From: Carole Wolfe
To: publicinformation@bostonmpo.org
Subject: Draft LRTP
Date: Friday, September 09, 2011 9:07:39 AM

The draft LRTP includes the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, indicating it is a project worthy of “scarce” transportation funds because it will reduce emissions and congestion, That vision is commendable, but is there proof that suburban Massachusetts bike trails are truly transportation corridors that improve air quality and mitigate congestion instead of being used mostly for recreational amenities, as trail counts indicate? The Acton section, mostly through woods and wetlands, will not access mass transit until the rotary project is constructed and it seems only conjecture as to how many people would routinely bike to a train instead of driving. The Concord section, mostly through woods and wetlands, will not conveniently or directly access a school that isn’t already serviced by sidewalks and bike lanes. As to people using bikes to go shopping in either Acton or Concord, one would have to leave a trail to navigate route 2A, or go on a round-a-bout way through the woods to finally get to shops in West Concord. Carrying groceries or other purchases on a bike is also problematic. There appears to be a lack of quantitative analyses that demonstrate these trails are cost-effective as either transportation or recreation projects.

Thank you.
Carole Wolfe