

Administrator  
 Mohammed H. Khan

September 6, 2007

James S. Simpson  
 Administrator  
 Federal Transit Administration  
 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
 Washington DC 20590

Attn: Sean Libberton, FTA Office of Planning and Environment

Dear Administrator Simpson:

It is my great pleasure to submit the Alternatives Analysis report for the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Alternatives Analysis report represents the culmination of months of coordination and analysis and a collaborative effort with MBTA and EOT-PW by the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART).

The Alternatives Analysis process has concluded with the selection and filing of a Locally Preferred Alternative which is submitted in this report. The Locally Preferred Alternative will be shown in this report to accomplish the following:

- Create a modernized, state of the art rail system allowing up to 80 mph travel speeds whenever possible
- Provide 945 passenger hours/day Travel Time benefits for Existing Riders alone
- Improve service reliability from 83% to over 95% on-time performance
- Significantly enhanced passenger experience for all users
- Support statewide and regional economic development goals
- Reduce operating and maintenance costs, even while attracting new riders
- Encourage commuters to use public transit as a very competitive and viable alternative to driving

I trust that with the information included in the Alternatives Analysis report, the FTA will approve the much-needed Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement project into Project Development.

We thank you for the continued cooperation of Federal Transit Administration staff throughout the Alternatives Analysis process. We look forward to working with you further as the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project progresses into Project Development and through Construction.

Very truly yours,



Mohammed Khan  
 Administrator

cc Congressman John Olver  
 Richard Doyle, FTA Regional Administrator  
 Secretary Bernard Cohen, EOT  
 Dan Grabauskas, MBTA General Manager