

Boston City Council

NEW CITY HALL
ONE CITY HALL SQUARE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201

RECEIVED

RESOLUTION REQUIRING A STUDY OF LECHMERE GREEN LINE ELIMINATION

COUNCILLOR LANGONE:

MAY 17 1979
TRANSPORTATION
DEPT. PLANNING DIVISION

WHEREAS, a train accident happened on Tuesday, April 24, caused by a derailment of a MBTA light rail street car at the North Station stop in Boston; and

WHEREAS, the present accident at the North Station illustrates the danger of the sharp curve which these cars must make on their approach to the North Station stop. It is practically a 90-degree turn which means that a light rail vehicle must almost stop before making the turn, and then again must turn further up at another 90 degree turn which has to be made. The sharpness of these turns contributed greatly to the cause of the derailment; and

WHEREAS, this portion of the line from North Station to Lechmere Square is old and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, the MBTA has a Federal grant to rebuild the Lechmere Station and relocate it from its present location in the vicinity of the B & M Railroad Yards to the Charlestown-Somerville side; and

WHEREAS, this will entail relocating some trackage and rail beds and an additional expense for electrical power; and

WHEREAS, the Orange Line of the MBTA is less than a half mile away and it's an unnecessary expenditure of much needed transportation funds to have a parallel transportation system which would end within approximately a quarter of a mile of another existing facility; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of this unsightly elevated structure at the North Station would greatly enhance and help the redevelopment and the restoration of the North Station area. The elimination of the elevated structure from the North Station to Charlestown has greatly enhanced the other side of the North Station area which was accomplished through funds set aside by the City Council in the \$8 million dollar Charlestown Urban Renewal Project; and

WHEREAS, this portion of the Beacon-Commonwealth-Lechmere Line could end at the North Station where there are facilities for a turn-around of MBTA cars so that they could return to the Commonwealth and Beacon runs, giving quicker, more efficient service to those people in the Brighton and Back Bay areas; and

WHEREAS, this would save the MBTA additional funds in that we could eliminate the operation of 2 stations as well as beautifying the Charles River area by the elimination of the viaduct that goes to Lechmere; and



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FREDERICK C. LANGONE



COUNCILLOR LANGONE:

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April 25, 1979

WHEREAS, this would not eliminate service on the existing line because the passengers heading for Somerville and Arlington could transfer at the North Station to the Orange Line. The Lechmere Station replacement facilities could be incorporated in the ~~Blue~~ Line System at the Community College Station of the ~~Blue~~ Line, from which buses could take the people as they are now taking them out of the relocated Lechmere Station; and

WHEREAS, the new Lechmere Station could be adjacent to the site of the MBTA stop at the Community College Station; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the Boston City Council requests His Honor, the Mayor, to order the City of Boston representative on the MBTA Advisory Board to eliminate the dangerous curves, one before and one after the North Station stop, which causes derailments and accidents; and

FURTHER, that the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Transportation Section, and the City of Boston Traffic and Parking Department conduct surveys to determine the feasibility of the plan to eliminate this dangerous situation at the MBTA North Station Station; and

FURTHER, that the City of Boston representative on the MBTA Advisory Board report back to the City Council on the progress of this project within 30 days with a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the discussion of this question was reviewed; and

FURTHER, that the City of Boston representative on the MBTA Advisory Board request a report on the investigation conducted by the MBTA on the causes of this accident and the condition of the road bed and tracks at the scene of this derailment and report to the City Council as soon as they have received this record.

In City Council April 25, 1979. Passed.

Approved by the Mayor May 10, 1979.

Attest:

City Clerk.

#19

MC
Relapsed
Members



City of Cambridge

19.
IN CITY COUNCIL

June 4, 1979

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record opposing the proposal of Boston City Councillor Frederick Langone to relocate the Lechmere Station to the Charlestown Community College - and that Governor's Councillor Langone who represents East Cambridge be so advised - and that the City Manager be requested to oppose such a proposal to move the Lechmere Station to Charlestown.

In City Council June 4, 1979
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members.
Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy".

S-322

Order #. 19.

C. Vellucci re: opposing Boston City Councilor Langone's proposal to relocate the Lechmere Station to Charlestown.

In City Council,

June 4, 1979

*L.V.
A*

Order

Adopted

17 MEMBERS