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ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOODS  
c/o 213 Hurley Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

January 19, 2012

The Honorable City Council  
City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Re: MBTA proposals to raise fares and cut services

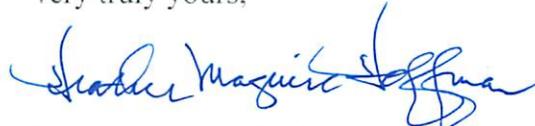
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods with respect to the MBTA's proposals to raise fares and cut services in an effort to cope with its fiscal crisis. At our monthly meeting yesterday, we discussed what the City of Cambridge's interests are and whether and how it should advocate for them.

As neighborhood representatives, we are well aware of how heavily the City depends on the wide availability of subway, bus and, to a lesser extent, train service to keep its economy running, make this a liveable place for residents and attract businesses of all sorts to locate here. Having T service reduces the need to build and maintain all of the expensive infrastructure associated with automobiles, including roads and parking, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and traffic jams. In addition, many residents can afford to live here at all because the T makes it possible for them to get around without owning a car. Losing easy access to the T will cost the City, its residents, local businesses and their employees and customers, and local universities dearly, both now and in the future. It is vital that the City inform and consult with residents, businesses and universities so that it can take a public position on these proposals and advocate for all of our interests with the decisionmakers at the state level as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Heather Maguire Hoffman, co-president

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