

December 8, 2012

Linda Finucane  
Land Use Committee Clerk,  
City of Newton,  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton Centre, MA

Dear Ms. Finucane:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the Riverside Station Development to the Committee. I have been a resident of Auburndale for twelve years and I think it very important to create a greenway connection from the Riverside Station Development down to the Charles River and over to DCR's nearby Riverside Park. Slide 15 of the Developer's November 27, 2012 public hearing presentation shows an overlook, but this overlook would need to be open to the riverbank in order to access the existing trail along the south-east side of the Charles River. Attached with this email is a map of the relevant Charles River area with a white line showing the current trail along the river.

It is also important to provide access to Riverside Park because that Park area offers a quiet and valuable oasis adjacent to a major highway and commuter corridor. It has two attractive footbridges (which are undergoing repair), playing fields, picnic areas, a canoe dock, an intriguing history, and lots of enjoyable trails. Slide 15 of the Developer's November 27, 2012 public hearing presentation also shows a path to recreation road. Will this path connect to the sidewalk, and will it be handicap accessible?

The Riverside Station Development has the opportunity, for very little expense, to provide a valuable amenity for its residents, office workers, commuters, and the neighborhood. It's fine to have a little green space within the development, but it would be short-sighted to ignore the paths along the river and the large public park nearby. It would also be a great benefit to the Auburndale community if the developer provided funding to fix up the pedestrian tunnel under the tracks at the end of Charles Street.

It was very unfortunate that the recently developed Riverside Center office park site is so thoroughly isolated from the Charles and from Riverside Park. Let us please not make the same mistake with the Riverside Station development.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tod Cochran  
56 Chaske Ave.  
Auburndale



# Proposed Charles River Path to Riverside Station



**Legend**

- Proposed Path
- Bridges

Photo base map (April 2008)  
and roads from MassGIS  
([www.mass.gov/laylist.htm](http://www.mass.gov/laylist.htm))

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