

## **For Immediate Release**

Peabody Bikeway Construction Underway - Contact Blair Haney  
978-538-5781 -  
January 29, 2008

Mayor Bonfanti announced today that the Peabody Bikeway is under construction. "I could not be more pleased, we have waited a long time for this great project and now it will be a reality".

Site preparation work has begun with tree cutting and brush clearing at the Middleton-Peabody town line. Work will continue east towards Route 1, and finish at the North Shore Mall. Grading and laying the asphalt will not begin until spring when the ground thaws.

The Mayor will host an official ground breaking ceremony on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. Jean Delios, Director of the Community Development Department said "the city has taken advantage of the recent improvement in the weather to start preparation work including tree and brush clearing." Information about this project is available on the City of Peabody's website or by contacting the Community Development Department at 978-538-5706.

The Peabody Bikeway is the latest addition to the City's open space and recreation network. Last year the City purchased the 15 acre Tillies Farm and 39 acre Sidney's Pond Conservation Area. The Bikeway will link together over 400 acres of community open space including: the Norris Brook Conservation Area, the Hoover Street Conservation Area, the Crystal Lake Conservation Area, the Ross Park Complex, and Brooksby Farm.

Green International was hired by the City to design and permit this project. The Community Preservation Committee awarded a grant in the amount of \$162,000 which was approved by the Peabody City Council. Without the CPC funding the City would not have been able to leverage over \$3 million in State and Federal funds to build the Bikeway.

"The CPA, once again, came through in a big way," said Mayor Bonfanti. "The Bikeway is a great spine to our Citywide open space network. We will continue to add great recreation opportunities along the Bikeway for decades to come. We are also very grateful to the businesses (Hannaford Plaza and Simon Malls) that granted us easements along the bikeway allowing us to make good on our commitment to MassHighway on the land needed to make the project work"