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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

January 17, 2014

John J. Long
City Clerk
City of Somerville
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

RE # 195823

Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you for your letter with regard to the Somerville Board of Aldermen's request for an update on the Wellington Bridge Pedestrian Underpass project. I appreciate your time in reaching out to me and the Board of Aldermen's interest in this noteworthy project.

As you know, this facility is located within DCR's Mystic River Reservation and the project is part of a comprehensive Master Plan for the Mystic River that was completed in November 2009. The primary goal of implementing this plan has been to connect thousands of citizens in the region to the river through various pathways and riverside parks. The plan received extensive input and support from the public and local officials in the surrounding communities, and DCR is excited to continue to carry out projects toward realizing the Master Plan's goals.

The location of the Wellington Bridge Pedestrian Underpass is still considered an active construction site and, as such, DCR's contractor for construction of this project maintains control of the site. While other elements of this pedestrian amenity have been completed, DCR's contractor is still awaiting delivery of light poles that need to be mounted to the boardwalk structure. The light poles are currently scheduled for delivery on February 14 and we anticipate installation by the end of February.

In addition to this, DCR has worked with the City and the Mayor's Office to permit the construction of a raised table crosswalk by DCR on Shore Drive at its intersection with Route 38. DCR has endeavored to ensure that the final design is agreeable to the City and that all matters with regard to funding and reimbursements are resolved. We appreciate the City's

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Richard K. Sullivan Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
John P. Murray, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

cooperation in this regard and anticipate construction of the crosswalk in the spring when weather conditions allow for this piece of the project to take place. Following completion of this work, and certification by DCR that the entire project has been completed; the pedestrian underpass will be opened for public use.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence and please share my appreciation with the Board of Aldermen for their interest in this project. Their support of DCR's work in the community and their advocacy on behalf of their constituents are much appreciated. When the project is completed, DCR will coordinate a ribbon-cutting to mark the grand opening of the underpass, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement together.

Should you or any member of the Board of Aldermen have any additional concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tony Barletta, DCR's Director of Government Affairs, at (617) 626-4978.

Sincerely,



John P. Murray
Commissioner

cc: *Tony Barletta, DCR Director of Government Affairs*
Joe Orfant, DCR Planning Bureau Chief
Dan Driscoll, DCR Director of Recreation Facilities Planning
Conrad Crawford, DCR Director of External Affairs
Senator Patricia Jehlen
Representative Denise Provost
Representative Carl Sciortino
Representative Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

John Long

From: John Long
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:56 PM
To: John Long
Subject: Wellington Bridge Pedestrian Underpass update
Attachments: SKMBT_42314012714550.pdf

Here's a response from DCR re: last November's order that an update be provided to this Board regarding the footbridge connecting Shore Drive to Assembly Square.

I'll submit this to the next BOA meeting as a Communication from DCR, but I thought you might want to see it now.

-John