



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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June 10, 2013

Mr. Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Project File No.604531 – Acton/Maynard Assabet River Rail Trail

Dear Mr. Broderick,

I write in strong support of the proposed Acton/Maynard Assabet River Rail Trail project. Rail trails are examples of infrastructure improvements that offer residents increased transportation and recreational opportunities. Rail trails are a healthy and cost effective alternative to motor vehicles that will help protect our environment from harmful emissions and provide a creative use for old infrastructure.

Investing in rail trails like the Assabet River Rail Trail will allow communities like Acton and Maynard to enable their residents to bike and walk safely for their transportation needs. By creating a statewide network of rail trails we can better connect our communities and regions together. Small businesses along rail trails will benefit from tourism revenue and a sustainable stream of commerce which can lead to higher home and business property values in trail corridors.

We need to build and maintain a strong transportation system in the Commonwealth and rail trails are a key component. Expanding rail trails is a strategic investment that will enhance the transportation and recreational infrastructure in the state and will provide long term benefits to our residents. I appreciate the Patrick-Murray Administration for prioritizing and funding multi-modal transportation as the Assabet River Rail Trail will connect to the South Acton train station.

The completion of the Acton/Maynard Assabet River Rail Trail project will not only be a positive step towards protecting the environment, but will also enhance the quality of life in our communities and encourage healthy lifestyles for our residents.

Thank you for your consideration and if you would like to discuss this project further please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie B. Eldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jamie Eldridge

State Senator

Middlesex and Worcester District