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Lauren S. Rosenzweig, Chairperson
Acton Board of Selectmen

July 11, 2008

DRAFT

His Excellency the Governor of Massachusetts
Deval Patrick
Room 360
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Secretary Bernard Cohen
Executive Office of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3170
Boston, MA 02116

Senator Pamela Resor
Room 410
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Cory Atkins
Room 472
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Representative James Eldridge
Room 33
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Officials:

The Acton Board of Selectmen has been informed by our representative to the MBTA Advisory Board, that the MBTA, if not given more financial support, won't be able to meet their future budgets without completely depleting their reserves over the next few years.

In this time of high gas prices and awareness of the negative impacts of automobile exhaust and on global warming, we would like to see more planning and funding of Public Transportation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are well aware that in this time of great national debt that there is a shortage of funds for everything, including mass transportation.

However, ease of transportation is a critical piece of our economy. An investment in transportation, particularly a method that delivers many people to their workplaces quickly and efficiently, improves productivity. This will be especially true when there is Wireless Network capability on the trains.

Such an investment in public transportation will go far to improve the economy, energy sustainability, and the environment here in the Commonwealth. The commitment to Public Transportation should be adhered to via finding or creating a dedicated funding source to maintain and improve the MBTA and MBCR systems. Whether it comes from a tax, a fee, or a toll, we need to act NOW. One idea that might make sense would be to raise the registration fee for automobiles and trucks by a few dollars and dedicate those revenues to the MBTA. Another idea would be to assign a certain percentage of car registration fees across the nation dedicated to public transportation. That would send the proper message—less cars, more use of public transit, clean air, less global warming, less traffic, healthier people. Works for us—how about you? As the leaders of our Commonwealth, will you support an initiative in this direction?

Sincerely,

Lauren S. Rosenzweig, Chairperson
Acton Board of Selectmen