

**MASSACHUSETTS
BAY
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

Board of Directors
50 High Street, Boston, Mass. 02110

November 15, 1978

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Jim:

I have recently been furnished a copy of the Cambridge City Council's Order of November 6, 1978, by which the City Solicitor is requested to prepare a court action against the Authority seeking an injunction to halt construction of the Red Line Extension. Let me express some of my concerns which you and your staff may wish to consider in responding to the Council's action.

Reference is made in the Council Order to avoiding actions which would impede forward progress on the Lechmere, Kendall and Central Square stations' transit improvement projects. Our working relationships with Cambridge, which I may add have always been cordial and constructive, are governed by the terms of the Cooperation Agreement executed with the City on October 16, 1970. If the City now elects to depart from that Agreement with respect to the extension of the Red Line, then we must also by necessity renegotiate working relationships with respect to the other transit station improvement projects.

Let me remind you that one of the major purposes of the proposed improvements at the Central Square and Kendall Square stations is to lengthen the platforms for the influx of additional riders that will result from the extension of the Red Line. If the City now wishes to delay completion of the Red Line Extension, the Authority will be forced to reschedule the modernization of those stations and re-allocate our scarce resources to other high priority projects which will result in immediate improvements to the system.

On January 31, 1978, at the request of the City, I advised you by letter of the Authority's support for and willingness to participate in the East Cambridge/Lechmere Area Development Project. The first actions which the City has proposed would be a series of agreements between the Authority and the City which would result in the donation by the Authority to the City of some land for park purposes and the leasing of additional Authority land to private developers for uses consistent with the City's development plans. In exchange, the City would guarantee that replacement parking reserved for transit patrons would be provided for in a garage to be built by the City.

On June 2, 1978, the Authority entered into an agreement with the City whereby we would use much of the earth removed from the Red Line tunnel to fill the City Dump for use as a recreation area. Moreover, in exchange for the use of Russell Field as a staging area and the pledge by the City to work cooperatively with the Authority to resolve disputes as they arise, the Authority would construct for the City a new high school athletic complex in accordance with a plan prepared by the City. The City Council is now apparently questioning part of that agreement, requiring us to now explore ways of disposing of all excavated material at locations outside of Cambridge. If agreements of that magnitude are subject to cancellation within months of their execution, it certainly does not appear prudent to consider any additional agreements of the nature proposed for the Lechmere area at least until a sense of mutual trust can be re-established between the City and the Authority.

In addition, I might point out that any delay in the construction of the Red Line also impacts the Authority's use of the Bennett and Eliot Yards. As long as the Red Line continues to terminate at Harvard Square, those facilities cannot be completely freed up for other uses.

I am convinced that the transportation and community betterment plans that we have jointly developed are sound and are in the public interest. My staff and I are prepared and eager to work with you to resolve any problems which may be jeopardizing the mutual cooperation and trust which has, until recently, characterized the relationship between the City and the Authority.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Kiley
Chairman

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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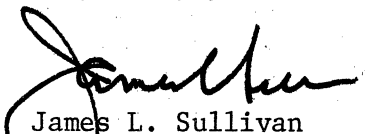
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

November 20, 1978

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am enclosing a copy of a communication dated November 15, 1978, from Robert Kiley, General Manager of the MBTA, concerning the City Council Order of October 30, 1978, relative to the City of Cambridge joining in the suit against the Red Line Extension. I believe that Chairman Kiley's communication is self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

S-495

Response to Council Order No. 21 of 10/30/78
re: City of Cambridge joining in the suit
against the RED Line Extension.

11/21/78 Copies
of Communications
Also Filed with
Agenda #11
of 11/20/78

In City Council,

November 20, 1978

11/20/78
Placed on File
Held to R.R. numbers
#11 on this subject
After discussion in
Executive Session -
Placed on File