



Nahant Town Hall

TOWN OF NAHANT, MASSACHUSETTS
334 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA 01908
781-581-9927

April 11, 2023

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

Re: Northern Strand Extension Project

Dear Chief Engineer Lavallee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Northern Strand Extension Project. The Town of Nahant attended the 100% design public meeting on March 16, 2023. Based on the response of our residents, we strongly request that this project be put on hold until additional data and public response is collected. We request that MassDOT conduct a pilot traffic lane elimination featuring the proposed protected bike lanes, conduct a traffic study of the real impacts of the proposed project, and host in-person public meetings in the communities of Lynn and Nahant to gather feedback.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously support the Northern Strand Extension project. Even with reservations about the current design, we are excited to see this project extend to the shores of Lynn and Nahant. We appreciate previous opportunities to provide comments at a site visit on November 15, 2021, a public meeting on November 17, 2021, and another public meeting on March 16, 2023. As we stated then and we reiterate now, the Lynnway is poised for significant transformation and improvements over the coming years. While there are many exciting details of the future of this area of Lynn, those future developments make it difficult to predict the impact of the proposed bike lane on the northbound side of the 1A Lynnway.

Properties along the northbound side of the 1A Lynnway have already begun converting to residential developments. The Breakwater development at 254 Lynnway has been completed and features 332 new residential apartment units. The former Lynnway Mart Indoor Mall & Flea Market at 800-810 Lynnway has sold and will be developed to include 550 new residential apartment units. Most impactful to this portion of the Lynnway is the future plans for the 3.7 acre property located at 98 Lynnway that could develop 80 new residential units. All of these developments will add a significant amount of vehicles to the 1A Lynnway. The vehicles that come from the 98 Lynnway development will have no choice but to travel north on the Carrol Parkway portion and travel to the rotary because there is no access to the southbound side from that property.

We and our residents feel that the public process on the design of this project has fallen short of truly engaging those who will be impacted by this proposal. Furthermore, the comments, questions, and suggestions provided by the public thus far, have not received enough consideration or included a response through a discussion. Conducted primarily during a pandemic and through



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only virtual meetings, our residents have described this as a minimal effort to truly engage the people in this region. We acknowledge that there has been a significant number of resources dedicated to this project and process, yet we must agree with our residents. The potential impacts of this project deserve a thorough process of data and public comment collection and we think a pilot, study, and in person meeting will help us build the best project possible. We ask that you consider a two or three month pilot that would capture summer and school traffic patterns.

Please also consider meeting with a member of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Nahant Board of Selectmen
Eugene Canty, Chair,
Mark Cullinan, Vice Chair,
Joshua Antrim, Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

Cc: State Senator Brendan Crighton
State Representative Peter Capano
Secretary Rebecca Tepper, EOEEA
Commissioner Brian Arrigo, DCR
Mayor Jared Nicholson, City of Lynn
Kurt Gaertner, EOEEA