



U.S. Department
Of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington DC 20590

Phillip Eng
General Manager and CEO
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Project Development Initiation – Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan

Dear Mr. Eng:

Thank you for your letter, dated December 3, 2024, requesting entry into the Project Development (PD) phase under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Small Starts program for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan (the Project). After reviewing your initial letter, FTA requested additional information that was submitted on December 20, 2024. At that time, FTA determined that the information provided was sufficient to enter the PD phase.

Please note that MBTA undertakes the PD work at its own risk, and that the Project must still progress through further steps in the CIG program to be eligible for consideration to receive CIG funding.

Per the requirements in law, the following activities must be completed during PD:

- Select a locally preferred alternative;
- Have the locally preferred alternative adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan;
- Complete the environmental review process; and
- Complete the activities required to develop sufficient information for evaluation and rating under the CIG criteria.

FTA encourages you to familiarize yourself with the information found on the CIG program webpage at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/about-program>. There you will find more details and information on the activities mentioned above including answers to frequently asked questions and the information that must be provided to FTA for eventual project evaluation and rating.

FTA will be in contact to discuss its technical assistance and project oversight plans as the Project moves through Project Development. FTA would appreciate periodic updates from MBTA on the status of completion of Project Development activities.

With this entry into PD, MBTA has pre-award authority to incur costs for PD activities prior to grant approval and to retain eligibility of those activities for future FTA grant assistance. PD activities include the work necessary to complete the environmental review process, and as much engineering and design work necessary to support the environmental review process. Upon completion of the environmental review process, FTA extends pre-award authority to project sponsors in PD to incur costs for as much engineering and design as necessary to develop a reasonable cost estimate and financial plan, utility relocation, and real property acquisition and associated relocations. This pre-award authority does not constitute a commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for PD or any other Project cost. As with all pre-award authority, relevant Federal requirements must be met prior to incurring costs in order to preserve eligibility of the costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please contact Shubha Adhikari at (202) 366-9679 or shubha.adhikari@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

3/24/2025

X Mark Ferroni

Mark Ferroni

Signed by: MARK A FERRONI

Mark Ferroni
Associate Administrator for Planning
and Environment

cc: Peter Butler, Regional Administrator