



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

**SENATOR JAMES B. ELDRIDGE**

*Middlesex and Worcester District*

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May 1, 2013

David J. Mohler, Chair  
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
State Transportation Building  
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116-3968

Dear Chairman Mohler and Members,

I write to you to express my strong support for Governor Patrick's revenue proposal and the greater investment in our transportation system that it called for. Unfortunately, as you are aware this proposal did not move forward in the Legislature. Though I would have liked to see a revenue proposal in the Senate that more closely resembled the Governor's proposal, I voted in favor of the Senate bill after significant revenue increases were adopted.

Ultimately, the Senate passed a transportation finance proposal that calls for an average investment of \$600 million annually in new revenue to transportation, and would support as much as an \$800 million new investment by 2018. Several of my Senate colleagues and I released the following statement to the Conference Committee tasked with resolving the differences between the House and Senate bills. We are encouraging the Conference Committee to preserve the revenue increases made to the Senate bill:

"Through both the work of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the amendment process, the transportation finance bill passed by the Senate today reaches a level of revenue that allows for meaningful investments in a fiscally-sound, 21st century transportation system. It is for this reason that we vote yes on this bill today.

We look forward to the bill continuing to the joint House-Senate conference committee. Should the bill be reported out of the conference committee having lost the revenue gains we made, it will also lose our support. We are grateful to all of our partners in the

legislature, the Governor, advocates, and constituents across the state for their tireless work in crafting solutions to one of the most pressing issues in our Commonwealth.”

We must invest in our transportation infrastructure and we must generate new revenue for transportation projects like bike and pedestrian trails, such as the Assabet and Bruce Freeman Rail Trails. Failure to adequately invest in transportation will only hurt our economy and our residents, by hindering economic growth, jobs and income. I will continue to seek and support revenue sources that will provide us with enough funding to sustain and grow our transportation system over the long term.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie B. Eldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jamie Eldridge

**State Senator**

*Middlesex & Worcester District*