



December 28, 2008

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

RE: Comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/DEIS) for the Urban Ring Corridor Phase 2
EOEA # 12565

Dear Secretary Bowles:

WalkBoston has reviewed the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (REIR/DEIS) for the Urban Ring Corridor Phase 2. We are encouraged that the project is reaching a level of community agreement and consensus that is so far-reaching. This project is of great and growing importance to the very walkable cities and towns that people are choosing as urban residences.

WalkBoston has not injected pedestrian goals into this process, but not for lack of concern. It is very clear that such a large transit project will be totally dependent on people walking into stations or bus stops – even if they are arriving by car or from another bus. As the project moves forward, we look forward to engaging more fully in the details of the planning process to advocate for safe and generous pedestrian access. For example, we think that all the stations and bus stops should be designed to be easily accessible by walking. We would be pleased to work with EOT, the MBTA and the local communities to help attain that goal.

We would suggest the following guidelines for the next phase of work on the Urban Ring:

1. Pedestrian access must be considered from the outset of the detailed study of routes and station locations. There may be distinct advantages or disadvantages for pedestrian access in various locations, and only detailed study can reveal these conditions.
2. It is particularly important that there be detailed studies of routes, stops and stations where tracts of abutting land may house transit-oriented development. This is crucial because such developments will need excellent pedestrian access to transit to fulfill their potential.
3. The overall goal of the Urban Ring Project is to move in stages toward an ultimate project, here designated as Phase 3. Compatibility of the alternatives with the transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 is one element of the analysis presented in this document. However, there is no illustration of Phase 3 in the document. To envision how the transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 would take place requires a great deal of imagination. We urge that

future planning specifically illustrate which routes and stops or stations will be permanent and which will be added in the later of the three phases.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Landman
Executive Director