



OLD NORTH BRIDGE

TOWN OF CONCORD

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March 3, 2016

Mr. David Mohler, Executive Director
MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Transportation Bond Bills (H. 4371 of 2012) and (H. 4046 of 2014)
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2B in Acton and Concord

Dear Mr. Mohler:

We are writing to request the appropriation of \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 for use on the next phase of design work for the Phase 2B of the BFRT, taking the plans from 25% design to 100% design. This amount was identified in two State Transportation Bond Bills, the first passed on July 31, 2012 and signed into law by then-Governor Patrick on August 10, 2012 (H.4371 – attached, see lines 60 – 61) was specifically for design funds. The second bill, passed on April 14, 2014 and signed into law by then-Governor Patrick on April 18, 2014 (H. 4046 attached, see lines 341-343), was for design and construction funding. Phase 2B represents approximately one mile of the BFRT that provides the bridge over Route 2 connecting BFRT Phase 2A, which ends at 'Teamworks' in East Acton, to Phase 2C, which begins at Commonwealth Ave. in West Concord. BFRT Phase 2A is currently under construction, while 100% design plans for BFRT Phase 2B have been submitted to MassDOT Highway. Construction of Phase 2C is expected to begin in late spring/early summer 2017. Construction funds for Phase 2B are included in the current Boston MPO's Transportation Improvement Program for 2018.

The Towns of Acton and Concord have been working cooperatively with MassDOT Highway Division Project Manager David Shedd, and more recently with Project Manager Sreelatha Allam on the 25% design of Phase 2B (contracted and managed directly by MassDOT). The 25% design plans have been submitted for review as of March 1, 2015; the 25% design public hearing is being scheduled for late May this spring. The requested appropriation of Transportation Bond funds will ensure a seamless progression of the Phase 2B design work to 100% plan completion. Acton and Concord are committed to this project and look forward to continued collaboration with MassDOT.

To the extent that additional funding is needed to complete the design of Phase 2B, the Towns are committed to funding the difference in proportionate shares. Acton has standing

appropriations for the BFRT under the Community Preservation Act. Concord also has standing appropriations for the BFRT under the Community Preservation Act and is seeking additional funding support from the Town's Capital Improvement Program at this year's annual town meeting in early April. While Acton has served as the lead community and local project coordinator for the design of the adjacent BFRT Phases 2A and 2C, Concord is ready to serve as the lead community and local project coordinator for the design of Phase 2B. Both communities have professional staff and expertise to select, contract with and manage engineering design consultants as needed to see the project to completion.

We look forward to your favorable decision in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Or

Roland Bartl, AICP
Planning Director, Town of Acton
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Phone: 978-929-6631
Email: rbartl@acton-ma.gov

Sincerely,



Alice Kaufman
Chair, Concord Select Board

Katie Green
Chair, Acton Board of Selectmen

cc: Senator James B. Eldridge, Acton
Senator Michael J. Barrett, Concord
Representative Cory Atkins, Concord & Acton
David Shedd, P.E., MassDOT Highway Division
Sreelatha Allam, MassDOT Highway Division
Marcia Rasmussen, Town of Concord
Roland Bartl, Town of Acton