



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 19, 1999

Mr. Kevin J. Sullivan
EOTC Secretary & MBTA Chairman
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza
Boston MA 02116

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

The relocation of the Lechmere Green Line Station has been a goal of the City of Cambridge since the publication of the East Cambridge Riverfront Plan in 1978. Most of that plan has been implemented with the exception of relocating Lechmere Station and the extension of First Street to Msgr. O'Brien Hwy. which is dependent upon the relocation of Lechmere Station. In the early 1980's the MBTA and the City completed a property exchange which provided the MBTA with the land for a new station on the North Point side of Msgr. O'Brien Hwy.

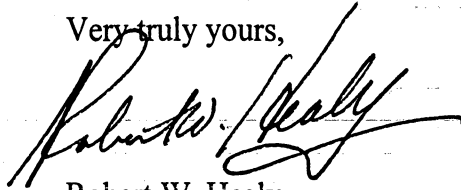
Subsequently, the MBTA began the environmental clearance process and commenced the design process. In 1990, after advancing the design to the 60% completion stage, the project was put on hold and has not advanced since that time. As part of the EOTC / City of Cambridge Central Artery Agreement signed in 1992, EOTC was to encourage the MBTA to promptly complete the EIR, design, and any additional land takings required for the project, and encourage the MBTA to use its best efforts to commence construction not later than May 1, 1993. That date has long passed and no progress has been made.

This project has significant benefits to both the City and the MBTA. As the first phase of the Green Line extension project to West Medford, transit service in the corridor will be improved especially for buses. The relocation of Lechmere Station and the subsequent extension of First Street to Msgr. O'Brien will greatly reduce traffic congestion in the Lechmere Square area. This will facilitate bus movements in and out of the station and reduce travel times for bus operations. In addition the resulting intersection configuration will allow a conflict free pedestrian crossing of Msgr. O'Brien Hwy.

I am now suggesting that it is time to honor the previous commitments made to the City of Cambridge and ensure that the relocation of the Lechmere Green Line Station soon becomes a reality. Our City Council is requesting a report on the current status and schedule for this important initiative.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in making this happen.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

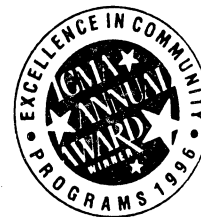
Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Cc. Mr. Robert H. Prince, Jr. - MBTA General Manager
Cambridge City Councilors
Congressional Delegation



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May 24, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-97, regarding a report on an update on the proposal to move Lechmere Station to the Somerville side of Monsignor O'Brien Highway, please be advised of the following:

The attached letter has been sent to Mr. Kevin Sullivan, EOTC Secretary and MBTA Chairman with a copy to Mr. Robert Prince, MBTA General Manager. This letter requests that the previous commitments to move Lechmere Station now be honored. The letter also requests a report on the current status of the project and schedule for completing the work, which I will transmit to the City Council upon receipt.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #12

392-5

Relative to AW Rpt. #99-97,
regarding a report on an update
on the proposal to move
Lechmere Stations to the
Somerville side of O'Brien
Highway.

In City Council May 24, 1999

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