

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

**DANIEL R. CULLINANE**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

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March 10, 2015

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

## **Re: Mattapan High Speed Trolley Line Preservation & Investment**

Dear Secretary Pollack:

We, the undersigned elected officials, are writing in full support of the proposed \$3 Million investment in the Mattapan high-speed trolley line set to come before the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board next week. It is our hope that these much needed funds will be allocated toward the continuation of current operations of the Presidential Cable Cars (PCC's) on the Mattapan High Speed Trolley Line to serve the thousands of MBTA customers from Mattapan, Dorchester, and Milton who depend on this vital trolley line each day.

In addition to supporting this appropriation, and as the MBTA continues to look towards the future, we want to emphatically advocate that the MBTA keep trolleys, preferably the Presidential Cable Cars, as the service vehicles for this MBTA line. We do not believe it to be in the best interest of the communities and residents we represent to have this trolley line converted to a shuttle bus system. This is not only about preserving the historic nature of the PCC's and the trolley line. We believe any discussions about converting the existing historic trolley line to shuttle buses could begin to have a significant adverse impact on residential property values for those living along the line. Additionally, it has the potential to literally shut down the multi-million dollar economic development proposals already in the RFP process for the Mattapan MBTA Station Parking Lot parcel.

Here is what one of the proposed developers said in the Dorchester Reporter Newspaper this week:

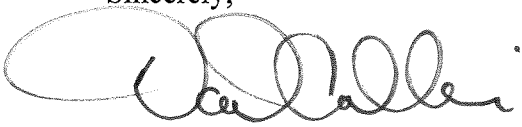
***"The easy access to the Mattapan high-speed trolley service next door is critical to the plan..If the MBTA were to eliminate the trolley service, the project would not proceed...If, for instance, the trolley were to go out of existence, then we wouldn't do the project. It adds that additional character that you can't find anywhere else."***

We understand that the problems of operating an aging fleet in a harsh climate are real. We understand as we look to the future of the whole MBTA system hard choices need to be made. But we also believe solutions do exist and possible opportunities could emerge from these very difficult conversations – one such opportunity could be linking vocational education students with the existing professionals currently making these parts for the PCCs to begin training the next generation of the MBTA’s workforce today.

In closing, the Mattapan Trolley Line is historic and it adds significant character to our communities, but more than quality of life value, it has a critical economic impact on residential property values, local businesses, and on attracting much needed economic development interest along the corridor this trolley line serves. As such, we believe that keeping this trolley line operating with trolleys is of the highest priority for the constituents and communities we represent.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue. We look forward to working with you, and your leadership team, on the long-term preservation and sustainability of the Mattapan Trolley Line.

Sincerely,



**DANIEL R. CULLINANE**  
State Representative



**LINDA DORCENA FORRY**  
State Senator



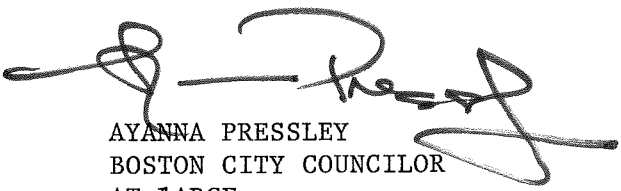
**DANIEL J. HUNT**  
State Representative



**TIMOTHY MCCARTHY**  
Boston City Councilor  
District 5



**FRANK BAKER**  
Boston City Councilor  
District 3



**AYANNA PRESSLEY**  
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR  
AT LARGE



**ANDREA CAMPBELL**  
Boston City Councilor  
District 4



**MICHELLE WU**  
Boston City Council, President  
At-Large



**ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE**  
Boston City Councilor  
At-Large



**MICHAEL FLAHERTY**  
Boston City Councilor  
At-Large