



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**DENISE PROVOST**  
27TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT  
ROOM 167, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2810  
FAX (617) 626-0561  
Rep.DeniseProvost@state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:  
Elder Affairs  
Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets  
Personnel and Administration

Somerville Board of Alderman  
c/o John Long, City Clerk  
Somerville City Hall  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

December 16, 2010

Honorable Board Members:

I write to you today in response to Board of Alderman resolution #190410, adopted at your November 23, 2010 meeting. I've now had a response to my request that the MBTA secure a bus route from Winter Hill to the Red Line. I want to convey that response to you.

MassDOT's position is that, given the current fiscal constraints, it is not feasible even to consider adding bus routes at this time. Even if it were fiscally feasible, a process of studying demand and feasibility would have to be employed. This process is not a speedy one.

I asked whether it might be possible to improve and expand the service of the #89 bus from Winter Hill to Davis Square. It appears that this possibility offers more promise. Such a service modification would still have to be part of the MBTA's Bi-annual Service Plan. Fortunately, preparation of such a plan is currently underway.

A round of public hearings on the Fall 2011 Service Plan were held in the Fall of 2010, and more will be held in the Spring of 2011. I've asked that the Director of Operations inform me of this hearing schedule, so that I can convey it to you, and to Somerville transit riders. I've also asked that the MBTA begin to collect data on the actual performance of the #89 bus, to enable better planning of improvements.

You will hear from me again on this topic once the next round of hearings on the Service Plan are scheduled. In the meantime, please spread the word about the preparation of this plan, so that transit users can prepare their comments. Also, given that fiscal situation of the MBTA, I'd be interested to

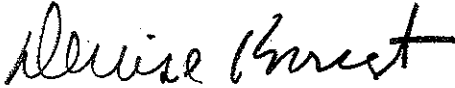
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
SOMERVILLE, MA

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know how you and yours constituents would feel about a gasoline tax increase wholly dedicated to transportation – highway and mass transit.

Please contact me at any time with your questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Provost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the word "Provost".

Denise Provost