



THERESE MURRAY
PRESIDENT

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MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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April 28, 2010

Richard Davey, General Manager
Rail and Transit Administrator
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Ten Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Davey:

I write today to express my strong objection to the current plan for the Old Colony System Tie Replacement project.

A complete stoppage of weekend train service and no alternative bus transportation for the duration of this project is unacceptable and demonstrates a seeming lack of regard for the two issues most pressing to all residents: jobs and the economy. Many of my constituents commute to Boston to get to their jobs. The commuter rail is an indispensable option for constituents who do not wish to drive or are not able to drive into Boston and it cannot be assumed that weekend riders simply utilize this service for convenience and not necessity. Without this option or alternative bus transportation, residents could be left with only two choices, drive to work or lose their job.

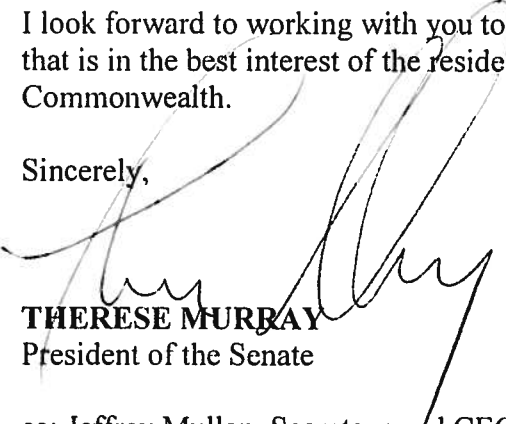
Additionally, providing no weekend train service or alternative bus transportation significantly limits anyone north of the Kingston and Plymouth terminals from visiting the various tourist destinations in this area and seeing and experiencing all that Plymouth County has to offer. Moreover, several of the small businesses in both Plymouth County and Cape Cod depend on tourists for their survival and to not provide alternative bus transportation on the weekend, the most practical time for tourists to take a trip to the area, is denying them of much needed economy stimulating revenue.

I understand the immediacy of the tie replacement project. The safety of the residents of the Commonwealth must be of the utmost concern to us all and replacing the ties along the Old Colony branch is necessary to ensure a safe commute for all passengers. However, the plan as it currently stands is unacceptable.

I greatly appreciate the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) advanced notification of the construction plans and timeline. Advanced notification ensures that all interested parties can voice their concerns and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

I look forward to working with you to address these concerns and to develop a solution that is in the best interest of the residents and visitors to this region of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



THERESE MURRAY
President of the Senate

cc: Jeffrey Mullan, Secretary and CEO
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Gregory Bialecki, Secretary
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Affairs

Betsy Wall, Executive Director
Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism