



June 15, 2018

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
State Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Town of Burlington, Middlesex 3 Coalition Request for Funding for Transportation Shuttle Service

Distinguished Members:

On behalf of the business community for the greater Burlington area, I write in support of the application of the Town of Burlington and the Middlesex 3 Coalition for seed funding for a shuttle service to run between the City of Lowell and the Town of Burlington. This service would provide job opportunities for otherwise unemployed residents of Lowell who could fill current employment openings in Burlington, particularly in the restaurant and hospitality industry. The greatest challenge facing Burlington area restaurants is the need to fill open job requisitions, and these businesses must look outside the immediate area for help.

As president of the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, I have been meeting with restaurant owners and managers for several years. I am confident that they will collectively contribute \$55,000 to the first year of the operation of the shuttle, increasing to \$110,000 the second and third years, and then take full responsibility to operate the shuttle thereafter. This contribution is conditional on the Commonwealth's contribution of \$150,000 in the first year of operation, and \$50,000 and then \$25,000 in the following two years.

If the proposal to fund the shuttles advances to the next step, I will be prepared with letters of commitment from the businesses, which will be conditional upon the participation of the Commonwealth. The businesses turn to government for this initial phase, because we believe it is an important service to the communities, as well as an economic development necessity. This is a great example of how a public-private partnership can work best to provide much needed, meaningful results.

Thank you and if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Parker", is written over the typed name.

Rick Parker  
President, Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce  
265 Winn Street, Suite 302  
Burlington, MA 01803  
[rparker@baccma.org](mailto:rparker@baccma.org)