



July 21, 2010

Ian Bowles, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: FEIR for the Green Line Extension Project  
EEA File No. 13886

Dear Mr. Bowles:

The Mystic River Watershed Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Green Line Extension Project.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Mystic River Watershed. The mission of MyRWA is to work to protect and restore the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations and to celebrate the value, importance and great beauty of these natural resources. We feel that extending the MBTA's Green Line into Somerville and Medford is a project that fits directly into MyRWA's mission to preserve and enhance the watershed.

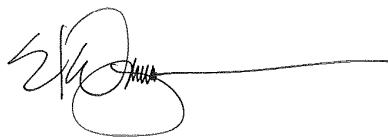
However, we strongly object to the limited scope of the current proposal to construct the Green Line Extension only to College Avenue in Medford, rather than to Route 16 as originally proposed. We feel that given the scope of this project, and the many delays that have already plagued it, failing to construct the whole extension at one time may lead to the second phase (College Avenue to Route 16) never being completed. In addition, a project of this type is so complex, that once the project is stopped at College Avenue, the inertia of beginning the second phase actually works against starting that second phase. Finally, the Green Line Extension project has already gone through extensive community meetings and the ground work for the project is in place. The resistance against completing the project will build once phase one is completed, and work to prevent the second phase from ever starting. Therefore, we strongly urge that the Green Line Extension Project be completed to Route 16 in a single project and not the current proposed two phases.

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The Mystic River Watershed Association also strongly objects to the current plan to complete the Green Line Extension without constructing the Community Path as a part of that project. This is important because the Community Path and the Green Line Extension will share the same corridor, and much of the same infrastructure. Therefore, building them together would be the most cost effective way to complete the Community Path project. In addition, the Community Path design and construction project should be extended to Lechemere/Northpoint, and not just Inner Belt Road as currently outlined in the FIER. We know that this will complicate the project, including funding for the project. Nevertheless, if the Green Line Extension project could incorporate and work with the City of Somerville to help with the match on the Tiger II grant application, and seek other alternative funding sources, then this important and popular corridor would not only be completed at the same time as the Green Line Extension, but would complement that project and its ultimate goals. Accomplishing this is worth the effort required.

We would like to again thank the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for this opportunity to comment on the Green Line Extension Project. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into this project, and look forward to the improvements in public mass transportation that this project represents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EkOngKar Singh Khalsa', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

EkOngKar Singh Khalsa  
Executive Director  
Mystic River Watershed Association