

Dear Elaine,

Thank you for your detailed response to our email. The inclusion of your timeline for Phase II of the Canalwalk Project is extremely enlightening and we appreciate your willingness to share this with us. It is evident that delays concerning the bridge plan added an extra layer of bureaucracy and frustration for all.

It is our hope that in the future the City will keep us better apprised of the process and consider ways that we can be helpful, how, with our membership, we could stimulate public support or apply pressure when our presence might be politically useful to the city. In our opinion, collaboration with grass-roots community groups that have the interests of Holyoke at heart, is a great asset to the city. We hope that in the future, we can establish a collegial relationship with Holyoke's new mayor Alex Morse and continue working in conjunction with the city on this important project.

We look forward to the public hearing that will customarily follow the City's November 4th submission of the 25% design plan to MassDOT and we are encouraged by the possibility that Phase II of the Canalwalk could be restored to the 2012 TIP budget year for beginning construction.

Respectfully,

Nancy Sachs, Bruce Fowler, Kari Gatzke,

Members, Friends of the Canalwalk