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DCR SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CHARLES RIVER RESERVATION FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has scheduled a public meeting in Newton on May 7 to discuss the agency's Charles River Reservation Footbridge Project. The work will be part of Governor Patrick's Accelerated Bridge Program.

The project involves three footbridges, which cross the Charles River between Newton and neighboring communities. They are the Recreation Road Footbridge ("Stringer" bridge) and Riverside Park Footbridge ("Pony Truss" bridge), which connect Newton and Weston, and the Lower Falls bridge ("Trestle" bridge), between Newton and Wellesley. The project will restore the Recreation Road and Riverside Park footbridges, and create a footbridge from the Lower Falls Bridge, a former railroad bridge. DCR will also discuss preliminary plans for trail connections in the area.

The meeting is scheduled for May 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the auditorium at Newton Wellesley Hospital, 2014 Washington St., Newton.

"Moving people efficiently on foot and by bicycle is becoming increasingly important and is a top priority of this agency," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We are pleased to be improving these footbridges to accommodate the bike and pedestrian community."

Upholding his pledge to quickly repair the Commonwealth's most neglected bridges, Governor Patrick last August signed a bridge bond bill that committed \$3 billion to repair and replace 250 Massachusetts bridges identified as structurally deficient. Of that amount, DCR is overseeing \$906 million to repair or replace 29 agency bridges and preserve 50 more.

Over the next several years, the Accelerated Bridge Program will ensure public safety by funding repair work for bridges in the most urgent need of repair, and will create thousands of engineering and construction jobs. The project will save the state an estimated \$1.5 billion in avoided inflation and deferred-maintenance costs.

To learn more about the Accelerated Bridge Program, visit www.mass.gov/acceleratedbridges. To learn more about DCR projects, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/projects.

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