

# OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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November 23, 2020

Fiscal and Management Control Board  
MBTA  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116

The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) has reviewed the proposed MBTA service reductions and eliminations that are currently being considered. OCPC is submitting this letter to the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board to convey our concerns with these proposed deep cuts and the potential impacts they could have on our member communities, businesses and the local economy in our planning region.

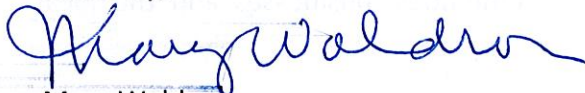
The Old Colony Planning Council recognizes and appreciates the services of two MBTA bus routes, three commuter rail lines and the MBTA's paratransit service the Ride operating within its planning region. These public transit options provide residents in our member communities transportation choices and for some individuals the only transportation available for traveling to work, shopping and attending to personal needs. Reducing commuter rail service in the OCPC region along the Providence/Stoughton, Middleborough/Lakeville and the Kingston/Plymouth rails lines will make it difficult for some individuals to get to work, attend medical appointments, shop and travel throughout the region. Eliminating rail service to the Plymouth commuter rail station will leave a town with a population of 59,331 individuals and that has 4% of its residents taking public transportation to move around their community and region without a passenger rail service. Additionally, those who live in the Town of Plymouth without an automobile will experience an onerous journey that could take multiple bus transfers to access commuter rail service in the Town of Kingston if they seek or need to travel by passenger rail. Losing its commuter rail station could also spur undue economic hardship to the Town of Plymouth as it become harder for workers to travel to and from the town without the use of a private automobile. Tourism, a sizeable economic driver for the Town of Plymouth, could see continued damage as visitors during the high summer tourist period find it harder to access the town unless they own an automobile. Reducing the services area of MBTA bus routes and increasing the scheduling window and fare of the Ride will add additional burden on those who depend on public transit the most. With 6% of OCPC community residents depending on public transportation to travel, cutbacks in transit service could be detrimental to thousands of individuals and their households. Additionally, all MBTA services operating in the Old Colony

region serve Environmental Justice populations total 73,071 individuals. Any cuts in service will have a disproportionate impact on these communities.

Therefore, OCPC respectfully, yet strongly, requests that the MBTA reconsider its proposed services reductions and eliminations in not only our planning region but throughout the Commonwealth. Service reductions and cuts such as those being proposed by the MBTA could have the potential to have long lasting effects on families, local businesses, and the local economy for years to come. However, if these service changes cannot be avoided due to the financial realities brought upon the MBTA due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we ask the MBTA to see if these changes in service can be considered temporary and be mitigated in the interim through partnerships with Ride Hailing services or other service programing. We also ask for the MBTA to develop a plan on how they will restore service after the virus has passed and demand for public transportation resumes.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 508-583-1833 or [mwaldron@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:mwaldron@ocpcrpa.org).

Sincerely,



Mary Waldron  
Executive Director

Cc:

Senator	Michael Brady
Representative	Gerry Cassidy
Representative	Claire Cronin
Representative	Josh Cutler
Representative	D'Emilia
Representative	David DeCoste
Representative	Michelle Dubois
Representative	William Galvin
Representative	Randy Hunt
Representative	Lou Kafka
Senator	John Keenan
Representative	Kathleen LaNatra
Senator	Susan Moran
Representative	Mathew Muratore
Senator	Patrick O'Connor
Senator	Marc Pacheco



Representative Alyson Sullivan  
Senator Walter Timilty

Town of Avon OCPC Council Delegate, Steve Santeusanio  
Town of Abington OCPC Council Delegate, Frank Staffier  
Town of Bridgewater OCPC Council Delegate, Sandra Wright  
City of Brockton OCPC Council Delegate, Preston Huckabee, PE  
Town of Duxbury OCPC Council Delegate, Valerie Massard, AICP  
Town of Easton OCPC Council Delegate, Jeanmarie Joyce  
Town of Halifax OCPC Council Delegate, Amy Troup  
Town of Hanson OCPC Council Delegate, Deborah Pettey  
Town of Kingston OCPC Council Delegate, Robert Downey  
Town of Pembroke OCPC Council Delegate, Rebecca Colletta  
Town of Plymouth OCPC Council Delegate, Lee Harthmann, AICP  
Town of Plympton OCPC Council Delegate, Town of West Bridgewater  
Town of Stoughton OCPC Council Delegate, Douglas Sylvestre  
Town of West Bridgewater OCPC Council Delegate, Eldon F. Moreira  
Town of Whitman OCPC Council Delegate, Fred Gilmetti  
OCPC Council Delegate-at-Large, Troy E. Garron

Town of Avon	Town of Abington
Town of Bridgewater	City of Brockton
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Town of East Bridgewater	Town of Easton
Town of Halifax	Town of Hanover
Town of Hanson	Town of Kingston
Town of Lakeville	Town of Marshfield
Town of Middleborough	Town of Pembroke
Town of Plymouth	Town of Plympton
Town of Rockland	Town of Stoughton
Town of Wareham	Town of West Bridgewater
Town of Whitman	