



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Steve Poftak, General Manager



April 14, 2020

**BY EMAIL**

Richard Lipof  
Chairman, Land Use Committee  
Newton City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459-1449

**RE: Riverside/MBTA/Urban Rail Connection**

Dear Chairman Lipof:

This letter serves as a follow-up to our discussion at the public hearing on April 7, 2020 respecting the MBTA's potential plans, if any, for an urban rail connection at the Riverside site. As I explained to you and the other Councilors participating in the hearing, the MBTA has been studying the possibility of adding urban rail type service across the commuter rail network, including the Worcester Line. While a connection to Riverside station was not specifically studied we have looked at possible connections. As I noted, there are challenges in creating such a connection and we are not sure that this would be an appropriate location even if the various challenges could be met. That said, I can confirm to you that in the event that the MBTA does proceed with an urban rail connection at Riverside, such a connection would not require any of the land on which the proposed mixed use development would be constructed.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Very truly yours,

John D. Ray  
Assistant General Manager –  
Commuter & Ferry Operations

cc: Members, Newton City Council  
Mr. Barney Heath, Planning Director  
Mr. Neil Cronin, Director of Current Planning  
Assistant City Solicitor Jonah Temple  
Chief Committee Clerk Nadia Khan  
Mr. Robert Korff and Mr. Damien Chaviano, Mark Development