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495PARTNERSHIP.ORG

August 16, 2017

Mr. David Mohler
Boston Region MPO, Chair
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston MA, 02116

Re: Representation of Regional Transit Agencies (RTAs) on the MPO Board

Dear Mr. Mohler:

The 495/MetroWest Partnership is a non-profit advocacy organization serving thirty-five communities, over half a million residents, and an employment base of over \$23 billion per year. The Partnership seeks to address regional needs through public-private collaboration by working to enhance economic vitality, improve quality of life and sustain natural resources. The Partnership focuses on helping alleviate regional constraints and limitations, and conducts numerous initiatives on transportation, workforce housing, brownfields, and water resources.

The Partnership has a consistent record of commentary to the Boston MPO on a variety of topics including but not limited to the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program, and Long Range Transportation Plans. Additionally, the Partnership has followed the work of the MPO Special Commission, submitting comments to that group and has served on an MPO Advisory Committee in the Central Massachusetts Region for several years. We are very familiar with the important work of MPOs throughout Massachusetts and as such, we feel that broad representation among the voting members is of utmost importance to the success of the MPO process.

Given the role of Regional Transit Authorities in providing essential transit services in the Boston Region, the Partnership strongly supports RTA representation on the MPO Board similar to the other MPOs in the 495/MetroWest region, like Montachusett and Central Massachusetts. We urge the Boston MPO to look favorably on this proposal and vote in the affirmative to include RTA Representation on the Boston Region MPO Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica Strunkin".

Jessica Strunkin
Deputy Director