

From: Lorraine Iovanni

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 11:53 AM

To: Ann Harrison <harrisona@manchester.ma.us>; John Round <roundj@manchester.ma.us>; Brian Sollosy <Sollosyb@manchester.ma.us>; Catherine Bilotta <Bilottac@manchester.ma.us>; Becky Jaques <jaguesb@manchester.ma.us>; Ronald Mastrogiacomo <mastrogiacomor@manchester.ma.us>; Sarah Creighton <CreightonS@manchester.ma.us>; Laura Tenny <tennyl@manchester.ma.us>; Christopher Olney <olneyc@manchester.ma.us>; Susan Philbrick <philbricks@manchester.ma.us>; Mary Foley <foleym@manchester.ma.us>; Christine Delisio <delisioc@manchester.ma.us>; Greg Federspiel <federspielg@manchester.ma.us>

Cc: Debbie Powers <powersd@manchester.ma.us>; Gail Hunter <HunterG@manchester.ma.us>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Records Request MBTA Rockport Line: No Mitigation Plan for Flooding

ATTN: SB, PB, MBTA Zoning Task Force, TA

(Ms Hunter, please distribute to all MBTA Zoning Task Force Members, thank you)

(Ms Powers, please distribute to all MHA members, thank you)

Good Morning,

Below please find the response from Julie Ciollo, Assistant General Counsel, MASS DOT to my Public Records Request regarding mitigation of projected flooding of the Rockport Line. The Rockport Line is expected to flood at points of failure, as you know.

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) developed the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Viewer. [MA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Viewer \(CZM\) \(arcgis.com\)](#)

At this time, the MBTA reports via the PRR:

"In response to your request, please be advised that the MBTA does not possess any records from the time period selected showing action, timetable, and costs to mitigate projected flooding of the Rockport Line."

I am requesting that this significant data be given heavy weight in our Manchester analysis of MBTA Zoning by our Task Force. It appears that we are required to zone/establish capacity for multi-family zoning in areas subject to Ch 91 and predicated on an MBTA Rockport Line that may not survive projected coastal flooding. We are in a quandary, at best.

In my research, I have exchanged email/spoken with the NS CZM folks and have received via another PRR from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable

Communities (EOHLC), email guidance to MBTS regarding *discouraging* zoning in Ch 91 areas. I have shared that data with the Manchester MBTA Zoning Task Force and these emails are posted to the Town website. My takeaway is that the State does not want people in harm's way.

Having deduced this from my research, I reviewed the MBTA rail line map to other areas of the State: <https://cdn.mbta.com/sites/default/files/2023-01/2023-01-23-cr-fare-zones.pdf>

There appears to be rail lines pointed to outskirts of the State away from coastal vulnerability. Accordingly, I am requesting that the PB/SB and the Manchester MBTS Task Force request the EOHLC to work with MBTS to ascertain if we can get some relief from MBTA zoning and any penalties that may ensue. ***This appears to be a no win in the present circumstances if we are to zone for areas subject to impact flooding of the rail line.***

Notwithstanding, we all recognize the need for housing, albeit multifamily or senior/elderly housing. I know our MBTA Zoning TF has identified the LCD area near the MAC. Perhaps, we can initiate a discussion for a project to be jointly developed by the **Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities** (EOHLC) and the **Executive Office of Elder Affairs**, to develop an income based senior living facility in the LCD near the MAC to help seniors maintain their independence and "age in place" by providing better access to supportive services such as case management, 24-hour on-site personal care staff, housekeeping, a daily meals program, medication reminders, transportation, shopping and laundry services to elders. We need more age friendly accommodations as our Town increases to near 40 per cent seniors/elders. If we cannot gear toward multifamily, why not offer senior/elder housing, which is also a needed goal. This would indeed be a win-win.

I would also request that as correspondence arrives to our MBTA Zoning Task Force, in lieu of Zoom or in person input, that it be briefly discussed, not just mentioned as in receipt and posted to the site... particularly, this new research concerning the Rockport Line.

Thank you for your work. I will continue to share my research.

Regards,

Lorraine

Lorraine Iovanni
20 A Pine St.

----- Original Message -----

From: MassDOT Records Center <massachusettsdot@mycusthelp.net>

Date: 10/19/2023 4:28 PM EDT

Subject: Public Records Request (MBTA) :: R001032-101623

--- Please respond above this line ---

October 19, 2023

Lorraine Iovanni

,

Re: Public Records Request for “I am making a straightforward Public Records Request to Mass DOT with regard to the MBTA Commuter Rail Rockport Line.

The Coastal Zone Mangement Office of the State has determined that the Rockport Line has points of failure with rising seas and will be flooded.

1. Period: January 1, 2021 to date
2. Records: showing action, timetable, and costs to mitigate projected flooding of the Rockport Line.”
Our Case No.: R001032-101623

Dear Ms. Iovanni,

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”) is in receipt of your request for public records dated October 16, 2023 regarding the above-referenced matter; this request was received by our Records Access Officer on October 16, 2023.

In response to your request, please be advised that the MBTA does not possess any records form the time period selected showing action, timetable, and costs to mitigate projected flooding of the Rockport Line.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Ciollo
Assistant General Counsel/
Records Access Officer

