



OFFICERS

James M. Tierney
CHAIR

Kimberly Sherman Stamler
VICE CHAIR

Edward H. Ladd
TREASURER

Jeanne Pinado
CLERK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kara Buckley
Joseph Carroll
Donald Chiofaro
Andrew J. Dankwerth
Lawrence S. DiCara, Esq.*
John E. Drew*
Ronald M. Druker
Elizabeth Grob
Thomas J. Hynes, Jr.
Mark R. Johnson
William F.X. Kane
James G. Keefe
Rachel Kelly
Kevin M. Lemire
Alan M. Leventhal
Christopher W. Maher
Douglas M. McGarrah, Esq.*
Michael E. Mooney, Esq.*
Young K. Park
David G. Perry
Valerie Roberson
Yanni Tsipis
Dana E. Warren
John Wolff

Richard A. Dimino
PRESIDENT & CEO

* Former Chair

August 4, 2022

Peter Butler
Federal Transit Administration - Region 1 Office
55 Broadway, Suite 920
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093

Subject: FTA Directives Related to the Planned MBTA Orange Line Shutdown

Dear Mr. Butler:

On behalf of A Better City and its more than 130 members, I reach out to learn more about the 30-day MBTA Orange Line shutdown announced yesterday by Governor Charlie Baker and MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. As framed by them, this unprecedented closure of the entire Orange Line is being done in coordination with the FTA as part of your safety review. In an email to elected officials and stakeholders, they said:

“The major revitalization work to take place on the Orange Line during this 30-day shutdown will deliver a number of projects over five years faster than originally planned, and will result in track replacement, upgraded signal systems, and station improvements. The MBTA will also be able to accomplish required track maintenance associated with Federal Transit Association (FTA) directives as quickly as possible.”

A Better City has long supported efforts to ensure the MBTA system is safe, but we are concerned about the sudden announcement of this 30-day shutdown without deliberations and consideration of alternative options. A complete shutdown of the Orange Line would place an unfair burden on the riders as well as businesses and institutions throughout the region and we seek to learn why this approach is necessary.

We are asking the MBTA to consider a two-phase approach: (1) Full shutdown between August 19th and Labor Day; and (b) On the first workday after Labor Day, restarting weekday service with extended shutdowns on evenings and weekends until all FTA required track defects have been addressed. (Reference: FTA Special Directive No. 22-4, Notice No. 1, page 4, Category 2, Track Maintenance, Required Actions.)

A complete 30-day shutdown of the Orange Line should be avoided if an alternative solution is available that ensures the safety of the riding public and MBTA employees. For that reason, A Better City is asking for the FTA to make public on or before Thursday, August 11th:

- A comprehensive inventory of the work mandated in its current and forthcoming directives, with details on the specific measures required
- Exact location of work, and length of time estimated for completion

Such FTA announcements will provide a clear, apolitical overview of the time needed to complete the Safety Directive work and allow the public to understand if a more limited shutdown of the



Orange Line is feasible. Also, we would like to hear from the FTA on their perspective of this 30-day shutdown and whether this approach is the most prudent option.

A Better City and our members are hoping to meet with you to hear your perspective on this matter. Thank you for your continued work to support a safe public transit system here in the Commonwealth. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Dimino', written in a cursive style.

Richard A. Dimino
President and CEO

Cc: Mr. Joseph DeLorenzo, Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer
Ms. Emily Jessup, Attorney Advisor, FTA
Jamey Tesler, MassDOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer
Steve Poftak, MBTA General Manager
The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston