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Subject:	Green Line Delay & SIP/TCR Conformity
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 9:16:49 AM

I am writing to express my outrage and complete frustration at the announced delay in the Green Line project.

In spite of a legal and moral commitment to the project, the Governor has chosen to push the project back until well after he will have left office. This delay is not due to complex project schedules or land takings. I will quote Governor Patrick as to the actual cause: “It’s been put back on the schedule because we have to be realistic about what we can afford to do today, and how it ranks in the priority of things that need to be done." ["A Perfect Storm", Somerville News, August 10, 2011]

The Governor's actions and his words both demonstrate disrespect for the Commonwealth's commitments under the SIP. His actions and words trivialize the people in the project area who will contract disease or even die due to the extra pollution caused by this delay. It is morally unacceptable that he be allowed to shirk his responsibilities.

Furthermore, it is legally unacceptable that the Commonwealth should be allowed to push back its most important SIP commitment due to a low internal priority, and the large price tag. The Transportation Conformity Regulations say that a TIP can only be found to be conforming if "all State and local agencies with influence over approvals or funding for TCMs are giving maximum priority to approval or funding of TCMs over other projects within their control". (§ 93.113) Clearly this test is failed if the Governor himself won't prioritize the project highly or fund it completely!

The Commonwealth's DEP and the federal review agencies (EPA, DOT, etc) are the only groups which can prevent this public health disaster from continuing. **I urge the DEP and the federal review agencies to reject the TIP & LRTP.**

No states have it easy right now. Money is tight, and the prospect of further help from the federal government is dubious. However, this is not the moment to forsake our commitments to the long-term health of our people! If Massachusetts is allowed to delay the Green Line Extension yet again without consequences, other states will follow suit by reneging on their SIP commitments as well. Everyone is watching, and your decisions here are critical. Please make them carefully.

Sincerely,
Jonah Petri
Somerville, MA