



SENATOR CYNTHIA STONE CREEM
MAJORITY LEADER
First Middlesex and Norfolk District

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Congressman Katherine Clark
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2023

Dear Congresswoman Clark,

I am writing to support the Town of Wellesley's request for funding for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA's) strategy to provide interim accessibility at Wellesley's commuter rail stations.

By way of background, Wellesley is served by three commuter rail stations, none of which are fully accessible. Two of the three stations are located in commercial districts and in close proximity to Wellesley College and Babson College. Lack of accessibility impedes not only our residents, but also our businesses, workers, visitors, and tourists.

Access to public transportation is also a critical element of a multi-agency strategy to integrate disabled residents into our community with as much independence as possible. There are residents who have purposefully moved to affordable housing within easy wheelchair access of the commuter rail stations, and they find themselves in the most frustrating situation. Upon arriving at the station platform, they cannot board the train because platform heights do not match the heights of boarding ramps on the train.

The MBTA has begun design work on an initiative that will ultimately provide full, high-level platforms at each of the Wellesley stations, as well as adding a third track for operational flexibility. However, there is no construction funding allocated for the project, and even if there were, it would not be completed for years. In the meantime, I hear consistently from residents with disabilities that the wait is untenable, that the workarounds are impractical, and that their quality of life is seriously impacted.

Over the last several months and years, Wellesley stakeholders have met with the MBTA on several occasions to share their stories and their desire for an interim solution to these longstanding accessibility issues, and the MBTA has communicated its support for advancing one. I hope that Wellesley will receive the funding it seeks, because implementing an interim

solution is critical to serving disabled residents in the years ahead as we advocate, plan, and build fully accessible commuter rail stations.

Thank you for considering Wellesley's request for funding. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Stone Creem". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cynthia Stone Creem
State Senator
Norfolk and Middlesex