

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III  
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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Ms. Lucille Marvin  
Office of Government Affairs  
Surface Transportation Review Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Marvin,

I am writing concerning the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's effort to extend commuter rail service to the town of Foxborough through the town of Medfield. I am honored to represent the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Massachusetts, which includes both of these towns.

In January of 2014, the Massachusetts DOT agreed to purchase the existing rail bed from the CSX Corporation with the intention of converting from its current use as a freight line to a commuter rail line. The communities impacted by this agreement were not notified of this transaction until October of 2014. Officials in these communities, as well as other impacted communities outside of the 4<sup>th</sup> District, have expressed concern over the lack of transparency surrounding the transaction as evidenced by the nine month delay in notification of the agreement. Local officials are also concerned for the safety of the residents who live near the rail crossings. The freight trains currently travel at a speed of 10 miles per hour, but the proposed commuter rail will travel at an estimated 45 miles per hour through densely populated neighborhoods and busy commercial districts.

I believe that a more transparent and comprehensive period of public comment is needed before these lines begin carrying passengers. Therefore, I am requesting that you consider delaying this process until the concerns of all impacted communities are addressed.

If I can provide further information or answer any questions please don't hesitate to contact Nick Clemons in my office at 617-332-3333.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III  
Member of Congress