



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PETER J. DURANT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
6TH WORCESTER DISTRICT

July 26, 2012

Secretary Richard Davey
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Davey,

I would first like to take the opportunity to commend you for your work and steadfast resolve in tackling the difficult issues facing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in the short time that you have served as its Secretary. The task at hand is monumental, and you have worked to stay above the fray and make some tough decisions necessary to putting the department on stable footing.

Understanding that while the State's relationship with the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is but a small portion of the problems you deal with, it is important nonetheless because it goes to the very culture of excess and abuse that many feel is indicative of the way state government runs.

The time is now to take bold steps and rethink the structure and management of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. The plan that I have proposed in House Docket 4350 outlines a tested and viable plan for operation and maintenance of the Greenway which will require little to no additional public funds, and includes a revenue stream for the park's maintenance. Although the bill requires the transfer of the operation and maintenance of the park to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the plan to use the Conservancy's endowment, form an appointed oversight board, and the establishment of a dedicated "Friends Group" can be implemented by your office as well.

Understanding further the political nature of this situation and perhaps the absence of the Department's desire to implement such a plan, I would urge you at the very least, to seek alternate proposals for the operation and maintenance of this park. To do so is at the heart of the competitive process that helps hold people accountable for the method in which they provide service to the Commonwealth. The Conservancy's willful disregard of your directives to wean itself from public financing proves that it has no intention of ever meeting its original mandate of becoming self sufficient.

The public-private partnership is a model that works, but only when both sides respect one another. It is clear that this respect has broken down and it is time to cut ties with the Conservancy. Through either method, we must send a clear message that we expect more from those we partner with. To do any less is a disservice to our charge of providing the best value to the taxpayer for their investment in government.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Durant".

Peter Durant
State Representative,
6th Worcester District

Committees:
Transportation
Elder Affairs

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 33
TEL. (617) 722-2060
Peter.Durant@MAhouse.gov