



CHARLES RIVER

conservancy

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December 23, 2014

Re: North Station – Kendall Square Connector Endorsement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC) in support of a plan to bring a DMU rail connection between North Station and Kendall Square along the Grand Junction railroad.

Founded in 2000, and with over 30,000 volunteers and supporters, the CRC is a non-profit organization dedicated to making the Charles River and the parklands around it more active, attractive, and accessible to all. The CRC is excited about the benefits that DMU transit service will bring to the region and how these benefits align with our mission.

Benefits relevant to the Charles River parklands include:

- A reduction of car traffic and corporate shuttle bus traffic through location adjacent to the Charles River, including Boston's West End neighborhood, over Longfellow Bridge, and within Kendall Square, allowing parkland users to travel to, from, and within the parklands more comfortably.
- DMU Train technology is highly energy-efficient and will lead to a reduction in pollution in the Charles River parklands.
- DMUs will bring increased transit service to areas near the Charles River with no locomotive engine noise.
- The establishment of this rail service creates a precedent towards future DMU service between North Station and the proposed West Station as part of MassDOT's upcoming I-90 realignment plan. The creation of this rail link between North Station and Allston lies within the CRC's stated goals for the I-90 realignment.

The CRC supports measures that will improve the environment and the experience of parklands users. With the potential to reduce car trips taken near the parklands, and to serve communities, commuters, and other users along the Charles River in an effective and unobtrusive manner, the Charles River Conservancy is adding our voice to a growing number of supporters for this rail link.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support of this important transportation connector, regional economic driver, and environmentally friendly transit link.

Sincerely,

Renata von Tscharnner

Renata von Tscharnner
President
Charles River Conservancy

cc:

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick
The Honorable Charles Baker

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MBTA Chief Executive Officer Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D.

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