

November 1, 2011

Mr. John O. Mirick  
Mirick & O'Connell,  
100 Front Street  
Worcester, MA 01608-1477

Dear Mr. Mirick,

I would like to thank you, your colleague Mr. Helwig, and Ms. Wickham for attending the public meeting in Foxborough Town Hall on Tuesday of this week. The Board of Selectmen subsequently discussed the "I-495/Southwest Regional Commuter Rail and Operations Study Draft Report." At both the public meeting and Selectmen's meeting, a number of issues were raised, not the least of which was the perception that this study was developed and drafted without consultation with any Foxborough officials.

The Town's principal concern, both with the 2010 MBTA-sponsored "Foxborough Commuter Rail Feasibility Study" and the I-495 Report, is the question of overnight layover. The land located on the easterly side of the railroad station at Gillette Stadium is zoned and used residentially and the appropriateness of a commuter rail layover in proximity to homes needs to be carefully evaluated. The Town is also concerned, as are residents and officials of the Town of Walpole, of higher travel speeds along this rail corridor whether northerly through Walpole to Boston or southerly through Mansfield to Providence. The increased travel speed to 40 or more miles per hour compared to the present 10 mph freight speed will need to be studied carefully as well.

While the Town acknowledges that commuter rail service could be a benefit for our economic development future, it cannot negatively impact the quality of life for either residents or employees in the Town.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kevin E. Paicos  
Town Manager

cc: The Honorable Barney Frank  
Board of Selectmen  
Rep. Jay Barrows  
Mr. Jonathan Davies, MBTA

Planning Board  
Senator James Timilty  
Mr. Robert Kraft, Kraft Group  
Foxborough Department Heads