



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054

JAMES J. O'DAY
REPRESENTATIVE
14TH WORCESTER DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPALITIES
AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

ROOM 540, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2090
FAX. (617) 722-2848

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September 6, 2016

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 12, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliot:

Please accept this letter in support of the Boston Surface Railroad Company's (BSRC) petition exemption currently pending before the Surface Transportation Board (Docket # FD_36043).

This intercity passenger rail service between Worcester, MA to Providence, RI is extremely important to the constituents in my district. Many of those constituents travel by automobile from Worcester to Providence and are faced with significant traffic conditions and prolonged trip durations. These motorists are offered an alternative mode of transportation in the form of a bus line which has a very limited schedule. On top of that, passengers who wish to use the Amtrak Interstate Rail System to travel south can only do so through Boston. It is evident that the Worcester to Providence corridor is a gap that affects two of the region's major metropolitan areas, and the Boston Surface Railroad Company's exemption would be the first step in closing this gap.

In addition to passenger convenience, the rail service provided by BSRC will provide opportunities for economic growth and job creation, causing a win-win scenario for consumers and developers alike. By helping to alleviate congestion, it will provide significant environmental benefits for the region. Therefore, this project should be considered an important component of New England's transportation, economic and environmental future.

I respectfully ask that you give their petition your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Cinda Danh in my office at cinda.danh@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2090.

Sincerely,

James J. O'Day
State Representative
14th Worcester District

CC: Boston Surface Railroad, Parties of Record, via email
wdenham@bsrc.com