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Subject:	Green Line Extension
Date:	Sunday, September 11, 2011 11:14:18 AM

I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the Commonwealth's recent efforts to further delay the Green Line extension (GLX).

It is critical that the federal and state governments fulfill their responsibilities to this project. Although the project is a legal obligation under the Clean Air Act, it is not merely an environmental project. The GLX can provide much a needed economic boost both in the short term--providing jobs as the rail line is built--as well long term economic development along the GLX corridor. While other regions of the country and cities across the globe provide evidence that similar projects have spurred economic development, one really need to look no further than Davis Square. The extension of the Red Line rejuvenated what was once a tired retail area into a thriving, vibrant urban center. Throughout the GLX process, the City of Somerville, its government officials as well as members of its economically and culturally diverse citizenry, has supported this project.

I also urge you to ensure that the Community Path be included in the GLX project. Full funding of the the Community Path should be programmed in the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The recent success of the City of Boston's bike program shows that there is a great demand for alternative forms of transportation in our region. The Community Path will link more neighborhoods and more people not only within Somerville but into the cities of Boston and Cambridge as well.

Please do what you can to speed the construction of the GLX.

Sincerely,

Ellen Shea
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