

February 11, 2016

Fiscal and Management Control Board
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Fiscal and Management Control Board:

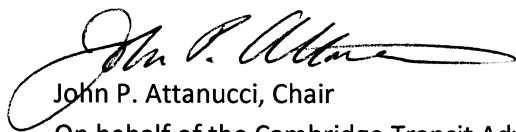
The City of Cambridge's appointed Transit Advisory Committee (composed of a diverse set of 23 representatives of neighborhoods, businesses, institutions, and advocacy groups) wishes to comment on the recent proposed changes to MBTA fares and late-night service. In May 2013, the City established the Transit Advisory Committee to help guide City policies and positions on major transit expansion projects and associated funding issues, local bus route planning, and service reliability improvements, including better design of street and pedestrian networks to prioritize bus transit.

While the Committee understands that the Fiscal and Management Control Board is under significant pressure to reduce the MBTA budget deficit, the Committee urges the Board to keep in mind the following points:

- 1) Fare increases should be modest and predictable. The Committee largely agrees that a five percent or lower increase every two years—as was commonly understood from the legislation—falls under that category. In the event larger increases are deemed necessary, the Committee strongly advocates that additional revenue be transparently linked to specific, identifiable service level improvements.
- 2) Late-night service should be retained. In general, service levels and quality must not be degraded.
- 3) Funding for the MBTA should be based on a broad portfolio of revenue sources, in addition to modest and predictable fare increases.

In summary, the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee urges you to ensure that MBTA staff have access to the resources necessary to improve service quality and re-establish public faith in the system. Our region's viability is dependent on the existence of a robust public transportation system.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Attanucci, Chair

On behalf of the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee

C.c. MBTA Fare Proposal and Late-Night Service Committees
City Manager Richard C. Rossi
Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson
Cambridge City Council
Mayor E. Denise Simmons
Iram Farooq, Assistant City Manager for Community Development