



May 13, 2017

Hon. Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
City of Boston
City Hall, Fifth Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mayor Walsh:

We understand that you are traveling to Washington with Governor Baker this week to lobby on behalf of federal aid for various projects in Boston and Massachusetts as part of "Infrastructure Week." One of these projects, according to the Boston Globe, is South Station Expansion (SSX).

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the expansion of South Station as a stub-end terminal, as is currently proposed. Missing from the present plan is any recognition that building yet more dead-end tracks into South Station is, at best, a temporary and expensive "solution" to its congestion—one that will again be eclipsed by the anticipated growth in rail passenger traffic, as occurred two decades ago after the addition of several tracks to accommodate the Old Colony lines. And adding yet more locomotives belching diesel fumes would further exacerbate air quality issues in and around downtown Boston.

Instead, the Club has long advocated that MassDOT revisit its long-shelved plans for a direct rail connection between South and North Stations that will allow for the through running of Amtrak and commuter trains, eliminating the wasteful backup moves that are now a major cause of congestion at both terminals. An expanded South Station *with* a connection to North Station would be more efficient—and less polluting—than the current plan.

In the June 2018 Capital Bond Bill the Massachusetts Legislature provided ten million dollars as the Commonwealth's share for completion of the environmental documents for the North-South Rail Link, a process that Governor Romney had suspended in 2003. Attached is a copy of the letter we have recently written to Gov. Baker urging him to seek federal funding to augment the \$10M and complete the environmental process for this project.

The Rail Link holds the promise of being a transformative development for Boston and the New England region. The SSX does not.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kyper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

John Kyper, Co-chair (with Clint Richmond)
Chapter Transportation Committee

Enclosure: 5/10/19 letter to Gov. Baker, w/ attachments