

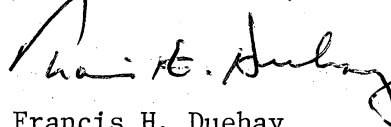
Councillor David Sullivan stated he certainly would like to see improved leadership at the T and does support the concept of a new study on the ridership problem. However, he further stated he did have some reservation about contracting out something like this. The committee agreed to recommend to the City Manager that such a survey on the Harvard/Lechmere line be done in the near future.

Councillor Duehay stated that relative to the MBTA budget, he would like to see public hearings be held in local communities beginning with the next budget so that more local input can be given, rather than the process followed this year with the T Advisory Board already giving their approval without such hearings.

Finally, Councillor Duehay stated it is his strong hope that early next year the committee and full City Council will begin to meet with the new administration and hopefully end up with new budgetary allocations which will provide for better service, maintenance and security programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

For the Committee,



Francis H. Duehay  
City Councillor  
Chairman

FHD/smc

# City of Cambridge

---

*In City Council* November 22, 1982

**The** Committee on Transportation conducted a public meeting on Thursday, November 18, 1982 at 5:30 PM in the Ackermann Room, City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ridership issue on the Harvard/Lechmere MBTA line as well as to briefly discuss the MBTA budget. Councillor Duehay, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, opened the meeting outlining the fact that the Cambridge Transportation Forum had been watching the ridership issue for sometime and has a proposal to bring forward.

At this time Peter Shienfeld of the Forum proceeded to outline his proposal to study the ridership issue. He stated that as far back as 1976 a survey was done on the Harvard/Lechmere line which confirmed what he said the Forum had believed for some time, that is that the line could be run much better and more efficiently.

He further stated that since this study is six years old and ridership fares have doubled, new data should be collected. Councillor David Sullivan questioned Mr. Shienfeld as to suggestions he may have regarding the line in terms of a more efficient operation. Mr. Shienfeld responded by stating one possibility would be for the city to take over the Harvard/Lechmere line and a second possibility would be to contract it out to a private bus company.

Councillor Duehay stated that since a new state administration will be in place in January, the committee and Forum should devise some better management criteria and objectives for the T in general.

Mr. Richard Easler, Transportation Coordinator for the City, stated that the only way Cambridge could take over the Harvard/Lechmere line would be if the T approved of it. They have sole jurisdiction of this issue. Mr. James Maloney, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs questioned if any cities or towns were currently operating their own lines. Mr. Easler responded by stating Natick and Dedham were but they still continue to pay their assessment to the overall operational costs of the T.

At this time Ms. Pam Thomure, Chairman of the Transportation Forum, stated that over the past five years Cambridge has paid some \$600,000 to defray the MBTA deficit and this is something that should be taken seriously by local officials. She further stated she believed a new Governor would be receptive to the idea of Cambridge taking over the Harvard/Lechmere line.

Mr. Maloney stated he believed that the take-over issue was a comprehensive public policy issue that represents a large step for the City Council to take at this time. He suggested the Forum think about the overall public policy impact of such a decision and to come back to the City Council with some recommendations outlining the strategy and reasons for taking such action. This, he said, would strengthen any meeting the Council or committee would have in the future with all new administration.

8. S-738  
**REPORT**

**Committee on Transportation**

Re: ridership on the Harvard/Lechmere MBTA  
Line & the MBTA budget.

In City Council,

December 6, 1982

12/6/82  
Placed  
on  
File -