From:	Leigh Lozano
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Subject:	Green Line Extension – Please enforce the SIP air quality and Transportation Conformity Measures in the Boston MPO 2012 – 2015 TIP and LRTP
Date:	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 9:59:36 AM

I am writing to protest the State's recent efforts to further delay the Green Line extension (GLX).

As such, I am urging federal and state government entities to enforce the legal and environmental obligations (federal Transportation Conformity Measures and SIP air quality) of the project. The Green Line extension is a legal obligation under the Clean Air Act. Full funding of the project and any interim replacements must be identified in the Boston MPO 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Delaying GLX project also delays the Community Path, since the two projects need to be designed and built together. Full funding of the the Community Path should also be programmed in the 2012-2015 TIP and LRTP along with the GLX. The GLX and Community Path are wonderful sustainable transportation projects that will help help more people get around with fewer car trips, curb greenhouse gases, and provide needed regional economic opportunities.

Delaying completion of the project prolongs the negative health effect being inflicted on citizens by poor air quality, and adds an estimated $200 million to the overall cost. Failure to complete the project by the legal deadline puts Massachusetts at risk of being cut off from federal funding for ALL transportation projects.

I have been a long time resident of Somerville and bought property within a block of the future Lowell Street stop and extended bike path a few years ago. We are out of reach of walking distance to any current subway lines (Davis, Porter, or Sullivan) so we must rely on the extremely crowded and delayed buses for transportation to the subway. Buses get the job done in the end but in no way are they efficient nor as environmentally friendly as the subway would be for us. By adding the subway, we would be removing buses and more cars from the streets alleviating already crowded routes. It is sad that as a resident of Somerville that works downtown, it takes me at least an hour to get to work in the Copley area. It takes my brother 45 minutes to arrive in Copley from Pawtucket, R.I.!!! How does that even make sense? The community only grows larger and with that, more cars and crowded buses. We need to fix this NOW and not 10 years from now.

I fear that businesses and residents that have moved to the area in recent years will depart because promises for extended rail service will not be kept. If businesses cannot keep customers and bring in new ones, they will be forced to close. Don't punish a thriving community and potentially cause us to move backwards. We've waited decades for this project and it is 100% unacceptable to make us wait another decade. Commit and keep your promises!

Sincerely,

Leigh Lozano
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