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Subject:	Keep the GLX On Track! Somerville needs a "Fast 2014"!
Date:	Sunday, September 11, 2011 9:31:29 PM

I am writing to demand the completion of the Green Line Extension and associated Somerville Community Path in compliance with its legally-mandated timeline. Over twenty years has passed since this was mandated to offset the public health damage done by the highways passing through Somerville. Children born when this was mandated are now adults, and the health problems for many of them cannot wait another near-decade. In the meantime, more highways, overpasses, and lanes for cars have been built by the state.

I'm sympathetic to the desire to seek funding through the federal New Starts program. If this could be done without a significant delay to the GLX and Path, I would support it. But with twenty years to arrange and plan this project, the ship of time-consuming frugality has sailed. The state is legally mandated to complete the GLX in 2014. That obligation has been in place since 2006. The planners of this project have already had ample time to pursue every avenue; the state simply must fully fund the project, on time, with or without external funding.

If New Start funding does not come through (which is very likely), the delays will make the project much more expensive. The project planners, even though they are very sincere and dedicated individuals, will look extremely foolish when they explain to Somerville residents why they chose a more expensive, time-consuming path, all for an unlikely roll of the dice. Governor Patrick will undoubtedly be called out for his failure to keep his promise to complete before the end of his administration.

Completing the GLX and Path on schedule would be less costly, less embarrassing, and a long-overdue boon to public health in the most densely populated city in Massachusetts. Full funding for both projects must be included in the 2012-2015 TIP and LRTP.

Sincerely,
Ethan Contini-Field
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