

## Natick Select Board

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LOCATED AT

Town Hall

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Natick, Massachusetts

01760

## Town of Natick • Select Board Office

October 3, 2022

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

### Re: Natick Center MBTA Station Accessibility Improvements Project – Historical Panels

Dear General Manager Poftak:

The Town of Natick is very appreciative of the MBTA's investment in the MBTA Station Accessibility Improvements Project, particularly in the context of the ambitious capital investment program and at a time of many challenges at the MBTA. We also understand the unavoidable delays in the project's construction phase, necessitated by supply chain material delays for critical project elements. Furthermore, we value the work of the capital delivery team during the design and construction phases of this important project.

When it is complete, the new Natick Center Station will provide universal access to and from the MBTA system and Natick Center, which access is long overdue and is only now being realized because of the diligence of your team, the sustained advocacy of stakeholders, and the financial resources of the state and federal government. This will be a milestone.

During the design phase of this project, the Town communicated to the MBTA its interest in honoring the history of the station, which was originally constructed in the 1890s, and the Town provided several sample images that we hoped would be memorialized in graphic panels similar to those on other MBTA stations. These are included for reference.

We are specifically asking for your support to include these panels on the station platform. At this time, the panels are not included.

The Town, its Historical Commission and the Natick Historical Society are available to help source, curate and furnish images that would serve this need, and to provide whatever documentation and other assistance the Wayfinding and Graphics Team requires.

This request is consistent with the Town's active engagement with the MBTA on this project over the last decade, including this abbreviated list of actions and decisions:

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- 2008: Accessible station identified as a Town priority in the 2008 Natick 360 Strategic Plan
- 2012: Initial discussions with the MBTA on a process for a new station design
- 2012: Local appropriation for conceptual design and feasibility study
- 2012-2016: Natick MBTA Station Advisory Committee, which included an MBTA representative
- 2014: Delivery to the MBTA of conceptual design, feasibility study, purpose and need statement, and other work products
- 2015-2016: Advocacy through the Capital Improvement Plan process leading to a 2016 design appropriation
- 2017-2019: Convening of a Project Working Group with Natick, MBTA, AECOM et. al.
- 2018: Project design team meetings with Natick Design Review Board and Historical Commission for design input
- 2018: Historical Commission support for removing the historic truss bridge structure
- 2019: Initial request to incorporate historic images
- 2020: 3D scan of the historic H.H. Richardson platform canopy, prior to its demolition, so that it may be re-created in a nearby context
- 2021: Follow up request to incorporate historic images

Natick is very attentive to its history, as are many communities. While we anticipate the newly accessible station serving the region for another century, we hope to incorporate a couple of these images and to work with your team to help facilitate this aspect of a transformative project.

With thanks for your consideration,

Paul R. Joseph, Chair

Cc: State Senator Karen Spilka  
State Representative David Linsky  
Natick Historical Society  
Natick Historical Commission

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