



Access Advisory Committee to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116-3968 • (617) 973-7100
Fax: (617) 973-8855 • TDD: (617) 973-7089 • E-mail: AACT@ctps.org

March 9, 2012

Mr. Jonathan R. Davis
Acting General Manager and Rail & Transit Administrator
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza – Room 3910
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Acting General Manager Davis,

The Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT) represents the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly to the MBTA. This letter voices our views about the MBTA's proposals to increase transit and THE RIDE fares and to make service cuts.

AACT is deeply concerned that the proposed fare increases and service cuts will inflict the greatest harm on those who need the service most desperately. These people are persons with disabilities and the elderly. Many are also low-income or on fixed incomes. Many have no other way but transit or THE RIDE to get around. The fare increases and service cuts you are proposing will severely disadvantage many people with disabilities and elderly, who are already vulnerable and at a disadvantage.

The fare increases for fixed route services and for THE RIDE (for those living outside the base service areas) are huge when you consider the limited means of most who are disabled and/or elderly. These fare increases will make transportation so expensive that many people may not be able to pay and may become home-bound.

The service cuts will also reduce accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Getting around is hard enough as it is for those of us in these groups. These cuts will make a difficult situation much worse.

We ask three things; that you:

- Make a commitment to keep the cost of taking THE RIDE very close to its current costs for all THE RIDE customers
- Minimize service cuts to fixed route service
- Keep the needs of the disabled and elderly foremost in your minds when you seek to balance your budget and plan your service

Thank you for listening to our voices and needs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip J. Beaulieu".

Philip J. Beaulieu
AACT Chairman

cc: AACT