

Public Comments Submitted to the Boston Region MPO by Project Proponents

March 26, 2020

Comment Letters were Submitted for the Following Projects:

- **City of Framingham:** Reconstruction of Union Avenue (#608228) (Programmed in 2021)
- **City of Framingham:** Traffic Signal Installation at Edgell Road and Central Street (#608889) (Programmed in 2022)
- **Town of Hingham:** Intersection Improvements at Route 3A/Summer Street Rotary (#605168) (Programmed in FFY 2024)
- **Town of Hull:** Reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue and Related Work (#601607) (Programmed in FFY 2022)
- **Town of Norwood:** Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street (#605857) (Programmed in FFY 2022)
- **Town of Swampscott:** Rail Trail Construction (#610666) (Unprogrammed)
- **City of Woburn:** Intersection Reconstruction at Route 3 (Cambridge Road) & Bedford Road and South Bedford Street (#608067) (Unprogrammed)

Comments were Submitted via Email for the Following Projects:

- **Town of Acton:** Intersection Improvements at Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111) and Main Street (Route 27) (Kelley's Corner) (#608229) (Programmed in FFY 2022)
- **Town of Bedford:** Minuteman Bikeway Extension (#607738) (Programmed in FFY 2022)
- **Town of Bellingham:** Rehabilitation and Related Work on Route 126, from Douglas Drive to Route 140 (#608887) (Programmed in FFY 2022)



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

508-532-5401
mayor@framinghamma.gov
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MEMORIAL BUILDING
150 Concord Street, Room 121
Framingham, MA 01702

Thatcher W. Kezer III
Chief Operating Officer

March 26, 2020

Tegin Teich
Executive Director
Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston MA 02116

Re: 608228 Reconstruction of Union Avenue
608889 Traffic Signal Installation at Edgell Road and Central Street

Dear Ms. Teich

The City of Framingham has two city-initiated projects on the FFYs 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program Final Programming Scenario under consideration at the March 26 Boston Region MPO meeting.

I am writing asking the MPO to support, as proposed in the current draft Final Programming Scenario, project 608228, Reconstruction of Union Avenue in FFY2021. As indicated in the schedule submitted to MassDOT in January, this project is on track for FFY2021. The City has made considerable financial investment in the Union Avenue corridor to the municipal utilities, including water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and has removed a 12-inch concrete base that was under the paved surface in support of this project. Additionally, if this project is delayed, we are concerned about having a major downtown corridor left in a "patched" condition for an extended period of time.

I am also writing in support of project 608889, Traffic Signal Installation at Edgell Road and Central Street. This is an important project for the City, and we will work in coordination with MassDOT to get Article 97 legislation passed in the Legislature in time for completion in FFY2023.

Thank you to the Boston Region MPO members and Central Transportation Planning Staff for the work you do in managing the complex and resource challenged transportation requirements of the region. Framingham is ready to be a partner with the region to help all of us get our priority projects moved forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Yvonne M. Spicer'.

Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

TOWN OF HINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Karen A. Johnson, Chair
Mary M. Power
Joseph M. Fisher



Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
Michelle Monsegur,
Assistant Town Administrator

March 24, 2020

By Email (david.mohler@state.ma.us)

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: David Mohler, Chair

Re: TIP ID 605168 – Hingham Intersection Improvements at Route 3A/Summer Street Rotary

Dear Mr. Mohler:

I am writing to follow-up on the comments presented by David Giangrande of DCI, Representative Joan Meschino, and myself on behalf of the Town of Hingham at the MPO meeting of March 5, 2020, in support of the Hingham Route 3A Improvement Project.

The Route 3A project is proposed for FFY 2024 under the current TIP. In fact, due to the diligence of the Town since discussion of this project began in 2009, design of the Route 3A Project is currently on schedule to be completed well before the proposed 2024 TIP allocation, if possible.

During the MPO's last teleconference meeting on March 19, 2020, Amendment 3 was presented outlining three possible programming scenarios to amend the 2020-2024 TIP. While Scenario #2 and Scenario #3 maintain the Route 3A Project as an FFY 2024 project, we note that Scenario #1 would push the project back to FFY 2025.

The Town of Hingham respectfully objects to the deferment of the Route 3A Project to FFY 2025 and urges the MPO to adopt a programming scenario that keeps the Route 3A project on its current schedule for FFY 2024. The implementation of the Route 3A Project is critical for the operation and safety benefits it will provide to the traveling public, not only motorists, but pedestrians and bicyclists by virtue of the planned shared use path and bike lanes, regional connectivity for the Route 3A corridor communities, as well as recreational and aesthetic enhancements.

The Town is also concerned about the impact of a delay on costs incurred by both the Town and the state. In connection with its efforts to date as outlined below, the Town has invested over \$400,000 in Town taxpayer funds into this Project, with almost \$100,000 in additional funds already appropriated by Hingham Town Meeting toward finalizing the design. As is the way with all projects, the longer the

projected timeline to completion, the more likely it will be that the costs to the Town will rise. Likewise, the project cost is also likely to increase the longer it is delayed. At the meeting on March 5th, David Giangrande of DCI explained that the primary reason that the current estimate for the project is higher than the original cost is the pavement strategy. However, the cost delta also includes the increase in projected labor and material costs. As there are portions of the project that must be completed at the Town's cost, those costs will also be affected by delay. Therefore, we anticipate that all costs will only increase if the project is further deferred.

As you know, the Town of Hingham, in close cooperation with the Mass DOT and the Towns of Hull and Cohasset, has for 11 years been diligently pursuing a workable remedy for the safety and operational issues that have plagued the Route 3A corridor for many years.

The Route 3A project remains a very high priority for the Town. In addition to Town staff, the Town has a committed group of residents who make up the Route 3A Task Force who are actively working with DCI and with the Town's contract Traffic Engineer, Steve Boudreau of Vanasse & Associates, to move the project forward. As noted above, discussions for the project began in 2009. The Town undertook, at the Town's expense, an extensive pilot "road diet" in 2013 to test the effectiveness of the proposed improvements. The 25% plans were submitted in March, 2019 and a Comment Resolution Meeting was scheduled (but is being rescheduled due to the current COVID-19 state of emergency). Hingham Task Force members have been meeting with members of the public, affected property owners, public safety officials, affected utility departments and the Town highway superintendent on an ongoing basis to gain input that contributed to the success of the road diet, then to the 25% plans and now for the CRM, the public hearing and submission of the 75% plans. Submission of the 75% plans is on target for 2020. Based on the foregoing, the expectation of the general public is that this project will be completed by 2024.

For all of the foregoing reasons, deferment of the Route 3A Project would be detrimental to the safety and welfare of all motorists, residents and bicyclists who heavily rely on the Route 3A corridor, and likely result in further increases in cost.

The Town requests that the MPO adopt a scenario that keeps the Route 3A Project on target for FFY 2024.

Thank you for your consideration,

Thomas Mayo
Hingham Town Administrator

cc: Matt Genova, Transportation Improvement Program Manager
Rep. Joan Meschino
Hingham Board of Selectmen

Dear Chair Mohler:

I concur with the Town of Hingham's request and urge the MPO to adopt a program that keeps the Route 3A/Summer Street Project on its current schedule for FFY 2024. This project is critical to operation and public safety of the public and for regional connectivity. This project is supported by the neighboring communities, and in fact the project has been positively shaped by the substantive input of these adjacent communities. The project remains a top priority for Hingham and the region and has my full support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Rep. Joan Meschino
3rd Plymouth District
State House, Room 34
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2320



Town of Hull



TOWN MANAGER

781-925-2000
FAX 781-925-0224

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
253 ATLANTIC AVENUE
HULL, MA 02045

March 25, 2020

Ms. Stephanie Pollack
MassDOT Secretary and CEO, Boston Region MPO Chair
C/o Matt Genova, TIP Manager
Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Hull – Reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue (#601607)

Dear Secretary Pollack:

I am writing to express the Town of Hull's continued commitment to the reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue (Project #601607) and to provide an update on the project's status. The Town completed the 100% Design Submission to MassDOT in March 2019 and is currently working with MassDOT to resolve the comments received. All aspects of the project continue to move forward. Environmental permit applications will be submitted this spring. Right-of-Way coordination is ongoing, and acquisitions are set to begin shortly. Design and permitting, and Right-of-Way are all scheduled to be completed by early 2021.

The Town of Hull remains committed to updating Atlantic Avenue in accordance with the goals of the Boston MPO to the extent possible to improve substandard conditions, modernize the roadway, and enhance access and mobility along the corridor. The proposed improvements incorporate "Complete Streets" design features and will help revitalize the neighborhood and affect positive change on the environment and local businesses. Atlantic Avenue is essential to maintaining the safety and security of local residents by providing one of the Town's few points of access for emergency response and evacuation during coastal storms. We ask that the project remains programmed in FFY 2022 and that it is not moved into a year further out on the TIP.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Lemnios
Town Manager



TOWN OF NORWOOD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

One Lyman Place, Norwood, MA 02062
Phone 781-762-1413 Fax 781-762-9378
Email mryan@norwoodma.gov

Mark P. Ryan
Director of Public
Works and
Town Engineer

March 23, 2020

Matt Genova
Transportation Improvement Program Manager
Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116-3968

Re: Norwood (605857)
Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street

Dear Mr. Genova, 

On behalf of the Town of Norwood, I urge the Boston MPO to keep the construction funding in FFY 2022 for the proposed intersection improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street as shown on the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This project is not only important to Norwood but, also to all the commuters who utilize Route One as they travel to and from the Greater Boston area. For many years, we have worked diligently to have this project designed to improve the safety and operational deficiencies of this State controlled intersection. With the support of an Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Section 61 finding in 2008, design funding was required by the developers of the University Station project in Westwood. The project's 25% design submittal was made in November, 2016 and the Design Public Hearing is still pending.

I voiced Norwood's opposition to moving the project to FFY 2023 during the virtual MPO meeting held on March 19th. As I stated during that meeting, Norwood has been advocating for this project since a 1996 CTPS Study identified the intersections deficiencies and that further delays with construction will be such a disappointment to Norwood and the commuters from the region who have suffered for so many years with this failed intersection.

It is noteworthy that out of the 15 intersection projects listed on the TIP, only one other project had a higher overall score than this project. This is clearly an indication that the improvements are warranted and that it will provide such a positive impact to the region.

Respectfully, on behalf of the Town of Norwood, I urge the Boston MPO to keep the construction funding for this project in FFY 2022.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 781-760-8341 or by email at mryan@norwoodma.gov

Very truly yours,



Mark P. Ryan
Director of Public Works and Town Engineer

Cc:
Norwood Board of Selectmen
Tony Mazzucco
Rep. John Rogers
Sen. Mike Rush
Thomas O'Rourke
File

Dear MPO members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding the Swampscott Rail Trail (Project number 610666).

My name is Suzanne Wright. I have been a member of the Swampscott School Committee for 6 years, and a longtime resident of Swampscott. As a member of the Swampscott School Committee, a resident and a parent, I see firsthand the benefits of recreational trails; they are beneficial to our physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

The Swampscott School Committee supports the construction of the trail as it will provide students, staff and families safe off-road access to the Swampscott Middle School (Pre-K, 5th-8th) and Stanley Elementary School (K - 4th). Swampscott provides bus service only to special needs students and currently, majority of Middle School and Stanley School students are driven, walk or ride bicycles to and from school. Consequently, the roads and sidewalks are crowded before and after school hours, posing a safety hazard during inclement weather. When constructed, the Swampscott trail will provide children the opportunity to travel to school safely off the main roads and away from traffic.

As a resident of Swampscott, I fully support the construction of the trail as it will connect the town's residential, commercial and recreational destinations. The trail will provide access to public transportation, particularly the commuter rail. Creating bicycle access to the station is particularly important in Swampscott, which has only a very small parking lot at the station.

For these reasons, I strongly support the town of Swampscott request for TIP funding that will allow construction of the Swampscott Rail Trail.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

March 25, 2020

Ms. Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Subject: Intersection Reconstruction at Route 3: Bedford Rd – Cambridge Road Intersection Improvements

Dear Chair Pollack and MPO Representatives:

The above referenced intersection was ranked as a “high crash location” in a MassDOT Road Safety Audit performed in 2014. This intersection has been considered for reconstruction since 1996, however, the inability to obtain the land necessary to make geometric improvements to the roadway derailed the project until now.

The Town of Burlington was able to work successfully with Northeastern University, the City of Boston (Owner of Article 97 land adjacent to the intersection in Woburn and Burlington) and a private developer, to secure the land necessary to widen the intersection.

The City of Woburn highly recommends and strongly supports funding this necessary MassDOT Intersection Improvement project to reduce both vehicular crashes at this location as well as the traffic congestion associated with substandard traffic signal equipment and inadequate lane geometry. We applaud the efforts of the Town of Burlington in finding a way to obtain the land required for this project as well as the efforts of MassDOT for recognizing this intersection as being both dangerous and congested.

The City of Woburn thanks you for moving this project forward.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Scott D. Galvin

**Additional Comments Submitted to the Boston Region MPO via Email
3/19/20 - 3/26/20**

Town of Acton

Intersection Improvements at Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111) and Main Street (Route 27) (Kelley's Corner) (#608229)

Austin Cyganiewicz – Town of Acton

The Town of Acton expresses its tremendous appreciation for the MPO and its staff's support. Project ID number 608229, also known as the "Kelley's Corner" project is on schedule. The Town will be voting at an upcoming Spring Annual Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the necessary right of way for the project, and to fund the just compensation payments to property owners. The 100% design plans are scheduled to be submitted in early July.

Town of Bedford

David Manugian – Town of Bedford (submitted by Austin Cyganiewicz, MAGIC subregion representative)

Minuteman Bikeway Extension (#607738)

The proposed TIP scenarios delay the Minuteman Bikeway Extension project (ID: 607738) to the next fiscal year 2023 from it's currently situated FY2022. This project remains a high-priority project for the community, with 75% design projected for May 2020, and a November 2021 construction advertisement date. Bedford officials are actively working with MassDOT and Arlington officials for continue with discussions. This is a 15 -year project in the making, and funding is critical to ensure project completion.

Town of Bellingham

James Kupfer – Town of Bellingham

Rehabilitation and Related Work on Route 126, from Douglas Drive to Route 140 (#608887)

The Town of Bellingham would still request to be moved up to FY21 if room is available. But if not, the Town requests to remain in FY22.