

# *Town of Natick*

*Massachusetts 01760*  
*Home of Champions*



Amy K. Mistrot, Chair  
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March 4, 2019

Mr. Steve Poftak  
General Manager  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3910  
Boston, MA 02116

**RE: Natick Center MBTA Station – 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan**

Dear General Manager Poftak:

On behalf of the Town of Natick, the Board of Selectmen greatly appreciates the work of the MBTA and its design engineer in advancing the Natick Center Station accessibility improvements project. In participation with Town agencies, a design has now advanced beyond 60%. The community response has been very positive, as this project will benefit ridership significantly, while fulfilling an obligation to make this station fully accessible. As it is today, the station – with about 1250 daily riders – is the busiest fully-inaccessible station in the Commuter Rail network.

It is our understanding that this project is not currently in the MBTA Capital Plan for construction. With the FY2020-2024 CIP now in development, there is an opportunity to identify and approve construction funding for this project such that the station improvements may proceed upon completion of design, scheduled for mid-2019.

This timetable is consistent with the Town letter of support for this project to the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration from July, 2018, subsequent to the emergency replacement of the stairs on the outbound platform.

The Town is pleased to participate with the MBTA and its design team on this important project, which includes such important components as storm water management, connection to the Cochituate Rail Trail now under construction, collaboration with the Regional Transit Authority, and with provisions for a third track for express service, consistent with the MBTA and MassDOT's long term planning as identified in the 2018 State Rail Plan.

To ensure that the future Natick Center Station best serves MBTA ridership, the Town will continue to work with the MBTA project team to help ensure that the final design incorporates appropriate facilities for bicycle parking, RTA bus service, platform access, and passenger circulation, pick-up and drop-off, recognizing that MBTA-owned property is limited, and the project itself must therefore include Town-owned land.

In closing, we greatly appreciate the work of the project team, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration. Thank you for your positive consideration of this project in the Capital Plan.

Sincerely,

Amy K. Mistrot, Chair  
Natick Board of Selectmen

cc: State Representative David P. Linsky  
State Senator Karen E. Spilka  
State Senator Becca Rausch  
US Representative Katherine M. Clark