

November 19, 2018

Stephanie Pollack  
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4610  
Boston MA 02116

Dear Secretary Pollack:

It is with great enthusiasm that we as the Sudbury Board of Selectmen write to you to voice our support of the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority's application for the MassDOT Discretionary Funding Program for Regional Transit Authorities under Section 74 of the Fiscal Year 2019 Massachusetts Budget. We believe their requests meet the program objectives of providing best practice services and seeking to initiate, maintain or expand service to a priority population. These will certainly help close transportation gaps we experience in Sudbury.

MWRTA Administrator Ed Carr will be asking MassDOT for \$500,000 to support a fixed route service from Wayside in Marlborough to Riverside MBTA Station in Newton along the Route 20 corridor. Sudbury has one of the highest growth rates of affordable housing in the Commonwealth, much of it directly on Route 20, and has recently joined the short list of communities that have met the 10% 40B housing threshold. Yet we have no fixed route transit service. As a point of reference our MeadowWalk development, located directly on Route 20 and consisting of 250 40B apartments and 60 age restricted condominiums, is isolated from public transportation, being 8 miles to both the Framingham and Lincoln commuter rail stations and 12 miles to Riverside. Given the tremendous growth in density in recent years as well as the economic development of the Marlborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston corridor, this connection to Riverside will allow citizens of Sudbury access to public transportation within the corridor, as well as connections to the rest of the MWRTA fixed route system, removing vehicles from an already congested Route 20 and opening up housing and employment options for many. This service will connect to the MBTA in Riverside where options for the Green Line or direct MBTA bus service can be made.

At Riverside, there is also the potential to open up a reverse commute route into the corridor for residents of Waltham, Newton and Brookline. In collaboration with the MBTA, the MWRTA also wants to create a "transfer station" at Riverside for its ADA demand response service. This would allow both the MBTA and the MWRTA to transfer disabled customers waiting for a connection into a clean and safe environment. The transfer station concept also has the potential to enable more ridesharing opportunities as it could serve as a hub for travelers coming and going in different directions.

The MWRTA is also developing an innovative application (app) to assist in making data driven decisions on its first mile/last mile shuttle services. The app will help ease the minds of commuters who rely on the shuttle service to be consistent and timely. MWRTA would utilize the additional MassDOT Operating Funds to react to the data received by enhancing shuttle service along popular routes and destinations, including, hopefully, a new fixed bus route through Sudbury.

Sudbury is working to enhance transportation options for all its citizens and we look to further leverage our already strong relationship with the MWRTA. It is creative and innovative ideas like these that will best serve our growing and changing population. We respectfully ask you look favorably upon Mr. Carr's requests.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Haarde, Chairman

Daniel E. Carty, Vice Chairman and Sudbury Transportation Committee Chairman

Patricia A. Brown

Janie Dretler

Leonard A. Simon

cc: [elizabeth.mccarthy@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:elizabeth.mccarthy@dot.state.ma.us)