



Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street
9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Montgomery,

On behalf of transportation and park advocates throughout Massachusetts, as well as the millions of Massachusetts residents who benefit from your parks, we would like to say **Thank You** for your proactive and measured actions to open up certain DCR parkways exclusively for people walking and biking to help maintain physical distance.

We appreciate that most DCR facilities, including ice rinks, pools, and swimming beaches, will likely remain closed for the duration of this crisis, and so we applaud DCR's response to opening up parkways as usable open space. As the Governor's stay-at-home advisory may stretch throughout spring and into the summer months, and beyond, we also realize that there will be an increased demand on the DCR to accommodate the public's need for open space. The DCR and the Governor's team are to be commended for showing leadership and foresight.

We have also found that the decrease in traffic on the roadways, especially those where DCR has removed parking, has meant biking and walking along DCR parkways feels safer. For instance, the barrels blocking the parking lanes along Lynnshore Drive have created a de facto protected bike lane for cyclists to ride safely while staying off the walkways. This is especially important for essential workers who travel by bike and use DCR paths and parkways on their commutes to work. Roadways free from car traffic and parking lanes facilitates safer travel for both physical activity and for everyday transportation.

We would also like to note that many municipalities are following DCR's lead and looking into opening up local roads for people on foot and bike, some of which will be feeder roads to connect to DCR parks, essentially creating a network of open space that extends beyond the parkland itself. As the context evolves, we encourage DCR to share the lessons learned from this program, so we can expand the efficacy of these projects and provide safe access to open space to Massachusetts residents, especially those most affected by the virus.

Please share this note of thanks with your DCR staff who are out performing the work to place barriers on the roadways, and to those in your planning department and policy team who worked collectively to move the Open Streets program forward.

Thank you,

Galen Mook, MassBike
Eliza Parad, Boston Cyclists Union
Stacey Beuttell, WalkBoston
Karen Mauney-Brodek, Emerald Necklace Conservancy
Amber Christoffersen, Mystic River Watershed Association
Stacy Thompson, LivableStreets Alliance