



Haverhill

Office of the Mayor, Room 100
Phone: 978-374-2300 Fax: 978-373-7544
Mayor@cityofhaverhill.com

June 9, 2015

Mayor Fiorentini Leads Effort to have MMA Endorse Governor's Proposal to Reform the MBTA

On Tuesday the MMA announced its support for Governor Baker's MBTA reform bill. The effort was led by Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini, President of the Mass Mayor's Association. Mayor Fiorentini filed the motion to have the policy committee of the MMA study the issue and then on Tuesday, made the motion and led the effort to have the MMA endorse the Governor's efforts.

In a statement Mayor Fiorentini said:

“Fixing the MBTA is not a partisan issue. There is no Democratic or Republican ways to fix the MBTA, to run trains, shovel tracks, or buy the right equipment. It is a practical issue affecting thousands of our residents.

I was proud to lead this effort on behalf of the citizens of my city. Last winter Haverhill citizens found it difficult or impossible to get to work. Some were stranded in Boston when the MBTA just shut down because of the storm. The MBTA should shine during a storm, when all citizens are urged to take public transportation to keep cars off the highways. Instead of shining, the MBTA blacked out and failed us.

In the long run, we may well need a massive infusion of funding to fix the MBTA and make the trains run on time. Before we do that, before we ask the public to pay more, we need to make certain that the system is running efficiently and that taxpayers and rate payers are getting fair value for their money.

The Governor has asked for the tools to tackle this problem. I believe that it is essential that he be given the tools and the challenge to fix the T.”