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STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY
ERIC D. HELMUTH



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
TELEPHONE
781-316-3020
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

May XX, 2022

MassWorks Infrastructure Program
Juan R. Vega, Assistant Secretary for Communities & Programs
Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development
One Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Town of Arlington Application for MassWorks Infrastructure Program
Mass Ave/Appleton Street Safety & Accessibility Corridor Project

Dear Assistant Secretary Vega,

The Select Board for the Town of Arlington respectfully requests that you support the Town of Arlington's application for a MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grant for the design, engineering, permitting, and property expenses for the Mass Ave/Appleton Street Safety & Accessibility Corridor Project.

This project is critical to addressing significant transportation safety issues and improving multi-modal access for all and to accommodate new development adjacent to this corridor. The improvements are critical, as the area along Massachusetts Avenue between Richardson Avenue and Quinn Road is heavily used by travelers of all modes—bus riders, bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers—and provides access to existing developments, as well as those that are proposed and under construction. The project will safely accommodate redevelopment that will be occurring in the area, which includes a boutique hotel and restaurant at the intersection of Mass Ave and Clark Street, permitted by the Arlington Redevelopment Board, and a 124-unit affordable housing development at 1165R Mass Ave permitted by the Zoning Board of Appeals under M.G.L. Chapter 40B, as well as other developments that are currently in the planning stages. The project will also analyze and improve neighborhood transportation issues that are a result of congestion and safety problems arising from the Mass Ave corridor and have been further brought to light by these local land developments.


Improving the corridor is a high priority area for the Town, as the current condition of the road, and in particular the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street, has led to frequent conflicts and sadly, casualties. In response, over the past year the Town conducted a robust public engagement process to gather feedback from residents and identify short-term improvements, which were implemented in fall 2021. Permanent improvements are sorely needed to make the

corridor safe and accessible for all and to accommodate additional residents and trips expected from these imminent land developments. Creating a safe, accessible, multi-modal transportation system for current and future residents is a key goal of the Town's Connect Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan and Net Zero Action Plan, both fully endorsed by the Select Board. This project furthers that goal and addresses a priority safety location identified in Connect Arlington.

Funding for this project will allow the Town to complete its design for the corridor and cover the permitting and right-of-way costs that are not in the scope of the Town's current contract with Stantec Consulting Services. These elements are critical to making the project shovel-ready and eligible for construction funding. It will also allow the Town to implement this project before or at the same time as local land developments are completed so they are coordinated with one another.

Thank you for your consideration of this application to fund design, engineering, permitting, and property expenses for this high-priority Town project to improve safety on this critical roadway and incentivize housing and economic development activity.

Sincerely,


Lenard Diggins, Chair
Arlington Select Board