



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR WILLIAM N. BROWNSBERGER
Second Suffolk and Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 504
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1280
FAX (617) 722-1069

WILLIAM.BROWNSBERGER@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

Senate Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ETHICS

ELECTION LAWS
MUNICIPALITIES AND
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
WAYS AND MEANS

November 20, 2015

Secretary Stephanie Pollack
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Pollack,

We write to express our support for the I-90 Allston Interchange Improvement Project which we believe is of great regional significance. The total cost for all of the desired elements of the project will be high but underinvestment will greatly diminish the benefits.

Several factors have aligned to create the opportunity for this project. The deteriorating physical condition of the highway viaduct necessitates reconstruction. With the relocation of the former CSX rail yard to Worcester and the shift to all-electronic tolling we have an opportunity to remove the toll booths and straighten the turnpike. The new turnpike layout will significantly improve throughput in both directions.

A major benefit of this plan is that it will open up a huge swath of highly valuable developable land. This parcel, combined with others owned by Harvard total 140 total acres and presents a historic opportunity to create a new neighborhood with tremendous economic potential. Located between Harvard, BU and MIT and well served by transportation, the newly unencumbered land is ideally situated to become a regional employment hub. With the right infrastructure and development plan, this new neighborhood could rival the Kendall Square and the Seaport District as an area for employment growth.

West Station has the potential to be a true multimodal hub and create new connections. It is well located to serve several neighborhoods, employment districts and institutions. West Station should have robust pedestrian, bike and public transit connections. New connections to Kendall Square and North Station could be created using the Grand



Junction Railroad and would offer immense time savings for commuters. For those entering the city on the Worcester Line and from other western communities across the Commonwealth, West Station will facilitate new direct connections to destinations in Boston and Cambridge, as well as provide relief from long disjointed commutes.

A commuter rail layover facility has also been proposed on this site as part of the South Station expansion. This facility will help improve reliability on the Worcester Line and other southern branch commuter lines. Appropriate measures to mitigate noise, vibration and pollution are needed in order to make such a facility a good neighbor.

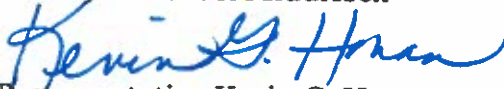
Allston residents are particular excited about the potential that this project holds to reconnect North Allston and Allston Village, and to reconnect Allston to the Charles River. For this project to be considered a success by those who live in the surrounding neighborhoods, it must, at a minimum, accomplish those two goals. A third goal, to increase the amount of parkland along the Charles River is viewed by residents as equally important. For decades, the turnpike has bisected and blighted the neighborhood. Restoring these important connections and providing new green space will significantly improve the quality of life for the turnpike's neighbors.

As always we are grateful for the work you do and conscious of the many competing priorities before you.

Respectfully,



Senator William N. Brownsberger
Second Suffolk & Middlesex



Representative Kevin G. Honan
17th Suffolk



Senator Sal N. DiDomenico
Middlesex and Suffolk



Representative Michael J. Moran
18th Suffolk



Councilor Mark Ciommo
Boston City Council, District