



City of Woburn, Massachusetts

Woburn City Council

Woburn City Hall
10 Common Street
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801
(781) 897-5850

November 15, 2016

Danielle Gosselin
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. 34797 (Sub-No.1)

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

This correspondence is a letter of concern to the intended above referenced submittal titled Construction, Acquisition, and Operation Exemption in Wilmington and Woburn, MA dated June 24, 2016 by the New England Transrail, LLC, d/b/a Wilmington & Woburn Terminal Railway. As requested the comments are directed toward the Draft Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) ordered by the Office of Environmental Analysis of the Surface Transportation Board.

After having read the decision, we are deeply concerned about the detrimental environmental impact, as well as the adverse quality of life impacts this kind of development would have on the residents from both Woburn and Wilmington along Route 38. The proposed development would have 800 round-trip truck vehicles per day. Route 38 along Woburn and Wilmington is an already congested roadway that is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, as well as the Altavesta Elementary School in Woburn. This additional truck traffic will only worsen traffic congestion in the area as well as increase the public safety risks to residents and the Altavesta Elementary School population.

We are also concerned with the hours of operation of the train operations. Train operations are expected to be conducted from 11:00pm to 6:00am. The noise and environmental impacts from this kind of development will negatively affect the quality of life of area residents. The 800 truck trips, coupled with the railway system will have serious impacts on air quality in the area from the emissions of the vehicles. The noise created by this development would go against the City's noise control ordinance that prohibits noise from this kind of activity outside the hours of 7am-7pm Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday unless they have a permit issued by the Board of Health.

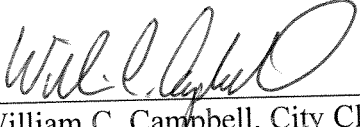
Danielle Gosselin
Office of Environmental Analysis
Re: Docket No., 34797 (Sub-No.1)
November 15, 2016
Page Two

It is also our understanding that a complete and thorough investigation of the true impacts of the contamination at the Olin Chemical site have not been completed. What kind of environmental impacts would this kind of remediation have on residents in the area? We believe this type of development brings up more questions than answers.

In closing, the impacts this would have on the public safety, health, and welfare of the residents along Route 38 in both Woburn and Wilmington would be substantially detrimental. We hope these concerns are taken into consideration when making this most serious decision.

Respectfully,
THE WOBURN CITY COUNCIL

Richard M. Haggerty, Alderman at Large, President
Michael P. Concannon, Alderman at Large
Joanne E. Campbell, Alderman Ward 1
Richard F. Gately, Jr., Alderman Ward 2
Mark E. Gaffney, Alderman Ward 3
Michael D. Anderson, Alderman Ward 4
Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Alderman Ward 5
Edward Tedesco, Alderman Ward 6
Lindsay E. Higgins, Alderman Ward 7

By its Clerk: 
William C. Campbell, City Clerk and
Clerk of the City Council

cc: U.S. Senator Edward Markey
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Representative Katherine Clark
State Senator Kenneth Donnelly
State Representative James Miceli
State Representative James Dwyer
State Representative Jay Kaufman