

October 2, 2023

RE: Proposed MBTA Overlay Proposal

Dear Arlington Redevelopment Board Members,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the current proposal for the MBTA approval. The health of Arlington residents is reliant on a functioning sewer system that can transport human wastewater away from our residences without overflowing to basements, streets or streams.

Arlington's existing sewer system contains gravity sewers, sewer pumping stations and sewer force mains sized according to zoning in place when the pipes and pumping stations were designed. No significant zoning changes or density increases should take place without careful engineering analysis of the capacity of the Town's existing sewer system.

The Town has invested millions of dollars in sewer rehabilitation in its aged sewer system to remove Infiltration and Inflow (I/I). The I/I removal does not increase sewer capacity beyond its original design capacity. Sewer capacity is based on the material of the pipe, the slope of the pipe and the diameter of the pipe.

The need for town-wide sewer rehabilitation indicates the underground sewer that we do not see is old, broken and cracked. Before you decide on changes to enable more building, I urge you to watch CCTV sewer inspections to look at the condition of the town's undergrounds sewer, especially downstream sewers or trunk lines receiving the majority of the town's flow. Also, please find out how much the town's sewer flow increases during rainstorms and when snow is melting.

**Engineering design is BASED ON ZONING. Sizing of infrastructure is all based on zoning.** The proposed MBTA overlay is not an insignificant change. The utilities need to be studied. I urge you to vote against it.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Cahill, P.E., LEED AP  
48 Dickson Avenue