



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

February 9, 2023

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
10 Park Plaza
Suite 6340
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Project Management, Project File No. 608490

Dear Ms. Lavallee,

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, Town of Upton Staff along with a number of board/committee members, residents, and business owners attended the virtual 25% Design Public Hearing for the Upton Route 140 Improvement Project. The Town provided initial comments on the project during the hearing and the purpose of this letter is to follow up on those comments and to offer additional comments after further review of the plans.

The Town provided comments on the need to support the existing businesses within Upton Center through maintaining availability of parking. While it is largely understood that on-street parking is not expressly permitted along Route 140, the Town has not enforced parking and there is general perception that on-street parking in Upton Center is permitted. There are two areas that the Town is specifically concerned about the removal of parking. The first section is between 16 Main Street and 2 Main Street along both sides of the road and the second section is between 6 Milford Road and 10 Milford Road along the north side of the road. The businesses in these two sections do not have off-street parking and they, and their patrons, have historically relied on available on-street parking. In addition, the proposed plans for the round-about in Upton Center show the removal of two parking spaces in the Town's municipal parking lot due to the shift in the alignment of Grove Street.

There were a number of comments made by residents and business owners alike that the dedicated bicycle lane would essentially eliminate parking on Main Street and Milford Road thereby negatively impacting businesses. Therefore, the Town is requesting that MassDOT work with Town Officials to examine alternative designs to maintain on-street parking. The Town's goal is to maintain parking within the center and if needed, examine alternative scenarios for mitigating any loss of parking.

In addition to the Town's comment on parking, the Town would like to offer additional comments on the project as follows:

1. Revise the plan to reflect the approved driveway openings for the Upton Community Center at 9 Milford Road and VFW at 15 Milford Road.
2. Consider extension of shared use path along the southern side of Milford Road to connect to entrance for the community center. The bicycle lane should separate from the shared use path to the east of the driveway cut for the VFW property.
3. Incorporate design elements that support and highlight the historic nature of Upton Center either through using red brick or pavers.
4. Consider removing the middle North Main Street Crosswalk along with the removal of the associated walkway located in the Town Common in order to simplify pedestrian movements.

The Town of Upton greatly appreciates the investment the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is spending to improve our roads. The Commonwealth has been a great partner throughout the Hartford Ave North – Hopkinton Road TIP Project. We look forward to working with the Commonwealth and everyone at MassDOT as the Route 140 Improvement Project moves forward.

Respectfully,



Joseph Laydon
Town Manager

CC: Senator Ryan Fattman
Representative David Muradian
Board of Selectmen
Economic Development Committee