



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

**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

April 4, 2017

Ray Phillips

President

Protect Sudbury Inc.

**Delivered via electronic mail**

Dear Mr. Phillips:

This email is to serve as acknowledgement of your correspondence to MBTA Acting General Manager Brian Shortsleeve and the members of the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB) regarding the Eversource transmission line in the Town of Sudbury.

We very much appreciate the concerns of your organization and those of Sudbury residents. I have personally corresponded with Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile a number of times. They have been great advocates regarding the concerns of their constituents and I have listened to the issues that have been raised by them. The MBTA made substantial modifications in its approach toward allowing use of its property for this project because of these discussions and other correspondence with local officials and town residents.

On January 23, 2017, The FMCB authorized the General Manager to enter into an Option Agreement with Eversource. The Option Agreement has the potential to result in more than \$9 million in much-needed operating revenue to sustain the MBTA's train and bus system. The Option Agreement incorporated the following conditions to address concerns we have heard:

1. Though an above-ground line was contemplated by Eversource as an option, the MBTA negotiated to have the Option Agreement restrict use of MBTA's property to a sub-surface transmission line installation only. It is reasonable to expect the disturbance to the ROW is far more limited than an aboveground option (e.g. minimized clearing, visual obstructions minimized). The MBTA forgoes approximately \$2 million in value in limiting use of its property for subsurface installation of the transmission line.
2. The Option Agreement requires Eversource to work with DCR to exercise DCR's license to create a trail and is envisioned to be a community amenity.

3. Easement width of 82.5 feet is meant to allow Eversource the ability to avoid sensitive wetland areas along the right of way and is not an indicator of the width of the line. This width is intended to allow Eversource the flexibility to place the transmission line in the most prudent location and adhere to any
4. And lastly, the final design is subject to Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board review and approval. EFSB is charged with ensuring a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.

As indicated by the length of the Option Agreement, Eversource must complete a multi-year permitting process. Environmental impacts will be vetted and alternatives will be considered by environmental experts during this process.

Thank you again for reaching out and please do not hesitate to contact us again with any questions upon receipt of our letter.

Sincerely,



Janelle Chan  
Chief of Real Estate

cc: Senator Jamie Eldridge  
Representative Carmine Gentile  
Representative Kate Hogan  
Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Sudbury Town Manager