



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

January 4, 2019

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Attention: MEPA Office – Anne Canaday, MEPA #12037
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: New Patriots Stadium and Related Infrastructure Project, MEPA #12037,
Notice of Project Change

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) regularly reviews proposals deemed to have regional impacts. The Council reviews proposed Projects for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area, the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles, consistency with Complete Streets policies and design approaches, consistency with the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), as well as impacts on the environment.

The Notice of Project Change (NPC) outlines an MBTA Commuter Rail Pilot Program (Rail Pilot) which will establish regular public transportation to the Project site, new land acquisitions, game day parking modifications, and dedicated soccer training facilities at Gillette Stadium (the Project) in Foxborough. The NPC will result in an approximate three percent (3%) increase in on-site parking spaces, a less than five percent (5%) increase in land alteration, and an approximate 1.4% increase in impervious surface area. No new MEPA thresholds are triggered as part of the NPC.

A partnership between the Town of Foxborough, the Commonwealth, and the Kraft Group (the Proponent), the 11-month Rail Pilot aims to determine if this service would significantly reduce single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips as well as area-wide traffic, while promoting public transit opportunities to and from the existing train station at the Project site. The Rail Pilot will be useful way to determine the nature and extent of these benefits, compared with the additional costs of operation.

Providing this rail transit service is consistent with the Foxborough's Master Plan, has been approved by the Fiscal Management Control Board for the MBTA, and reflects prior comments and MEPA decisions regarding the need to develop and enhance public transportation opportunities to and from the Project site.

**Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) comments on
NEXUS at The Allston Innovation Corridor, Environmental Notification Form, MEPA #15946**

MAPC is also pleased that the Proponent is working in collaboration with the Town of Foxborough to encourage ridership for the new Rail Pilot service through various ancillary efforts, such as implementing a potential bus shuttle to link downtown Foxborough with the MBTA commuter rail station.

We appreciate the fact that the Proponent is partially covering the costs of this Rail Pilot. The long-term viability of this service to extend beyond the 11-month pilot will depend on factors such as ridership, parking, operations, and costs, as well as the Proponent's perspective on longer-term financial support.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Project.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

cc: Paige E. Duncan, Foxborough
David Mohler, MassDOT