



January 24, 2017

Foxborough Board of Selectmen  
40 South St.  
Foxborough, MA 02035

Re: Foxborough Station Weekday Commuter Rail Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Select Board:

On behalf of the 495/MetroWest Partnership, we submit the following as our formal support for the proposed Pilot Program to provide weekday commuter rail service to Foxborough.

The Partnership is a non-profit advocacy organization serving thirty-five communities, over half a million residents, and an employment base of over \$22.5 billion per year. The Partnership seeks to address regional needs through public-private collaboration by working to enhance economic vitality, improve quality of life and sustain natural resources. The Partnership focuses on helping alleviate regional constraints and limitations, and conducts numerous initiatives on transportation, workforce housing, brownfields, and water resources. As such, proposals for new transit service are of tremendous interest given the potential positive economic impact to our region. We ask that you accept the following as our official comments regarding the Foxborough Station Weekday Commuter Rail Pilot Program.

The Partnership has followed and engaged in the discussion on potential commuter rail service to Foxborough since the 2010 MBTA study on the service's feasibility. The Partnership also provided regional perspective on the subsequent study conducted by VHB. As an organization, we have consistently advocated for additional transit services and state infrastructure investment in our region, whether through the MBTA Commuter Rail, Regional Transit Authorities or Transportation Management Associations. Support for an MBTA Pilot Commuter Rail Service in Foxborough is consistent with our past positions for improved transit in the 495/MetroWest region. Weekday commuter service would provide a tremendous benefit to Foxborough residents commuting to other parts of the Commonwealth as well as to Foxborough employers contributing to the municipal tax base. The service's probable impact on the local economy presents more compelling reasons to proceed, which is why the Foxborough Economic Development Committee (EDC) has put its enthusiastic support behind the proposal in concept. Weekday commuter rail service would connect Foxborough and its largest employers to the Boston-area labor pool, as well as boost development efforts along nearby US Route 1.

If approved, this public/private pilot program would last for a year, starting no earlier than 2018, and would mean the extension of existing weekday Fairmount Commuter Rail Line service to Foxborough Station. Such a pilot presents a unique opportunity to evaluate the benefits of the service to the community, employers, workers commuting to Foxborough, as well as to

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visitors patronizing Foxborough establishments. Additionally, the proposed service would create a public private partnership benefiting the MBTA and the riders, as well as Foxborough's residents, employers, commuters, and taxpayers.

Beyond its support from the Foxborough EDC and its alignment with Foxborough's Master Plan, extension of weekday commuter rail service to Foxborough is consistent with the 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan. Specifically, the proposal would qualify as a Chapter 10 Regionally Significant Transportation investment by providing additional parking spaces for commuters and by increasing service on an underutilized commuter rail line. The commuter rail station in question and adjacent US Route 1 corridor are also both situated within Regionally Significant Priority Development Area 99-11.

For the reasons outlined above, the 495/MetroWest Partnership strongly supports the Foxborough Station Weekday Commuter Rail Pilot Program. We feel that such a pilot program will not only benefit the community of Foxborough but also the 495/MetroWest region, by supporting continued economic prosperity and quality of life. Since this opportunity has arisen while the state considers potential pilot programs, we hope that the Town of Foxborough will work with MassDOT to institute this service before this opportunity closes.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**Paul F. Matthews**  
Executive Director



**Jessica Strunkin**  
Deputy Director