

May 8, 2015

Jay Ash, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO

Dear Secretaries Pollack and Ash,

We are writing as a coalition of Allston residents and advocacy organizations who have participated in the I-90 Allston Interchange Project. Your support for multimodal economic development, equity, the environment, and public health fit well with what the Commonwealth can do with the opportunity presented by this project.

The reconstruction of I-90 in Allston and the construction of West Station have the potential to bring a myriad of benefits to both the host community and region, including:

- Strengthening the regional transportation network by adding transit capacity and improving reliability for drivers and transit riders;
- Spurring economic development on dozens of acres of newly-accessible land;
- Connecting workers as far west as Worcester to jobs in Allston, downtown Boston, and also in Cambridge via DMU service over the Grand Junction Bridge;
- Connecting north and south Allston, enabling more efficient access to the Mass Pike, new transit routes between Harvard Square, Longwood, and other job centers, and improved neighborhood quality of life;
- Creating a new Allston Esplanade of riverfront parkland, enhancing the Dr. Paul Dudley White bike path, and encouraging walking and cycling with a new "People's Pike" shared-use path.

All this can be realized using innovative public-private partnerships that reduce the state's financial burden and share the value unlocked by these investments.

For these possibilities to become reality, we hope you will consider the following suggestions:

- Define the project's purpose and need to emphasize economic development, multimodal transportation, public health, and environmental justice;
- Resume the I-90 Project Taskforce as a focused, collaborative group working with both of your departments and the City of Boston through the design, permitting, and construction of the project; and
- Explore value-capture financing and public-private partnerships to provide resources for a world-class outcome.

This project could transform one of the largest undeveloped parcels in Metro Boston, create multimodal connections and open space, and improve the quality of life for those living near the highway and rail facilities. We look forward to working with you to achieve this vision.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jacobson, MassBike
Wendy Landman, WalkBoston
Harry Mattison, Charles River Conservancy
Steven E. Miller, LivableStreets Alliance
Galen Mook, Allston resident
Paola M. Ferrer, Allston resident

Alana Olsen, Allston Village Main Streets
Carol Ridge-Martinez, Allston Brighton CDC
Jessica Robertson, Allston resident
Matthew Danish, Allston resident & LivableStreets Alliance

cc:

Secretary Matthew Beaton, Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs
State Senator Sal DiDomenico
State Senator William Brownsberger
State Representative Kevin Honan

State Representative Michael Moran
Boston City Councilor Mark Ciommo
John Barros, Chief of Economic Development, City of Boston
Kairos Shen, Chief Planner, City of Boston