



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Monica Tibbitts-Nutt, Secretary & CEO
Phillip Eng, General Manager & CEO



Mark Ferroni
Associate Administrator for Planning and Environment
Federal Transit Administration
United States Department of Transportation – East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 22, 2025

RE: Small Starts Rating Request for the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan

Dear Administrator Ferroni:

Thank you for your letter, dated March 24, 2025, accepting the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan (the Project) into Project Development as a candidate for Small Starts funding in the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Section 5309 Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program.

With this letter, the MBTA hereby requests the FTA rate the Project and include it as a Small Starts investment in FTA's fiscal year (FY) 2027 *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations*. With the accompanying submittal package the MBTA has completed the required information for a Small Starts Project rating. We certify that the technical approaches and assumptions are consistent with the FTA's *Reporting Instructions for the Section 5309 Capital Investment Grants Program* published in January 2025.

The MBTA intends to implement a bus transit corridor along a three-mile-long segment of Blue Hill Avenue in Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose of the Project is to improve safety, access, travel time, and reliability along the corridor, which has daily ridership of over 40,000 people (equivalent to ridership on MBTA's Blue Line rapid transit). By providing safe, efficient, and convenient transportation for all users of this heavily traveled corridor, the Project will support and enhance long-term economic vitality of this part of Boston, connecting individuals and families to employment, educational, cultural, and recreational resources in surrounding areas.

The Blue Hill Avenue corridor is served by more than 1,250 MBTA buses each day across nine routes. It provides significant transportation connectivity to other transit lines, including MBTA's Fairmount Commuter Rail Line and Mattapan High Speed Line, and connects the commercial nodes of Grove Hall in the north, Mattapan Square to the south, and residential and commercial uses in between. Bus riders in the corridor experience significant delays of more than 15 minutes during peak hours; therefore, this Project will result in significant travel savings for tens of thousands of riders daily.

Once the project is complete, the results will also dramatically improve safety along this well-traveled corridor for all types of users. Today, the area is exceptionally dangerous for all users: along the Project corridor, there were three fatal collisions between 2015 - 2020, with a non-fatal crash reported once every 2.5 days across all modes. People walking and biking along the corridor experience non-fatal collisions once every 11 days.

The Project will repurpose the roadways' existing wide, concrete median island into a pair of exclusive, center-running bus lanes with ten pairs of fully accessible median bus stop platforms. It will also implement transit signal priority and other safety and accessibility improvements at

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
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the intersections along the corridor, and redesign Mattapan Square at the corridor's southern end to better accommodate bus movements in and out of the MBTA's Mattapan Trolley station.

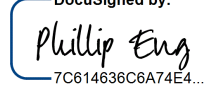
The Project will be transformational for the Blue Hill Avenue corridor, providing substantial benefits including:

- Dedicated center bus lanes and intersection redesigns will reduce travel time and improve transit efficiency.
- Center-median platforms will provide dedicated space, shelter, and real-time arrival information, improving the safety and ridership experience for thousands of daily riders.
- New crosswalks and shorter crossings will make it safer for families to access transportation and to reach nearby libraries, schools, community centers, and parks, including Franklin Park, Boston's largest public park and home to the largest zoo in New England.
- Over 150 new wheelchair ramps will provide safer, more accessible paths of travel for seniors, people with disabilities, and parents with strollers.
- New street lighting will improve safety and security for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Having met significant project milestones, including 30% design just this month, we are excited to move the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan forward in the CIG process. We appreciate the opportunity to submit MBTA's ratings request to the CIG Small Starts Program and look forward to advancing this Project in coordination with FTA.

If you have any questions on this submission, please contact Sharad Bajracharya at 508-654-7925 or by email at SBajracharya@MBTA.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Phillip Eng
MBTA's General Manager and CEO

cc: Shubha Adhikari, FTA Capital Investment Grants Program Team Leader
Denae Brown, FTA General Engineer
Peter Butler, FTA Regional Administrator
Bert Pechhold, FTA General Engineer
Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Sam Zhou, MBTA Chief Engineer
Ryan Coholan, MBTA Chief Operating Officer
Meredith Sandberg, MBTA Chief of Quality, Compliance & Oversight
Lynsey Heffernan, MBTA Chief of Policy and Strategic Planning