The Grand Junction Path

Project Overview
1. What is the GJ path?
2. Why is it important?
3. Next steps?

For more information http://cambridgema.gov/grandjunction

Rendering courtesy of the Friends of the Grand Junction Path

City of Cambridge
Community Development Department

June 11, 2014
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Graphic courtesy of the Friends of the Grand Junction Path
Desirable Dimensions for Grand Junction Path with Existing Rail Operations (Note: there are pinch points with smaller dimensions needed.)

Source: MBTA Rail Operations Standard Plans, 2006 Grand Junction Feasibility Study
Rail with Trail Examples
(British Columbia, Seattle WA, Burlington VT)
**Grand Junction Path Timeline**

- **2000**: Cambridge Green Ribbon Open Space Committee
- **2001**: Cambridge Bicycle Committee completes concept proposal
- **2002**: Planning Board begins ROW preservation with MIT Brain & Cog design change
- **2006**: City completes a Feasibility Study
- **2008**: MassDOT includes conceptual design of the path between BU Rail Bridge and Ft. Washington Park
- **2013**: Friends of the Grand Junction Path formed
- **2013**: Regional advocates launch Green Links initiative
- **2014**: City Council Transportation Committee meeting
Section 2: Charles River – 250 Feet West of Pacific Street
View Looking Northeast from Mass Ave. Toward Main Street

05/29/2014 14:16
Section 4: Main Street to Binney Street
CRA: Galileo Galilei from Main to Broadway
View Looking North from Main St
CRA Open Space Main – Broadway:
Construction to begin Fall 2014
Section 5: North of Binney Street
View Looking South from Gore St.
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Contact: Jeff Rosenblum
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• Regional connection
• Increased demand: car ownership declining, bicycling increasing
• People want low-stress bicycle network

Grand Junction Path Regional Context (Boston Globe, 2012)

Source: “Bike to the Future,” Boston Globe (July 8, 2012)
• Over ¼ of Cambridge residents live within half mile of path
• Increase public health through access to physical activity

10% of MIT grad students live in Somerville
• 70% MIT students live on campus or close to MIT

• Path would improve access to schools and parks
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Next Steps for Planning

East-west pathway?
Connection over Charles River
Connection to path along Charles
Connection to Somerville Community Path
CRA section under design
MIT Feasibility Study
Future use of the corridor for transit (e.g., DMU rail)
Connection to Charles River Path Concept
(Charles River Basin Master Plan)
BU Rail Bridge crossing over Charles
Options for modifying the BU rail bridge over the Charles River
Connection to “Boston Bike Pike”

Source: City of Boston Bike Network 2030 Plan, People’s Pike
Connection to Somerville Community Path

Proposed Somerville Community Path
(part of Green Line Extension project)
East/west Path from Danehy Park to the Grand Junction Path?
East/West corridor:
Alewife Bike/Ped Study (MAPC, 2009)
MBTA 2024 Vision System Map

Source: MBTA FY 2014-2018 Transportation Capital Investment Plan
MassDOT DMU transit along Grand Junction

Source: MBTA FY 2014-2018 Transportation Capital Investment Plan
Example of “Diesel Multiple Unit” (DMU) vehicles (Opole, Poland)
Grand Junction Minimum Width with Two-Way Rail Operations (feasibility unknown)

Source: MBTA Rail Operations Standard Plans, 2006 Grand Junction Feasibility Study
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Questions?

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