

Inner Core Committee

A subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council including 20 cities and towns:

Arlington • Belmont • Boston • Brookline • Cambridge • Chelsea • Everett • Lynn • Malden • Medford • Melrose • Milton • Newton • Quincy • Revere • Saugus • Somerville • Waltham • Watertown • Winthrop

March 20, 2012

David Mohler, Chairman
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee, Boston MPO
c/o Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Mohler,

The Inner Core Committee (ICC) of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is MAPC's most populous subregion, consisting of the following twenty cities and towns: Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, and Winthrop. At our February 1, 2012 Inner Core Committee meeting, ICC members reviewed the draft list of projects considered for inclusion in the FFYs 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. This discussion was facilitated by representatives from the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), MAPC, and ICC leadership.

Thank you for including the following projects on the FFYs 2012-2015 TIP. The Inner Core Committee requests that these projects remain on the TIP for FFY 2013. The Inner Core Committee strongly suggests that these projects stay on their currently programmed schedule:

Inner Core Projects in the FFYs 2012-2015 TIP (excluding projects already advertised or programmed in FFY 2012)			
ID	Municipality	Project Name	Year Programmed
604687	Arlington	Massachusetts Avenue, Phase I	FFY 2013
604761	Boston	South Bay Harbor Trail	FFY 2014
605188	Cambridge	Cambridge Common and Flagstaff Park	FFY 2013
602094	Lynn	Route 129 (Broadway)	FFY 2013
601820	Somerville	Beacon Street	FFY 2013

Cambridge will be requesting additional funds for the **Cambridge Common** project (#605188) to install a new LED lighting system and other elements, and will communicate directly with MPO staff regarding this request.

Additionally, the Inner Core Committee requests your support for the following projects to be added to the FFYs 2013-2016 TIP:

Inner Core Committee Suggested Additions to the FFYs 2013-2016 TIP				
ID	Municipality	Project Name	Status in TIP Database	Possible Start Date
606284	Boston	Improvements to Commonwealth Avenue, from Armory Street to Alcorn Street	Pre-TIP	FFY 2013
605729	Quincy	Hancock Street at East and West Squantum Streets	Pre-TIP	FFY 2014
605110	Brookline	Gateway East	Pre-TIP	FFY 2014

The estimated cost for the **Commonwealth Avenue from Armory Street to Alcorn Street** project in Boston is \$20,000,000. This project will improve a multi-modal principal arterial roadway with average daily traffic of 90,000 vehicles using Complete Streets techniques. The improvements will include upgrading pavement and drainage conditions, improving facilities for bicycles and pedestrians including shorter pedestrian crossing distances and complete bicycle accommodations, and widening the MBTA reservation to accommodate ADA compliant stations and

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access as well as transit priority traffic signals. These upgrades will be consistent with Boston's Commonwealth Avenue Phase I project.

The estimated cost for the **Hancock Street at East and West Squantum Streets** project in Quincy is \$3,242,040. The project consists of minor widening, safety, and operational improvements to the intersection of Hancock Street with East and West Squantum Streets. The project will also include improvements along Hancock Street to the MBTA access drive. The existing mid-block pedestrian signal will be upgraded.

The estimated cost for the **Gateway East** project in Brookline is \$4,176,000. The project is located on Route 9 in the Gateway East or Village Square area of Brookline. The project will revitalize the corridor, improve the livability for residents and businesses, improve regional connections for bicycles and pedestrians and improve the overall streetscape. The project will demolish the pedestrian bridge which is currently closed. Walnut Street will be realigned to intersect Route 9 opposite Pearl Street forming a four way intersection. The signals at Washington Street and at Brookline Avenue will be upgraded and interconnected with new signals at the Walnut/Pearl Street intersection. These transportation improvements will complement an additional \$1 million in new development and private investment from numerous sources, with the most substantial investments provided by Children's Hospital.

In addition to the above listed projects, the Inner Core Committee supports ongoing Clean Air and Mobility Program (CLAMP, formerly CMAQ) funding for bicycle sharing programs in the subregion. ICC supports CLAMP funding for Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline in order to help fund Hubway. In addition, ICC supports efforts by other communities to join the Hubway system and would support CLAMP funding for such communities if needed to expand or sustain Hubway.

The projects listed here, including the projects in the current TIP, additional funding requested by Cambridge, the projects in Boston, Quincy, and Brookline, and CLAMP funding to support Hubway, were identified by the Inner Core Committee as priorities. These projects enhance the Inner Core's vibrancy and quality of life, make efficient use of existing infrastructure, promote multi-modal transportation opportunities, and align with MetroFuture and the Long-Range Transportation Plan, *Paths to a Sustainable Region*. These priority projects are vital to our individual municipalities and the region at large.

Moving forward, the ICC believes that the Boston MPO should consider and fund projects that are well-aligned with regional transportation priorities, including: 1) projects in communities where multi-modal transportation choices can be made available to improve public health, 2) projects that promote land uses that are both financially efficient and protect their environmental context, and 3) projects that promote reuse and redevelopment.

The communities that make up the Inner Core are the economic engine for the Commonwealth. Maintaining and improving our infrastructure is of the utmost importance to maintaining that status and attracting new residents and businesses. We look forward to continuing to advocate for projects that enhance our region's livability and maintain our roadways and infrastructure.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Manisha G. Bewtra, AICP, MAPC Senior Regional Planner and Inner Core Committee Coordinator at mbewtra@mapc.org or 617-451-2770 ext. 2081. Thank you for considering our priorities for the FFYs 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,



Laura Wiener, Chair
Inner Core Committee