CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
City Councillor

January 24, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to share with you the attached letter that was sent to the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority Board asking for their support and cooperation in constructing a multi use path along the Grand Junction Rail Road.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Toomey Jr.

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
City Councillor

January 24, 2013

Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
One Cambridge Center, 4th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Members of the Board,

As you are aware the City Council has examined a number of zoning petitions over the previous year and will be examining additional petitions in the coming months. During the hearing processes for these petitions, which ultimately make changes that bring more jobs and people to Cambridge, residents have voiced their doubts in existing transportation infrastructure and have emphasized the need to encourage transportation options that will nourish future development. At this moment, the City of Cambridge and the CRA have an opportunity to address these concerns by working together on a transportation project that could alleviate traffic, unite neighborhoods, and contribute to our city's economic health.

The Grand Junction Rail with Trail is one such project. According to a feasibility study conducted by the City of Cambridge in 2006, a multi-use path constructed along the Grand Junction corridor would "create a major north-south bicycle and pedestrian linkage between Boston, the MIT Campus, several dense Cambridge neighborhoods (namely, Cambridgeport, Area 4, Kendall Square, Wellington-Harrington, and East Cambridge) and Somerville. By providing a vital urban component to the existing network of parkland-based trails, the trail would do much to encourage bicycling and walking to and from the area's major employment and university centers."

The feasibility study also identified two CRA parcels as components of the project's first phase of construction. The City of Cambridge now owns the parcel located between Binney Street and Broadway, and the CRA recently lost funding for a redesign of the parcel between Broadway and Main Street. While the loss of funding is unfortunate, it presents a new opportunity for collaboration between the CRA and the City of Cambridge with the goal of accelerating design and construction of the Grand Junction path.

The Grand Junction multi-use path continues to be one of my top priorities as both a Cambridge City Councillor and a State Representative. I believe this path is one of the most important infrastructure improvements we can make within our neighborhoods and within the economic engine surrounding Kendall Square. It has the potential to become an important part of a comprehensive update to our transportation infrastructure, and will enhance the physical and economic health of our City. I will continue to advocate at the City and State level to move this project forward, and I encourage you to work with the City of Cambridge to help make this project a reality. It would be my pleasure to discuss this with you further at your own convenience.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Toomey Jr.
City Council

CC: Susan Glazer, Interim Executive Director of CRA

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