



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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September 2, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliot III  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
September 6, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

RE: Boston Surface Railroad Company, Inc. Petition for Exemption from 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV-  
Docket Number FD 36043

Dear Chairman Elliot,

I am writing in support of the Boston Surface Railroad Company's (BSRC) petition for an exemption currently pending before the Surface Transportation Board (Docket Number FD\_36043).

BSRC is seeking to initiate a privately-operated intercity passenger rail service between Worcester, MA, to Providence, RI, with a stop in Woonsocket, RI. Currently, my constituents who travel by automobile to Providence face significant congestion and inconsistent trip duration. The only alternative mode of transportation is a bus line with a very limited schedule. Furthermore, passengers who wish to connect to the Amtrak Interstate Rail System to travel south can only do so through Boston. Although New England is generally well-served by the current rail system, the Worcester to Providence corridor is a gap that affects two of the region's major metropolitan areas.

In addition to passenger convenience, this rail service will provide opportunities for economic growth and job creation, and by alleviating congestion, provide significant environmental benefits for the region. This project is an important component of New England's transportation future and I respectfully urge the Board to recognize the importance of inter-city passenger rail in this region by asserting its jurisdiction over BSRC and accepting its petition.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harriette L. Chandler".

Harriette L. Chandler  
Massachusetts Senate Majority Leader  
1<sup>st</sup> Worcester District

CC: Boston Surface Railroad, Parties of Record, via email