

JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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**HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**



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November 15, 2023

Susan Albright
President, Newton City Council
Newton City Hall, Room 105
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear President Albright,

As the City Council deliberates on changes to Newton zoning, I have been asked by several interested parties how the city's land use policy might affect its competitiveness for federal transportation grants. I know this question is particularly germane to Auburndale. I am responding in writing for the benefit of all councilors and constituents.

Both the federal Department of Transportation (DOT), as a matter of policy; and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, as a matter of emphasis, value density near transit nodes. Based on the previous notice of funding opportunity, the DOT is likely to factor in how land use might generate more transit trips when scoring applications to the All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP), to which the MBTA applied last year on behalf of the Newton commuter rail stations. Another MBTA application to ASAP could benefit by zoning for more housing near the station.

No one factor is dispositive, of course, and the City Council's decision neither guarantees nor precludes the success of the application. But, more housing could help.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer the federal perspective to the Newton City Council. I remain committed to continued close partnership with Newton's state and local officials to procure for the three commuter rail stations as much federal funding as possible, in addition to the \$7M already secured.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jake Auchincloss', written in a cursive style.

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress