



Massachusetts Port Authority
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November 1, 2005

Re: Charlestown Haul Road / Rail Feasibility Study Comments

Dear CNC Members and Interested Parties:

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the Charlestown Haul Road / Rail Feasibility Study that was completed in July of 2005. Massport received forty comment letters from Charlestown residents, local businesses, State and City of Boston agencies, public officials, port interests, and advocacy groups in response to our request for public comments on the report, and we greatly appreciate all of this feedback.

In general, feedback on the feasibility study predominantly expressed opposition to a haul road / rail corridor along the Mystic Wharf Branch right-of-way. Many of the forty letters received expressed several clear themes, including doubts about the need for a haul road / rail corridor, concerns about local transportation disruption as a result of the haul road, concerns about noise and air quality impacts, and concerns about impacts on open space and pedestrians. Several letters expressed support for improved access to maritime industrial properties that could be provided by a haul road / rail corridor.

Due to the high volume of comment letters we received, we are not distributing the comment letters to everyone on the mailing list. However, two copies will be made available at Charlestown branch of the Boston Public Library for public review and copies will be distributed upon request. Please contact Carol Hollingsworth at 617/946-4470 or chollingsworth@massport.com if you would like to receive a bound copy of the comment letters.

The study was prepared for Massport by Rizzo Associates, Inc. and funded by a FY05 grant from the Seaport Advisory Council and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The study's intent was to evaluate the technical feasibility of constructing a freight corridor with rail and roadway elements along the Mystic Wharf Branch rail right-of-way, which Massport purchased in 2002. The study included an extensive inventory of existing conditions and preparation of a detailed analysis of needs. The report presents eight preliminary and three final alternatives for building a haul road and rail along the corridor. The public process including community meetings in May and June sponsored by the Charlestown Neighborhood Council, meetings with business abutters, and meetings with relevant City of Boston and State agency staff.

The concept of a haul road in this area has long been discussed by local residents, elected officials and transportation planning officials, and this study compiled and analyzed valuable technical information that some day may be useful in bringing this concept to fruition. At this

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Boston Logan International Airport • Port of Boston general cargo and passenger terminals • Tobin Memorial Bridge • Hanscom Field • Boston Fish Pier • Commonwealth Pier (site of the World Trade Center Boston) • Worcester Regional Airport

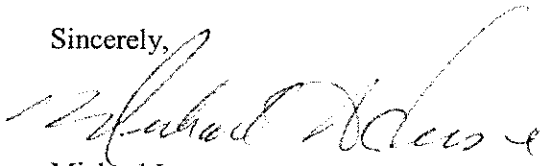
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time, however, Massport has no intention to proceed with design, permitting or construction of a haul road/rail corridor along the Mystic Wharf Branch rail right-of-way. This decision is based on the lack of current demand for such a corridor, the level of opposition for the project expressed in the comment letters, the lack of funding, and the lack of a clear preferred alternative. Should the demand for a dedicated truck/rail transportation corridor in this area increase, project support by local residents and businesses increase, or funding become available, Massport or another state or local agency may decide to advance this project at some point in the future. At that time, more detailed technical and environmental analyses as well as additional public input processes would be conducted in conjunction with the planning, permitting and design for the project.

Thank you again for your participation in and input to this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Leone".

Michael Leone
Director of the Port of Boston