing from area residents as well as local, regional and state officials. In particular, the Phase 2A and 2C towns (Acton, Carlisle, Concord and Westford) have overwhelmingly supported the BFRT in Town Meeting votes, usually unanimously.

Phase 1 of the BFRT, which is approximately seven miles long and connects the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford and Westford, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed this summer. Phases 2A and 2C of the BFRT would incorporate an additional eight miles of trail that would span four municipalities and two regional planning agencies, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG).

These phases of the BFRT would benefit greatly from HPP funds, which would support the significant funding and staff resources already invested by the host towns and MassHighway. To date, the Towns of Acton, Carlisle, Westford and Concord have contributed approximately $522,500 towards the initial engineering assessments and preliminary design of the projects. The Design Public Hearing was held for Phase 2A (Acton, Westford, Carlisle) on October 29, 2008 and the 25% Design Plans were subsequently approved by MassHighway. The 25% Design Plans for Phase 2C (Concord) were submitted to MassHighway on October 17, 2008 and are currently under review; MassHighway will be scheduling the public hearing in the very near future.

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

Sincerely,

James A. Aloisi, Jr.
Secretary

TEN PARK PLAZA, BOSTON, MA 02116-3969
TELEPHONE: (617) 973-7000 • TELEFAX: (617) 973-8031 • TDD: (617) 973-7306 • WWW.MASS.GOV/EOT