From:	Erica Schwarz
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.gov; monahan.rosemary@epa.gov; pamela.stephenson@dot.gov; michael.chong@dot.gov; william.gordon@dot.gov
Subject:	Green Line Extension - Urging you not to delay again
Date:	Monday, September 05, 2011 6:14:37 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I was outraged to learn that the Mass DOT had requested a delay of the Green Line extension opening to at least 2018. I am writing to urge the Mass Dept of Enviromental Protection to reject this unjust and irresponsible request and to ask the MPO to also reject this request by ensuring that its TOP and LRTP plans are based on the 2015 opening. This 2015 opening is still much later than it should be and still represents an incredible delay, but would be acceptable to me at this point.

I have lived in Somerville since 1999 (with a 1.5 year hiatus when I lived about 500 yards over the line into Medford). For the majority of that time, I've lived in Union Square. People in Union Square are creative and scrappy and incredibly diverse. It seems one way we are all similar, though is in how insanely patient we've been in waiting for the green line to come to our area. We all want and deserve a green line train to help reduce traffic, air pollution and the related health hazards that affect local residents...every day this project is delayed puts a greater asthma burden on our community. It's not right and it's not excusable.

The green line extension should be the absolute top priority! It is the epitome of the goals of GreenDOT. It reduces public health risks, provides transportation to an area not at all served by rail lines and would significantly help low income people. It will help increase people's transportation options by helping to link different kinds of transportation to each other, as it would integrate with the local bike/walking path here. And if that's not reason enough, it is a legal requirement as part of the Clean Air Act!

It seems clear that this additional extension is a clear violation of the legal obligation. I do not understand why Mass DOT is trying to delay this project so severely...it seems the work is ongoing, the public is interested, informed, supportive and interested in being active and helping to move the process forward. I am urging Mass DOT the MPT the EPA and anyone else with any influence over this project to make this project the priority that it is legally mandated to be. I ask you to allocate adequate funds and make a clear and realistic timeline and plan to have the Green Line open DURING 2015.

We have waited way too long. it's inexcusable.

Thank you.

Erica Schwarz
31 Vinal Ave, #2
Somerville, MA 02143