

WalkBike Springfield

Working to improve Walking and Bicycling Safety in Springfield

August 26, 2019

Domenic J. Sarno
Springfield City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Dear Mayor Sarno,

The Springfield River Walk has much to offer: uplifting views, a non-motorized North-South transportation route, an opportunity to stretch your legs in the open air. But the lack of coordination among the many players with important things to do along the RiverWalk has led to problems and frustration. Recently, Director of Parks Pat Sullivan let us know that he was frustrated to learn that, unknown to him, somebody was operating a jackhammer near the new fountain in Riverfront Park!

At least eight entities have a stake in our riverfront: these include the general public, the Army Corps of Engineers, Amtrak, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, the DPW, the Parks Department, Capitol Asset Construction, and the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club. Lack of coordination has led to frustration and confusion when one or another player is confronted with unexpected closure of the River Walk and no alternatives are provided for programming or maintenance. Having one person tasked with ensuring that projects go forward with the least possible inconvenience to all would be a tremendous help to everyone.

As a group of concerned and motivated, active and engaged Springfield residents, Walkbike Springfield is writing to suggest that you appoint somebody to act as a clearinghouse for construction and maintenance projects and public programming on the River Walk and in Riverfront Park. WalkBIke Springfield would like to suggest civil engineer Peter Shumway of the DPW for this task. Peter is a professional of enormous patience who already has good working relationships with all the players, most importantly with the Army Corps and Amtrak.

Thank you for considering this request!

Sincerely,



Betsy Johnson
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