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DCR SOLICITING BIDS ON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT JAMAICAWAY AND ELIOT STREET

BOSTON - The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) plans to solicit bids this month on a project to make safety and access improvements to the intersection of the Jamaica Way and Eliot Street in Jamaica Plain.

The improvements, expected to cost about \$170,000, were designed under a partnership between DCR and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. DCR capital funds will cover the improvements, which include a new pedestrian-activated traffic signal, roadway realignments, median enhancements, new signage, and improved handicapped access.

“These improvements will be a welcome addition to this popular location,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “Public safety is paramount at DCR, and we are very pleased to be improving the safety and enhancing the access to the area around Jamaica Pond.”

“I am pleased that Jamaica Plain residents and all who enjoy this valuable resource will benefit from the enhanced bicycle and pedestrian access this important project will provide,” said Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

“Having worked closely with DCR and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy on the development, design, and implementation of this project, we look forward to increased access and improved public safety both in and around Jamaica Pond, one of the jewels of our urban parks system,” said State Representative Jeffrey Sanchez.

DCR held two public meetings to solicit thoughts on the design for this intersection and two other intersections in Jamaica Plain. A third public meeting will be held later this fall, after a construction contract is awarded, to discuss the construction schedule and impacts. The project is expected to begin in November and be completed in spring 2011.

“The Eliot Street crossing will provide the neighborhood and other park users a protected and safe way to conveniently reach one of Boston's most beloved parks,” said Julie Crockford, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. “The project exemplifies what we can accomplish in a public-private partnership, and my hope is that other two crossings will be built next year.”

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.