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Subject:	GREEN LINE DELAYS: WRITTEN COMMENT FROM COMMUNITY CORRIDOR PLANNING GROUP
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 4:42:42 PM
Attachments:	September 13 GLX Written Comments from CCP.docx

September 13, 2011

To:

Mr. Jerome Grafe, MA DEP

Ms. Christine Kirpy, MA DEP

Mr. David Mohler, Chair, MPO Planning and Programming Committee

Ms. Katherine Fichter, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

The Community Corridor Planning Group and its Advisory Team stands with the city of Somerville and other local community groups to urge the state and federal authorities to move forward on the Green Line extension (GLX) without delay – thus enforcing the SIP air quality and Transportation Conformity Measures in the Boston MPO 2012 – 2015 TIP and LRTP.

Community Corridor Planning (CCP) is a grassroots participatory planning initiative led by 16 resident members and coalition partners including Somerville Community Corporation, Groundwork Somerville, Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, Friends of the Community Bike Path, and the Somerville Community Health Agenda. Since 2009, we have been hard at work to engage over 1000 residents of Somerville in the visioning and planning of the GLX corridor in Somerville.

Through door-knocking, house meetings, large community meetings, station design workshops, land use envisioning workshops, interactive mapping, and other efforts we have motivated hundreds of people who have traditionally felt disenfranchised from public planning to get involved. Many of those involved had not realized the Green Line would be coming to Somerville until we knocked on their doors. Our work has given people the enthusiasm and civic spirit to restore people's faith and hope in true democratic participation. **A delay in the Green Line of this nature threatens to disengage people from public participation and increase a collective sense of skepticism in a way that severely undermines public planning.** We have done our part over these last few years to contribute organizational resources, time, and hundreds of volunteer hours to take part in this

exciting effort to include the community voice in this process, and request State and Federal authorities to uphold their end of the commitment by finishing the project without a delay beyond 2015.

The green line corridor is already suffering from the increased traffic and the accompanying pollution that the GLX was designed to elevate. The GLX is a sustainable transportation project that will address traffic density and air quality by reducing car trips and curbing greenhouse gases. The State's obligation under the Clean Air Act to complete the project by 2015 is an important factor driving CCP to ask the state to rescind the recently announced GLX schedule delay. However, the project's short and long-term economic benefits – realized both during construction and after completion – motivates our request as much or more.

The stakes are high: people stand to shorten their work day, and get to better jobs with the arrival of GLX, significantly increasing quality time home with families; asthma and other respiratory diseases may decline with more access to public transportation and decreased traffic congestion; school and community amenities could significantly improve with added money to the City budget with new economic development in response to the Green Line; small businesses are positioned to grow and thrive with the arrival of the Green Line. Additional years of delay will be costly and burdensome to the entire community, both local and regional.

On behalf of the citizens of Somerville, including the people who operate businesses, raise families, and who work and play in this diverse and vibrate city, we respectfully ask that the GLX project be expedited and returned to the 2014 schedule as previously mandated.

Sincerely,

Peter John Marquez
On Behalf of the Community Corridor Planning Advisory Team

Aly Lopez,

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Bernal Murillo,

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Cc:

Ms. Anne Arnold, Manger, EPA Region 1 Air Quality Planning Unit

Mr. Donald Cooke, Conformity and Mobile Monitoring, EPA Region 1 Air Quaility

Ms. Rosemary Monahan, EPA Region 1 Smart Growth Coordinator

Ms. Pamela Stephenson, MA Division Administrator, Federal Highway

Mr. Michael Chong, Federal Highway Planning and Environment Program Manager

Ms. Mary Beth Mello, Regional Director, Federal Transit Region 1