



Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Richard A. Davey, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D., General Manager  
and Rail & Transit Administrator



August 13, 2013

Timothy S. Higgins  
Town Administrator  
Town of Lincoln  
16 Lincoln Road  
Lincoln, MA 01773

RE: MBTA Fitchburg Line Track and Signal Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Higgins,

I am writing to you, and The Town of Lincoln Board of Selectmen, as a follow up to our meeting last Wednesday afternoon regarding the MBTA's Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Track and Signal Improvement Project as it relates to the Town of Lincoln.

The Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project is a \$200 Million program which consists of the improvement of the line from Boston to Fitchburg, with new platforms at 2 stations, 7 bridge replacements or rehabilitations, 9 miles of new second track, and new signal, track, and grade crossing improvements throughout the line. The nature of this work requires suspension of weekend commuter rail service on segments of the line starting in June of this year from South Acton to Fitchburg. The weekend service suspension will expand to Brandeis Station to Fitchburg (including Lincoln) beginning September 7<sup>th</sup> through November 17<sup>th</sup> of this year with additional weekend service suspensions planned for the construction seasons in 2014 and 2015.

The focus of this letter is to explain and coordinate the work with the town of Lincoln. Thank you again for having us in last week with your Engineering, DPW, and Public Safety team to begin these discussions. I understand it is summertime and that the Board of Selectmen is not scheduled to meet.

As we discussed, the Track and Signal Contract was awarded to J.F. White/LMH Civil Construction earlier this summer and consists of track, signal, and grade crossing work throughout the line. In Lincoln, the work consists of two major elements. The first are track and signal elements conducted in a linear fashion along the rail line similar to normal track maintenance work except on a larger scale. These operations are limited to the MBTA right of way and do not require specific coordination with the town. However, these construction operations can be noisy and much of it will occur overnight and on weekends so we will be working closely with town officials to inform abutters about the work in advance.

The second aspect of this work will be the replacement of railroad grade crossings in Lincoln at Tower Road, Wayland Road, South Great Road/Route 117, and Lincoln Road. This work will require periodic lane restrictions at the crossings from August 13 through December 1, 2013 during normal working hours which would require the temporary stoppage of traffic in one direction to let the opposing traffic pass. The replacement of the track through these crossings will require closing the crossings and detouring traffic completely due to the nature of the work. The contractor plans to perform this part of the work on four weekends, one weekend per crossing, as follows:

- Tower Road (Friday 9-6-13 @ 11:59PM to Monday 9-9-13 @ 6:00AM);
- Old Sudbury Road (Friday 9-13-13 @ 11:59PM to Monday 9-16-13 @ 6:00AM);
- South Great Road/Route 117 (Friday 9-20-13 @ 11:59PM to Monday 9-23-13 @ 6:00AM); and
- Lincoln Road (maintenance renewal – date to be determined, similar duration).

During these weekend roadway closures, the work will be continuous 24 hours a day and every effort will be made to reopen the roadway to traffic earlier than 6:00 AM if possible. The contractor is also proposing to combine the work at Old Sudbury Road and South Great Road into one weekend as a potential arrangement that is beneficial to all involved.

MBTA and the contractor will work closely with the town's DPW and Public Safety officials to insure advance notice of these closures and close coordination during the operations to ensure that the work can be completed in the scheduled window and in a manner that least disrupts the public and public safety response.

The MBTA will also provide a sustained public information program aimed at informing the public about these temporary road closures in advance so that they will avoid delays by avoiding them. Outreach will include, but be not limited to, variable message boards, press notices to local paper and blogs, reverse 911 calls, smart routes programming, direct email notification to stakeholders who join, and postings on Town and Project Websites.

Infrastructure improvements of this kind come with some inconvenience, however, the work in Lincoln is limited, the grade crossings will be completed in four weekends and all project track work in the town is expected to be completed this fall.

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I and my staff are available at your convenience to discuss the details of this effort; we look forward to working with you and your staff to complete these transportation infrastructure improvements in a timely and efficient manner. At the completion of the project Lincoln will benefit from faster, more reliable commuter rail service.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Dobosz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Dobosz  
MBTA Project Manager