



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor  
State House Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Lt. Gov. Polito,

Thank you for convening the Worcester Line Working Group to identify and advocate for needed improvements to the Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail line. We greatly appreciate your partnership in addressing an issue that, as you know, is very important to commuters in MetroWest and Central Massachusetts.

Enclosed, please find a memo requesting action on seven aspects of Commuter Rail service that we believe are essential to improving reliability and quality of service on the line. Many items on the list are based on concerns we have heard repeatedly from the constituents and municipalities we represent. Our constituents frequently report frustrations with day-to-day Commuter Rail service, often times because minor, avoidable mechanical or signal issues cause cascading delays or cancelled trains. In recent weeks, rolling stock constraints led to local trains skipping stops unexpectedly at peak commuting hours.

Last year, the Framingham/Worcester line finished 10<sup>th</sup> out of 14 lines in on-time performance. In June, fares are expected to increase by over 6 percent, in addition to 50 percent parking fee increases that went into effect at several stations this past fall. If Commuter Rail riders are going to be paying significantly higher prices for transit, any revenue generated must be designated for meaningful service improvements.

We recognize that there are other long-term planning efforts under way for statewide Commuter Rail improvements through the MBTA's Rail Vision Study. The attached requests, while consistent with Rail Vision efforts, are intended to highlight immediate needs on the Framingham/Worcester Line on which action must be taken in the near term. Commuters have been experiencing delays and unreliable service for years on this line, and immediate action to address the attached list of concerns is urgently needed.

Thank you again for your efforts to continue this important dialogue and to respond to the needs of Framingham/Worcester Line commuters and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolyn C. Dykema".

Carolyn C. Dykema  
8<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alice H. Peisch".

Alice H. Peisch  
14<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District



James J. O'Day  
14<sup>th</sup> Worcester District



Michael J. Moran  
18<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District



Hannah E. Kane  
11<sup>th</sup> Worcester District



Danielle W. Gregoire  
4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

CC:

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak  
Daniel Gates, Office of Lt. Governor Polito  
Corey Lynch, MBTA  
Jody Ray, MBTA