



BOSTON
TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT

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December 15, 2009

William Mitchell
Acting Rail and Transit Administrator
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston MA 02116

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am writing to request an update on the MBTA's scope and schedule relative to the removal of the existing and unusable catenary poles in Jamaica Plain along the now abandoned trolley line between Heath Street and Forest Hills stations.

The South Huntington - Centre Street - South Street corridor is thriving with small-business, community facilities, health centers and residential uses. Recently the MBTA has made significant progress on designing improvements to Route 39 which serves the corridor. I understand the State will use federal stimulus dollars to install enhanced bus shelters, transit signal priority and refurbished sidewalks where necessary. In addition, the Boston Transportation Department is currently engaged in a neighborhood public process to develop an Action Plan which will result in improvements along Centre and South streets. In our extensive process with the community, it has been brought to our attention that the catenary poles have become a major eyesore and hindrance to public activities.

As you know the catenary poles currently serve no purpose, nor will they in the future, even if the trolleys were to return to the corridor. Their immediate removal will allow for a safer, unobstructed sidewalk environment and will open up opportunities for the kind of improvements being proposed by the Route 39 project and the City's Transportation Action Plan. Is it possible to proceed with removing the poles in conjunction with the ongoing federally funded program?

Please let me know how the City can help expedite the removal of the catenary poles. In the meantime I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and an announcement to the Jamaica Plain community as to the status of the project. If you have any questions please have your staff contact Rachel Mercier at my Policy and Planning Division at 617-635-3082.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Tinlin
Commissioner



THOMAS M. MENINO, Mayor