

July 27, 2010

Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973

Delivered via Adobe PDF to Frank.Tramontozzi@state.ma.us

Subject: Bridge Replacement No. T-01-021 Bay Street over the Mill River & Replacement of Dam ID M00923 (Project File No. 603576)

Dear Mr. Tramontozzi:

LivableStreets would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Bay Street Bridge replacement project in Taunton, MA, in particular in response to the July 21, 2010 Public Hearing.

We are very pleased that the structural issues with the Bay Street Bridge and dam will be addressed through this project. This will without a doubt result in safer conditions for everyone who passes over them. We appreciate that the cross-section of the reconstructed bridge is intended to serve pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists through the provision of both a sidewalk on the south side of the bridge and bike-friendly shoulders on the roadway. We have a few suggestions we hope will improve the project even further.

The current design calls for a 12' travel lane and 4' shoulder in each direction. **This cross-section could easily be adjusted to include an 11' travel lane and 5' bike lane or shoulder in each direction.** This extra foot will increase comfort and safety for bicyclists, and the slightly narrower travel lane will help to calm motor vehicles, encouraging motorists to travel at safer speeds closer to the 30 mph speed limit. We would also like MassDOT to encourage the City of Taunton to restripe the remainder of Bay Street with a similar cross-section, including 5' bike lanes (if parking is prohibited) or shoulder (if parking is allowed), or at least shoulders as close to 5' as possible if there is not enough width available, narrowing the travel lanes as needed.

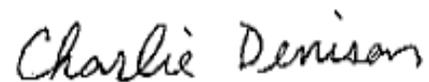
During construction, we suggest that the temporary pedestrian/utility bridge be wide enough to carry bicycle traffic in addition to pedestrians. If the bridge is narrow, we recommend posting signs that bicyclists should yield to pedestrians.

Mr. Frank Tramontozzi Re: Bay Street Bridge, Taunton (Project File No. 603576)
July 27, 2010

Page 2 of 2

Please feel free to contact me for further information about our comments. My e-mail address is charlie@livablestreets.info and my cell number is 617-852-6125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Denison".

Charlie Denison

Board Member & Advocacy Director