



SENATOR BRUCE E. TARR
MINORITY LEADER
First Essex and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rail Transportation Stakeholders

FROM: Senator Bruce E. Tarr, Representative Ann Margaret Ferrante, Representative Brad Hill,
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

RE: Commuter Rail Suspension Update

DATE: May 16, 2017

Thank you for participating in our public forum in Gloucester regarding the impending suspension of MBTA rail service in our region. We appreciate your support for reasonable and practical options to be made available to mitigate the negative impact of these suspensions. Here are some brief updates:

1. The DVD recording of our public meeting in Gloucester has been delivered by hand to officials at the MBTA. Thanks again to Cape Ann TV for producing it, particularly on short notice.
2. A subsequent public forum was conducted in Beverly, hosted by Mayor Cahill, and attended by Senator Lovely, Representatives Walsh and Speliotis, an Aide to Representative Parisella, and Barry Pett from Senator Tarr's office.
3. Our petitioning efforts have garnered over 100 signatures on the evening of the Gloucester forum and over 1200 signatures on the online petition created by Mayor Romeo-Theken's Office.
4. The Cape Ann Transit Authority has offered in writing to assist the MBTA with alternative transportation. A copy of that letter is attached for your review.
5. The MBTA has advised us that a transportation mitigation plan is in development, and will be released soon. The MBTA plans to have public forums in early June to explain their mitigation plans and to explain how they will communicate those plans to the commuting public.
6. Our offices have continued to field questions from riders and other stakeholders, and to identify issues that need to be addressed.
7. We are currently working with the MBTA to schedule a public meeting for the presentation of its mitigation plan as referred in item 5 above. We will provide you with the time, place, and location of that meeting as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for joining with us to secure meaningful transportation alternatives to address the proposed suspensions of rail service. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance.



CAPE ANN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Administrator - Paul F. Talbot

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Asst. Administrator - Joseph Randazza

May 2, 2017

Brian Shortsleeve
Chief Administrator and Acting General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3910
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Shortsleeve,

I am writing to express the Cape Ann Transportation Authority's interest in assisting the MBTA during the Rockport/Newburyport line closures this summer. As you are aware, many people along these two lines depend on the commuter rail for transportation to work, medical appointments, school, social activities, shopping, and for other purposes.

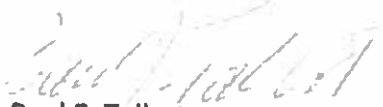
A complete closure of the lines with no alternate transportation provided would be extremely detrimental to those that depend upon the MBTA. A complete closure would have a disproportionate impact on those without access to personal automobiles, which typically includes the most vulnerable of our communities (seniors, persons with disabilities, and lower income). CATA is an integral part of the Cape Ann area and we recognize the importance of meeting the transportation needs of our community.

The Cape Ann Transportation Authority is a relatively small regional transit authority; we provide public transportation services for the City of Gloucester and the towns of Rockport, Ipswich, and Essex. Despite our smaller size, CATA would very much like to work with the MBTA in providing a transportation solution for our community during the closures this summer. CATA has worked closely with MassDOT to bring our fleet into a state of good repair, receiving nine new buses for fixed route service over the past three years.

We have had a preliminary discussion with Rose Yates, Assistance General Manager for Customer Service Railroad Operations, and are looking to obtain additional information in order to determine the type and level of service CATA can provide in conjunction with the MBTA. Using FY16 data, our cost per hour of fixed route service is \$112. CATA can make available five buses during weekday peak to assist in transporting customers to Salem; however we would require time to locate and hire additional drivers for this service.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to speaking to you or your staff soon.

Sincerely,



Paul F. Talbot
Administrator

Cc: Secretary Stephanie Pollack
Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
State Senator Bruce Tarr
State Representative Brad Hill
State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante
CATA Advisory Board