



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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Daniel A. Grabauskas
General Manager

February 15, 2008

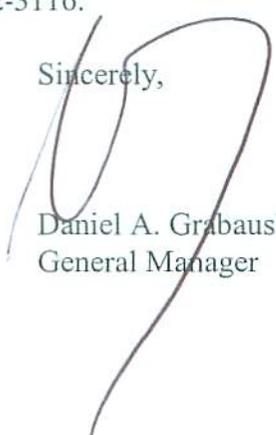
Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City of Cambridge
793 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Boston/East Cambridge (Lechmere) Viaduct, MBTA Bridge No. B-16-013, which leads into the Lechmere Green Line Station. The Lechmere Viaduct was reconstructed in 2005 restoring the viaduct to its original capacity. However, the loading applied to the structure for rating purposes, as indicated in the April 2003 guidelines for Load Rating Transit Bridges, is greater than the original design load. In response to load restrictions, the use of the Lechmere Viaduct is currently limited. The number of cars on the steel viaduct at one time is restricted to no more than 6 cars per track for a total of 12 cars (6 on the outbound track and 6 on the inbound track). The speed limit for the Green Line Light Rail Vehicle Type Nos. 7 and 8 cars is 25 MPH from Science Park Station to Lechmere Station. These limitations are imposed by operating rules and were issued as standing Special Orders for the Green Line. As the actual line speed for the Green Line (except the D-Branch) is 25 MPH and the limitations on the number of cars is only for the short segment of the steel viaduct, the limitation has no operational impact on Green Line service. We are currently evaluating alternatives to strengthen the columns, recognizing any modifications to the historic structure will require approval by the Massachusetts Historical commission.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Charles O'Reilly, Assistant General Manager for Design and Construction, at 617-222-3116.

Sincerely,


Daniel A. Grabauskas
General Manager

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