



www.cityofmalden.org

Gary Christenson, Mayor

Monday, December 21, 2015

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary (Stephanie.pollack@dot.ma.gov)
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Pollack:

I write in full support of the Youth Pass Pilot program moving forward as an official and permanent part of the MBTA's fare structure. The program has been successfully piloted in Malden as well as Boston, Chelsea, and Somerville.

This program has enabled us to collaborate with the MBTA ("T") to provide our youth easy access to transportation which in turn provides the opportunity for more educational and enrichment experiences as well as employment prospects. For many years, our young people have been priced out of the T due to the adult fare being too costly. Even with systems already in place to help, not everyone has access to student passes. The City of Malden stepped up to administer the Pilot Program after several students made it clear how critically important this program is to them and their future.

Since committing to the Youth Pass Pilot program, the City of Malden has committed significant resources to collecting paperwork, administering the pass cards, and completing monthly surveys. So far, the program has been a tremendous success and we are happy to report that more and more young people show an interest in the program each day. The City of Malden is committed to its long-term success and will continue to partner with the MBTA to make the Youth Pass available. This program has become an integral part of the day-to-day life for those who depend on the T for transportation to school, work, medical appointments, extracurricular activities, and entertainment.

Again, we are excited that this program will become an official part of the MBTA's services. We believe it is critical to helping so many young people afford essential transportation and that it will most certainly increase school attendance, offer a sustainable way to get to work, and allow our youth to play a larger role as leaders in our community.

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We are grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with the MBTA and provide this service to our youth. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or comments about our experience with the Youth Pass Program.

Sincerely,



GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor

cc: Frank DePaola, MBTA General Manager (Frank.depaola@dot.ma.gov)