



February 1, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Davey:

We are in receipt of your letter of January 31, and we would appreciate a meeting to discuss the issues.

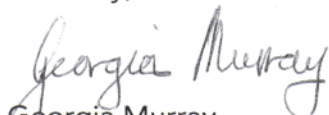
You raise important and fundamental issues about how the Rose Kennedy Greenway will be financed and continue on its path to be a great public space. How to fund the Greenway, state-owned parkland, was the subject of years of discussion and debate, resulting in the existing Greenway legislation (2008) that shares the costs about half and half in a public-private partnership. However, I would like to take a few minutes to frame the issue as we now currently understand it.

The Board of the Conservancy is committed to the mission of the Greenway – to become a park that is open, green and excellent. We believe that our public/private partnership is the best way to accomplish this goal. The goal is to have a great park – the goal is not to perpetuate any one form of governance. The model has achieved remarkable results: over the last seven years, the Conservancy has raised \$18.2 million to supplement public funding of \$14.1 million.

The partnership has worked well, and the state has been able to leverage its dollars, now contributing less than the 50% of funding that was anticipated in the 2008 statute. We have been working with the abutters to form a Greenway Business Improvement District for Park Operations allowing the state to further leverage its dollars.

But it is clear to us that each of the funders requires the participation of the other. Yesterday's letter has created some confusion. It will be very productive to sit down and discuss the issue to increase all our understanding.

Sincerely,


Georgia Murray

Board Chair