

NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL



November 29, 2021

City Councilor Deb Crossley
City Councilor Andreae Downs
City Councilor Bill Humphrey
City of Newton
1000 Comm. Ave. Newton, MA 02459
By email: dcrossley@newtonma.gov; adowns@newtonma.gov; bhumphrey@newtonma.gov

Dear Councilors Crossley, Downs, and Humphrey:

At our October meeting, we viewed a presentation from George Kirby about various possible extensions to the Upper Falls Greenway. Included in that presentation was a vision statement concerning a proposed bridge over Route 128. The Area Council met in November and unanimously approved the following vision statement:

By connecting Newton Upper Falls with Needham Heights, the proposed Community Bridge over Route 128 would provide active transportation and recreation access across the Charles River regional development area. The Upper Falls Greenway currently extends to the river, with upcoming spur connections to the Charles River Pathway in Newton, DCR trails along the river, and the Needham Crossing industrial area for recreational trail circulation and commuting. The Community Bridge across Route 128 would allow shopping and dining access and quality of life improvements to residents on both sides, plus access to the upcoming Northland mixed-use area and to the further growth anticipated at the Muzi parcel in Needham. The Community Bridge would make possible a regional greenway that could eventually connect Newton, Needham, Dover, and Medfield, providing residents the opportunity to enjoy an off-road bicycle and pedestrian experience rivaling the popular Minuteman Trail.

The Community Bridge project should be initiated with a community development and engineering study of the proposed bridge over Route 128 and rehabilitation of the Charles River Sunset Deck rail bridge connecting to the Upper Falls Greenway.

Please feel free to share this with your City Council colleagues as evidence of the Upper Falls's views on the Community Bridge project.

Sincerely,



Anil Adyanthaya
President
Newton Upper Falls Area Council

Cc: Barney Health, Director, Planning Department
Jennifer Steel, Chief Environmental Planner
Commissioner Nicole Banks, Parks Recreation & Culture
Newton Upper Falls Area Council