



WalkBoston

May 5, 2011

Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee
Attn: Project Manager Anne McGahan

Re: 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, Paths to a Sustainable Region

Dear Ms. McGahan:

WalkBoston appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee in respect to the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Boston Metropolitan Area. We are particularly interested that the plan includes the Community Path and its connections in the City of Somerville.

The Community Path project, as planned by Somerville, will provide a critical link between the Minuteman Bikeway and Charles River path network, encouraging residents to walk and bicycle. Perhaps most importantly, the Community Path would provide direct pedestrian access to the planned Green Line Extension to Medford.

Portions of the Path already exist and are heavily used by local residents. The extension of the Path from Cedar Street to Lowell Street (ID 604331) was included in the TIP and is scheduled to be constructed in 2011. WalkBoston urges the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee to approve the inclusion of the Lowell Street-to-Cambridge section in the Long Range Transportation Plan, "Paths to a Sustainable Region. It is an important project and deserves your consideration and approval to become part of the LRTP.

Once it is incorporated into the LRTP, the Community Path project deserves more **intense** attention in future TIPs. The path project east of Lowell Street needs to be designed and built alongside the Green Line Extension. For TIPs developed in the next two years, the MPO should include the Lowell Street to Cambridge portion of the Community Path that parallels the Green Line extension and serves pedestrians and bicyclists who will be using the new transit service.

The Community Path is a very important regional facility for walking, bicycling and for transit access. We hope that the committee will continue to support this project to its eventual completion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director

Cc Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director, Somerville Strategic Planning & Community Dev.
Jaime Corliss, Director, Shape Up Somerville
Ellin Reisner, Somerville STEP
Alan Moore, Friends of the Community Path

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