

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Ronald Batory
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Batory:

We write to encourage you to give due consideration to the application submitted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair program for the Tower 1 project.

Boston's South Station Terminal is the sixth busiest station in the national Amtrak system and the fourth busiest station on the North East Corridor (NEC). The station is now suffering from deficiencies that hamper its current and future operations due to geographic constraints, increased service demands, and outdated equipment. As the northern terminus of the NEC, the eastern terminus of Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited service, and a critical junction for nearly two-thirds of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail service, these challenges could hinder the rail network's growth and the free flow of transit and commuters.

Federal funding would allow MassDOT to make critical upgrades and improvements to South Station's Tower 1, a junction for trains arriving and departing South Station. The Tower 1 project would replace the existing signal system, address settling that has occurred at switch points, and improve resilience. The upgrades and improvements to Tower 1 will complement any future expansion to South Station and will serve as the first step toward larger corridor improvement plans such as Federal Rail Administration's NEC FUTURE. Modernizing Tower 1 will also create flexibility for future ridership changes and provide an immediate upgrade in reliability for both NEC and MBTA passengers.

Combined current weekday operations at South Station for the MBTA and Amtrak include over 469 daily train movements and 59,000 passengers daily; therefore, residents and businesses across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the region will benefit from the improved reliability and efficiency that upgrading Tower 1 will bring to South Station.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Greene in Senator Markey's office at (202) 224-2742.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
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Ayanna Pressley
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress