

Natick Select Board

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May 3, 2023

Ethan Lapointe
Program Manager, TIP
Central Transportation Planning Staff
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
10 Park Plaza, Room 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Honorable members of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization:

Thank you for your consideration of the Town of Natick comments on the Draft Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan. Natick is grateful for the support and participation of our state and regional partners in rebuilding outdated infrastructure, providing clean and equitable transportation choices, and ensuring that our residents, workforce and visitors have transportation choices that are safe, reliable, modern and efficient.

Route 9/27 Interchange (MassDOT 605313)

The Town is grateful for the progress of MassDOT and District 3 in advancing this important project, and we thank the MPO for including the project on the TIP. The proposed design will provide a safer, modern interchange that will address the many deficiencies of the obsolete 1931 structure while accommodating transit, cycling, and pedestrian mobility that is the product of strong collaboration between MassDOT, its contractor and the Town.

Natick Center CRT Connection (MassDOT 610691)

This project, recently added to the TIP, will connect the Cochituate Rail Trail to Natick Center, providing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to the community's central business district, cultural hub and transportation nexus. A 25% design hearing is imminent. While the project is currently scheduled for FFY 2028, the Town is hopeful that it will be ready for construction not long after the anticipated completion of the MBTA Natick Center Station Accessibility Improvements Project in 2024.

Lake Cochituate Path (MassDOT 610680)

This MassDOT project will establish a connection from the Cochituate Rail Trail to residential neighborhoods and commercial districts in West Natick. This will ensure a safe walking and cycling connection to Natick Center and all areas served by the CRT and the region's expanding trail network.

Boden Lane Bridge (MassDOT 607420)

This MassDOT-funded project under the Next Generation Bridge Program will replace a vehicular and pedestrian bridge that was damaged and removed in 2019. Design is underway, and the Town is eager

to see this project advance with design harmonized with the upcoming replacement of the West Natick MBTA station to provide full accessibility and to accommodate a center express track. This bridge will be integrated into the new station but should be prioritized.

Speen Street Bridge (MassDOT 612178)

This MassDOT-funded project using the Next Generation Bridge Program will replace a substandard bridge over the MBTA tracks. MassDOT has initiated design.

Framingham-Natick Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 (MassDOT 609402)

Natick is supportive of maintenance and improvements to Route 9 but encourages this periodic project to include pedestrian and cycling access consistent with the Town's comments on the MPO's 2022 Route 9 Priority Corridor Study, and with MassDOT's current study on active transportation in the so-called Golden Triangle in Natick and Framingham. We urge MassDOT to use this opportunity to improve the roadway's regional utility consistent with its statewide goals.

MWRTA: CatchConnect MicroTransit Service Expansion Phase 2

We support expansion of MicroTransit on weeknights as a complement to the daytime fixed-route service, and as a means to address the region's workforce public transportation needs.

Weston: Reconstruction on Route 30

This project will provide an important regional benefit with the addition of a shared-use path along Route 30, and Natick is hopeful that this multimodal accommodation will eventually extend through Framingham and Natick to provide a safe east-west active transportation corridor.

Sincerely,



Bruce Evans, Chair

cc: State Senator Karen Spilka
State Representative David Linsky
Representative Katherine Clark
District 3 Director Barry Lorion
Dennis Giombetti, MetroWest Subregion
Jim Nee, MetroWest RTA