



**MASSACHUSETTS
BAY
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

March 25, 1985

James F. O'Leary
General Manager
Transportation Building
Ten Park Plaza
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City of Cambridge
City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am writing to share some significant and exciting news. Alewife station will open for passenger service on March 30, 1985, bringing to fulfillment one of the most ambitious mass transportation projects anywhere in the country.

Alewife is the terminus of the \$574 million Red Line Northwest Extension, which was planned more than a decade ago and has been under construction for more than six years. At this stage of the 3.2-mile project, the pieces are coming together quickly. Only a few weeks ago, the main entrance and impressive mezzanine of the new Harvard station were opened. Porter and Davis stations were launched with great fanfare and community celebration last December.

And now Alewife. On March 30, we will hold a press conference to formally announce the opening of the station, which is located at the northwestern edge of Cambridge near the intersection of Route 2 and Alewife Brook Parkway. Adjoining the station is a 2,000-car garage. The fee for parking will be three dollars per day. Elevators and ramps make the station completely accessible to special needs riders. An MBTA police substation on the main mezzanine will be staffed when the station opens.

There are several service-related matters that I would like to call to your attention. The fare for passengers using Alewife will be 60 cents. In order to deploy limited Red Line equipment where demand is greatest, not all trains will go to Alewife during the morning and evening rush periods. But trains will be clearly marked and announcements will be made on the trains and in the stations. Rush hour headways (the time between trains) at Alewife will be approximately 8 1/2 minutes, the same as headways on the southern branches of the Red Line south of Andrew. All trains will go to Alewife during the off-peak hours of service.

In addition, the busway will remain closed through June. Buses will follow their current routes for the next few months. This may come as a surprise to many of you who are familiar with the year-long effort by the MBTA to examine alternatives for rerouting buses to Alewife. The MBTA is now reviewing final recommendations. In the meantime, however, we felt it prudent to phase in the bus route changes slowly to avoid imposing too many sudden changes in riders' transportation habits. As a result, current bus routes will remain unchanged until at least the start of the summer timetable at the end of June. The entrance on the east side of Alewife Brook Parkway will remain closed for now.

March 25, 1985

Page two

Passengers using Alewife will continue to see construction around the station for many months to come. We and other agencies will be working aggressively to expand automobile, bicycle and pedestrian access to the station after it opens. As of now, the major access points into the station are at the Rindge Avenue and new CambridgePark Drive intersections along Alewife Brook Parkway. Those intersections have been widened and a new traffic signal system has been installed to facilitate access. The state is preparing to build additional access roads from Route 2 into the station and from the station out to Alewife Brook Parkway. In addition, the rotary where those two roads join will be eliminated and replaced by a signalized intersection. Additional pedestrian access from Whittemore Avenue, from the Linear Park and along the western edge of the parkway near the station will be added. It is my expectation many of the pedestrian access improvements will be accomplished within a few months. The current goal for completion of the access roads is early next year.

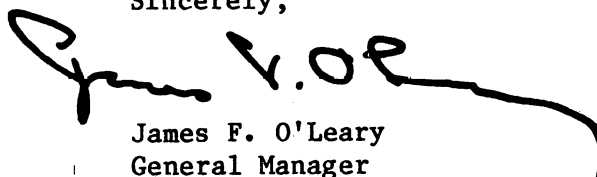
All four new stations along the Red Line Extension represent the highest caliber of architectural design and state-of-the-art construction. They also contain attractive works of art mounted by artists chosen through a public process. The new stations represent the cornerstone of a broad program at the MBTA to improve service on the Red Line, including the purchase of 58 new cars, rehabilitation of the entire 164-car fleet, track replacement and new automated signals.

Building a new transit line through one of the region's most densely populated areas has been a giant challenge. Our success would not have been possible without the active assistance and cooperation of elected leaders and merchants and residents of Cambridge and Somerville. This is your achievement as much as ours.

Rapid transit service is now available to North Cambridge and Somerville for the first time. It will enhance the transportation of millions of riders in the years to come; it will be a catalyst for economic growth, and it will improve the environment by making transit users out of automobile drivers.

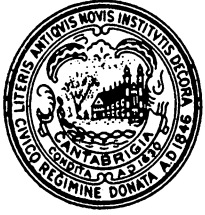
I am proud of this vital project and look forward with you to enjoying its many benefits in the years to come. In addition to the formal opening of Alewife on March 30, we will dedicate the artwork on the entire Red Line Northwest Extension on Friday, May 3, 1985. I hope you can join us at both events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. O'Leary", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

James F. O'Leary
General Manager

RECEIVED
MAR 28 9 54 AM '05
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECORDS SECTION



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

April 1, 1985

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed is a communication from James F. O'Leary,
General Manager, M.B.T.A., outlining the phased opening
of the Alewife Station for your information.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/b

S-244

Re: informational comm. from James F.
O'Leary, General Mgr., MBTA Re: outline of
phased opening of the Alewife Station.

In City Council,

April 1, 1985

Placed
on
File