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To: David Mohler, Chair Transportation Planning and Programming Committee

Please do not omit the Green Line extension from the 2012 TIP. Somerville has been waiting for this essential expansion of the transit system for decades. This community suffers the effects of miles of transportation infrastructure which serves the region's commuters but bypasses our residents. It is a matter of fundamental fairness to fulfill this commitment to our citizens.

In addition it is a sound regional investment for the commonwealth. Adding these links to the transportation network will open acres of prime land for development in the urban core. Kenmore Square is finally built out and new businesses looking to locate near the colleges and hospitals will find land in short supply. Inner belt and Union Square, and other areas on the Green Line extension can provide valuable real estate for expansion of job creating industries.

As we struggle to address the environmental impacts of sprawl development and the car-dependent lifestyle it promotes, we should be embracing infrastructure improvements like the Green Line extension. When I was the Special Advisor on Sustainable Development in the Office for Commonwealth Development, we worked to focus policies on getting high quality neighborhood development around transit stops. Somerville has already at least one project moving forward based on assumptions about the green line. Many others will be encouraged by advance planning for the station areas along the Green Line. These are exactly the kind of developments we need to be building now.

The Green Line extension is the most important transit extension in the commonwealth at this time. It is more cost effective than the South Coast rail, serves a constituency in place and in need right now and has been promised for decades. PLease move it forward - now.

Yours truly,

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