



Argeo Paul Cellucci
Governor

Patrick J. Moynihan
Secretary and MBTA Chairman

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Transportation and Construction
Ten Park Plaza, Boston MA 02116-3969
Office of the Secretary

November 19, 1997

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

D. Margaret Drury
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Governor Cellucci has asked me to respond to your recent correspondence regarding the City's resolution on Charles Street Station. Charles/MGH Station is a 2002 Key Station. An extension for accessibility was granted by the Federal Transit Administration because of the structural difficulty in making this station accessible. Due to the station configuration and the location in the middle of major roadways, most of the options for making the station accessible are complex and expensive.

The MBTA understands and agrees with the City Councillors on the significance of the vital connection Charles/MGH Station has with the hospitals, the residential area of Beacon Hill, and the close proximity to the parks along the Esplanade and as a major link to the City of Cambridge. The existing conditions, and the fact that the station is located in the middle of an island in very congested traffic streets presents many technical challenges. The Authority recognizes the complexities of bringing accessibility to this station and has accelerated some improvements such as the installation of detectable warnings along the platform edge to aid persons with visual disabilities who access the trains. The construction is already completed.

The MBTA has an aggressive schedule to provide accessibility at key stations. Currently 69% of all rapid transit lines are accessible to persons who use wheelchairs. On the Red Line specifically, 73% of all Red Line stations are wheelchair accessible.

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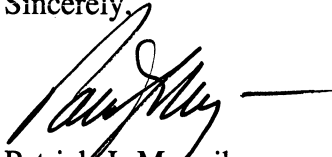
D. Margaret Drury

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The MBTA has been working with the hospitals to review lower cost alternatives that can be phased in over time to offer some relief sooner. The Authority developed a plan which could work, and a traffic analysis was recently completed.

The MBTA share your concerns and will continue to make every effort to achieve the common goal of accessibility and improved well-maintained conditions at Charles/MGH Station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Moynihan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick J. Moynihan
Secretary and MBTA Chairman

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Consent Agenda #2

S-727

Communication was received from Patrick Moynihan, Secretary and MBTA Chairman, transmitting information on Charles Street Station.

In City Council November 24, 1997

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