

**Madalyn Letellier**

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**From:** Alex Pickert <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2026 10:33 AM

**To:** Jake Wilson <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] MBTA Red Line Closure Dates Impacting ArtBeat and NICE, a fest

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Hello,

I am following up here in hopes there is something we can do here, or try to do.

Thank you

Re-adding my message and including some other folks here as well to try and ping this issue.

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Dear Mayor Wilson,

Hello, and nice to meet you. First, congratulations on becoming Mayor of the best city on Earth.

Somerville is a truly special place, and I am excited to see what the future holds under your leadership.

My name is Alex Pickert, and I am the founder and organizer of NICE, a fest, a community-driven music festival in Davis Square that celebrates local artists, small businesses, and the creative culture that makes Somerville such a special place.

I understand that the MBTA must occasionally undertake major infrastructure projects, and I appreciate the importance of maintaining and improving our public transit system. However, I am concerned about the planned Red Line closure and its impact on two major community events taking place on consecutive weekends in Somerville: ArtBeat and NICE, a fest.

While these are separate events, both rely heavily on public transportation to bring attendees, artists, vendors, and workers into Somerville. ArtBeat has long been one of the city's signature arts celebrations, while NICE, a fest returns in 2026 after taking a year off and will bring together more than 70 New England artists across multiple venues, attracting thousands of attendees who support local restaurants, shops, and businesses throughout the weekend.

A major transit disruption across these back-to-back weekends would create significant barriers to attendance and participation. Many visitors travel from elsewhere in Greater Boston and depend on the Red Line to access Davis Square and the surrounding neighborhoods. Reduced access would impact local businesses, artists, venues, vendors, and the broader cultural ecosystem that these events help support.

I respectfully ask that the City work with the MBTA to explore whether the closure dates can be adjusted to avoid conflicting with either ArtBeat or NICE, a fest. These events represent months of planning and substantial investment from community organizations, artists, and local businesses. A scheduling adjustment could help ensure both weekends remain successful and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

Somerville has built a reputation as a city that values arts, culture, and community. ArtBeat and NICE, a fest are both examples of that spirit in action, and I hope every effort can be made to minimize disruptions to these important community events.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to discuss further if helpful.

Sincerely,

**Alex Pickert**

Owner / Talent

Buyer

Get To The Gig

Boston

NICE, a fest :)



On Thu, Jun 18, 2026 at 8:35 PM Alex Pickert <a href="#">[redacted] wrote:

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