

**SILVER LINE PHASE III
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT/SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
(SDEIS/SEIR)**

ABSTRACT

The SDEIS/SEIR examines the environmental, community, operational and construction impacts of completing the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) bus rapid transit (BRT) service, the Silver Line. Phase III of the Silver Line Project will complete this BRT system by providing the essential connection between Phase I (now in operation along Washington Street) with Phase II (now in operation along the South Boston Waterfront). Upon completion, Phase III is expected to significantly reduce existing and anticipated traffic congestion in the Phase III corridor, realize significant travel time savings, generate substantial transportation, environmental, economic development benefits locally, as well as enhance the value of existing transit investments by improving connections or providing alternatives to the Green and Orange Lines of the rapid transit system. This SDEIS/SEIR considers several alternatives including the No Build Alternative, the Baseline Alternative, as well as four Build Alternatives: Tremont Street/New England Medical Center (NEMC), Stuart Street/NEMC, Charles Street/NEMC, and Columbus Avenue. These four Build Alternatives, all of which are located in the City of Boston and are approximately one-mile long, will connect the two existing Silver Line services into a new tunnel referred to as the Core Tunnel Segment. The Core Tunnel Segment, which was analyzed in a prior environmental review process, includes new connections at the existing Boylston Street (Green Line) and Chinatown (Orange Line) Stations. This SDEIS/SEIR examines the environmental impacts of certain changes to that previously approved alignment.

The document is now available for public review and comment. Two hearings will be held at which members of the public are invited to attend and to provide comments. The hearings will be held:

Wednesday June 29, 2005
The Boston Renaissance Charter School
250 Stuart Street (Park Square)
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Thursday, June 30, 2005
Emerson College
80 Boylston Street (The Little Building)
Emerson Conference Room – 2nd Floor
2PM to 4PM

Comments on the document may be submitted in writing or may be made orally at the public hearings. A 60-day comment period has been established. Comments must be received no later than July 22, 2005. Written comments may be addressed to:

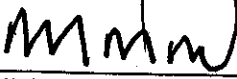
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EOEA, Attn: MEPA Office
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Additional information concerning the document and how to comment on it can be found at the Silver Line website at www.allaboutsilverline.com or by calling Andrew Brennan 617-222-3126.

Approvals:


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