



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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COMMITTEES:
VICE CHAIR, REVENUE

January 20, 2016

Mr. Frank DePaola, General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza
Boston MA, 02116

RE: Discontinuing Late Night MBTA Service

Dear Mr. DePaola,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board's proposal to discontinue the MBTA's late-night weekend transit service program. Eliminating this program will have a negative impact on nighttime workers and students in the metropolitan Boston area who rely on affordable public transit to get home safely, as well as on restaurants, cultural venues and the entertainment industry.

As you know, this service was implemented in 2014 as part of the MBTA's long-term goal of improving the quality of life of residents by increasing access to commuting alternatives. Goals of the program also include spurring local and regional economic growth, and improving public safety for people travelling around the city late at night. While I understand that the MBTA faces rising operating budget deficits and that there are issues associated with this program—in particular, reduced maintenance time on the weekend and slightly lower ridership than projected—the anticipated positive impact on the public remains the same as when late-night service was introduced. Currently, late night service is used by 13,000 riders each Friday and Saturday night. Eliminating late-night service would leave most of these riders with a limited set of options: taxi-cabs, transportation network companies, and car-sharing. Not only are these options costlier for individuals, but they also go against the Commonwealth's long-term environmental goals of reducing emissions and encouraging mode shift.

I know that we have a shared commitment to providing the residents of the Commonwealth with a strong public transportation system, and I urge you to work with the Secretary, Fiscal

Management and Control Board, and the T's riders to find a comprehensive solution that would maintain this essential service.

Thank you for your continued work to improve our public transit system, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
State Representative
26th Middlesex District