



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1008

Kay Khan
State Representative
11th Middlesex District

State House, Room 167
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December 28, 2023

Dear President Susan Albright, Incoming President Marc Laredo, and Newton City Council members,

I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude for the Council's nearly unanimous vote to enact zoning reform to include the village of Auburndale in the Village Center Overlay District (VCOD) in compliance with the MBTA Communities Act. This decision will have wide-reaching positive effects that will be enjoyed by everyone within our community, from working class families who are looking for affordable housing options to commuters and students who depend on reliable and accessible transportation to commute in and out of Newton each day.

On November 15th, I wrote to the Newton City Council encouraging that Auburndale be included in the zoning reform as it would significantly improve transportation services in Newton, specifically the Worcester-Framingham line which passes through three stops in Newton multiple times each day in Auburndale, Newtonville, and West Newton. For over twenty years, I have worked with Mayor Fuller, City Council members, the Newton delegation, Senator Creem, Reps Balsler, Lawn, and Congressman Auchincloss to make necessary upgrades to the commuter rail stations in Newton, which are currently unable to be accessed by those with disabilities or mobility issues. As representatives of communities within Newton, we all share the interest of improving affordability and accessibility for all and this vote signifies progress in the right direction.

We know that congestion is a major concern in the city that will only continue to grow with the upcoming construction that is planned to take place along the Mass Turnpike. By voting to include Auburndale in the zoning reform package, this action will hopefully encourage the MBTA to consider the three stations in the Capital Investment Plan, making room for drastic improvements to the commuter rail stations that are currently underutilized and lacking in overall accessibility in their current state.

I understand and appreciate that reaching this decision required extensive consideration among council members, and look forward to continuing collaboration to improve our commuter rail system in Newton that will benefit many generations to come.

Wishing a happy and healthy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Khan".

Kay Khan
State Representative, 11th Middlesex District

Cc:

Governor Maura Healey

Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary of Transportation

Philip Eng, General Manager of the MBTA

Edward Augustus, Secretary of Housing & Livable Communities

Quentin Palfrey, Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Senator Ed Markey

U.S. Representative Jake Auchincloss

State Senator Cynthia Creem

State Representative Ruth Balsler

State Representative John Lawn

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

Newton City Council