

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY



25 Shattuck Street
Boston, Mass. 02115
734-3300, Area Code 617

November 16, 1973

The Honorable Barbara Ackermann
Mayor of Cambridge
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Mayor Ackermann:

✓ It has come to our attention that the MBTA is considering halting service after 9:00 PM as a measure to conserve fuel. This proposal seems utterly unreasonable since public transportation is the only practical and efficient alternative to fuel wasting private transport.

The following points argue against making such a decision:

1. People who do not use their private cars will be forced to do so, and people who presently do not own cars will be forced to buy them, if they need transport at night.
2. People who use the MBTA to reach their places of employment at night will either be forced to use a car if they own one or can afford one, or will ultimately lose their jobs.
3. People who have no alternative to public transport, such as the elderly, physically handicapped or poor, will be greatly inconvenienced.
4. People who have used the MBTA to attend night school for career improvement will either have to use a car or stop attending.
5. People who work during the day and do their necessary shopping at night will be restricted and consequently many businesses will suffer and unemployment will result.

People who have voluntarily done their most to prevent air pollution and to conserve fuel by using public transportation will be penalized, and those who have done nothing will not be penalized since they will not be forced to become immobile at night.

As a more logical alternative proposal we suggest that:

1. Private cars be banned from the Greater Boston Area, i. e. that area serviced by public transport.
2. The public transportation system be given preferential fuel allocation.
3. Private cars be given ration stamps.
4. The public transportation system be improved and expanded.

This proposal would save the greatest amount of fuel and cause the least amount of inconvenience for the greatest number of people during this time of crisis.

Len Watkins Jr.

Al Barger

Richard R. Pital
Despina Nicosia

R. Bunker

Betty Lohan
Mary Nekola
JC Fiedel

Susan Grose
Queen Roberts
Herman Isoslan
Warwick Anderson
L. Blum
Susan Riley Kuyes
Birthe Gantz

Arthur Henry
Bob Dennis

A. J. Weinreb

Janet Skelton

John Fray

Franklin W. Smith

Pat Long

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Comm. from members of the Harvard Medical School recording their opposition to the proposed curtailment of MBTA service after 9PM due to fuel shortage

*Referred to the
City Manager
For
Report - Dec 12, 1973*

In City Council

Dec. 3, 1973

*Copies made for Chamber
11/30/73 dl
12/4/73 Copy put into
mgr's folder dl*