



Mass Central Rail Trail Coalition

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- Boston
 - MassBike
 - WalkBoston
- Somerville
 - Friends of the Community Path
- Cambridge
 - Cambridge Bike Committee
- Belmont
 - Friends of the Belmont Bikeway
- Waltham, Weston, Wayland, Sudbury, Hudson, Berlin
 - Wayside Trail
- Clinton
 - Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust
- Sterling, West Boylston, Holden, Rutland, Oakham
 - Wachusett Greenway
- Barre, New Braintree, Hardwick
 - East Quabbin Land Trust
- Ware
 - Ware River Valley Greenway Trail
- Palmer
 - Town of Palmer Trail
- Belchertown
 - Belchertown Land Trust
- Amherst, Hadley, Northampton
 - Herwelluck Rail Trail Advisory Committee
 - MassBike Pioneer Valley
 - Northampton Pedestrian Bicycle Alliance

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

June 8, 2006

Re: Town of Hudson Highland Commons development

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In November 2005, the Town of Hudson Planning Board granted approval for the Highland Commons retail shopping mall to be located in Hudson and Berlin, subject to impact mitigations.

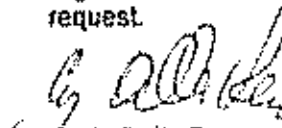
As a condition of the pending state permits for the project, the builder should fund at least the initial design for the Hudson segment of the MassCentral Rail Trail [MCRT]—known locally as the Wayside Rail Trail.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the MCRT shows up in "*Commonwealth Connections—a greenway vision for Massachusetts*"—a DCR produced report—as one of the most significant east—west trails in the state.

You might not be aware that recently, several large commercial developments in the region have stepped up and committed to fund the construction of rail trail projects that were in proximity to the development.

Interestingly, one of these developments, Wayland Town Center, lies only about 12 miles from Hudson in the town of Wayland. Ironically, both developments [in Hudson and Wayland] are adjacent to the MCRT. The developer for Wayland Town Center freely and willingly came forward with \$250,000 to construct that segment of the same corridor.

We think that the segment of this critically important corridor in the town of Hudson deserves at least as much commitment from the developer of Highland Commons. We urge you to support this modest and equitable request.



Craig Della Ponna

[For the MCRT coalition]