



July 27, 2012

Secretary Richard Davey
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Comments on GreenDOT Implementation Plan

Dear Secretary Davey:

WalkBoston is very pleased to have the opportunity to provide comments on the GreenDOT Implementation Plan and to see the progress that MassDOT has made toward reducing the greenhouse gas impacts of the state's transportation sector. As an active member of the Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA) coalition we join in the detailed comments that T4MA is making under separate cover, and are writing this letter to provide several walking-specific comments.

We believe that several of the indicators that entail research and plan updates and that are very relevant to improving pedestrian access and safety across the Commonwealth should be implemented in a timelier manner than the plan calls for. Specifically, we should not wait until 2015 to see an update of the Project Development and Design Guide or research on techniques for reducing vehicle operating speeds. Neither of these efforts requires substantial funding, and both of them will help to shape many of MassDOT's project designs so we would like to see them begin influencing designs as soon as possible.

The indicators called out for traffic controls are extremely important to pedestrian safety and we would like to see specific targeted percentages set for each of the three horizon years – for example 15% to be accomplished by 2012, 50% by 2015 and 100% by 2020. Establishing this parameter would provide the Department and the public the opportunity to see progress being made, and will help to build the case for this investment by showing the public how much benefit can be derived from these measures.

With respect to increasing the total miles and connectivity of pedestrian facilities, we would hope that the identification of critical pedestrian and bicycle gaps could be shifted from 2015 to 2013. Given the lead time required for projects to be added to the TIP and be provided with funding, identifying gaps in 2015 would mean that many of those gaps would remain well beyond 2020.

We look forward to working with you and MassDOT staff on the implementation of GreenDOT and would be pleased to answer any questions you have about our comments.

Best regards,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director