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Subject:	Green Line Extension – Enforce the SIP air quality and Transportation Conformity Measures in the Boston MPO 2012 – 2015 TIP and LRTP
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 9:52:49 AM

I am writing today concerning the Green Line Extension to Somerville and Medford. The Commonwealth's current effort to delay the Green Line Extension to 2018-2020 or later is completely unacceptable. The proposed delays violate the legal requirement of prioritizing projects such as the GLX that are required to meet Federal transportation conformity measures under the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in the MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Implementing the GLX is a legal obligation under the Clean Air Act, and it is not acceptable for the state to continue to ignore its legal commitments to Somerville.

Furthermore, the GLX is a critical investment in our future, has significant environmental, public health, and economic benefits, especially for environmental justice communities in Somerville, and will have a key role in combating climate change and reducing oil usage. If Massachusetts continues to neglect important investments in improving our public transit system, we will eventually suffer the consequences. It is incredibly short-sighted to spend our scare dollars on expanding highways, which simply induces more automobile traffic, more pollution, more congestion, and more CO2 emissions. Expanding public transit, on the other hand, reduces automobile traffic, reduces congestion, reduces pollution, and reduces CO2 emissions. Which future would we prefer?

For too long Somerville has hosted and suffered the negative effects of the transportation infrastructure (I-93, commuter rail, etc) that commuters in the more-distant suburbs use to get to jobs in Boston. It is time for Somerville to get some benefit in return. It is time for the state to step up and seriously commit to funding the Green Line Extension, even if Federal support cannot be obtained. And it is time for the state to make this project a true priority, and not just give lip service to the importance of the GLX in the face of repeated delays.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns and to the feedback from the public on this critical transportation project.

Sincerely,
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