



The Hon. Elaine Pluta, Mayor
City of Holyoke
City Hall – 536 Dwight St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

July 4, 2011

Dear Elaine,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Mayor and as a former participant of the Friend's group –when you were a city council representative. We are confident of your full support of the many exciting and positive initiatives ongoing in town, including the Canalwalk.

As members of the Friends of the Canalwalk , we have recently become concerned by some discouraging news; that the timing of construction of Phase II might not occur until 2013. At the recent design-planning meeting of Phase II of the TOD grant we learned about these worrisome changes in the published construction plans. The Canalwalk group, and particularly the abutters to this phase, has been relying on the published construction schedule. We have already been waiting almost two years for approval of a design – now we are asked to wait another two years for construction to begin– add to a project, which has been in the making for over a decade. Our businesses, the creative community and neighborhood members have been planning around the 2012 TIP funding start date. There has been a feeling of hope and moving forward... and now this.

We hope, by using whatever influence you have as leader of our community and a supporter of the Canalwalk project, you can help move this worthy and economically stimulating project along in a timely fashion – as planned in the DOT published project schedule.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Sachs, Bruce Fowler, Kari Gatzke
Members,
Friends of the Canalwalk
Holyoke, MA 01040

cc. Congressman, John Olver, Chris Curtis, PVPC, James Lavelle, HG&E, Kathleen Anderson,
Holyoke, Planning & Development,