



**Environmental and Energy Services**  
**CITY OF BOSTON**

**THOMAS M. MENINO**  
Mayor

**BRIAN R. SWETT**  
Chief of Environment and Energy

September 25, 2012

Frank DePaola  
Administrator, Highway Division  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Administrator DePaola,

On behalf of the City of Boston, I would like to congratulate you for your continued commitment to providing safe bicycle and pedestrian access and improvements under the Accelerated Bridge Program. The rehabilitation of the Charles River Bridges to include multi-use underpasses would provide essential connectivity for bicyclist and pedestrians, allowing them to safely navigate the popular Paul Dudley White paths along the Charles River.

Providing safe and accessible alternative means of transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian networks, is an important component of the City's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020. This target is in line with the State's goal. *Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020* specifically calls out "infrastructure that improves conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians" as a means of reducing vehicle miles travelled and their associated emissions from the transportation sector.

Boston is already ranked as one of the most walkable cities in the county and through recent improvements for on- and off- road bicycle facilities including the popular Hubway bikeshare system, it is recognized as bicycle friendly city as well. As the City expands its bicycle programs, we must continue to work with our regional partners such as yourself, to ensure our residents and guests may safely traverse the City and connect to surrounding cities and towns via bicycle.

Sincerely,

Brian Swett

Chief of Environment and Energy