



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**THE GENERAL COURT**

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

October 18, 2012

Rebecca Reyes-Alicea  
USDOT, Federal Railroad Administration  
Office of Railroad Policy & Development  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Mail Stop 20  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Reyes-Alicea,

We are reaching out to you today in our capacity as members of the Massachusetts General Court to request that the North-South Rail Link be a key component of the Federal Railroad Administration's Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the Northeast Corridor of high-speed rail (NEC).

Over the past few years, New England residents have seen the growth and success of the Downeaster service into Boston from New Hampshire and Maine, as well as the Amtrak service down to New York and Washington D.C. However, the expansion of both services is restricted and limited by a disconnection of the system at the city of Boston's North and South stations. Connecting these stations through the North-South Rail Link project would allow the NEC to reach its full transportation potential.

The North-South Rail Link is critical to accommodating the region's growth. Boston's South Station is currently over-capacity and the North Station is nearing capacity. In response, proposals have been made for costly projects in excess of \$200 million to increase the number of tracks and storage capacity at both North and South Station. Such projects will be unnecessary with the construction of the North-South Rail Link and integration of the commuter rail system, which will increase capacity at both stations. Allowing for more seamless travel through Boston by commuter rail will also reduce congestion at our airports and take thousands of cars off our state highways.

Massachusetts' economic competitiveness, business climate and tourism industry will benefit from the construction of the North-South Rail Link. Currently, riders coming from North of Boston must disembark at North Station and take a cab or the subway before again boarding the commuter rail at South Station. Our constituencies, and indeed residents across Massachusetts, will benefit from the integration of the commuter rail service and the subsequent ease of travel. Therefore, construction of the rail link will serve as a job creator as we emerge from one of the worst economic recessions in history, while ease of travel will bolster the state's tourism industry as it improves ridership in the NEC.

The North-South Station Rail Link is of paramount importance to the development of high-speed rail on the NEC. While construction of and improvements to major stations is underway in key NEC cities such as Washington, D.C., New York City, Baltimore and Providence, we see much less progress being made in Massachusetts. The rail link between North and South Stations will provide the necessary infrastructure for a gateway station to boost ridership from Boston through New Hampshire and into Maine, bringing Massachusetts up to speed with the rest of the region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the North-South Rail Link as a key component of the Administration's Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the Northeast Corridor. Please do not hesitate to contact Senator Eldridge at 617.722.1120, Representative Smizik at 617.722.2676, or Representative Garballey at 617.722.2090 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



**Senator Jamie Eldridge**  
*Middlesex & Worcester*



**Representative Frank I. Smizik**  
*Fifteenth Norfolk*



**Representative Sean Garballey**  
*Twenty-Third Middlesex*



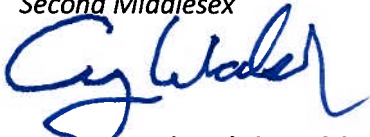
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*Third Middlesex*



**Senator Patricia D. Jehlen**  
*Second Middlesex*



**Representative Ruth B. Balsler**  
*Twelfth Middlesex*



**Representative Chris Walsh**  
*Sixth Middlesex*



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*Fifteenth Essex*



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**Representative Lori A. Ehrlich**  
*Eighth Essex*



**Representative Jennifer E. Benson**  
*Thirty-Seventh Middlesex*



**Representative Peter V. Kocot**  
*First Hampshire*



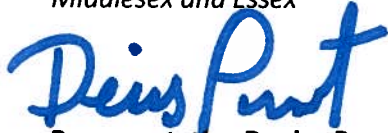
**Representative Carl Sciortino**  
*Thirty-Fourth Middlesex*



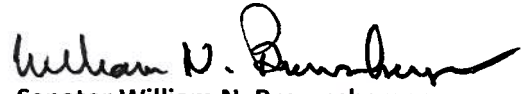
**Representative Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.**  
*Twenty-Sixth Middlesex*



**Senator Katherine Clark**  
*Middlesex and Essex*



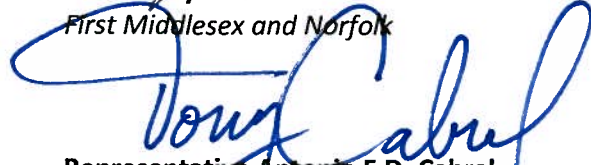
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*Twenty-Seventh Middlesex*



**Senator William N. Brownsberger**  
*Second Suffolk and Middlesex*



**Senator Cynthia Stone Creem**  
*First Middlesex and Norfolk*



**Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral**  
*Thirteenth Bristol*



**Representative Thomas P. Conroy**  
*Thirteenth Middlesex*

CC: Secretary Richard Davey, Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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