



MEMORANDUM

TO: NP&EDC

FROM: Patrick Reed, AICP, Transportation Program Manager

DATE: July 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Federal Land Access Program Grant Application

REQUESTED ACTION: Motion to endorse the attached letter of support, with any necessary edits per the discretion of the NP&EDC, for the Nantucket TPO's Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant application.

BACKGROUND: FLAP is an established federal aid program that was reauthorized by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. The program funds improvements to transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. This year, Massachusetts is included in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division's (EFLHD) call for projects.

The Nantucket National Wildlife refuge is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Nantucket was previously awarded two FLAP grants to support the design and partial construction of a shared use path along Wauwinet Road, ultimately between Polpis Road and the gatehouse.

DISCUSSION: In 2016, EFLHD awarded Nantucket \$283,200—with a local match of \$70,800—to complete 25% design drawings for a shared use path along Wauwinet Road. In 2018, EFLHD awarded Nantucket \$1,000,000—with a local match of \$250,000—to construct a portion of that path between Polpis Road and Pocomo Road. To date, no design or construction work has commenced. Staff is currently coordinating with FHWA to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to initiate design work.

Simultaneously, staff is coordinating with EFLHD on a grant application for the 2022 call for projects. Awards are granted per the discretion of merit by the state's Project Decision Committee (PDC). While an engineering estimate has not been completed, staff's planning-level estimate suggests the full project will cost between \$4.5 and \$5 million, meaning an additional \$2.9 to \$3.4 million gap exists between existing commitments and project needs.

Massachusetts has \$2.2 million of award funding apportioned for the entire state for the 2022 call for projects and it is unlikely a single awardee will receive the entire award. As such, staff is working to identify a project phasing plan that will allow the NP&EDC to apply for financial support to complete a portion of the project, even if the entire project cannot be constructed in full with award resources. The ultimate grant application amount will align with to-be-determined phasing.

CONCLUSION: Staff recommends the Commission endorse the attached letter of support for the application.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support – FLAP Grant