

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Cafeteria at the Senior Center

Audubon Hill

Acton, MA 01720

July 16, 2015

Acton Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
472 Main St
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Selectmen,

In assessing the progress of the construction at the South Acton Train Station, we have begun to focus our energies on reviewing and finalizing plans for life after construction - and specifically the continued beautification of South Acton. No doubt the new train station is going to become an iconic element of the area, with its highly designed T logo transom, 800' platforms, and free wifi, but we feel that all of the steel, glass, asphalt, and concrete will create a stark imbalance between the station and surrounding area and suggest that softening the impact with landscape materials would provide a much more calming transition.

Upon completion of the station and opening of the second track later this year, the MBTA has plans to finish the area with a small (and shrinking) landscaping budget, which by all indications will be allocated to site work and pedestrian traffic flow. Early on in the planning phase of the train station construction, SATSAC was able to coordinate a local landscape architect and CPC contributor, Peter Lukacic, to put together a conceptual design on how to both temper the commercial feel of the steel and cement while allowing it to better assimilate with the surrounding neighborhood and historic district, including screening views from nearby Jones Tavern and Exchange Halls.

The situation we find ourselves in at this moment is finding a way to bring the ideas, concepts, and vision provided by Mr. Lukacic to fruition in the train station site. The MBTA has assured us that they are not going to be able to participate in the resolution of the designs, but have endorsed the concept and are open to us moving forward with installation once the station is complete. We are asking the town to appropriate funding for the purchase and installation of plants, shrubs, and trees this fall in order to properly finish off the train station, and surrounding area making it a welcome addition to South Acton and to the town as a whole.

Implementation has been estimated to cost \$180,000, and this cost would include finalization of the design and purchase, installation, and guarantee of the materials detailed in the plan attached. As an advisory committee, we feel unanimously that these enhancements are worth the investment and the timing of the work to coincide with the completion of the station makes sense on many levels.

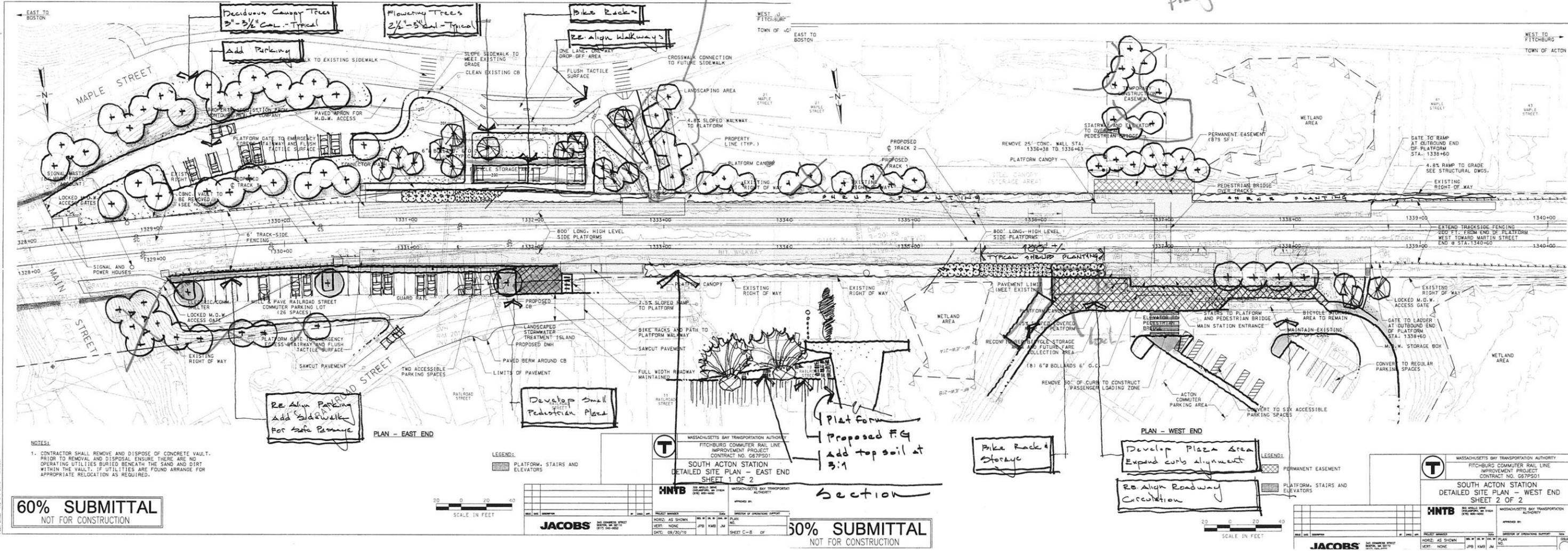
We ask you to consider this proposal, reach out for any elaboration and discussion on the design, and move to appropriate the funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The esteemed Members of the South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

More opportunity for more ornamental trees.

X Maybe some planty near S. NW



NOTES:
1. CONTRACTOR SHALL REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF CONCRETE VAULT PRIOR TO REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL. ENSURE THERE ARE NO OPERATING UTILITIES BURIED BENEATH THE SAND AND DIRT WITHIN THE VAULT. IF UTILITIES ARE FOUND ARRANGE FOR APPROPRIATE RELOCATION AS REQUIRED.

60% SUBMITTAL
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



LEGEND:
[Symbol] PLATFORM, STAIRS AND ELEVATORS

T MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
FITCHBURG COMMUTER RAIL LINE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
CONTRACT NO. 067P501
SOUTH ACTON STATION
DETAILED SITE PLAN - EAST END
SHEET 1 OF 2

HNTB
300 WASHINGTON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142
PROJECT NUMBER: 067P501
DATE: 08/30/10
SHEET C-8 OF

JACOBS

30% SUBMITTAL
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Section

Bike Rack & Storage

Develop Plaza Area
Expand curb alignment

Re-align Roadway
Circulation

LEGEND:
[Symbol] PERMANENT EASEMENT
[Symbol] PLATFORM, STAIRS AND ELEVATORS

T MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
FITCHBURG COMMUTER RAIL LINE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
CONTRACT NO. 067P501
SOUTH ACTON STATION
DETAILED SITE PLAN - WEST END
SHEET 2 OF 2

HNTB
300 WASHINGTON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142
PROJECT NUMBER: 067P501
DATE: 08/30/10
SHEET C-8 OF

JACOBS



