



# Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Jeffrey B. Mullan  
Secretary & CEO

John R. Jenkins  
MassDOT  
Board Chair

William A. Mitchell, Jr.  
Acting General Manager and  
Acting Rail & Transit Administrator

December 4, 2009

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2009 DEC -7 11 AM 10:26  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

Dear Mr. Healy:

On behalf of Acting General Manager William A. Mitchell, Jr., I would like to thank you for your recent letter. The Acting General Manager asked that I respond to your concerns regarding the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Red Line tunnel between Harvard and Alewife Stations in Cambridge.

Please be assured that the Red Line is safe for travel. MBTA maintenance personnel inspect this section of tunnel twice per week and repair and replace components of the rail support system as required to ensure safe travel in the tunnel. The issue is that due to age and corrosion induced by groundwater leakage, the frequency of these repairs has increased to the point of becoming a burden on the MBTA's maintenance forces. The \$80 million dollar figure quoted in Mr. D'Alessandro's report is the estimated budget to replace the entire track and support system between Harvard and Alewife Stations.

Over the last year the MBTA has had an engineering consultant conduct a detailed evaluation of the tunnel, concentrating on identifying the locations of groundwater leakage and the source of the problem. In November 2009 the MassDOT Board of Directors approved the award of a contract to Jacobs Engineering to prepare a detailed design, and construction bid documents for tunnel repairs, which will include sealing of the groundwater leaks and repairs to the rail system, as required. It is expected that this design effort will take most of calendar year 2010. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2010 and continue for approximately two years. As the design develops the MBTA will request meetings with the appropriate City of Cambridge departments to discuss the details of the project and any potential impacts it may have on the City of Cambridge and its residents.



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In the interim, over the next several months, the MBTA will have contractors working in the tunnel during weekends to address some of the larger groundwater leaks to improve conditions to facilitate the ongoing maintenance work.

If you require additional information or further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-222-3118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis A. DePaola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Francis" being the most prominent.

Francis A. DePaola, P.E.  
Assistant General Manager  
for Design and Construction

cc: William A. Mitchell, Jr./MBTA  
Marjorie Decker/Cambridge City Council