From:	Rachel Fichtenbaum
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Subject:	Please reconsider the Green Line Extension delay - comments from a neighbor/constituent
Date:	Monday, September 12, 2011 9:00:24 PM

Good evening:

As a former resident of Somerville and current resident of the Inman Square area of Cambridge, I am writing to protest the delay of the Green Line Extension. I strongly urge you to reject these delays.

The Green Line Extension is a win for everyone. It will help the residents of Somerville, Medford, and Cambridge access their jobs and civic engagements, and it will spur economic development in these communities. It will also spur regional economic development by creating jobs during a recession – the time when our state most needs this type of public investment. By offering an alternative to highway travel, it will reduce pollution and increase health. It will demonstrate the state's commitment to economic sustainability.

In contrast, the delay is a loss for everyone. Given Somerville's density, it is ludicrous that the city is not better served by public transit – especially since it suffers from the noise and pollution of I-93. Developments planned along the GLX route are now left hanging. The people are losing faith in their government, which cannot even fulfill its legal obligations on time but instead seeks extensions time and time again. Furthermore, in today's economy, risking future federal funding by delaying legal commitments shows lack of foresight.

I strongly urge you to honor your commitments and keep the Green Line on track for 2014. The fast-14 bridge replacement showed that MassDOT can act on an aggressive timetable when it chooses to. I urge you to apply that energy not just to highways but also to public transit, which serves the low-wage workers who provide essential services in the Commonwealth and which offers an environmentally-friendly alternative to single-use automobiles.

Sincerely,
Rachel Fichtenbaum
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Cambridge, MA 02139