



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR**

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November 6, 2009

Mr. Jeffrey B. Mullan  
Secretary of Transportation/CEO  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Mullan,

On behalf of the North of Boston Convention and Visitor's Bureau (NBCVB), I am writing to bring your attention a plan to keep the Maria Miles Visitor Information Center (MMVIC) at Interstate 95 near the New Hampshire border open despite severe budget cuts proposed by the Administration.

As you may know, the MMVIC is the Gateway to Massachusetts with over 500,000 visitors entering the facility every year, or using the parking area as a safe place to rest from a long drive. Arguably one of the best looking, best maintained, and best run visitor centers in the Commonwealth, the MMVIC is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week with expanded hours on the weekends during the summer. As a Gateway, the MMVIC is integral to the marketing of both Essex County and the Commonwealth for the travel and tourism industry and is equipped to assist with roadside emergencies.

The North of Boston Conventions and Visitor's Bureau is proposing a plan to MassDOT to take responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the facility in FY2011. This unique public-private partnership with the NBCVB will allow for the continued operation of this important transportation and tourism asset while providing significant cost savings to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth. This innovative plan, however, will require MassDOT to continue funding the MMVIC until June 30, 2010 to prevent any unnecessary damage to the facility if closed.

I understand many issues come before your desk each week; nonetheless, I would appreciate any consideration your office can provide to NBCVB.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in further detail.

Best wishes,

Steven A. Baddour  
State Senator  
First Essex District

cc: Luisa Paiewonsky, Highway Division Administrator, MassDOT

