

Proposed Title: **RESOLUTION/MBTA SERVICE**

Subject Matter: To see if the Town will vote to endorse a resolution calling for improvements to service provided to the Town of Arlington by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, or take any action related thereto.

This resolution is intended to be a companion to the Home Rule Petition. Over the years, MBTA service to the Town of Arlington has deteriorated, with a sharp decline in service following the pandemic.

Requesting the repeal of the MBTA prohibition makes a bold statement, but won't have a short-term impact on our level of service. The resolution offers an opportunity to make a short-term set of expectations for MBTA service in the Town of Arlington. I drafted the shell of a resolution for consideration by the Select Board, with the opportunity for the board to add its views before placing a recommended vote before Town Meeting.

Here is a draft resolution for consideration by the Select Board:

Whereas, the last streetcar from Arlington Heights to Harvard Square ran on November 18, 1955; and

Whereas, the last MBTA train from Arlington to North Station ran on January 10, 1977; and

Whereas, the last 79 bus from Arlington Heights to Alewife ran on March 12, 2021; and

Whereas, on December 18, 2022, six days after the Green Line Extension opened to Tufts-Medford, the MBTA reduced service on the 80 bus that connects Arlington Center with the Green Line Terminus, and

Whereas, despite challenges faced by Arlington commuters and student pass holders due to poor service, the MBTA reduced service on the 77 bus on December 18, 2022, and

Whereas, the Town of Arlington's MBTA assessment of \$3,208,065 is three times the per-capita assessment for MBTA service of the City of Quincy (\$2,347,002), even though Quincy is served by three MBTA red line stops and a commuter rail station, and

Whereas, the Town of Arlington is committed to amending our zoning for the purpose of increasing the number of transit-friendly residential units

Whereas, the Town of Arlington and the City of Cambridge have built bus lanes to facilitate the movement of buses along Massachusetts Avenue

Now therefore be it resolved, the Town of Arlington asks the MBTA to provide frequent, reliable service along Massachusetts Avenue with convenient connections to the Red Line, and

Be it also resolved, the Town of Arlington asks the MBTA to provide frequent, reliable service from Arlington Heights, through Arlington Center, and along Medford Street and Boston Avenue with convenient connections to the West Medford commuter rail station and the Tufts-Medford terminus of the Green Line Extension, and

Be it also resolved, the Town of Arlington seeks a partnership with the MBTA to plan significant improvements to the transit infrastructure in Arlington.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Court representing the Town of Arlington, the MBTA Board of Directors, the MBTA General Manager, and the Secretary of Transportation.