



January 6, 2010

Jeffrey B. Mullan
Secretary of Transportation
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3170
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Mullan:

We write on behalf of the Fenway Community Development Corporation - a membership organization dedicated to promoting neighborhood stability and diversity in the Fenway - to present the enclosed petition. Signed by more than 350 Fenway residents, it calls on you and your department to maintain full service on the #55 bus line.

Last summer we learned about a consultant's report recommending that the MBTA consider eliminating the #55 bus as a cost-cutting measure. The report suggested that access to Green Line was good enough to make up for the loss of the service. This news deeply disturbed many Fenway residents. At community meetings we organized in the fall, seniors and residents with disabilities described how challenging it would be for them to have to travel to Hynes, Kenmore, or Fenway stations on the Green Line in good weather-never mind late at night, during a Red Sox game, or when ice and snow cover the sidewalks. Everyone who spoke emphasized their reliance on the #55 bus to meet daily transportation needs, including getting to work, to school, to medical and legal appointments, and to shopping.

Over the past several months, Fenway residents have mobilized to save the #55 bus. They have handed out flyers alerting fellow riders to the possible cuts, written letters and postcards to public officials demanding continued full service, and gathered more than 350 signatures on the attached petition. The petition calls on "the MBTA and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation not to reduce service on this essential transportation lifeline that runs through our neighborhood."

At our most recent community meeting, held on November 16 and attended by more than 70 residents, we were pleased to hear from State Representative Byron Rushing's office that the #55 route now appears to be safe from cuts.

73 Hemenway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
www.fenwaycdc.org
617-267-4637

Building A Better Fenway
Since 1973

With this letter, however, the Fenway CDC and Fenway residents formally request a written commitment from MassDOT not to cut the transportation lifeline for our elderly and disabled residents, the #55 bus route.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Joanne McKenna
Board President

Sarah Horsley
Civic Engagement Director

Cc: William Mitchell, Acting General Manager of the MBTA
Mayor Thomas Menino
Governor Deval Patrick
State Senator Stephen Tolman
State Senator Sonia Chang Diaz
State Representative Byron Rushing
State Representative Gloria Fox
State Representative Martha Walz
City Council President Michael Ross
City Councilor Salvatore LaMattina, Chair of City & Neighborhood Services Committee
City Councilor Chuck Turner, District 7
City Councilor John Tobin, District 8
City Councilor John Connolly, At-Large
City Councilor Stephen Murphy, At-Large
City Councilor Felix Arroyo, At-Large
City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, At-Large
William Onuoha, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Stephen Brophy, *The Fenway News*
Jim Cronin, *The Boston Courant*