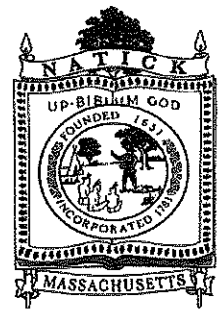


Town of Natick
Massachusetts 01760
Home of Champions



Amy K. Mistrot, Chair
Susan G. Salamoff, Vice Chair
Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk
Jonathan Freedman
Richard P. Jennett, Jr.

April 30, 2018

David J. Mohler
Executive Director
Office of Transportation Planning
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Room 4150
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Mr. Mohler:

On behalf of the Natick Board of Selectmen, I am writing to ask the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization to support changes recommended in FY2018-2022 TIP Amendment Four, relating to construction funding for the Cochituate Rail Trail, MassDOT Project 607732.

The Town appreciates the continued support of MassDOT in recommending the increased funding level, reflecting the updated Construction Cost Estimate from the 75% design, which has been reviewed and approved by MassDOT. The updated cost estimate is \$12,074,327, an increase of \$2,303,464. We thank MPO and MassDOT staff for supporting the proposed increase, and ask for the support of MPO members.

The Town of Natick is committed to the CRT, and is working collaboratively with MassDOT to prepare this project to bid in the coming months. It will provide a safe and economically beneficial transportation and recreation corridor in a highly congested area, with many connections to employers, transportation connections, residential neighborhoods, and the Natick Center Cultural District, as well as the Natick Center MBTA Station, currently under design to provide full accessibility.

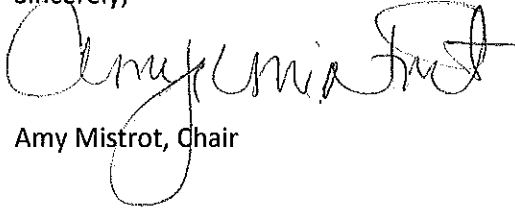
MPO members may be interested to know that the CRT was the first MassDOT project to be reviewed using BlueBeam collaboration software, which enabled the many reviewers to comment interactively, producing a better result. It is the Town's understanding that a technically challenging project such as the CRT was a helpful project for this application.

Also on TIP Amendment Four is the proposed removal of the Route 9/27 interchange, #605313, currently scheduled for FY2021-22. It is the Town's understanding that this project will be resubmitted for a future TIP amendment, and that the project is proceeding to a revised 25% design based in part on community input. Replacement of this structurally deficient 1931 bridge and interchange is a priority for our region.

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The Town appreciates the MPO's support for transportation investments in Natick and MetroWest. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Mistrot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".

Amy Mistrot, Chair

cc: Representative David P. Linsky
Senator Karen L. Spilka
Senator Richard J. Ross
Alexandra Kleyman, AICP, TIP Manager