From: dldeangelis@comcast.net
To: publicinformation@bostonmpo.org
Subject: Comments on the Transportation Long Range Plan
Date: Monday, September 12, 2011 9:08:00 PM

To the attention of David Mohler, Chair, Transportation Planning and Programming Committee, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA

David,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Transportation departments long range plan. I'm a Concord MA resident of 26 years, and have lived in the state of Massachusetts since 1976. Prior to moving to the "suburbs" I lived in the city for almost 8 years.

I'm an avid supporter of public transportation and in fact ride the subway and commuter rail daily to work downtown. However, I would like to state that given the limited resources that the state has to spend on transportation over the next 10-15 years and the almost criminal state of the lack of investment in infrastructure/maintenance of the trains, rails, subways....we should be prioritizing our dollars to those things that will get more people using public transportation.

The Bruce Freeman Rail trail should not be part of the long term plan. Although dubbed as helping to reduce emissions, the fact is the trail will primarily be a recreational pathway. Constructing it after 30 + years after the rail has been abandoned, will actually have a negative impact by "paving" what has been reclaimed by nature. Estimates for the build are about a million a mile, with safety issues crossing the Commuter Rail and downtown West Concord, still to be resolved. Given the State's economic condition, it would be irresponsible to divert money to recreational paths, while leaving our crumbling infrastructure unattended. It's ridiculous to think that any sizable number of people will find biking to work year round in New England feasible, given the snow, ice and darkness of the winter months, not to mention that the path runs North/South not East toward Boston where the majority of the people work.

I hope you will take these issues into consideration when finalizing the plan and defer or eliminate the funding for the Bruce Freeman Recreational Path until the State has met its more fundamental transportation obligations.

Thank you.
Donna DeAngelis
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