



VISIONARY NEW INITIATIVE TO CONNECT 200 MILES OF METRO BOSTON GREENWAYS DEBUTED BY LIVABLESTREETS ALLIANCE

Watertown, MA - (Sept. 12, 2015) –Today the Emerald Network, an initiative of LivableStreets Alliance, debuts with celebration and excitement at Tour de Streets. This bold initiative aims to link Boston’s rich legacy of shared-use pathways like the Emerald Necklace and the Esplanade into a seamless network, creating an urban recreation and transportation system that meets our city’s contemporary needs.

“This is the future,” exclaimed LivableStreets Executive Director Jackie Douglas, “greenway paths that are linked together so that you can move continuously from one path to another. Safe, accessible, off-road paths and their low-traffic stress connections are simply a better way to get around the city.”

Building on the momentum of its 10th anniversary, LivableStreets will take on the challenge of harmonizing the many individual greenway efforts now underway by supporting the construction of missing links to complete a unified greenway network, fulfilling the 19th century vision of Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot.

“With the power of the network, this will knit our growing city together without adding more cars to our roads,” said land use attorney Matthew J. Kiefer, co-founder of the Emerald Network. “It will also improve the environment and public health and will enhance our competitiveness in the global economy.”

Much of the Emerald Network includes both completed and under-construction pathways. “The Emerald Network vision

grows out of our region's fabulous heritage of multi-use parks, building on our existing portfolio of over 100 miles of parkland paths to create a 200 mile web of connection,” stated Steven E. Miller, Emerald Network co-founder and Director of the Healthy Weight Initiative, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “The network’s seamless system of linear parks and low-traffic stress links will touch and connect every neighborhood, improving livability and helping lay a foundation for future prosperity.”

The Harborwalk, Somerville Community Path, Neponset River Path, and the Charles River paths are a few of the many miles of greenway that make up current and under construction stretches. The recently completed Watertown Braille Trail, part of the Charles River paths, will be explored during this year’s Tour de Streets, LivableStreets’ annual family friendly walk, ride and BBQ, which is being hosted by the Arsenal on the Charles in Watertown.

Projects like the Neponset River Greenway -- 9 miles of soon to be completed continuous, shared-use paths that connect the communities of Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and Milton -- demonstrate a growing desire across the metro area for making the Emerald Network vision a reality.

While the Emerald Network is gaining momentum, the challenge of completing dozens of new projects remains. This collaborative effort will engage multiple municipalities and public agencies, community members, businesses and institutions and will work in parallel with the Massachusetts Area Planning Council’s (MAPC) LandLine and Boston GreenLinks, a program of the City of Boston.

For more information on The Emerald Network, LivableStreets Alliance, and Tour de Streets, please visit LivableStreets.info

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The Emerald Network is a vision for a 200-mile seamless network of shared-use paths across the Metro Boston area. Building on the 19th century greenway legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, this initiative will advance the construction of missing links to complete a greenway network that will increase mobility, promote active recreation and improve climate change resiliency – leading to a 21st century linear park system that will enhance our competitiveness in the global economy. www.livablestreets.info/emeraldnetwork

LivableStreets Alliance is a non-profit organization enabling people to think differently and demand a transportation system that balances transit, walking, and biking with automobiles. LivableStreets Alliance promotes safe, convenient, and affordable transportation in metro Boston making our community more connected and more livable for everyone. For more information visit: www.livablestreets.info

Tour de Streets is an annual fun, family-friendly bike ride, walk and BBQ that benefits the LivableStreets Alliance taking place in on September 12th at the Arsenal on the Charles. The event includes a 27-mile scenic bike route, a 5-mile family-friendly route, and a walk on the Charles. Tour de Streets started in 2010 as a memorial ride for Bob Zeeb, an avid cyclist who tragically died as the result of a bicycle crash. For more information visit www.livablestreets.info/tourdestreets