



WalkBoston

March 21, 2011

Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee
Attn: TIP Manager Hayes Morrison

Re: Draft Amendment Three, FFY 2011 TIP Element

Dear Ms. Morrison:

WalkBoston appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee in respect to Draft Amendment Three, FFY 2011 TIP for the Boston Metropolitan Area. We are particularly interested in the funding for 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 Draft Amendment Three includes an extension of the Path from Cedar Street to Lowell Street (ID 604331). WalkBoston urges the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee to approve the inclusion of the Cedar-to-Lowell Street section. It is an important project and deserves your consideration and approval to become part of the TIP.

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

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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