

448 Shawsheen Avenue  
Wilmington, MA 01887

August 27, 2004

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Phillis Johnson-Ball  
Environmental Project Manager  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C., 20423

Re: Environmental Assessment dated 8/4/04, Finance Docket No. 34391

Dear Ms. Johnson Ball:

This is a second commentary regarding the above-referenced project, New England Transrail, LLC, etc.

The first disagreement with your assessment relates to the traffic impact. With the anticipated 400 truck trips per day, causing an increase of 50 thirty-foot or 18 wheeler trucks hourly through a neighborhood with residential housing, that's a negative impact. That's almost 1 more truck per minute, using a 8-hour day. Even with a 24-hour day, we're looking at a minimum of 17 trucks, or 1 every 3 minutes. It cannot be said this is not a negative impact. The proponent is suggesting the immediate number for truck trips will be at a increased truck trip every 2.5 minutes or every 7.2 minutes. This is unacceptable for those who live or work in that neighborhood.

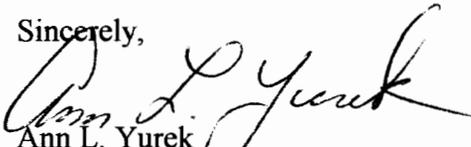
This route that will be mandated runs right through a very busy retail center, affecting the use by residents, raising the specter of a cost to this business center.

In addition, a block from Woburn Street, toward Route 93, West-Lowell Street, part of the mandated route, there is an approved project for 2 office building projects, increasing traffic significantly on their own at a sight that is a failure today. New England Transit is offering no mitigation dollars to this sight. They will be crippling the intersection.

The site is a contaminated site. Given the nature of the business proposed, New England Transrail will create more opportunities for accidents, both mechanical and human. This site has created concerns related to the health of our present and future residents and decreased confidence in the safety of the water supply for a region. The statements regarding the training of staff are not sufficient to raise the confidence of the users of this watershed. It was after all human fallibility that brought contamination through chemicals to the water supply. I'm sure that staff was well trained, as well.

Approval by regulatory agencies of this proposal is an act of negligence to the abutters and for the watershed users. This must be rejected as unacceptable for the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

  
Ann L. Yurek  
448 Shawsheen Avenue  
Wilmington, MA 01887