



**MASSACHUSETTS
BAY
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

50 High Street, Boston, MA 02110

May 14, 1979

Mr. James Sullivan,
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Jim,

Your inquiry about directing the MBTA's Arlington Limited buses to stop and service local riders along Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge has been referred to me. I have discussed this request with the appropriate personnel in the MBTA's Operation and Transportation Departments. They are unable to comply with this request.

There are two basic reasons for this decision. The first is that the Arlington Limited buses are heavily patronized and carry 40% more riders than there are seats on the buses. Attempting to accommodate the large number of North Cambridge trolley riders who would seek to ride a route which terminates directly at the Red Line would be vastly beyond the unused capacity of the Arlington Limited buses. The North Cambridge trolley has a very large ridership which requires 13 vehicles to accommodate it.

The second reason the Arlington buses can't stop for local service, is that the portion of the route along Massachusetts Avenue which is shared by the North Cambridge trolleys and the Arlington Limited buses requires 5 to 10 minutes more allowed running time for the local trolleys to complete it than for the limited buses to complete it. Requiring the buses to stop on Massachusetts Avenue would extend the length of an already long trip between Arlington and Harvard Square and would require additional buses to maintain current headways. Additional buses are not available. All portions of the MBTA bus system have a critical need for more vehicles.

Long standing requirements of the Arlington Limited buses which need to be reemphasized to our operators can be assistance to North Cambridge. One requirement is that when an Arlington bus stops to discharge a passenger inbound along Massachusetts Avenue our operators are required to pick-up passengers who may be waiting. A second requirement is that all Arlington buses should stop for passengers in

Mr. James Sullivan

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Porter Square, both inbound and outbound. Operators are being newly reminded of these requirements and they will be enforced. Hopefully, they will provide a measure of assistance to North Cambridge.

Sincerely,



John K. Leary, Jr.
Project Manager-Development

PL/gs

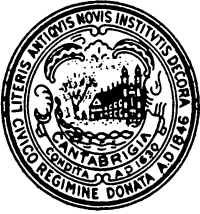
cc: P. Lynch

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CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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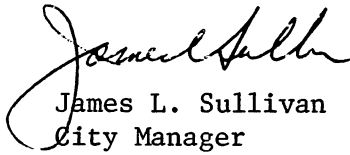
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 21, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 12 relative to requesting the MBTA to alter the express procedure on the Arlington Heights line, enclosed please find copy of of a communication from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #5

S-306

Response to Awaiting report no. 12 re:
Arlington Heights express line.

In City Council,

May 21, 1979

Placed on File