

A Silver Line for the Future

Reader feedback

Boston Business Journal - April 7, 2006

To the editor: The recent agreement on the final alignment and portal location for Silver Line Phase III at Tremont Street and Marginal Road is an example of how partnerships between public and private entities can successfully move a project forward. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the city of Boston, the state Office for Commonwealth Development and the Artery Business Committee worked together to develop the needed consensus. Residents, visitors and businesses will reap the rewards.

Silver Line Phase III, with portal, will enable rapid, reliable service connecting Dudley Square and the Back Bay, South Boston, the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and Logan Airport -- areas of our city that have never before been connected by a rapid transit line.

With up to 30 million square feet of development coming online by 2010 -- 39 million square feet by 2040 -- the South Boston Waterfront is the setting for future development and job growth in Boston. As roadway capacity in the area is limited and parking freezes cap the number of spaces available for employees, successful development of the South Boston Waterfront depends in large part on the increased transit capacity that a successful Silver Line Phase III ensures. The Back Bay also stands to benefit from the project, as the Silver Line would provide access to the more than 5,000 hotel rooms in the Back Bay from the airport and the BCEC.

The need for this private-public partnership to continue is imperative, as the MBTA is now gearing up to get back into preliminary engineering and the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program.

James E. Rooney, Executive director, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority