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Christine Joyce

From: Deborah Gaul [dgaul@mbtaadvisoryboard.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Deborah Gaul
Subject: MBTA Advisory Board Members
Attachments: Draft Resolution(5-1-12).doc; Resolution cover letter.doc

Importance: High

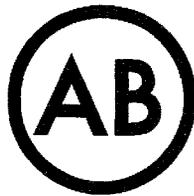
Dear Advisory Board Member:

Attached please find a cover letter and draft resolution approved at the last MBTA Advisory Board. We are asking all of the members of the Advisory Board to present it to their fall town meetings, Boards of Selectmen or City Councils for an affirmative vote. We believe that the Governor and the Legislature need to reengage on the issue of transportation funding in the fall and early winter. Remember that the recent fare increase and service cut debate was about fixing a one year problem and the underlying transportation funding problems facing the Commonwealth have not been fixed. We are asking all the communities in the MBTA Service District to weigh in on this issue through the resolution, so that our voices may be heard.

I hope that you will take action on this request. We need to stop lurching from crisis to crisis and find a long-term solution to our transportation finding needs.

Thanks for your help. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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The MBTA Advisory Board

May 29, 2012

Dear MBTA Advisory Board Member Communities:

At a recent meeting of the MBTA Advisory Board, your representatives sought a way to be heard on the critical transportation issues facing Eastern Massachusetts. We agreed that by any objective measure transportation funding is inadequate and does not reflect the role and importance of roads, bridges and transit to cities and towns today. Despite news stories, editorials, conferences and actual protests in the streets, there has been little movement towards a real solution to our transportation woes.

We recently finished a process started by MassDOT to raise fares and cut service at the MBTA. Almost everyone agrees that the Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) are underfunded and have been for years. There is a strong effort this year to better fund Chapter 90, but that funding will not make up for the years that communities could not afford to maintain their local roads and bridges. Finally, if you are a community that has tried to go through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process, you know that only a fraction of the proposal submitted actually gets funding. Taken together, the signs are clear that there is a crisis in transportation and that the Massachusetts communities are bearing the brunt of it.

Your fellow members of the MBTA Advisory Board voted to ask each of our 175 members to consider a resolution calling on the governor and the Legislature to develop a comprehensive and long-term solution to the transportation crisis. Enclosed is a draft resolution that the MBTA Advisory Board is asking each Town Meeting, Board of Selectmen and City Council to consider. We are asking you to pass a version of this resolution between now and next November to keep attention focused on our transportation needs. Tell the Governor and the Legislature that Massachusetts Communities have roads and bridges to maintain, projects we need build and a reliable transit system to serve our citizens. Please pass your resolution and tell Beacon Hill to move past the gridlock.

Sincerely,

Paul Regan
Executive Director

Enclosure

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MBTA Advisory Board

& the 175 cities and town comprising the MBTA Service District

Whereas the transit, highway, road, bridge, and rail network of Eastern Massachusetts is an essential component for the economic activity of the Commonwealth, and all of New England, and

Whereas the funding to maintain, upgrade, and improve those components of the transportation infrastructure under the control of the Commonwealth those Massachusetts, and its authorities has been inadequate for over a decade, and

Whereas the funding to maintain, upgrade, and improve local transportation infrastructure under the control of this municipality, and other through the Chapter 90 program, MPO discretionary funding, and other sources has also been inadequate for over a decade, and

Whereas the citizens of this municipality have absorbed MBTA fare increases and reductions in MBTA services, as well as a general deterioration of the highways, roads, bridges, and sidewalks relied upon every days by millions of Massachusetts citizens, and

Whereas investing in transportation infrastructure is an investment in the people of this municipality, this region, this Commonwealth, and this nation, and

Now be it hereby resolved, that the people of this municipality call upon the Legislature and the Governor to immediately address the operating and capital maintenance issues negatively affecting the transportation infrastructure of this municipality, those of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and its Authorities.

Be it further resolved that the citizens of this municipality request that the Legislature and Governor act swiftly to devise a permanent and sustainable way to invest in the basic maintenance and operation of the transportation infrastructure of this state; so that it may act as a catalyst economic development, environmental stewardship, and the health and well being of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Acton Board of Selectmen
