



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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

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December 18, 2018

The Honorable Charles D. Baker, Governor  
The Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02114

## **Re: The Mattapan Trolley Line**

Dear Governor Baker,

Over the last two years a broad coalition of community leaders, elected officials, transit activists and commuters who rely on the MBTA's historic Mattapan Trolley Line have rallied to advocate for the preservation of and increased investment in this vital transit corridor. It was a significant victory in early 2017 when the MBTA Fiscal Management Control Board authorized the \$7.9 million dollar investment in upgrades and repairs to the Mattapan Line.

Following the announcement of this much needed and much appreciated investment, in April of 2017, the MBTA hosted a series of informational meetings outlining to the public how the funds would be spent and a ballpark timetable for the completion of the described upgrades. Simultaneously, the MBTA continued to inform the public about the comprehensive analysis and study underway to look at the current state of repair of the Mattapan Trolley Line and to review any and all possible scenarios for the future of this vital transit link.

Since these initial public meetings in the Spring of 2017, there have not been any follow-up informational community meetings or any proactive meetings with the delegation of elected officials who represent the communities the Mattapan Trolley Line serves to inform us, and our constituents, of the status of the upgrades to the trolley line or of the findings of the MBTA's study. Yet, two or more times in the press, the elected officials and the community learned that the MBTA's report on the study findings would be delayed without including specific details or reasons for the delay. The continued delays of these findings without any detailed public explanation or conversations with the delegation of electeds has been a cause of uncertainty, skepticism and frustration among the communities and commuters who rely on the trolley daily.

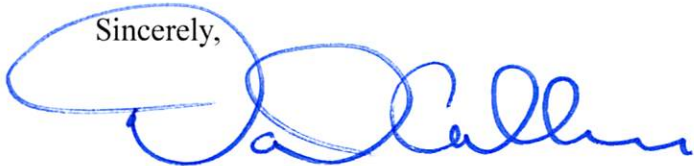
As the community and I continued to wait for any updates, findings, or follow up conversations, from the MBTA, I felt it was vital for this important conversation on transit equity to remain at the forefront. By overwhelming numbers, those in the community want to preserve the Mattapan Trolley Line with trolleys as the service vehicles connecting Mattapan and Milton to Dorchester's Ashmont Station to access the Red Line and numerous bus connections. To see if this overall feeling was accurate, I launched a commuter and resident petition for constituents to weigh in and, at last check, almost 2,000 local individuals signed this petition to save the Mattapan Trolley.

Today, in addition to writing to you to again highlight the overwhelming community support for preserving and investing in the Mattapan Trolley Line, I am reaching out to ask you as Governor, for your leadership and support in the effort to save the Mattapan Line long term - **and in the meantime to ask you to direct your leadership team at the MBTA to do the following in early 2019:**

- 1. Commit to having MBTA leadership attend a briefing at the State House with the delegation of state and local elected officials to present an update on the if the \$7.9 million upgrade investment has been completed and for MBTA leadership to conduct an honest dialogue with those present on the current status of the Mattapan Trolley Line study and to provide an updated timetable (if one exists) for the study's next steps and or unveiling.**
- 2. Commit to having MBTA leadership host an informational public meeting to do the same.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter for our communities and constituents. I chose to direct this letter to your attention due to leadership transition at the MBTA so that your office can direct how you would like to proceed. It is my hope that you will agree that given the amount of time that has passed these follow up conversations and updates with elected officials and the community are long overdue. I look forward to hearing from your office. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



**DANIEL R. CULLINANE**  
State Representative

CC: Mr. Steve Poftak, MBTA General Manager