From:	Jeanine Jenks Farley
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Subject:	Green Line Extension through Somerville
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 10:29:56 AM

I am upset about the State's efforts to delay the Green Line extension. This is an important project for people who live north of Boston in Somerville and surrounding communities.

Somerville needs the Green Line because automobiles do not make sense in such a densely populated city. People who live here prefer to commute downtown by train. Think of all of the automobiles the extension will take off the road, reducing pollution, traffic congestion, and traffic accidents. Lives will be saved; health improved.

Because of the recession, there will never be a cheaper time to go ahead with this project. Let's do it today before the costs escalate. This is also an important time to put people to work, which this project will do.

I am urging federal and state government officials to enforce the legal and environmental obligations (federal Transportation Conformity Measures and SIP air quality) of the project. The Green Line extension is a legal obligation under the Clean Air Act. Full funding of the project and any interim replacements must be identified in the Boston MPO 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Delaying the Green Line Extension also delays the Community Path, since the two projects need to be designed and built together. Full funding of the the Community Path should also be programmed in the 2012-2015 TIP and LRTP. The Green Line Extension 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.

Delaying completion of the project prolongs the negative health effect on citizens by poor air quality, and adds an estimated $200 million to the overall cost. Failure to complete the project by the legal deadline puts Massachusetts at risk of being cut off from federal funding for ALL transportation projects.

Sincerely,
Jeanine Farley
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