From: Bathsheba
To: Bathsheba
Subject: GLX delay...really?!
Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 3:17:00 AM

Hi, I'm writing to protest the State's recent efforts to further delay the Green Line extension. My city, Somerville, is full of people and businesses -- including me and my friends -- who have invested in the expectation that this project, which has long been predicted, planned and funded, will proceed on schedule.

The Green Line extension is a legal obligation under the Clean Air Act. The State needs to meet its legal and environmental obligations (SIP air quality and federal Transportation Conformity Measures) by keeping the project to its December 31, 2014 deadline. Full funding must be identified in the Boston MPO's 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Delaying the GLX would:
* Needlessly cost taxpayers statewide an extra $200 million - or more - plus the added costs of air quality mitigation to offset the new delays.
* Jeopardize the State's federal transportation funding - $650 million per year!
* Delay the Community Path, since the two projects share right-of-way and infrastructure.

What sense does it make to throw away not only the federal funding, but also years of citizen benefits? This is your tax base calling -- the most densely populated city in New England -- with an existing right-of-way, connected to existing rail lines, with station parcels ready to go. This is the easiest, most useful rail project imaginable: the low-hanging fruit.

Not to mention the bike path. Have you looked at what the Minuteman bikeway did for property values, all the way out to Bedford? A better return on investment in tax base cannot be imagined. The Community Path, as the most urban and populous part of this path system, would both multiply the value of the whole, and also be the most valuable part. Full funding of the the Community Path should also be programmed in the 2012-2015 TIP and LRTP along with the GLX.

The GLX and Community Path are wonderful sustainable transportation projects that will help help more people get around with fewer car trips, curb greenhouse gases, and provide needed regional economic opportunities.

Please build them. This has every reason to happen -- if you give up on it (which, make no mistake, is what you are doing with this delay) you are giving up on public transportation, cleaner air and citizen amenity, and resigning this part of the Boston area to molder in place. Somerville and Medford are doing their damnedest to pull themselves up by their bootstraps...do you really want to miss the chance to let more Davis Squares crystallize? We are ready to do this, we are already investing, but you have to help. Give us a chance here.

Thanks and regards,

-Bathsheba
--
Bathsheba Grossman Bathsheba Sculpture LLC
Sculpting Geometry http://bathsheba.com
Crystal Proteins http://crystalprotein.com