



Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

Thatcher W. Kezer III
Chief Operating Officer

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December 19, 2018

Karl Quackenbush, Executive Director
Central Transportation Planning Staff
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116-3968

Re: Framingham Grade Crossing Project

Dear Mr. Quackenbush,

I write this letter to express my support for Framingham's Grade Crossing Project at the key downtown intersection of Routes 126 (Concord Street) and 135 (Waverly Street). As Framingham's first mayor, I am committed to improving our Downtown, recognizing its important role as both a destination and a key regional route for travelers both north and south as well as from east and west.

As you begin the process of updating the region's long-range transportation plan (Destination 2040), I ask you to continue to carry this critical regional infrastructure investment in your long range plans. This project is vital to the community's future particularly in light of ongoing conversations around improving access on the MBTA commuter rail lines between Boston and Worcester. In addition, with expected increases in freight rail activity the impacts of the rail operations on downtown Framingham's already congested traffic will only worsen. We recognize that additional tracks and trains will likely further complicate an already challenging regional intersection for Framingham and the MetroWest region.

I am committed to working with the CTPS and the MPO leadership to demonstrate our ongoing commitment this critically important project for our downtown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvonne M. Spicer".

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor

cc: Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Members



TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Nancy C. Hyde, Chairman
Philip N. Shapiro, Clerk
Patrick J. Ahearn, Third Member

Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

December 20 2018

Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Comment on the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan
Related to the Canton I95-I93 Interchange Project

Dear Boston MPO Members:

On behalf of Westwood's Board of Selectmen, I write once again to express our region's strong, continued support for the final components of the I95/I93 Canton Interchange Project and the proposed amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to move the project forward to the 2020 to 2024 timeframe. Along with many other communities in our region, most especially Norwood, Canton and Dedham, Westwood views this project as one of the top priorities for the enhancement of economic development in the region and the Commonwealth.

The specific work to be funded by the final phase of the project would eliminate the traffic congestion problem, which has progressively worsened since the I-95 extension was abandoned in 1972, impairing the region's economic growth potential. The completion of the construction would be the logical next step to the Add-A-Lane project, which is nearing completion, and would fulfill, but for the timing, the contractual commitment the Commonwealth made the communities to construct the Interchange improvement by 2004 when the region was asked to support the construction of the Rt.128/University Park rail station and parking garage.

In Westwood's case, the initial phases (the ramp at Blue Hill Drive in FFY2014) of this project immediately facilitated the approved University Station project, the redevelopment of the 140 acres of University Office Park into a transit oriented development containing new retail, commercial office and residential uses, as well as establish open space and recreational uses. This development which is two thirds complete has created new affordable housing, hundreds of temporary construction jobs throughout its build-out and significant permanent employment opportunities thereafter.

RE: Comment on the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan related to the Canton Interchange Project
December 20, 2018
Page Two

The I-95 northbound slip-ramp and widening of Dedham Street and its bridges, which is the second phase of this project and currently under construction, will not only improve access to the Amtrak/Route 128 Station from the south and increase economic development opportunities in University Park, but it will also improve economic development in the adjacent office parks in Canton and Norwood. However, the full benefit from the completion of the first two phases will only be realized when the Interchange is finally reconstructed.

Therefore, for all the said reasons described above and on behalf of the Neponset Valley Regional Working Group - which includes the towns of Canton, Dedham, Norwood, Walpole and Westwood - I hereby sign this letter asking the Boston MPO Members, in the strongest manner possible, to move the final phase of the Canton Interchange Project forward to the 2020 to 2024 timeframe. This region as well as the entire Boston Metropolitan Area will benefit from a project that is, in fact, forty six years overdue. We thank you in advance for your partnership and assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael Jaillet
Town Administrator

Cc Westwood Board of Selectmen
Canton Board of Selectmen
Norwood Board of Selectmen
Dedham Board of Selectmen
Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce
Three Rivers Interlocal Council