

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2020

The Honorable Stephanie Pollack
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Pollack:

We write to encourage the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to select the “Modified All At-Grade Option” as its preferred alternative for the throat section of the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project. Of the designs presented, we believe that this proposal presents the clearest path toward achieving this project’s enormous potential to positively transform both its namesake neighborhood and the Greater Boston Region. We are specifically excited by the new connections and accommodations that the Modified All At-Grade Option will provide for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit, as well as the creation of a “living shoreline” that promises significant aesthetic and environmental benefits for the area surrounding the Charles River. In addition, we believe that this alternative’s transformation of local infrastructure - especially the elimination of the I-90 viaduct – will best address the long-standing noise, safety, and sustainability concerns raised by neighboring environmental justice communities disproportionately affected by the existing highway.

Given these substantial benefits, we are not surprised by widespread public support for the Modified All At-Grade Option. We are joined in our preference for this alternative by the City of Boston, the host jurisdiction for this project, as well as the City of Cambridge. A diverse coalition of local business groups and community organizations has also endorsed the Modified All At-Grade Option, including resident civic associations, advocates for environmental justice, and proponents of multimodal transportation.

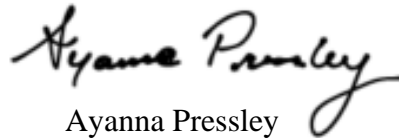
In light of this design’s clear benefits and extensive support, we strongly encourage you to select the Modified All At-Grade Option as MassDOT’s preferred alternative. We believe that this decision will move us closer to achieving the enhanced accessibility, equity, and sustainability promised by a transformational I-90 Project.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress