



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Brian Shortsleeve, Chief Administrator and Acting General Manager

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

October 6, 2016

Mayor [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor [REDACTED],

The MBTA invites [REDACTED] to participate in the first full year of the MBTA Youth Pass program. After a successful pilot year with the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Malden, and Somerville, the MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board has recently voted to offer the Youth Pass program to a larger group of municipalities. The program offers many benefits for eligible youth, and we hope that [REDACTED] will decide to participate.

The Youth Pass program is designed to benefit low-income youth and to fill the gap for young people not currently enrolled in a traditional high school (with access to the MBTA Student Pass). Low-income qualification is determined based on enrollment in certain income-based state or federal benefit programs. Participation in the program allows young people to purchase a monthly MBTA LinkPass (valid on local bus and subway) at the reduced cost of \$30 or to purchase half-price fares for single trips.

Youth are eligible if they live in a participating city and are:

- between the ages of 12 and 18, inclusive, who are not enrolled in middle or high school, or
- between the ages 19 and 25, inclusive, who are enrolled in an approved GED, job training, or state/federal income-based benefit program. Young people enrolled in college are not automatically eligible, but can qualify if they are in an approved income-based benefit program.

The results from our year-long pilot showed that participating in the Youth Pass increased youth access to school, jobs, and activities. Participants reported that 13% of trips they made using the Youth Pass would not have been possible without it.

The MBTA relies on municipal partners to administer the program. If a municipality decides to participate in the program, they will be responsible for answering questions and providing information about the program; performing annual enrollment and eligibility verification; and printing the special Youth Pass CharlieCard. The MBTA will supply all of the necessary equipment, and no cash handling will be required.

The MBTA has prepared a program handbook that explains all of the details of the Youth Pass program, and describes the roles and responsibilities of both the MBTA and municipal partners. The handbook includes the list of approved programs that provide eligibility for 19-25 year olds. All partners will have to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MBTA. To find out more information on how to join the program, please contact Director of Strategic Initiatives, Laurel Paget-Seekins at 617-222-5219 or lpagetseekins@mbta.com.

We hope [REDACTED] will work with us to offer this important program to reduce transportation barriers and thereby increase opportunity for low-income youth in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Shortsleeve", written in a cursive style.

Brian Shortsleeve
Acting General Manager