

**From:** Mayor Ruthanne Fuller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** City Council <[citycouncil@newtonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@newtonma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Update on Newton's Commuter Rail Stations

Honorable City Councilors,

The City of Newton was officially notified by MBTA officials that their grant application for construction of our three commuter rail stations in Auburndale, West Newton and Newton Highlands was not included in the latest round of federal All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) grant awards.

This is disappointing news for the people of Newton and beyond who rely on the Framingham/Worcester commuter rail line. The news is a particular blow to people with disabilities as these three stations are impossible for people with physical disabilities to access due to numerous, steep stairs.

The cost of the design work for the three stations is fully funded and the MBTA is approaching the 75% design phase.

The grant would have funded up to 80% of the \$170 million cost of construction to replace the three stations featuring fully accessible, high-level side platforms, elevators and accessible pathways to each platform.

These new stations will be a gamechanger for commuters living or working in Newton, improving frequency, accessibility and reliability on this crucial line that connects Worcester with Boston and may even extend to the Berkshires.

Congressman Jake Auchincloss has been working to include \$7 million for the construction in the omnibus appropriations bill winding through Congress this week. This federal bill will be debated and hopefully finalized, with the project funding, before the end of the year.

I will work with Congressman Auchincloss and our delegation at the State House to support the MBTA in reapplying for the next round of federal station accessibility grants. This is my top priority for funding from the State and I will continue to work with the MBTA and with incoming Gov. Healey and her administration to fund construction of these vital commuter rail stations.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

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