

October 15, 2007

Mr. Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Final Environmental Impact Report
Westwood Station Redevelopment, EOE #13826**

Dear Secretary Bowles:

I am writing to bring an important issue to your attention concerning the Final Environmental Impact Report submitted by the proponent of the Westwood Station Project.

I believe that any project that has such a significant impact on the regional transportation infrastructure must be considered and only approved within the context of the current and planned for capacity of the infrastructure that will serve that project. The Westwood Station Project as proposed should be contingent upon the completion of the regional corridor study that has been approved and funded by the Executive Office of Transportation for Interstate 95 and US Route 1.

I do not oppose the redevelopment of Westwood Station, however; I am not satisfied that a regional review of major arteries serving this project has included a realistic assessment of the impact of not just this project of regional significance alone, but in context of the cumulative impacts from the several other large-scale developments that are underway or at some stage of their own discrete approval, in relation to the capacity of the infrastructure available to serve the region. A development that will severely impact local and regional roadways is simply not "smart."

The towns all along the Route I-95 corridor are significantly affected by the congestion that now exists on Route 128 and at the Route 128-Interstate 95 interchange. We appreciate that the Route 128 add-a-lane project is underway, but that project does not add significant capacity at peak hours since the breakdown lane is already in use during those times. The I-93/I-95 interchange project has been discussed for years, but is currently not expected to be implemented until 2016, and only then if funds for the project are available. Yet this improvement to the regional roadway infrastructure capacity is critical to accommodating the traffic generated by the Westwood Station project and others.

Simply stated, Westwood Station, with all of its positive elements, does not add any capacity to the regional roadway system and could have a detrimental impact on other projects in the corridor that are as important to their respective host communities as Westwood Station is to its own. We recommend that you consider implementing a policy to evaluate projects of regional impact and significance and we would look forward to working with your office to develop such standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____