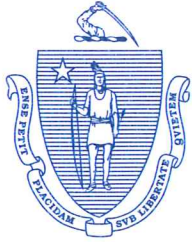


December 20, 2018

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS (FFY) 2019—2023  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)  
DRAFT AMENDMENT ONE**

**Public Comments**



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**KENNETH I. GORDON**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
21st MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Vice Chairman  
Joint Committee on Election Laws

Committees:  
Transportation  
Community Development and Small Businesses  
Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 466  
TEL. (617) 722-2017  
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[Kenneth.Gordon@MAhouse.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Gordon@MAhouse.gov)

November 30, 2018

David Mohler, Chair  
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
State Transportation Building  
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116-3968

**Re: TIP Amendment One - Middlesex 3 TMA Shuttle Service Between Lowell and Burlington**

Dear Mr. Mohler and MPO members,

I write to you to express my support for the Middlesex 3 TMA Shuttle Service between Lowell and Burlington project ("Amendment") included in a draft amendment to the FFY2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Beginning in FFY19, this amendment would provide vital seed capital to the Middlesex 3 Transportation Management Association ("M3TMA") to provide shuttle service to second shift and weekend workers between Lowell and Burlington. Including this project in TIP Amendment One will provide value not only to my district, but to the entire region.

The town of Burlington has experienced tremendous economic growth in the past decade. As Burlington continues to grow, certain business sectors including hotels, restaurants, and retail stores have struggled to. Approximately 600 positions remain unfilled today. These positions could be filled by unemployed residents throughout the region, particularly in Lowell where nearly 2,600 residents do not have access to employment. The barrier to employment for these potential workers is transportation. The Amendment will address that need.

This project represents an innovative approach to workforce development that places emphasis on buy-in from both the public and private sector. While the Amendment will provide seed capital to pilot the service, the business community is committed to ensuring its success as funding responsibility will transfer primarily to the businesses served by the program in subsequent years. It is expected that this project can serve as a model for communities throughout the Commonwealth to address workforce mobility needs in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

M3TMA has demonstrated the ability to execute transit projects such as this one that improve mobility for employees while addressing the needs of the business community. I have no doubt

that funding this shuttle program will help the business community in my district and residents throughout the region achieve success. I fully support this project and hope to see funding included in the final amendment. Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to support improved transportation in Massachusetts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Gordon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Kenneth I. Gordon  
Middlesex 21<sup>st</sup> District

Cc: Ali Kleyman, Certification Activities Manager

The Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) requests that the Middlesex 3 Coalition Pilot Shuttle Bus Service be modified. Specifically, the LRTA requests that service not begin until after 7:00 PM during the weekdays and after 6:00 PM on Saturdays. The reason for this request is that the LRTA already provides public transportation service to the Burlington Mall from its Kennedy Bus Center every hour until this time. The LRTA is the designated public transit provider for the Greater Lowell Area and does not want the Middlesex 3 Coalition/TMA service competing against the existing LRTA service.

The LRTA recognizes and appreciates the benefits of providing transportation for employees where none exists, yet requests this modification to the grant request so that both the LRTA and Middlesex 3 Shuttle Bus Service can be successful.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

James H. Scanlan  
LRTA Administrator

Cc: LRTA Advisory Board



1 Beacon Street, 16th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

[www.aimnet.org](http://www.aimnet.org) | 617.262.1180 | fax 617.536.6785

December 14, 2018

David Mohler, Chair  
Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization  
State Transportation Building  
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116

**Re: AIM comments in support of Middlesex 3 TMA Shuttle Service between Lowell and Burlington**

Dear Chair Mohler and Boston Region MPO members:

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), on behalf of our statewide employer members, would like to express our support for language contained within Amendment One to the FFYs 2019-2023 TIP relative to a second shift and weekend shuttle service between Lowell and Burlington.

Our members have consistently named the shortage of qualified workers as the central impediment to the future of our economy. The worker shortage crosses almost every industry, from manufacturers in the Pioneer Valley to software companies in Boston's Innovation District to research and engineering firms on the North Shore. While many factors contribute to these challenges, the high cost of living in Massachusetts and limited public transportation options are major concerns for employers and workers alike.

AIM members from every part of the state have communicated to us the real effects of public programs like transportation on the decisions of workers. Increasingly, our members are concerned that potential employees cannot avail themselves of training and employment opportunities because of the inherent challenges of living and working in different neighborhoods or municipalities.

Many times, these workers are making an economically rational choice. Massachusetts is an expensive place to live. In housing alone, we exceed the national average cost by 24%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is not feasible – under our current housing structure – to commute to work on a daily basis without reasonable accessible to affordable forms of public transportation. In many cases, it is impossible because public transportation schedules do not conform to the needs of shift workers and businesses with extended hours.

The business community recognizes these challenges and will commit their own resources to the project in addition to the seed funding proposed in Amendment One. We believe this is an opportunity for government and business to work together to connect workers and employers across the Commonwealth to facilitate stronger economic development.

The creation of a job and a person's ability to do it weaves together every important aspect of social and economic stability – the desire for a better life, the ability to support a family, the confidence to start a business, and the need to support efficient government management of services like education, healthcare, childcare, and public safety.

Our main goal as an employer-led organization is to develop the best system in the world for educating and training workers with the skills needed to help Massachusetts companies to succeed in a rapidly changing global environment. We cannot achieve these goals as a Commonwealth until Massachusetts is a reasonably affordable place to both live, work, and advance. We believe funding for initiatives like this will help us to overcome the obstacles that stand between us and that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine E. Holahan". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Katherine E. Holahan  
Vice-President, Government Affairs  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts



200 Summit Drive  
Suite 400  
Burlington, MA 01803

December 18, 2018

Stephanie Cronin  
Executive Director  
Middlesex 3 Coalition  
365 Boston Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

Dear Stephanie:

We are aware of the Middlesex 3 Coalition's recent efforts to establish shuttle service between Lowell and Burlington and are sending you this letter to express our support for your work and the implementation of the shuttle.

The Gutierrez Company has developed over two million square feet of commercial office, laboratory and research & development space in Burlington including the recently completed 350,000 square foot MilliporeSigma North American Life Science Hub and the Keurig Dr. Pepper headquarters. Over the years, Gutierrez has also developed several smaller retail shops and restaurants. We recognize the importance of strengthening and growing the retail and dining opportunities to support the area population and workforce. These amenities, in conjunction with hospitality and healthcare services, are critical components to the healthy, growing and thriving economic marketplace in Burlington.

The addition of the M3 shuttle connecting Lowell and Burlington will not only help facilitate the continued success of the regional economy but also provide an opportunity to connect more area residents to employment opportunities. As the economy continues to strengthen, connecting employees with employers is even more important to fill the much needed high-tech and supporting positions alike. We recognize the Lowell-Burlington shuttle will do just that and especially help connect workplace opportunities in Burlington; an area currently underserved by mass transportation services. We support your efforts to bring these increased services to the region and expect they will have a correlated benefit to our tenants and employers in the area.

Thank you for your continued efforts and I look forward to working with you on this endeavor to help fill available jobs in the Burlington area.

Sincerely,  
THE GUTIERREZ COMPANY

Scott J. Weiss  
Vice President of Development



265 Winn Street  
Suite 302  
Burlington, MA 01803

December 19, 2018

David Mohler, Chair  
Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Chair Mohler and Boston region MPO members,

The Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports the proposed Middlesex 3 TMA shuttle service. The following is a statement issued by Burlington restaurants, currently impacted by the lack of an effective transportation solution:

***As a restaurant in Burlington, our greatest challenge is the scarcity of employees and difficulties filling open positions. The lack of public or private transit options that specifically meet the night and weekend schedules required in our industry, prevent potential employees from filling job openings. The continued expansion of the restaurant industry in the area adds additional pressure to the extremely difficult situation we are already experiencing.***

***We strongly support the creation of the Lowell to Burlington shuttle to address the needs of our industry while providing good employment opportunities now and in the future.***

Restaurant	General Manager	Restaurant	General Manager
The Capital Grille	Adam Mackler	Rebecca's Café	Juliana Lyman
Buffalo Wild Wings	Brad Hodgson	Redstone American Grill	Matt Hentges
Chopps American Bar & Grill	Bruno Marini	Café Escadrille	Michael Murray Jr.
Seasons 52	Dan Hebenstreit	Atria Longmeadow	Michele Ellis
Jack's Coal Fired Pizza	David Gillis	True North Coffee	Paula Salvucci
Temazcal Tequila Cantina	David Gillis	Osteria Nino	Race Ricard
The Friendly Toast	Douglas Peel	Tuscan Kitchen	Richard Berton
Feng Shui	Frank Zhang	Tont C's Sports Bar and Grill	Richard Irvine
Burton's Grill	Jen Delucia	The Bancroft	Sheena Lake
Hilton Garden Grill and Bar	Josh McDaniel	L'Andana Grille	William Rolfig

We respectfully ask that you approve the funding for this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

Rick Parker, President

Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce



December 19, 2018

Ms. Stephanie Cronin, Executive Director  
**Middlesex 3 Coalition**  
365 Boston Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

Dear Stephanie:

I am writing in support of the Middlesex 3 Coalition's efforts to establish shuttle service between Lowell and Burlington.

Wayside is located at 2-10 Wayside Road in Burlington, and includes 30 shops, services and eateries including L.L. Bean, The Capital Grille, West Elm, Eileen Fisher and Season's 52. While the economy is strong, our tenants have expressed concerns and difficulty in hiring needed staff members.

We support efforts to increase transportation options to Wayside, as the current public transportation is limited, and the times and schedules do not meet our needs. Additional transportation resources, including shuttle service between Lowell to Burlington would be attractive to our tenants who are seeking employees to fill restaurant and retail positions.

I look forward to working with you on this endeavor and helping to fill the available jobs in the Burlington area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas V. Wilder", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas V. Wilder, Principal  
The Wilder Companies Ltd.,  
as managing agent for Wayside Commons Investors, LLC

TVW/lc



2400 District Avenue  
Burlington, MA 01803

Phone. 781.328.6440  
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www.natdev.com

December 19, 2018

Stephanie Cronin  
Executive Director  
Middlesex 3 Coalition  
365 Boston Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

Dear Stephanie:

I am writing in support of the Middlesex 3 Coalition's efforts to establish shuttle service between Lowell and Burlington.

The District Burlington recently renovated to include a new 170-room Marriott Residence Inn hotel and six new retail spaces and seven new restaurants. While the economy is strong, our tenants have expressed concerns and difficulty in hiring the needed staff members.

We support your efforts to increase transportation options to The District Burlington, as public transportation is limited and the current times and schedules do not meet our needs. Additional transportation resources, including shuttle service between Lowell to Burlington, could be very attractive to our tenants who are seeking employees to fill restaurant and retail positions.

I look forward to working with you on this endeavor and helping to fill the available jobs in the Burlington area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allan Luciw', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Allan Luciw  
Senior Property Manager