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Subject:	Input on MBTA Green Line Extension
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 3:53:23 PM

I am writing to provide my input on the proposed delay and effective cancellation of the Green Line extension project from Lechmere to Medford.

I believe that this is the third such letter I have written on this topic; I wrote prior to the two previous delays. My perspective on this hasn't changed, only the date and my confidence in the state of MA and their willingness to uphold this commitment to the health and welfare of the City of Somerville.

You will receive many letters outlining the benefits to the local economy through increased mobility as well as the health benefits of reduced smog and fewer accidents and the economics of this project during an downturn. I strongly agree with all of these points.

For me, the motivating issues relate to trust in governments ability to be equitable and effective. What concerns me is that:

- this was agreed to by the state, written into law and twice upheld by the State Supreme Court. My guess is that there are few projects within the state budget beyond entitlements that have a more compelling mandate.
- the State has money to do this but chooses to spend it elsewhere. State chose to fund replacement of bridges on I-93N (bringing more pollution to Somerville), construction of the Greenbush and Old Colony line and refurbish existing T-stops instead fund this mandated project.
- I have made personal, financial and career decisions, in part, based on the promised and mandated implementation of this play by as early as 2011. Instead of fulfilling their promise, my tax dollars were spent in other cities and on projects that only further the inequities of the transportation infrastructure and on legal expenses to defend a losing position.
- I understand that Federal funding exists to cover some of the costs and that if it is NOT built, we stand to lose up to $400M of these funds. Furthermore, it is my understanding that additional delays will cause the construction price tag to go up AND delay any commensurate economic benefits.

For me, this is primarily an issue of fairness and trust in the word and efficacy of State government. I choose to live in MA because I have relative confidence in our leadership; this delay will destroy that confidence.

I look forward to your execution of the Green Line Extension through Somerville on time, as PROMISED.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further input.

Best,

Michael Chiu, PhD, MBA
17 Kidder Avenue, Somerville, MA