

Policy Order Resolution #11

I am the President of the Friends of the Grand Junction Path, a group of advocates and interested residents who have been working to rejuvenate the proposal for a multi-use path in the Grand Junction corridor in Cambridge, Somerville, and Allston. The Cambridge Bicycle Committee and the Community Development Department produced feasibility studies in 2001 and 2006, respectively, which went into great depth and determined that 1. the Grand Junction Path is a desirable community amenity, 2. that it would provide critical open space, 3. that it would provide critical links for recreation and commuting, and ~~finally~~ 4. that it is feasible to build ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> M-UP in the Grand Junction corridor.

Today, fortunately, it is looking more and more like a plan than a proposal. The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, which controls the land on which the middle section of the Path would run, includes the Grand Junction Path in its list of actionable projects.

Councilor Toomey won commitments from MIT to perform a new feasibility study that covers the MIT sections of the Grand Junction Path, and a \$500,000 commitment to the construction of the CRA's Main St. to Binney St. section. ~~Coming off a period of impasse in the previous decade, we now see MIT as a partner in bringing active use of a healthy alternative transportation option, neighborhood and destination connections, and community benefit to the Grand Junction corridor. They too, legitimate and challenging concerns notwithstanding, want to see the Grand Junction Path become a reality.~~

at all

last year

MIT is now a partner in making the GJPA reality

Add. - the FoGSP

We worked in Somerville to win the Zoning Board's support for using an open space offset contribution from a private developer on Medford St. to apply to the abutting Grand Junction Path section.

This is all to say that there are several sections of the future Grand Junction Path, ~~all~~ <sup>any</sup> of which if completed would see immediate <sup>benefit</sup> use, that are conceivable opportunities for near-term <sup>construction</sup> completion.

But we need designs, and we need to start building.

comprehensive

from the City of Camb.

While we appreciate the support and commitments from the many diverse stakeholders in Cambridge and the other municipalities, what is needed now is a comprehensive design. We can design the Path if we can fund the design of the Path. We can build the Path if we can design the Path. ~~It won't be all the way from end to end, and beyond, but~~ we can make critical connections now. We can take single occupancy vehicles off the road. We can provide foot and bike connections across the Charles River. We can turn the Impassable Wall that separates W/H and EC into a vibrant, safe, open space--for healthy recreation and healthy commuting.

Also for

we can mm. reduce -0-V traffic.

This is an open space project. This is a connections project. This is a health project. This is a transportation project. This is a neighborhood project. This is a safe route to schools. This is an

equal access project. This is an environmental justice project. This is a critical regional transportation "mode shift" project.

Please consider impact. Everyone from our prestigious Cambridge institutions and an ever-increasing roster of world-class employers, to the youth in our most underserved neighborhoods and families, small businesses, students--they all ~~want to~~ commute and recreate on a human scale. If funded, the Grand Junction Path can be designed right now and see sections built that will have this immediate impact.

want and benefit from this

*we hope the City can*

~~We ask the City Council to~~ direct funding to the CDD for Grand Junction Path design, which will be put to use immediately.

*funding*

Thank you.