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Cc:	mgna.org@gmail.com; MBTA Write to the Top; MBTA Orange Line; Bob Sloane; Will Brownsberger
Subject:	Green Line extension is essential to national security
Date:	Monday, September 12, 2011 11:23:00 AM

The September 11th attacks on the US had a number of causes, but addiction to cheap oil from hostile nations, caused by sprawl and car dependence, is certainly high on the list. Extending the Green Line as far as possible is a small, but meaningful, step in making our nation more secure. Please do it now.

Extending the Green Line to the Arlington line in a timely fashion is not a frill that can be cut or postponed for more years or decades. We have been waiting for years, and have put up with delay after delay. You could argue that parts of Somerville, Medford and Arlington have been waiting a century for good transit. Enough! Stop the delays, and stop the shifting of funds from transit to cars. Extend the Green Line and improve all T service now.

The T understands itself in debt and last in line for funding and approvals. But this is a misunderstanding. If you figure in the cost of wars over oil for cars, illness caused by dirty air and lack of exercise caused by passive rather than active transit, climate change caused by burning petroleum, and loss of farmland and forest caused by sprawl, then roads and cars are the ones in debt.

Please hand back to cars the debt caused by the Big Dig, highways and other infrastructure for cars. That debt never belonged to the T. The T never should have accepted it. Hand the blame and debt back to the people who caused it, and reclaim your moral high ground. Mass transit, density and good pedestrian and bike access are efficient, effective, healthy, and help keep our nation secure.

The T has many supporters. Tap that resource and carry on boldly. Please stop acting like a poor relation. And please stop antagonizing your friends. The T will have to improve the frequency and reliability of busses and trains, the manners of drivers, and the efficiency of management. You will have to hire for good manners and good work, and fire for surliness and sleaze. And you will have to find a way to get transit projects funded in amounts and timetables that are legal and fair. You can, and must, do this.

If you can work with your supporters and not against us, then you can extend the Green Line in a way that is legal, fair, efficient, and help keep us all safe. Please do so, Thank you.

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