

Please find a letter with feedback about Bus Network Redesign in Lexington and its neighboring communities; with signatories from Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge, and more. The community affiliations included in signatures does not imply the endorsement of those bodies or organizations; each signature is limited to personal, individual endorsement of the letter.

This letter has been circulated in online forums and in-person as much as possible, but there's a notable lack of knowledge about the changes being made in Lexington and its surrounding communities, as [The Lexington Observer noted](#)<sup>1</sup>. I trust that the MBTA will account for the fact that many of those most impacted by the changes, especially senior citizens, may not have been as represented in the feedback collected. Alewife additionally didn't have a session scheduled until it was requested and asked for by myself and other members of the community and Town.

Lexington's [local](#)<sup>2</sup> and [state](#)<sup>3</sup> officials have also backed similar changes in respective letters. I hope their support will be considered in combination.

If you have any questions or need a point of contact. Please reach me at [kunal@kunalbotla.com](mailto:kunal@kunalbotla.com), (617) [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] Lexington, MA 02421.

Best,  
Kunal

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<sup>1</sup> [As MBTA proposes major bus route changes, Town suggests revisions to better serve Lexington Center, Lexington High School](#), July 14, 2022, Lexington Observer.

<sup>2</sup> Lexington Town Manager's Letter:  
<https://lexington-transit.kunalbotla.com/files/2022-06-15+Town+of+Lexington+Town+Manager+Mall+Letter+To+MBTA.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> State Rep. Ciccolo and State Sen. Friedman:  
<https://lexington-transit.kunalbotla.com/files/2022-07-25+Massachusetts+Lexington+Delegation+MBTA+Letter.pdf>.

Kunal Botla & the undersigned community members

July 31, 2022

**Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
Bus Network Redesign**

Attn: Victoria Ireton, Deputy Director of Community Engagement  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3830  
Boston, MA 02116

[betterbusproject@mbta.com](mailto:betterbusproject@mbta.com)

**Re: A Letter to MBTA about Bus Network Redesign in Lexington**

Dear Bus Network Redesign team,

Lexington is directly served by route 62 and 76 within the Town, and routes 77, 78, 67, and 61 serve its border neighborhoods. Over time, Lexington has lost service routes and frequency with the closure of the Lexington Branch, peak 351 trips, changes to the 67, and other discontinued or truncated routes between Waltham and Arlington.

Transportation is the leading cause of climate change in Massachusetts. The Bus Network Redesign poses an opportunity to improve service inbound into Boston via the Red Line and locally within Lexington or between Lexington, Arlington, and Bedford and add sustainable transit. The changes made in the next few years will be critical for Lexington residents and commuters. It's an opportunity for increased fare revenue for the MBTA from the commuters that buy passes.

More than routing, frequency is an improvement key to providing the service needed. The route 62 and 76 both cover densely populated parts of Lexington along Mass. Ave. and connect riders to Lexington Center, the High School, and other parts of Lexington, Arlington, Bedford, and Alewife. Prior to COVID, both the 62 and 76 had all day 30 to 60 minute or better frequency. In the proposed redesign, that falls to 60 minutes or better all-day on the 62 and 60 minutes or better at peak on the 76.

To provide adequate service for the people commuting to and from Lexington, both the routes need to have 30 minutes or better service from Lexington Center to the Red Line at Alewife all-day. Alternating short turn routes at Lexington Center and Five Forks, like those from before COVID, could help provide that service on the most utilized parts of the routes.

The pandemic brought down ridership in all forms of transit, but frequent, reliable service is important, especially for people traveling for more than work.

Weekend service with the simpler 62 is great, but it doesn't fix the existing problems. Weekend service using the simpler 62 route makes sense as long it also increases to 30 minutes or better. 60 minutes or better can't provide anywhere near the service needed. The 62/76 is an insanely long route with not much added coverage. If continued to be used, it should be modified to add Lexington High School coverage and then return to the 62 route.

The proposed 76 routing doesn't make sense for the dynamics of the area. The added stop is in a hilly area with lots of open land; there isn't enough there to warrant that routing. It also takes away direct access to the High School and the ridership that will come as students use it throughout the day. It should either turn from Lexington Center on Waltham St. or follow the current route; many people use the stops that will be bypassed by the proposed route. Frequency during peak won't provide the service needed for ridership and it would ultimately be fatal for the route's ridership and existence.

Furthermore, 77 should be extended to Lexington Center. It's an already well ridden route and the extension would only add 6-7 minutes to the route (based on the 62's time to take that stretch) and it would provide significantly more frequent service to Arlington (Heights and Center), the Red Line, at Porter and Harvard Square. Not every bus would need to service this route but alternating ones would provide a lot of coverage every 30 minutes or better.

A combination of routes 62, 76, and 77 would create a shared 15 minute or better trunk from Lexington Center, along Mass. Ave., to the Red Line, with connections in Arlington and Cambridge. Having frequent service throughout the day from Lexington Center to the Red Line is critical. Especially for the most densely populated parts of Lexington already using it.

Sincerely,

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. <b>Kunal Botla</b><br><i>Lexington Town<br/>Transportation Advisory<br/>Committee</i><br>Lexington | 4. <b>Vincent Alessi</b><br>Lexington      | 8. <b>Dilbeen Bajaj</b><br>Lexington         |
| 2. <b>Barbara Domings</b><br>Lexington  | 5. <b>Megan Klein Hattori</b><br>Lexington | 9. <b>Aviad Zamir</b><br>Lexington           |
| 3. <b>Mazen Chalabi</b><br>Lexington  | 6. <b>Ambrish Roy</b><br>Lexington         | 10. <b>Justin Jin</b><br>Lexington           |
|   | 7. <b>Janet West</b><br>Lexington          | 11. <b>Christos Bairaktaris</b><br>Lexington |

- |   |   |  |
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| 13. <b>Padma Anisingaraju</b><br>Lexington                        | 29. <b>Mary Alice Haddad</b><br><i>Safe Routes to School</i><br>Lexington   | 44. <b>Sofia Manevich</b><br>Lexington   |
| 14. <b>Chase Brownell</b><br>Lexington                            | 30. <b>Amelia O'Donnell</b><br><i>Town Meeting Member</i><br>Lexington  | 45. <b>Cyrielle Aldairy</b><br>Lexington   |
| 15. <b>Deborah Marty</b><br>Lexington                             | 31. <b>Palmira Pena Salazar</b><br>Lexington  | 46. <b>Victoria Fraser</b><br>Lexington  |
| 16. <b>Martha Leticia<br/>Valencia-Torres</b><br>Lexington        | 32. <b>Marcela Geva</b><br>Lexington  | 47. <b>Marc Weinberg</b><br>Lexington  |
| 17. <b>Evonne Lin</b><br>Lexington                                | 33. <b>Ruth J. Liberman</b><br>Lexington  | 48. <b>Teresa Willard</b><br>Lexington   |
| 18. <b>Sravani A.</b><br>Lexington                                | 34. <b>Usha Shanmugam</b><br>Lexington  | 49. <b>Alexandra Manrique</b><br>Lexington   |
| 19. <b>Durjoy Bhattacharjya</b><br>Lexington                      | 35. <b>Kate McCarey</b><br>Lexington  | 50. <b>Mi Chen</b><br>Lexington  |
| 20. <b>Sara Franks-Allen</b><br>Lexington                         | 36. <b>Letha Prestbo</b><br><i>Town Meeting Member<br/>(Precinct 3) &amp; Five Fields<br/>Board Member</i><br>Lexington | 51. <b>Iman Albadawi</b><br>Lexington  |
| 21. <b>Amelia Brower</b><br>Lexington                             | 37. <b>Angelica Cortez</b><br><i>Lextinas</i><br>Lexington  | 52. <b>Kavitha Prakash</b><br>Lexington  |
| 22. <b>Emily Pellini</b><br>Lexington                             | 38. <b>Cynthia DeRosa</b><br>Lexington  | 53. <b>Kaitlyn Buote</b><br>Lexington  |
| 23. <b>Yasemin Sari</b><br>Lexington                              | 39. <b>Natalie LaFranzo</b><br>Lexington  | 54. <b>Laura Hussong</b><br>Lexington  |
| 24. <b>Vicki Lambiri</b><br>Lexington                             | 40. <b>Maryam Salehpour</b><br>Lexington  | 55. <b>Shiva Botla</b><br>Lexington  |
| 25. <b>Jimena Velarde</b><br>Lexington                            | 41. <b>Morteza Yazdi</b><br>Lexington   | 56. <b>Prashant Danda</b><br>Lexington   |
| 26. <b>Marianne M. McKenna</b><br>Lexington                       | 42. <b>Swapna Chakrabarti</b><br>Lexington  | 57. <b>Vikas Dhingra</b><br>Lexington  |
| 27. <b>Melida Buentello-Olivo</b><br><i>Lextinas</i><br>Lexington |   | 58. <b>Jidnyasa Ingale</b><br>Lexington  |

59. **Rashi Gujral**  
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63. **Shilpa Atnoor**  
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67. **Elizabeth Huttner-Loan**  
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179. **Richard Canale**  
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181. **Janet McKenney**  
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188. **Nishanth Veeragandham**  
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192. **Marlene Silva**  
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210. **Joyce Boyland**  
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212. **Heeren Pathak**  
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213. **Devesh Pathak**  
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214. **Kaveesh Pathak**  
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215. **Puru Botla**  
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