

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Joshua Ostroff
Date: November 9, 2007
Re: MBTA Parking Garage Options

cc: Martha White, Patrick Reffett, Ken Soderholm, Joseph Weisse

The Board may wish to consider following up on the MBTA's *Natick Parking Garage Location Analysis* dated August 7, 2007, a copy of which is attached. The T plans to expand commuter parking in some locations throughout its service area, and Natick is under consideration.

The document considers four Natick locations for potential commuter parking development, and identifies advantages and disadvantages to each. The two alternatives that utilize air rights in Natick Center would be paired with station improvements, including accessibility and high platforms. A third alternative would build a parking structure at West Natick station, and the fourth would build at the site of the Middlesex Garage, subject to the outcome of the Town's development initiative at that location.

Parking issues aside, improvements and accessibility at Natick Center station are a benefit to the community, and one which I hope the town pursues with the MBTA, whether alone or in combination with a parking proposal.

As the MBTA analysis is preliminary, certain of its assumptions may be out of date, and since it was not developed with any substantial local input it does not take into account the scope of the community's concerns and interests.

The proposed follow up in the MBTA document is "further review by the Executive Office of Transportation, the MBTA and the Town of Natick." I suggest for the Board's consideration a committee to draft a response for Board review. This committee may include representatives of our Board, the Planning Board and the Commission on Disability, along with the Town Administrator, Community Development Director, our MBTA Advisory Board rep, representatives of Natick Center Associates and the MetroWest RTA, and at least one commuter rail user.

Thank you for your consideration.