



Metropolitan Area Planning Council

60 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 617-451-2770 fax 617-482-7185 www.mapc.org

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March 8, 2006

Transportation Enhancement Steering Committee
c/o Transportation Enhancement Program Coordinator
Massachusetts Highway Department
10 Park Plaza, Room 4150
Boston, MA 02116
Attn: Jim Cope

Re: Recommendations to State Transportation Enhancements Steering Committee

Dear Mr. Cope,

On February 22, 2006, the MAPC Enhancements Selection Committee held its 1st Quarter meeting to review Enhancements applications. The Committee reviewed one application and recommends it for advancement at this time:

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Fed. & State \$</i>
Minuteman Extension	Town of Bedford	\$1,455,300

Minuteman Extension

The 11-mile Minuteman Commuter Bikeway is one of the most successful rail-trail projects in the nation, with a great number and diversity of users at all times of day and throughout the year. The path serves valuable transportation and recreational purposes, and connects to transit, residences, commercial centers, parks, schools, and employers. The paved section of the path currently ends in Bedford at Bedford Depot Park, though the abandoned rail right-of-way continues through Bedford and into Concord. Bedford purchased this right-of-way for water and sewer service use in the 1960s and walkers and off-road bicyclists have used a dirt path there for many years. Bedford now plans to pave and improve this path for a nearly two-mile extension of the Minuteman path, stopping at Rt. 62. The path would connect with Bedford's middle school and high school; several recreational destinations, including the Hartwell Town Forest and Mary Putnam Conservation Area; as well as several new and proposed residential developments and a major employer, Instrumentation Labs, who will shortly be occupying the former Raytheon facility. The MAPC Enhancements Selection Committee views the project very favorably and foresees no significant obstacles to its implementation.

The applicant will be submitting the required fourteen (14) copies of the pre-application directly to your office. Enclosed you will find the following additional information as requested in the program guidelines:

- A description of project review criteria
- A list of members of the MAPC Enhancement Selection Committee

Richard A. Dimino, *President* Gordon Feltman, *Vice President* Grace S. Shepard, *Treasurer* Jeanne E. Richardson, *Secretary*

Marc D. Draisen, *Executive Director*

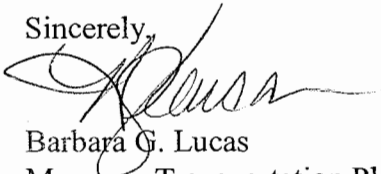
We hope that this proposal will be reviewed at the next State Enhancements Steering Committee Meeting, scheduled for March 29, 2006.

Although we cannot speak for the entire MPO at this time, our estimate of TIP placement of this project is as follows:

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>TIP Year</i>
Minuteman Extension	Town of Bedford	2009

If you should have any questions regarding the Committee's determination or questions about the application, please contact me or Scott Walker at 617-451-2770, x2058.

Sincerely,



Barbara G. Lucas
Manager, Transportation Planning

cc: Marc Draisen, Executive Director, MAPC
Ken Miller, Director of Planning, EOT
MAPC Enhancement Selection Committee
Gordon Feldman, Contracting Officer, Town of Bedford
Richard Warrington, Town of Bedford