

## *Nahant Town Hall*

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

October 26, 2022

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,

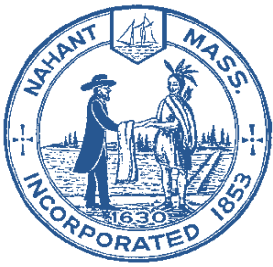
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Northern Strand Extension Project. The Town of Nahant has recently received the 75% design plans and would like to provide some alternatives to be considered by your team. First, we would like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration for their assistance in progressing the vision of former Mayor McGee, Mayor Nicholson, and the City of Lynn's future vision of the oceanfront.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously support the Northern Strand Extension project and 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 and at a public meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. As we stated then and 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.

Further, we respectfully request that additional community outreach be conducted to include the communities of Swampscott and Marblehead. This project will impact many commuters from the municipalities north of Lynn and it is important that they have their due process to provide feedback.

Regarding the current proposed plans, we ask that you consider some alternatives that might



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alleviate some of the concerns we have raised.

- Move the dedicated bike lane off of the roadway and onto the green space further away from the entrance to the Lynn/Nahant Rotary. Please see appendix 1 and 2 for possible considerations.
- Reduce the size of the island at the Lynn Shore Drive exit of the Lynn/Nahant Rotary. Please see appendix 3 for possible consideration. This island currently creates an unnecessary bottleneck because of the width of roadway at the end of the island as vehicles exit the rotary and enter Lynn Shore Drive. Widening this area will allow for 2 travel lanes to exit the rotary and reduce the traffic that builds up behind it.
- Develop additional plans for the end of the bike lane to potentially connect with Lynn Shore Drive bike lane that was recently installed. The current proposal ends at the entrance to the Nahant Reservation Carney Causeway and could encourage bicycles to travel, potentially in both directions, onto the causeway. Ignoring the potential for bicycles to continue onto the causeway without adequate space and introducing potential conflicts with vehicles is of great concern to us. This issue should be addressed in this proposal and consideration for signage and direction to cyclists approaching the Lynn/Nahant end of the Northern Strand is needed.

Again, please consider conducting additional public meetings and invite the Towns of Nahant, Swampscott, and Marblehead. As stated above, this portion of the Northern Strand will impact commuters from these communities significantly.

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 Bethany A. Card, EOEEA  
Commissioner Douglas Rice, DCR  
Mayor Jared Nicholson, City of Lynn  
Swampscott Select Board  
Marblehead Select Board  
Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald, Town of Swampscott  
Town Administrator Thatcher Kezer, Town of Marblehead  
Kurt Gaertner, EOEEA