



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

February 25, 2021

Jonathan L. Gulliver
MassDOT Highway Administrator
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Route 9/27 Interchange Replacement Project, MassDOT Project 605313

Dear Administrator Gulliver:

We are writing to request an update on the design and funding status for the Route 9 and 27 Interchange, MassDOT project number 605313.

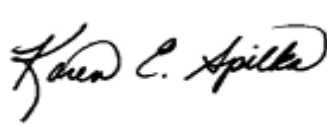
This long-awaited project would replace a crumbling 1931-vintage bridge that is the site of many accidents, substandard drainage, unsafe bicycle and pedestrian facilities, traffic congestion and visual blight. As you know, this bridge has netting to catch falling debris, and the area around it was recently clear cut.

This interchange replacement project was initiated in 2008, and was approved by the Project Review Committee in 2011. A public hearing in June 2019 showing two conceptual designs was well attended, and given the extensive public engagement at that time, stakeholders had a reasonable expectation of progress.

Now, however, the project appears to be stalled, thirteen years after initiation. While the project is on the Long Range Transportation Plan, the design has not been sufficiently advanced, that is, there has been no public hearing for a 25% design and no commitment from MassDOT to move forward. Therefore, we are requesting a formal update from your office to better understand the obstacles to advancing this critical project.

Thank you for your efforts, and those of your staff, on this project. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Spilka
Senate President
Second Middlesex & Norfolk



David P. Linksy
State Representative
5th Middlesex



Rebecca L. Rausch
State Senator
Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex

CC: Jonathan Freedman, Natick Select Board Chair
Karen Adelman-Foster, Natick Select Board Vice Chair
Richard Jennett, Natick Select Board Clerk
Sue Salamoff, Natick Select Board Member
Michael Hickey, Natick Select Board Member
Tegin Teich, Central Transportation Planning Staff Executive Director