



# City of Brockton

Office of the Mayor

**KERRY RICHARDS**

Chief of Staff

[krichards@cobma.us](mailto:krichards@cobma.us)

508.580.7123

**ROBERT F. SULLIVAN**

Mayor

December 4, 2020

Fiscal and Management Control Board  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Re: MBTA Service Reductions and Eliminations

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express the concerns I, as the Mayor of the City of Brockton, have in regard to the proposed MBTA service reductions and eliminations presented in the *Forging Ahead* initiative. The City of Brockton's three Commuter Rail stops are fundamental for Brockton's citizens as well as those in surrounding communities. The Commuter Rail at its current level of service provides transportation to essential workers, gives Brocktonians access to the greater Boston area to utilize the hospitals and visit loved ones, supports climate change initiatives by decreasing commuter reliance on personal vehicles, and helps attract transit-oriented development to the City.

Brocktonians have been using public transportation to fulfill their duties as essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Often, essential employees who have been on the forefront of this pandemic do not have "normal" working hours and ride the commuter rail during off-peak hours. These are the same service hours that are being proposed as cuts in this initiative and could potentially pose a public health issue, as Brockton-based medical personnel may struggle to commute to their workplaces in the greater Boston area. Additionally, as a minority-majority community, Brockton citizens will be disproportionately affected. Many essential workers are people of color, and this holds true in Brockton especially.

Brocktonians ride the commuter rail to get to Boston hospitals and visit family members, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also use public transportation to travel to patronize tourist attractions, shopping districts, and restaurants in Boston. Cuts to service hours at night and weekends, in addition to a reduction in the number of trains, will have a great impact on the quality of life of those living in the City of Champions due to the fact that they may not have the option to rely on personal vehicles for travel.

These drastic cuts will not only have an immediate impact, but I am greatly concerned about how the changes to public transportation will affect development in the City of Brockton and the City's ability to attract new residents that rely on public transportation.

*"City of Champions"*

There are approximately 500 transit-oriented housing units currently being developed in our City. Many of these units have benefited from Chapter 40R funding under the "Smart Growth Zoning" program. Furthermore, because of the Commonwealth's commitment to providing urban revitalization funding and support for Gateway Cities, such as the City of Brockton, there have been development firms that have committed millions to new transit-oriented projects. One example is Trinity Financial, which has committed over \$30 million dollars for such projects near Brockton's commuter rail.

Numerous projects and investments are dependent on the reliability of MBTA services and readily-available access to the City of Boston. In fact, the City just received a \$2.65 million MassWorks grant to implement infrastructure improvements for a new mixed-use development adjacent to the Campello MBTA station. Any service reductions and/or eliminations would have a detrimental impact on that project and severely hamper development and investment opportunities.

The MBTA also clearly recognizes the importance of reliable and affordable public transit in our City as evidenced by the agency's new pilot program reducing rail fares for 250 Brockton residents. This program will boost ridership and is another step toward improving connectivity and achieving transit equality in our region.

The MBTA Advisory Board stated on Thursday, November 3rd that there seems to be no budgetary justification for the proposals in the initiative. The concerns we have outlined, as well as the lack of support from the advisory board, which represents the cities and towns who utilize the MBTA, should be a fundamental consideration of the Fiscal and Management Control Board.

The impacts of these cuts to the City of Brockton would be devastating to ongoing urban revitalization efforts and would create new obstacles as the City seeks to recover economically from the pandemic. These cuts would be a massive setback to our efforts, many of which have been assisted by state funding.

I respectfully ask that the Fiscal and Management Control Board not implement these proposed reductions and/or eliminations. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Robert F. Sullivan  
Mayor  
City of Brockton