A Proposal to Rep. Ruth Balser
“Safety at Quinobequin Road & Ellis Street”

A FIRST STEP TOWARDS LINKING HEMLOCK GORGE RESERVATION AND THE QUINOBEQUIN TRAIL SAFELY

A PROPOSAL FROM THE FRIENDS OF HEMLOCK GORGE AND THE FRIENDS OF THE QUINOBEQUIN/WABAN AREA COUNCIL
Proposal

- There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge to Quinobequin Road
- Crosswalks with curb cuts
  - Across the Route 9 exit ramp that ends at Ellis Street
  - Across the Route 9 entrance ramp at Quinobequin Road
  - Ideally, all four street crossings at each location
- Access to the Quinobequin Trail near Route 9
  - The guardrail does not allow access to the Quinobequin Trail
  - Right around the corner, the guardrail was modified to allow river canoe portage access for the Run of the Charles!
The Lay of the Land

Hemlock Gorge Reservation
DCR Quinobequin Trail Park
Ellis Street
Quinobequin Road
Problem

- There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge Reservation (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
Problem

- There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- Street View with Cars
Problem

- There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- Street View with Cars
Problem

- There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge (A) to the Quinobequin Road Trail Park (B)
- Even when you get to B, a guardrail makes trail access difficult
The Problem

- Hemlock Gorge Reservation and the Charles River Path along Quinobequin Road are parts of Boston’s ‘Emerald Necklace’ conceived by Charles Eliot in 1892
  - www.hemlockgorge.org
  - newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/
- The parklands are adjacent but separated by Route 9 and its on- and off-ramps
- Problem: There is no safe way to walk from Hemlock Gorge to Quinobequin Road
- The following slides lay out the problem and our proposed solution
Proposal

- Add painted zebra-stripe crosswalks for pedestrians
- Here is the before view
Proposal

- Painted zebra-stripe crosswalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps
- Here is the proposed after view:

Note: No crosswalks under the bridge where cars do not expect to stop and are often confused already
Proposal

- Painted zebra-stripe crosswalks would be similar to those already in place at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Route 9
Proposal

- Then Add Access to the Quinobequin Trail
- This is the before view:
Proposal

- This is the potential solution that is just around the corner from “B”
- This river access was created for Run of the Charles canoeists portaging their boats around the circular dam
Conclusion

- Respectfully submitted by
  - The Friends of Hemlock Gorge
    - www.hemlockgorge.org
  - The Friends of the Quinobequin subcommittee of the Waban Area Council
    - www.wabanareacouncil.com/issue/friends-quinobequin
    - See also: newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-quinobequin-road/

- With full recognition that our proposal may involve complex coordination of efforts by:
  - The State Department of Transportation
  - The Department of Conservation and Recreation
  - The City of Newton