



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JAMES A. ALOISI JR.
SECRETARY

October 15, 2009

Dear Reviewer:

On October 15, 2009, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) is submitting a **Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA)** and **Draft Section 4(f) Statement** for the **Green Line Extension project** to the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. This document will be noticed in the October 26, 2009 *Environmental Monitor*; this will initiate review of the above Project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

The Green Line Extension is a project of EOT and the MBTA to improve transit service, mobility, and regional access for residents of Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead federal agency for the Project. Bringing MBTA light rail service to these densely populated cities will address longstanding transportation inequities and meet strong demand for improved transit. The DEIR/EA is the product of a three-year long planning and environmental review process. This planning process entailed thorough technical analysis and comprehensive public involvement, with participation by corridor municipalities, neighborhood groups, business and advocacy organizations, members of the general public, and other stakeholders.

Enclosed is a copy of the DEIR/EA for your review. Complete reference copies are also available at public libraries and city clerk's offices in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. The DEIR/EA may also be viewed on the Project website www.mass.gov/greenlineextension.

EOT will hold a public hearing to provide members of the public and other stakeholders an opportunity to offer comments. The hearing will be held on:

November 18, 2009
6:00pm
Somerville High School - Auditorium
81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

Comments on the document must be submitted in writing (oral comments made at the public hearing will not be recognized by the MEPA office). A 45-day comment period has been established. If you wish to comment in writing on the Project, please write to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, including the information listed below:

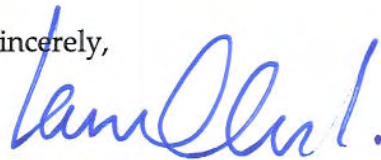
Secretary Ian Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
MEPA Office, Attn: Holly Johnson, MEPA Analyst
EEA number #13886
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Comment letters may be submitted by U.S. Mail to the above address, by fax to Holly Johnson at (617) 626-1181, and by email to holly.s.johnson@state.ma.us. Copies of comments may also be sent to Katherine Fichter, Executive Office of Transportation, 10 Park Plaza, Room 4150, Boston, MA 02116.

Comments must be received by the MEPA Office no later than December 9, 2009. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs will issue a MEPA Certificate by December 16, 2009.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katherine Fichter at katherine.fichter@state.ma.us or (617) 973-7342.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Aloisi, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

James A. Aloisi, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation