



Town of Stow Select Board

380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775
Tel: 978-897-4515
selectboard@stow-ma.gov

February 25, 2025

Craig Della Penna
Norwottuck Network
62 Chestnut Street
Florence, MA 01062

Dear Mr. Della Penna:

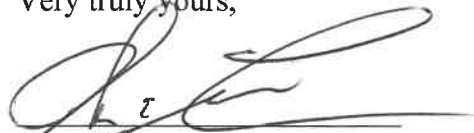
The Stow Select Board is writing to express its strong support for the completion of the Mass Central Rail Trail that connects 26 communities and extends from Boston to Northampton. We understand that the Stow portion of this trail is expected to be constructed in 2025. At present, approximately 63 miles of the corridor are in place and open for public use, with 94.5 miles under construction, but there remain key gaps in the 104-mile route, which would allow it to connect to the other major recreation trails in our region including the Assabet River Rail Trail and Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

The opportunity to take advantage of long-distance walking and biking trails is one of the top needs cited in the Town of Stow's recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plan. The completed recreational trail will offer economic, health, and environmental benefits to residents of Stow and across Massachusetts. Studies estimate that rail trails help boost the local economy, attract visitors, and create jobs. They also encourage safe, nonpolluting alternatives to motor vehicle use for access to work, shopping, and recreation opportunities.

We encourage our representatives and state agencies to place a high priority on funding for the completion of gaps in this trail network and the continued use of partnerships to advance this important project.

Thank you and please let us know how we can help.

Very truly yours,



John "JT" Toole, Chair



Hector Constantzos



Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Clerk



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* Select Board Member Megan Birch-McMichael was not in attendance at this meeting.