

April __, 2018

Jonathan Gulliver
Highway Administrator
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116-3969

Dear Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,

The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) would like to express its support for implementing protected bike lane infrastructure east bound on the Longfellow Bridge. The CRA believes this design change will allow the project to establish safer and more comfortable bicycle connectivity between Kendall Square and downtown Boston.

In partnership with the City of Cambridge, the CRA has been improving pedestrian and bicycle safety in the district to support the innovation economy and encourage sustainable growth. Over the past fifteen years, during a period of substantial commercial and residential development, bicycle ridership in Kendall has doubled while vehicle ridership has remained the same. This has led to the Longfellow Bridge being one of the busiest cycling routes in the Boston area. According to the Boston Transportation Department's 2017 Bicycle Count report, cyclists make up 34.9% of the bridge's inbound commuter traffic, up from 25.2% the year before, despite ongoing construction.

With Cambridge and Boston signing onto Vision Zero legislation, it is clear that both cities have made safer transit infrastructure a priority. The CRA applauds MassDOT's pioneering leadership in writing its Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide and recommends the 2015 guidelines be implemented on this project, which was designed before the document was published. A protected lane could also allow for faster transit for emergency vehicles heading to Charles MGH.

The CRA looks forward to the completion of the Longfellow Bridge construction and urges MassDOT to install protected bicycle infrastructure at least as a pilot before it reopens in May. Doing so will more equitably allocate space on the bridge according to current commuter mode share and demonstrate a shared commitment of Cambridge, Boston and the Commonwealth to sustainable transportation.

Sincerely,

Tom Evans
Executive Director

Cc: Stephanie Pollack
Jackie DeWolfe
Joseph Barr
C.A. Webb