

March 29, 2011

Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Attn: MEPA Analyst Deirdre Buckley

Delivered via PDF to: Deirdre.Buckley@state.ma.us

Re: ENF 14718, Mystic River Recreational Trail, Somerville

Dear Secretary Sullivan (c/o Ms. Buckley):

LivableStreets Alliance appreciates the opportunity to express our support for this important project that will join two separated sections of multi-use paths along the Mystic River.


In addition to providing continuous access to the Mystic River on DCR's recreational lands, this link is critical for safe crossing by pedestrians and bicyclists of the very busy Route 28 roadway. This link is a necessary addition to the growing network of multi-use paths in the Mystic River valley, including a future crossing of the Mystic River on or near the Amelia Earhart dam. It will also create a north-south, safe, off-road route for bicyclists into Boston, with all the public health and air quality benefits that increased bicycling and walking provides. Improving the off-road path network will add to the sustainability of the future transit-oriented development at Assembly Square, which is being designed to provide high-quality bicycle and pedestrian access. Last but not least, the project will connect the Ten Hills neighborhood to Assembly Square and the forthcoming new Orange Line MBTA station.

We believe that these benefits greatly exceed the small, temporary impacts of the project's construction activities. Therefore we hope that you determine that this project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and can progress without delay.

We appreciate this opportunity make public comments and thank you for your support of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Charlie Denison
Advocacy Director