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Secretary & CEO Stephanie Pollack  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s DRAFT FY19-23 Capital Investment Plan

Dear Secretary Pollack:

On behalf of the 495/MetroWest Partnership, thank you for your continued leadership at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and for your commitment to transparency, project selection criteria, prudent investments, and improving the reliability of our entire transportation system. We also want to congratulate you on the continued improvements to the online format for the CIP, which is both easy to navigate and transparent, and will hopefully result in greater public engagement.

The issues of transportation reform and investment have been priorities of the 495/MetroWest Partnership since our founding as a non-profit regional advocacy organization 15 years ago. We are focused on alleviating economic constraints and limitations across thirty-five communities that have over 610,000 residents and over \$24 Billion in annual payroll, while conducting numerous initiatives on transportation, workforce housing, brownfields, and water resources.

In transportation, the Partnership oversaw the identification of regional priorities for transportation through our *Top Ten Transportation Nightmares* project in 2004 and 2014, driven by media coverage of transportation issues, public nominations of transportation problems, and an objective evaluation process of public and private sector experts. Using the resulting priorities list, the Partnership has advocated for needed road and bridge improvements, played a key role in founding the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, secured federal funding to develop solutions to the I-495/Route 9 and I-495/I-90 interchanges, worked on rail issues for the Worcester/Framingham, Franklin, and Fitchburg Lines, regularly provided regional perspective on relevant capital investment plans, unified planning work plans, and transportation investment programs, convened a working group on the 495/9/90 area for MassDOT, and has regularly called for increases in state revenue and investment in transportation infrastructure and services. As such, we welcome any investments consistent with our *Top Ten Transportation Nightmares* list.

The Partnership recognizes the extensive work that went into transforming the CIP process for MassDOT and the MBTA. We hosted an informative meeting on this Draft CIP for our Transportation Committee (and thanks to MassDOT staff Michelle Ho and Derek Krevat) and conducted outreach to our municipal stakeholders, encouraging their participation in the process through online commentary. Our comments on this draft are intended to echo sentiments previously shared by the Partnership in our oral testimony at the Framingham public meeting, as well as in our ongoing advocacy in pursuit of our regional transportation goals. Similar to last year, we appreciate the improved transparency and inclusion of a summary of

SFY 2018 accomplishments, we feel it is important to publicize the ongoing work for the various divisions within MassDOT.

The Partnership appreciates the continued time, attention and resources directed to the I-90/I-495 Interchange Improvement Project (607977) given the significant economic and environmental benefits from this project serving both regional commuters and travelers moving through this region to destinations elsewhere, such as the Cape and Boston. We are extremely pleased with the continued increase in CIP funds directed toward the project now totaling \$310.34 million with \$219.06 Million in SFY 2020-2023. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with MassDOT and key project stakeholders as the design process moves forward and we are happy to conduct outreach when appropriate, such as reconvening the 495/9/90 Working Group.

Additionally, we are very pleased to see that two of our previous recommendations have been included in the recently released DRAFT of the Boston Region MPO's TIP, however, we do not see these projects listed in this DRAFT CIP. These include intersection improvements at Route 20 and Landham Rd in Sudbury (Project ID 607249) and the construction of a Slip Ramp from Route 1ANB to I-495 SB and Associate 3d Intersection Improvements along Route 1A in Wrentham (Project ID 603739).

In reviewing the draft CIP for FY 2019-2023, the Partnership supports the following areas of investment:

- Acton, Intersection & Signal Improvements on Sr2 & Sr 111 (Mass Ave) at Piper Road & Taylor Road (607748)
- Acton, Intersection & Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111 (Mass Ave.) and Route 27 (Main St.) (608229)
- Acton - Concord, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Construction (606223)
- Ashland, Reconstruction on Route 126 from Framingham T.L. to the Holliston T.L. (604123)
- Boxborough, Bridge Replacement Route 111 over I-495 (608009)
- Commuter Rail - Franklin Line, Double Track and Signal (P0214)
- Commuter Rail Vision Study (P0567)
- Foxborough - Plainville - Wrentham - Franklin, Interstate Maintenance & Related Work on I-495 (608210)
- Foxborough - Walpole, Resurfacing and Related work on Route 1 (608480)
- Framingham - Natick, Cochituate Rail Trail Construction including Pedestrian Bridge (607732)
- Framingham - Natick - Wayland - Weston, Resurfacing and related work on I-90 (608317)
- Framingham, Reconstruction of Union Ave, from Proctor St. to Main St. (608228)
- Framingham, Bridge Replacement, F-07-015, Winter Street over MBTA, Amtrak & CSX Railroad (603710)
- Framingham, Cleaning & Painting 2 Bridges over I-90 on Interchange 12 and Grove St. (608333)
- Framingham, Bridge Betterment, F-07-045, I-90 over MDC Reservoir (606091)
- Franklin - Wrentham - Plainville - Foxborough - Mansfield - Interstate Maintenance & Related work on I-495 (NB & SB)(606176)
- Grafton, Reclamation on Route 122A (Main St.), from Providence Rd. to Sutton T.L. (607903)

- Harvard - Lancaster, Reconstruction & widening on Route 2 Ramps @ Exits 36 & 38 (605393)
- Harvard - Lancaster - Littleton, Resurfacing and related work on Route 2 (608475)
- Hopedale - Milford, Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements on Route 16 (607428)
- Hopkinton, Signal & Intersection Improvements on Route 135 (606043)
- Hopkinton - Westborough, Bridge Replacement, Fruit St. over CSX & Sudbury River (606632)
- Hudson, Bridge Replacement State Route 85 over the Assabet River (604732)
- Littleton - Westford, Interstate Maintenance & Related Work on I-495 (608209)
- Marlborough, Reconstruction of Route 85 (604810)
- Marlborough, Resurfacing and Related work on Route 20 (608467)
- Marlborough, Bridge Preservation, M-06-009, US 20 (Old Boston Rd) Over I-495 (NB & SB) (608538)
- Marlborough, Improvement at Route 20 at Curtis Ave (608566)
- Marlborough - Northborough, Interstate Maintenance & Related Work on I-290 (607181)
- Marlborough - Sudbury, Stormwater Improvements along Route 20 (608217)
- Marlborough - Hudson - Berlin, Interstate Maintenance & Related Work on I-495 (608203)
- Maynard, Bridge Replacement, carrying Florida Rd over the Assabet River (608637)
- Medway, Reconstruction on Route 109 (605657)
- Milford - Hopkinton - Westborough - Southborough, Resurfacing and Related Work on I-495 (609099)
- Natick, Reconstruction of Route 27 from North Ave. to Wayland T.L. (605034)
- Natick, Bridge Replacement, N-03-003, Marion St over the MBTA RR (605312)
- Natick, Bridge Replacement, N-03-020, Route 27 over Route 9 and Interchange Improvements (605313)
- Natick, Natick Center Station Accessibility Project (P0174)
- Natick, West Natick Station Mini-High Ramps, Stairs (P0504)
- Northborough - Shrewsbury, Reconstruction on Route 9 & Route 20 Ramp Improvements (607442)
- Northborough - Shrewsbury - Westborough, Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9 (607176)
- Plainville - Wrentham, Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 1 (608497)
- Shrewsbury, Resurfacing & Related work on Main St. from I-290 ramps easterly to Maple Ave. (602740)
- Shrewsbury - Boylston - Northborough, Interstate Maintenance & Related work on I290 (607479)
- Shrewsbury, Bridge Rehabilitation, S-14-018, Boylston St (Route 140) over I-290 (606380)
- Southborough, Reconstruction of Main St. (Route 30), from Sears Rd to Park St (604989)
- Southborough, Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9, from Framingham T.L. to White Bagley Rd (607488)
- Southborough - Ashland - Framingham, Resurfacing and Related Work on I-90 (608314)
- Stow, Bridge Replacement Gleasondale Rd over the Assabet River (605342)
- Stow, Bridge Replacement Box Mill Rd over Elizabeth Brook (608255)
- Sudbury, Bike Path Construction (Bruce Freeman Rail Trail) (608164)
- Upton, Reconstruction of High St & Hopkinton Rd (Phase 1) (606125)
- Upton, Reconstruction of Hartford Ave North and High St. (Phase II) (608764)
- Upton - Grafton, Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 140 (608490)
- Wayland, Signal & Intersection Improvements at Route 27 and Route 30 (601579)

- Westborough, Intersection & Signal Improvements at Route 9 & Lyman St (604864)
- Westford, Intersection & Signal Improvements at Route 110 & Tadmuck Rd (607251)
- Westford, Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd (Route 40) & Oak Hill Rd, Includes New Bridge W-26-027 (608036)
- Westford, Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd (Route 40) & Dunstable Rd (608037)
- Westford, Bridge Rehabilitation Beaver Brook Rd over Beaver Brook (608830)
- Westford, Bridge Replacement, W-26-002, Stony Brook Rd over the Stony Brook (608861)

We are grateful for the inclusion of these projects, and other maintenance and bridge projects in our region. The Partnership also appreciates the commitment by MassDOT and the MBTA to Commuter Rail Improvements through investments in Positive Train Control and various reliability projects. We also recognize the importance of investing in the Framingham Secondary Line, as a strategic assets connecting two rail lines particularly in light of the planned Pilot Commuter Rail service to Foxborough, which will enhance overall service to the 495/MetroWest Region. We would also note that continued support for the Regional Transit Authorities serving the 495/MetroWest Region including the Greater Attleboro RTA, Lowell RTA, MetroWest RTA, Montachusett RTA, and the Worcester RTA is essential to our region's economic prosperity. We welcome the ongoing investments in our RTAs and support increased funding and resources to further bolster their services. Going forward, we would like to see a funding mechanism to connect RTA services in a strategic manner, such as between the WRTA and MWRTA, opening greater access to jobs in our region for residents throughout Central Massachusetts. Additionally, continued funding for innovative Transportation Management Associations is also needed to address first/last mile challenges that would support the MBTA while encouraging use of transit.

Despite the many investments in the 495/MetroWest region, several worthy projects remain stuck on the Universe of Unprogrammed Projects list. We hope to see some of the many other projects that are important to our region added to the CIP, such as:

- Ramp construction and relocation, I-495 at Route 126 in Bellingham (Project ID 604862). As noted in testimony at the Framingham meeting from the Bellingham Town Planner and WS Development, this sixteen year old project was previously listed on the CIP, and merits restoration given the economic impact and extensive private sector support, even having assisted with land assembly for the project.
- Intersection improvements at Route 126/135/MBTA/CSX Railroad in Framingham (Project ID 606109);
- Reconstruction on Route 16 in Holliston (Project ID 605745 - consistent with our regional Top Ten Nightmares #9 Route 16 Corridor);
- Upgrades to the Route 85 and Route 62 Rotary in Hudson (Project ID BO-0069);
- Bridge Replacement Route 62 over the Assabet River in Maynard (Project ID 604564);
- Rehabilitation on Route 16, from Route 109 to Beaver St. in Milford (Project ID 608045 - consistent with our regional Top Ten Nightmares #9 Route 16 Corridor);
- and
- Continued progress on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Wayside Trail, Upper Charles Rail Trail, and MA Central Rail Trail in various communities in 495/MetroWest in support of multi-modal options.

While we understand the financial constraints in this and every five-year CIP, we would be remiss if we did not mention two additional long-standing project needs in our region, namely I-495/Route 9 Interchange and I-495/I-290. We recognize that there are planned improvements around the I-495/Route 9 Interchange in the FY21-25 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Central Massachusetts MPO and therefore, funding for the project will hopefully be included in this year's CIP. However, despite its inclusion of funding in the Bond Bill and a score of 77 in the Project Universe matrix, in addition to well documented and ongoing safety concerns, there is no resolution in sight for the I-495/I-290 Interchange. We remain hopeful that MassDOT will prioritize needed improvements to this important interchange serving residents from our entire region and employment centers throughout the Commonwealth.

If there are any additional questions or concerns on these issues, or if we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us at any time. We appreciate the opportunity to work with MassDOT to assist in raising awareness of the CIP, so please let us know how else we could be helpful moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Matthews".

**Paul F. Matthews**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica L. Strunkin".

**Jessica L. Strunkin**  
Deputy Director