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Subject:	Comment on Boston MPO Long Range Transportation Plan and 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program -- Green Line Extension to Route 16
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 11:58:42 AM

I bought a home in Medford Hillside, the area that by legal mandate is to be served by the Green Line Extension, in 1987. Before that I lived for 4 years just on the other side of the hill, which happens to be in Somerville. So I have lived in this area for 28 years, 24 of those as a homeowner.

I have worked hard to support the Green Line Extension to Route 16, not only for my own benefit, but because of the substantial long-term benefits of the project to residents of Medford, Somerville, and surrounding communities. The binding legal obligation to build the Green Line Extension is primarily concerned with air quality (that will NOT be improved if the Green Line Extension stops at College Ave., which is NOT in Medford Hillside). There are also extremely important benefits in the area of environmental justice, transit-oriented economic development, safer and more efficient transportation, and health benefits associated with more walking and biking to stations and use of the Community Path. These are benefits that will accrue to generations to come and build a foundation for economic growth and a sustainable future.

I am extremely distressed by the continuing inexplicable delays in the Green Line Extension project (which has been studied and planned since at least the 1970s), the nonsensical division of the project into two phases which wastes resources and almost guarantees that the Extension will never get to Route 16 (Medford Hillside), and the handling of public comments and communication to the affected communities, which has been almost perverse in its unexplained reverses and counter-factual failure to acknowledge that College Ave. is NOT Medford Hillside and is NOT a viable location for the Green Line Extension terminus even if you call it a “temporary” one.

There have already been significant delays in meeting the legal obligation to extend the Green Line to Medford Hillside, with the planned completion moved from 2011 to 2014. The current delays put the completion between 2018 and 2020. Failure to complete the project by the legal deadline of December 31, 2014, not only puts Massachusetts at risk of not garnering any federal funding for this project, but of being cut off from federal funding for ALL transportation projects. The harm this would cause hardly needs to be enumerated.

I urge you in the strongest terms to resurrect this essential project by supporting full funding of the entire Green Line Extension to Route 16 in one phase, meeting the legal obligation to bring the Green Line to Medford Hillside by December 31, 2014. The I-93 Fast14 Bridge Replacement project proved that where there is focus and commitment, amazing infrastructure improvements can be accomplished in a timely manner and within budget. Please reject any further delays in the Green Line Extension to Route 16.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Bayle
Medford Hillside resident