From: Roland Bartl
To: Papadopoulos, Michael (DOT);
cc: "Schoenfeld, John"; "Rubino, Nicholas"; "cbritt@communityinvestment.net"; "don.mdrising@comcast.net"; "John Akers";
Subject: RE: ARRT 604531 - Boston MPO Questions
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:29:32 PM

Mike:

A few more points after speaking with John Schoenfeld at AECOM.

He reminded me that the PRC estimate also included a new bridge over the Fitchburg line to get to the north side commuter parking lot. That is now no longer in the design, because the MBTA station project gets us south side access to the station. So, there is another reduction.

On the other hand, we are not yet past the 25% design public hearing and therefore do not have guidance on moving forward with the design (AECOM is working on finalizing a revised 25% ROW plan submission for your Linda and Pam), and AECOM's estimates are based on 2011 costs, which are very low historically speaking; uncertain if they will hold up in future years.

So, I would still stick with the $7.3 million estimate at least until we are past the 25% design hearing.

On the timing:
2016 should work for the Acton/Maynard section. If we have a design public hearing later this spring or early summer, and then figure another year or two to final design, we will have it ready no later that the middle of 2015.

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From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:50 PM
To: 'Papadopoulos, Michael (DOT)'
Cc: 'Schoenfeld, John'; Rubino, Nicholas; cbritt@communityinvestment.net; don.

mdrising@comcast.net; John Akers
Subject: RE: ARRT 604531 - Boston MPO Questions

Hi, Mike:

Let me discuss with AECOM before I respond in more detail - we have been playing phone tag since yesterday.

Speaking from memory, I believe the $7.3 million that were tagged in the PRC approval includes the estimated cost for a 1200-1300 foot long boardwalk (with ambulance loading capacity) for a stretch off side from the original railroad right of way to get around a building that sits on the r.o.w. at 20 Main Street in Acton. That was in the very preliminary design. We have an easement on record for that route.

The 25% design plan follows a different route around the building. It still has a boardwalk/bridge in the design. But, it is much shorter - +/-350 feet, and presumably would not require ambulance loading, but I am not sure about that. However, this route has no easement, yet (as you know we cannot acquire easements anymore at this stage), only a favorable verbal consent by the landowner. So, obviously I would like to err on the conservative side thinking that we still might have to build the long boardwalk.

Anyway, therein probably lies the biggest part of the apparent cost reduction.

But, please let me discuss with AECOM (also about the 2nd question) before you reply to the MPO.

FYI - The MPO has the ARRT (Acton to Hudson) construction on their long range plan for the 2016-2020 time band for $23,830,000. I have been pressing them as much as I could to start putting it into their next TIP (2013-16) for year 2016; and I will continue to do so. I would be happy if it can slide in earlier. But, I haven't asked for that at this point mostly because the MPO's number includes Stow, and there things are still more in the air. However, I did bring up the notion of splitting the project in two - Acton/Maynard earlier and Stow/Hudson later.

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From: Papadopoulos, Michael (DOT) [mailto:michael.papadopoulos@state.ma.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:01 AM
To: Roland Bartl; cbritt@communityinvestment.net; don.mdrising@comcast.net
Subject: ARRT 604531 - Boston MPO Questions

Good morning Roland/Carolyn/Don,

The Boston MPO asked the following two questions. I already called AECOM for additional input on the cost estimate, but I want to make sure the responses below are acceptable to all of you.

Is the $7.3 million TFPCC accurate?
The 25% Design Estimate is much lower (about $3.8 million). Based on the 3.5 mile length of the Bikeway and the fact that the project involves work on four bridges, MassDOT believes the cost will be closer to the amount approved by PRC ($7.3 million). Until a detailed estimate is received, it is suggested we keep the current amount.

When could the project be ready for advertising?
TIP Year 2016 is recommended (due to major ROW impacts)

Please let me know if you have any questions/comments.

Thank you.

Michael Papadopoulos
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