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By Amie Martin at 12:14 pm, Sep 02, 2021

MONTACHUSETT AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
(978)345-7711 - 1-800-922-5636 - FAX: (978) 345-9867

July 23, 2021

Phil Eugene, Chair
Lancaster Economic Development Committee
Prescott Building
701 Main Street Suite 2
Lancaster, MA 01523

Victoria Petracca, Chair
Lancaster Affordable Housing Trust
Prescott Building
701 Main Street Suite 2
Lancaster, MA 01523

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Eugene and Ms. Petracca,

I am pleased to confirm the possibility of extending the MART's Bus Route #8 to include a proposed redevelopment site located at approximately 1410 - 1474 Lunenburg Road in Lancaster.

The proposed redevelopment of the former sand and gravel operation includes an Industrial Commercial Overlay District providing economic development to Lancaster and Central Massachusetts. A connected 40R District combines mixed-income, multi-family rental housing with retail and commercial activity, as well as nearby access to public open space.

The MART's Route #8 connects to the nearby MBTA Commuter Rail station in North Leominster via the Mall at Whitney Field, not far from this proposed development. The North Leominster Commuter Rail station (one stop away from Whitney field stop) provides daily commuter rail service to Boston, Cambridge and Fitchburg, as well as fourteen other MBTA stations on the Fitchburg line as illustrated on the Fitchburg Line CR schedule (see link below).

https://www.mbta.com/schedules/CR-Fitchburg/timetable

Route #8 (see link below) currently services Downtown Leominster, the Mall at Whitney Field (Market Basket/Food Court), D'Ambrosio Eye Center (Lancaster), Orchard Hill Park (Target/Kohl's/etc.), Crossroads Office Park and the Leominster Senior Center, as well as inter-connection to the entire MART fixed route system.

http://www.mrta.us/routes-schedules/route-8-schedule

To extend Route #8 to the affordable housing/economic development site in Lancaster will cost (as a preliminary estimate) approximately $110,000/year. State and federal transit funds which are allocated to MART will cover approximately 70% of the cost of the additional services and the Town, through its local assessment from MART, is responsible for the remaining 30%, which is approximately $33,000/year.

Relative to the shelter, the approximate cost of the Bus Shelter is between $7,500 and $15,000 depending on the design selected, and along with the installation, is the responsibility of the property owner. For a project of this size and to maintain manageable pedestrian walking distances, we would recommend two Bus Shelters, as noted below:

1. within the 40R District adjacent to the mixed-income, multi-family housing
2. within the Industrial Commercial Overlay District near the largest distribution center

We hope this preliminary information proves helpful to you. If further information is needed, please don't hesitate to contact us. I can be reach at 978.665.2263 or by email at bruno.fisher@mrta.us .

We look forward to providing convenient public transit service to this Lancaster destination.

Sincerely,

Bruno J Fisher

Bruno Fisher
Interim Administrator