

# **Commuter Rail Communities Coalition**

## **Coordinated Municipal Advocacy for Transformed Commuter Rail**

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May 7, 2019

Dear Colleague:

As fellow municipal leaders, we welcome your participation in the new Commuter Rail Communities Coalition, which brings together leaders of cities and towns served by the MBTA Commuter Rail Network.

We were honored to be elected to serve as CoChairs of the Coalition, which is coordinating advocacy for all communities that are served by commuter rail, and supporting planning efforts to transform the rail network to be a critical part of a modernized transit system for Massachusetts. As a municipal leader in the MBTA service area, you know the importance of the rail network to your residents, commuters, and employers. We are working to ensure that your community's concerns about service, modernization and efficiency are heard by the MBTA, Keolis, MassDOT and on Beacon Hill through a program of outreach and advocacy.

All municipalities in the MBTA service area are eligible to be members of the Commuter Rail Communities Coalition, whether they have their own station(s) or not, because all of us are served by the system. We encourage our participating members to be the leaders of individual cities and towns in the district, and that the Mayor or City Manager of each City, and the Town Manager or Administrator of each Town, will serve as the representative of each municipality, although participation may be delegated to municipal staff.

It is these municipal leaders who set our priorities and guide our work. Staff support of the Coalition is provided by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council the 495/MetroWest Partnership, and Transportation for Massachusetts. The MBTA Advisory Board, TransitMatters and the MassINC Gateway Cities Innovation Institute have also been participating in our meetings.

For background, we have attached our governance structure, charter and policy priorities that have been developed since last June over our first three meetings. An ongoing focus of the coalition has been the state's Rail Vision Plan, which "will identify cost-effective strategies to transform the existing Commuter Rail system into one that better supports improved mobility and economic competitiveness in the Greater Boston region." More information on Rail Vision, including seven potential models of service, is

at <https://www.mbta.com/projects/rail-vision>, and coalition materials, including a recent briefing on Rail Vision is available at [t4ma.org/commuter\\_rail](http://t4ma.org/commuter_rail).

The next meeting of the Coalition is on Monday, June 10, 2019 from 10AM-noon at Braintree Town Hall, so please save that date. In the coming months, we will be scheduling additional visits around the region, and quarterly meetings of the coalition, so if you would like to host an event, or find out more, please contact either of us, or Josh Ostroff at [jostroff@t4ma.org](mailto:jostroff@t4ma.org). We will anticipate that additional 2019 quarterly meetings will be in mid-September and mid-November.

Dozens of other municipal leaders have attended previous coalition events, and there is growing excitement for the tremendous potential of this collaborative effort. Cities and towns served by the Commuter Rail share many issues and interests, and by coming together, we can learn from each other and collectively make our voices heard as a region. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to make your voices heard with other municipal leaders by participating in the Commuter Rail Communities Coalition to improve our rail network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas McGee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent.

Mayor Tom McGee  
City of Lynn  
[thomas.mcgee@lynnma.gov](mailto:thomas.mcgee@lynnma.gov)  
781-598-4000 x 6857

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Stanton". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Sarah" being the most prominent.

Town Manager Sarah Stanton  
Town of Bedford  
[sstanton@bedfordma.gov](mailto:sstanton@bedfordma.gov)  
781-918-4001