

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: MBTA application to FRA FY21 Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

We are writing to express our support for the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority's (MBTA) application for \$7.6 million under the Federal Railroad Administration's FY21 Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grant Program. The MBTA is seeking matching federal funding to replace a structurally deficient bridge necessary for commuter rail and Amtrak services.

If successful, the MBTA will use this funding toward the South Elm Street Bridge Replacement Project in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The replacement of this bridge will allow the MBTA and Amtrak to realize significant time savings for passengers and will allow the MBTA to avoid future maintenance activities and costs for a structure that is over 100 years old. Further deferrals of the replacement increase the probability that more significant and costly repairs will be needed in the future, potentially impacting existing service levels for the MBTA, Amtrak, and Pan Am freight service. Additionally, horizontal clearances on the bridge are the tightest on the entire commuter rail system, to the extent that double-decker coaches are limited to a 5-mph speed restriction over the bridge. The replacement will address this issue and others, allowing for faster travel times for commuters and intercity rail passengers, improved air quality, reduced fuel consumption, and improved access underneath and around the bridge for pedestrians.

The MBTA would use the State of Good Repair Grant to construct a full replacement of the existing bridge superstructure via accelerated methods, such as "roll-in" construction of the new bridge span during a single weekend. The project will also include the strengthening of abutments with micropiles and tiebacks, as well as other elements including replacing track, rebuilding sidewalks to include ADA ramps, mill and overlay of the existing public roadway, and additional crosswalk installation.

For the MBTA, this project represents an opportunity to improve the quality of service, reduce upkeep costs, and improve safety for multiple rail services. We respectfully request you give the MBTA's grant proposal your fair and full consideration. Thank you in advance for your attention to this request. If you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our teams accordingly.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan
U.S. Representative



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Katherine M. Clark

Katherine M. Clark
U.S. Representative

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton
U.S. Representative