



December 2, 2020

Steve Poftak, General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Poftak:

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the Melrose Chamber of Commerce to express the Chamber's strong opposition to the proposed cuts to MBTA services. The Chamber represents 300 business and individual members in Melrose and the surrounding communities and is the only organization in Melrose dedicated to economic development.

Specifically, the Chamber is opposed to the following service changes:

- Elimination of 131 and 136 bus routes
- Elimination of service at the Cedar Park Commuter Rail Station
- Elimination of all weekend commuter rail services
- Elimination of remaining commuter rail service after 9:00pm

All of these proposed cuts are of great concern to our organization. For some essential workers and employees traveling to Melrose, the bus routes are, the only feasible means of transportation to their places of employment, which include MelroseWakefield Hospital, several assisted living and long-term care facilities, restaurants and other businesses in the services industries. For many of these employees, bus transportation is the **only** way to access their places of employment. These cuts will have secondary, disparate impacts on lower income and transit-dependent riders. Further, elimination of these services will have far reaching consequences for our local economy as it will be harder for employers to find employees who can travel to Melrose.

Access to commuter rail transportation is one of the top reasons people choose to move to Melrose, as evidenced in the City's most recent Master Plan. Many new homeowners in our community rely on commuter rail services to access jobs in Boston and Cambridge.

I strongly urge you to reconsider these cuts and to work with our elected officials to secure the necessary resources to keep these services in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Grymek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Grymek
Executive Director
Melrose Chamber of Commerce