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Town of Concord

Eve Isenberg
Chair
Community Preservation Committee

I'm writing for and on the behalf of the Economic Vitality Committee, of which I am the chair, in support of the application for continued funding of the Assabet River Multi-use Bridge & Trail project.

This request for funding is the fourth in support of the Assabet River Bridge and represents a critical step in the realization of this important project. Funding this request will allow for the required full structural and construction drawing for the project as outlined in the application.

As the Town's Economic Vitality Committee, our concern and our charge is to develop and support activities/projects that enhance Concord's business, commercial and cultural communities to ensure the continued economic vitality of the town. This project will, when completed, be a significant boast to the economic vitality of West Concord.

The bridge will provide a safe foot-traffic means for residences of the NOVO Riverside Commons and members of the Baker Avenue Business District to connect via safe walking path to West Concord businesses, to public transportation and to connect to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail for recreation.

By making these destinations more walkable, the bridge expands the customer base for West Concord businesses, supports workers who rely on transit, and strengthens the daily foot-traffic that helps local shops thrive. Improved pedestrian links between Baker Ave and the Village knits together two commercial nodes, encouraging shared activity and the kind of district-to-district flow that boosts overall economic vitality.

The bridge provides a practical alternative of walking instead of short vehicle trips thereby helping to reduce local traffic congestion and lower transportation-related emissions. By making the frequent, everyday trips within the larger neighborhood more walkable, whether that be grabbing lunch, commuting to work, or hopping on the commuter rail, improves roadway traffic flow in and around West Concord

Additionally, the project has board support in Town – from Town Committees, from businesses in West Concord, and from previously Town Meeting supported CPA funding. Also important is the support in the 2010 West Concord Master Plan and, as indicated in Envision Concord and the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan, for project to ensure that various areas of Concord are well connect. This project would do just that.

The Economic Vitality Committee encourages the CPC, has have other committees and organizations in Town, to support Town's application for continued funding for this important project.

For the Economic Vitality Committee



Michael Lawson, Chair