

Resolution Supporting a Community Bridge over Route 128 and the Charles River

Whereas the Upper Falls Greenway is a beloved active bicycle and pedestrian transportation corridor connecting Upper Falls almost to Newton Highlands center, and

Whereas the City of Newton plans to connect the Greenway to Newton Highlands T stop & center, and

Whereas the Town of Needham Selectboard has a goal of connecting to the Greenway from the south, and

Whereas the development of multi-modal transportation options between the Town of Needham and the City of Newton would likely benefit residents and businesses on both sides of the river and highway, and

Whereas a connected greenway would allow Needham residents to more easily access the Green Line at Newton Highlands and Newton residents to access the Commuter Rail at Needham Heights, and

Whereas the Upper Falls Greenway could further connect not just to trails along the Newton side of the Charles River (planned), but also to trails in Needham, and

Whereas the Muzi parcel as well as the Northland development will add population and businesses to both municipalities in upcoming years, and

Whereas the Needham portion of the rail trail is planned to extend and add recreational access through Dover to Medfield

Therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of Newton supports and encourages our mayor, and legislative delegation to join us in supporting a community development, engineering feasibility and preliminary design study toward the vision of a Community Bridge over Route 128 and rehabilitation of the Charles River "Sunset Deck" rail bridge connecting to the Upper Falls Greenway.