



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

Facilities and Transportation Office
16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720
978-264-4700 fax: 978-264-3344

JD Head
Director of School Operations

March 8, 2017

Metropolitan Planning Organization
c/o Alexandra Kleyman
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Kelly's Corner Acton TIP

Dear Mrs. Kleyman.

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) is pleased to provide this letter with enthusiastic support for the Kelly's Corner TIP project. The ABRSD main campus is located at Kelly's Corner and contains four school buildings, multiple athletic fields, and 5,000 students and staff daily. The District sees this project as absolutely critical in providing safe access in and out of our property. Due to the poor current traffic flow and infrastructure my crossing guards witness incidents of road rage on a daily basis and we are concerned it is only a matter of time before someone is severely injured. To date we have been very lucky in that the students that have been hit by motorist, and there have been multiple ones in my 13 year tenure, have escaped the incidents without critical injuries.

Additionally our students use the less than adequate pedestrian walk-ways and crosswalks to access the Kelly's Corner business district. Unfortunately these walkways do not allow for any opportunities for persons with physical mobility limitations. Students who would like to ride a bike to school must do so in ways that by-pass the intersection because it is a safe route or, even worse, individuals who may like to bike choose not to bike at all.

ABRSD and our affiliates thank you for giving the Kelly's Corner TIP project an opportunity to move forward. Please consider this a very passionate endorsement of this project from a very large stakeholder.

Sincerely,

JD Head
Director of School Operations
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

Our Mission is to prepare all students to attain their full potential as life-long learners, critical thinkers, and productive citizens of our diverse community and global society.



TOWN OF WATERTOWN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

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Gerald S. Mee Jr.
Superintendent

March 30, 2017

Ms. Alexandra Kleyman, AICP
TIP Manager
Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Watertown – Rehabilitation of Mount Auburn Street
MassDOT Project File Number 607777

On behalf of the Town of Watertown, I would like to express our support for the Rehabilitation of Mount Auburn Street (MassDOT Project File #607777). Mount Auburn Street, signed Route 16, is a major corridor in the Town, connecting Watertown Square and the East End of Watertown with Cambridge. The Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown High School, Hosmer Elementary School, and Coolidge Square Business District are served by Mount Auburn Street, in addition to major business institutions and residential areas. The Route 71 trackless trolley, which traverses Mount Auburn Street, has been identified as a key bus route, with transit ridership ranked in the top 15 of the entire system.

There are a number of safety issues with the current road layout. The Coolidge Square segment of the corridor has been identified as a High Crash Location by MassDOT. Many sidewalks and handicapped ramps do not meet current ADA standards and have poor visibility. There are no bicycle accommodations.

The Town has adopted a Complete Streets approach to the design, attempting to balance the needs of all users in the corridor. The proposed project will transform the Mount Auburn Street corridor from its existing configuration as a four-lane arterial roadway designed solely to process through traffic into a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly street serving the community, consistent with the goals of the Town's 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Reducing the roadway cross section from four vehicular travel lanes to two vehicular lanes will allow for the inclusion of bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks. Additional pedestrian safety improvements include curb extensions at crosswalks to reduce crosswalk lengths and increase pedestrian visibility. The project seeks to improve transit reliability through the use of transit signal priority and/or bus queue lanes, where appropriate.

Over the past year, the Town has been in continuous contact with its partners, including MassDOT, MBTA, DCR, and City of Cambridge. A number of community meetings have also been held regarding

the project, most recently in December, 2016. The Town is using this input to further refine our plans in anticipation of a formal submittal to MassDOT later this year.

The Town wishes to thank CTPS and the MPO for their consideration for this important project for the Town and the Boston metropolitan region. It contains a number of elements of key importance to the TIP program, including significant safety improvements for all users, improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle network as well as transit assets, reductions in congestion and delays for vehicles and transit, as well as air quality and stormwater management improvements. Given the regional importance of this project and the pressing needs of the corridor, we urge you to consider programming the project as part of the FY'18 – FY '22 TIP program.

Please feel free to contact me at the number listed above if you have any questions or concerns regarding our project.

Sincerely,



Matthew I. Shuman, P.E.
Town Engineer

Cc: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager
Gerald S. Mee, Jr., DPW Superintendent
Steven Magoon, DCDP Director



Board of Selectmen

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April 3, 2107

David Mohler, Chairman
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

**RE: Kelley's Corner Intersection Improvements- Acton
TIP ID # 608229**

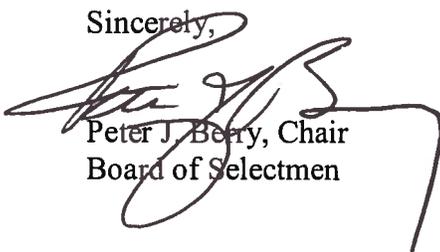
The Acton Board of Selectmen would like to express appreciation to the Boston MPO and MassDOT for considering funding the Kelley's Corner Intersection Improvement project on the 2018-2022 TIP. Since the 1990s, Acton residents and regional commuters have expressed a deep desire to improve this intersection. In 2013, the Town began a three year public planning process to create a plan for a complete streets roadway design. The public planning process led to a fully supported infrastructure concept plan that addresses: vehicular congestion, access to businesses, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and creates a foundation for future redevelopment of private properties. At the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, Acton residents exceeded a 2/3rds vote to appropriate \$756,000 to fund the 100%-PS&E design of the infrastructure project.

This project continues to receive overwhelming support from residents, businesses, landowners, regional commuters and the Acton Boxborough Regional School District. The Town's master plan, Acton 2020, calls for concentrated growth and infrastructure investments in Kelley's Corner which falls directly in line with the regional compact-growth strategies of the MetroFuture plan.

The Town is currently working with GPI (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc) towards completion of the 25% design. The MassDOT 25% Public Hearing is planned for the winter of 2017-2018 with design completion expected in 2019. In 2021 to 2022 following the expiration of a long-term lease, the Town expects a major private mixed-use redevelopment project in Kelley's Corner. Construction of the Kelley's Corner intersection improvement project will be important to its success for multimodal safety and management of vehicular congestion in the area.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Berry, Chair
Board of Selectmen

Cc: Alexandra Kleyman, TIP Manager
Arthur Frost, MassDOT Highway – District 3
Kelley's Corner Steering Committee
Rebecca Williamson, GPI