



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Frank DePaola, General Manager
Brian Shortsleeve, Chief Administrator

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

October 26, 2015

Thomas Hopkins, Director
MA Architectural Access Board
One Ashburton Place, Room 1310
Boston, MA 02108-1618

Re: Waverley Commuter Rail Train Station, Docket No. C12-033

Dear Tom,

I am writing to update the Board on the current options that the MBTA is currently considering for the Waverley Commuter Rail Train Station.

As you are aware, earlier this Spring, a feasibility study was completed to determine what options were available for making the station compliant with 521 CMR and applicable Federal regulations. As a result of that study, two alternative designs were developed:

1. Full-high platforms with 2 elevators leading to each platform with a projected cost of approximately \$30,280,000; and
2. Mini-high platforms with 2 elevators leading to each platform with a projected cost of approximately \$15,650,000.

In our last status update to the Board, we requested to meet with the Board to review these designs and discuss three different potential steps forward, which included:

1. Proceeding with making Waverley accessible;
2. Closing Waverley; or
3. Leaving Waverley open and investing the funds required to make it accessible into an accessibility-related project that would impact a significantly larger number of customers with disabilities.

In subsequent conversations with you, I understand the Board declined our request to meet. The MBTA still believes a meeting with the Board would be extremely beneficial and respectfully asks that the Board reconsider its position. However, operating under the assumption that the Board is not willing to entertain the proposal of investing funds in higher priority accessibility projects, the MBTA has continued to work towards identifying the best course going forward.

This summer, the MBTA began exploring the feasibility of closing both Waverley and Belmont Center Station (both currently inaccessible and technically challenging to make accessible) and constructing a new, fully accessible station in Belmont—located roughly in between the two existing stations. While this new

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station would require some land takings, the majority of the station would be located on MBTA property (see attached concept). Based on similar projects, it is thought that the cost of building this station may be roughly the same cost as making Waverley fully accessible and half the cost of making both Waverley and Belmont Center fully accessible.

On September 28, 2015, General Manager Frank DePaola and MBTA staff presented this concept at Belmont's public Board of Selectman's meeting to solicit community feedback. Generally, the community and selectmen stated their preference to be keeping the remaining stations where they are and making them accessible, to the extent feasible. However, the selectman did agree to continue discussing options via a working group.

As a result, the MBTA has drafted a capital funding request for the full design and construction of a consolidated station in Waverley. This funding request will be ranked against all other MBTA funding request over the next few months. A draft Capital Investment Plan will be published for public comment in January 2016. If Waverley is selected as a project to be funded, the MBTA will provide the Board with a schedule for the design and construction of the station. If capital funding is not identified for Waverley during this funding cycle, the MBTA will revisit the option of closing the station or work with the MAAB to determine other options.

If you or the Board would like any additional information, please contact me at LBrelsford@mbta.com or 617-222-1688.

Very truly yours,



Laura Brelsford, Assistant General Manager
System-Wide Accessibility

Enclosure (concept)

cc: Boston Center for Independent Living
Belmont Building Inspector
Belmont Disability Access Commission
Complainants

Janet MacDonald, Chair
Belmont Disability Access Commission
Belmont Town Offices
455 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Boston Center for Independent Living, Inc.
60 Temple Place, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02111-1324

Belmont Building Inspector
Belmont Town Offices
455 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Complainants:

Disability Law Center Board
11 Beacon Street #925
Boston, MA 021

Rendering of Consolidated Commuter Rail Station in Belmont Concept

