



Selectboard
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108
FAX: (413) 863-3231

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Jim McGovern
US House of Representatives
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McGovern:

This letter is offered in support of the submission of an FY23 Community Project Funding Request of \$975,000 by the Town of Montague, Massachusetts. The proposed "Avenue A Streetscape Improvement" project is already fully designed and ready to bid. It would accelerate replacement of deteriorated brick and concrete sidewalks in the Turners Falls village center that were installed in the 1980s. Turners Falls is a major commercial center, an Environmental Justice Area, and a state designated Cultural District. It is also in the Turners Falls National Register Historic District.

The unique characteristics of the Turners Falls village center bring urgency to this request. Avenue A is home to a historic performance venue, independent retail establishments, local restaurants, and human service organizations. It is the center of the Town's population, including over 200 units of affordable housing. The area's entertainment and restaurant sector was profoundly impacted by the pandemic, with several venues permanently closed and awaiting new ownership. This has a particular impact on local job opportunities for residents who lack access to transportation.

The Town has thus far invested over \$1M in Streetscape improvements over a period of nine years through incremental CDBG funded projects. These improvements have inspired substantial private investment in adjacent buildings, proving the transformative potential of this project request. Community Project Funding would enable Montague to complete improvements on the northern side of the downtown center, an area long-slated for improvement.

We hope you will see the value of this proposal as means to 1) catalyze economic development; 2) improve economic and social equity through employment opportunity and an improved physical environment; and 3) improve the accessibility of downtown businesses, government offices, and human service organizations. The Turners Falls Village Center is a remarkable place that would benefit tremendously from the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement project. We hope you share our enthusiasm and strongly encourage you to support it.

Respectfully,

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

Richard J. Kuklewicz
Selectboard Chairman

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider and employer



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Jim McGovern
US House of Representatives
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Town of Montague's FY23 Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman McGovern,

This letter is offered in strong support of the Town of Montague's FY23 Community Project Funding Request of \$975,000. The proposed "Avenue A Streetscape Improvement" project is fully designed and ready to bid. It would accelerate replacement of deteriorated brick and concrete sidewalks in the Turners Falls village center, installed in the 1980s. Turners Falls is a major commercial center, an Environmental Justice Area, and a state designated Cultural District. This sidewalk replacement is also in the Turners Falls National Register Historic District.

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The Town has thus far invested over \$1M in streetscape improvements over a period of nine years through incremental Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBG) funded projects. These improvements have inspired substantial private investment in adjacent buildings, proving the transformative potential of this project request. Community Project Funding would enable Montague to complete improvements on the northern side of the downtown center, an area long-slated for improvement.

We hope you will see the value of this proposal as a means to:

- 1) catalyze economic development;
- 2) improve economic and social equity through employment opportunity and an improved physical environment; and
- 3) improve the accessibility of downtown businesses, government offices, and human service organizations.

The Turners Falls Village Center is a remarkable place that would benefit tremendously from the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement project. We hope you share our enthusiasm and strongly encourage you to support it.

Respectfully,



Jo Comerford
State Senator
Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester district



Natalie M. Blais
State Representative
1st Franklin district



LOOT
found + made

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Jim McGovern
US House of Representatives
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McGovern,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our full support of the Avenue A Streetscape Project. We own and operate a retail business on Avenue A called LOOT, that is in its 10th year. We have been downtown residents for the past 15 years and live in one of the two multi-unit/mixed use buildings we own on Avenue A.

When we first visited the area many years ago and decided to buy a building and set up shop, it was primarily because of the handsome architecture and natural beauty of the town, specifically the downtown. It's our firsthand experience that when a town invests in its appearance and functionality, it inspires individuals to want to invest.

Over time we have noticed that the sidewalks are in disrepair. This is from our own observation as well as hearing it from our neighbors and customers who use wheelchairs. They find it difficult to navigate the sidewalks due to the bricks, which are charming, but deteriorating and uneven.

The town has made streetscape changes to sections of the Avenue over the years and it has made a difference for accessibility and enlivened the interest of entrepreneurs who appreciate the attentiveness to maintenance. This current streetscape proposal will help to complete these incremental changes, while focusing on the northern end of Avenue A, which is the primary gateway to the downtown from route 2 and the first impression for most visitors.

The last couple of years caused us to seriously examine if we could continue to operate our store. The downtown said goodbye to some small businesses that seemed on the precipice of success just as the pandemic hit. A project of this scale, at this time, would not only encourage new businesses to want to invest, but it will invigorate our pandemic weary town by demonstrating a commitment of care for its downtown, the place where people live, work and gather.

Respectfully,

Erin MacLean and John McNamara



24 3rd Street, PO BOX 135 Turners Falls, MA 01376-0135

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Washington, DC 20515

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The unique characteristics of the Turners Falls village center bring urgency to this request. Avenue A is home to an historic performance venue, independent retail establishments, local restaurants, and human service organizations. It is the center of the Town’s population, including over 200 units of affordable housing. The area’s entertainment and restaurant sector was profoundly impacted by the pandemic, with several venues permanently closed and awaiting new ownership. This has a particular impact on local job opportunities for residents who lack access to transportation.

The Town has thus far invested over \$1M in Streetscape improvements over a period of nine years through incremental CDBG funded projects. These improvements have inspired substantial private investment in adjacent buildings, proving the transformative potential of this project request. Community Project Funding would enable Montague to complete improvements on the northern side of the downtown center, an area long-slated for improvement.

We hope you will see the value of this proposal as means to 1) catalyze economic development; 2) improve economic and social equity through employment opportunity and an improved

physical environment; and 3) improve the accessibility of downtown businesses, government offices, and human service organizations. The Turners Falls Village Center is a remarkable place that would benefit tremendously from the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement project. We hope you share our enthusiasm and strongly encourage you to support it.

Sincerely,
Kwamane O Harris

Kwmane Harris
Executive Director
The Brick House Community Resource Center
PO BOX 135
Turners Falls, MA 01376



**FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING &
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

241 Millers Falls Road • Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9781 • Facsimile: (413) 863-9289

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Washington, DC 20515

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Respectfully,

Brian P. McHugh
Director of Community Development

Rental Assistance • Housing Development • Housing Management • Community Development
Municipal Assistance • Rehab Financing • Housing Counseling and Education • Public Infrastructure

Equal Housing Opportunity





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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Shapiro".

Amy Shapiro
Business Development Director



FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

395 Main Street, PO Box 898 - Greenfield MA 01302-0898

PHONE: 413-773-5463 FAX: 413-773-7008

www.franklincc.org

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Sincerely,

Diana M. Szydal, Executive Director



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

April 14, 2022

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Washington, DC 20515

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I know it's odd that the FRCOG is submitting its own earmark requests for county-wide emergency communication upgrades and police regionalization efforts and to also support this project but Turners Falls Village Center is a remarkable place that would benefit tremendously from the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement project. We hope you share our enthusiasm for all of these worthy projects!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Dunlavy", is written over the typed name.

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director