From:	Natasha Burger
To:	jerome.grafe@state.ma.us; christine.kirby@state.ma.us; David.mohler@state.ma.us; Katherine.fichter@dot.state.ma.us; publicinformation@ctps.org
Cc:	arnold.anne@epa.gov; cooke.donald@epa.go; monahan.rosemary@epa.gov; pamela.stephenson@dot.gov; michael.chong@dot.gov; william.gordon@dot.gov
Subject:	SIP Transit Commitments, The Boston MPO 2012 – 2015 TIP and the Boston MPO LRTP
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 4:44:08 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to reject MassDOT's request to delay the Green Line opening to 2018-2020. I am opposed to the same delays that are contained within the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

I am a Somerville resident and I believe in making the Green Line Extension happen ASAP. This project is important to me because it supports improvements in my city's health and financial future. I am also in support of the Community Path Extension.

SUSTAINABILITY. It is important to **remember that the Green Line Extension is a great, sustainable transportation project**. It's light rail that will provides clean transit to the city most health-burdened by highway and diesel commuter rail pollution. 85% of Somerville residents will have access to rail and many of our neighbors in East Cambridge, Medford and Arlington will have access to new light rail. It will also integrate with the Community Path, providing convenient access to Green Line stations and completing a bike and pedestrian route from Bedford to downtown Boston. The Green Line Extension fully embodies the principles espoused by GreenDOT*.

THE GREEN LINE IS A LEGAL OBLIGATION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT. It has been the state's single largest Transportation Control Measure (TCM) obligation under the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for twenty years. Thus, it is a binding legal obligation under the Clean Air Act. Federal Transportation Conformity Regulations require that SIP TCMs like the Green Line Extension must be given funding and completion priority by the region and state.

Meeting this legal obligation requires the Boston MPO to show realistic funding sources and timely completion of the Green Line Extension in both the 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). **Currently the TIP shows less than 50% of the money and less than 50% of the Green Line Extension being completed by the legal deadline of 2014.**

The Draft 2012 – 2015 TIP and the Draft LRTP "Paths to a Sustainable Region" fail to meet both the "fiscal constraint" requirement for full funding and the "environmental" requirement for timely completion of the SIP TCMs. **And, beyond the binding legal obligations, MassDOT and the Commonwealth have failed over and over again to meet promised deadlines given to the Green Line Extension communities. Citizens deserve greater respect.**

FUNDING, TIMING and TRANSPARENCY. The Green Line Extension communities have repeatedly welcomed project staff from MassDOT, the MBTA and their consultants. Cooperation, rapport and enthusiasm have generally been high on both sides whenever people have rolled up their sleeves to tackle project details.

Please put the Green Line Extension back on track for 2015 or earlier!

Thank you,
Natasha Burger

Somerville Resident