

## Bicycle Pedestrian Crossing of the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line

*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

**Grant Type:** Planning

**Funding Source:** NAE

**Award:** \$2,400,000

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$3,000,000

### **Project Summary:**

This project will plan and design an accessible, elevated, pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the Fitchburg Commuter rail line in North Cambridge. The rail line has posed a physical barrier to movement in the Rindge Avenue neighborhood for decades and created a demonstrated safety hazard, inhibiting local travel in one of the most diverse and lowest income block group areas of Cambridge.

The scope of the project is to continue planning already underway and advance conceptual and final design of an overpass connecting the Rindge Avenue neighborhood, which has the highest proportion of affordable housing in the city, to Cambridge's largest open space, Danehy Park, and improve access to stores, jobs, and transit. The project also includes planning and design for a multi-use path parallel to the rail line, creating connectivity to the crossing from many locations, as well as more convenient access to the nearby Alewife Red Line transit station.

The planned bicycle and pedestrian bridge project will not only create dedicated, safe access from the Rindge Avenue neighborhood to Danehy Park, but will also create safer and more direct access to Fresh Pond Mall, which provides access to fresh groceries, clothing and other retail options, job opportunities and workforce training. Additionally, the bridge project will remove a key barrier to regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. Just to the north, the project will connect directly to Linear Park through Russell Field, the Minuteman Path, and the Somerville Community Path, and directly to the south, will connect to the Danehy-New Street Connector path and the Watertown Cambridge Greenway. This will create a direct, high quality, off-road route for hundreds of daily bicycle and pedestrian trips to major housing, retail, recreation, and jobs destinations in adjacent communities and regional destinations including Arlington Center, Arsenal Street in Watertown, the Charles River, Porter Square in Cambridge, Davis Square in Somerville, the Northpoint area in Cambridge, and Boston's downtown, North Station, and North End neighborhood.