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Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods

Proposed Policy Order on MBTA fare increases and service cutbacks.

Whereas:

The City of Cambridge and its residents, businesses and universities rely on the MBTA for safe and reliable transportation; and

Whereas:

The City of Cambridge has acknowledged the importance of public transportation in reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and air pollution and keeping traffic and parking manageable; and

Whereas:

The MBTA has proposed two scenarios whereby fares are increased and services severely cut, thereby having a negative impact on those who rely on the MBTA for their own transportation or that of their employees, customers or students; and

Whereas:

The City of Cambridge has encouraged development around transportation hubs as an environmentally responsible and cost-effective way to support the growth of the City and its economy; and

Whereas:

Reducing the availability of public transportation would negatively impact the ability to develop more densely around transportation hubs and potentially reduce tax revenues expected from such development; and

Whereas:

Reducing the availability of public transportation would encourage more people to drive single occupancy vehicles, increasing the emission of harmful Greenhouse Gases and air pollution and making it harder for people to get around the City; and

Whereas:

Approving fare increases and service cuts without a plan to improve the long-term fiscal stability of the MBTA and the services it provides will create harm without solving the MBTA's fiscal crisis, be it therefore

Ordered:

That the City Council go on record in opposition to the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts; and be it further

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide a report on the general impacts of the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts on the City of Cambridge, its economy and future growth; and be it further

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development, Human Services and any other relevant City departments to hold community meetings at locations accessible to every neighborhood in the City in order to inform residents and gather community input on the impacts of the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts on the

Cambridge community; and be it further

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop a policy statement on behalf of the City and to communicate it to State decisionmakers, including Secretary of Transportation Richard Davey, Governor Patrick and members of the Cambridge delegation to the Legislature about the serious impacts the proposed fare increases and service cuts will have on Cambridge's residents, businesses and universities and the need to seek alternative solutions to closing the current budget deficit that address both the short-term and long-term needs of the MBTA and those who rely upon the MBTA for their transportation or that of their employees, customers or students in conjunction with the current public hearings on the MBTA's proposals.