



WalkBoston

July 29, 2009

Secretary Ian Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Comments on the Environmental Notification Form for the Science Park/West End
Station Accessibility Improvements
EOEA #14439

Dear Secretary Bowles:

WalkBoston appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Notification Form for the Science Park/West End Station Accessibility Improvements. This project is central to the MBTA's goal of making all of its stations ADA-compliant and accessible to all.

The design of the new station's accessibility improvements will focus on platform raising and widening, stairway alterations and the addition of elevators. These station features are being added to a location on the Lechmere Viaduct, which is listed on the State Register of Historic Places and is a contributing resource within the National Register Charles River Basin Historic District. It is also located on Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) land that is not currently used for park or recreation purposes.

WalkBoston is very supportive of the effort to make the station fully accessible to all users, and have no doubt that the improvements within the station will improve circumstances for pedestrians in general.

Our principal concerns focus on the ground-level setting of this project rather than the station reconstruction. Pedestrian safety issues are focused on the locations where walkers approach the station by navigating the various Leverett Circle crosswalks on Charles Street, Nashua Street, the Science Park Dam and Martha Way. Over the years WalkBoston has made a number of suggestions about ways in which the Leverett Circle intersections could be made safer for pedestrians. These suggestions were addressed primarily to the CA/T Project – but will now need to be addressed by DCR, the MBTA and the City of Boston. We hope that the MBTA will work with their adjoining agencies to improve the safety of street access to the station, and that these improvements are implemented prior to the opening of the fully accessible station.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Environmental Notification Form. We believe that safer pedestrian access to the station will attract new riders and serve existing

passengers better. Please contact us for any clarification or additional comments that you may need.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director

Robert Sloane
Senior Planner

Cc via email to:
State Representative Marty Walz
City Council President Michael Ross
James Aloisi, EOT Secretary
Daniel Grabauskas, MBTA General Manager
Richard Sullivan, DCR Commissioner
Ned Codd, EOT Planning