

Green Line Extension Project

Environmental Assessment Section 4(f) Evaluation Public Hearing

October 20, 2011
Somerville High School

www.mass.gov/greenlineextension



Why Are We Here Tonight?

- MassDOT/MBTA are seeking federal funding to support the costs of designing and constructing the Green Line Extension project.
- In order to be eligible for federal funds, the Green Line Extension project must receive federal-level environmental approval.
- The Federal Transit Administration is the 'lead federal agency' for the Green Line Extension project.
- FTA follows the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as U.S. DOT Section 4(f), when determining the environmental benefits and impacts of a proposed project.



The National Environmental Policy Act

- Requires the federal government to “use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony.”
- A logical, defensible information-based analysis of possible project alternatives.
- Informed by an understanding of existing conditions and desires for the future.
- Identifies projected impacts of different alternatives and possible mitigation.
- Led by a federal agency and includes an opportunity for public and other agency participation.



Environmental Assessment (EA)

- The Green Line Extension EA reports to the public on:
 - The magnitude of the proposed project
 - Field and technical studies prepared to identify project impacts
 - Mitigation proposed to manage unavoidable impacts
- The EA is available to insure public input is included in the environmental decision-making process.



What is in the GLX Environmental Assessment?

- GLX description and overview
 - Location and design features
 - Construction approach and schedule
 - Project cost
- GLX impacts and proposed mitigation
 - Land acquisition
 - Noise/vibration
 - Historic resources
 - Air quality
 - Storm water
 - Socioeconomic
 - Land use
 - Construction impacts

****Detailed information available at the exhibits in the hallway and in the Fact Sheet****



Why Should I Comment?

- Important to receive comments on impacts, mitigation, and anything else that the public would like FTA to consider in evaluating the project.
- All will be recorded, reviewed, and responded to as part of the conclusion of the EA process.
- FTA will consider the comments prior to determining the impacts of the GLX project and concluding the federal environmental review process.



How Do I Comment?

- Provide a spoken statement at the public microphone
 - 3-minute time limit
- Provide a spoken statement to hallway stenographer
 - 10-minute time limit
- Give a written statement to a staff member
 - Nametags
- Mail a written statement by November 18, 2011
 - Address information in Fact Sheet
- No matter how submitted, all comments on the Environmental Assessment are treated with equal weight.



Where Do I Send My Comment?

Katherine S. Fichter

MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

Ten Park Plaza – Room 4150

Boston, MA 02116

Katherine.Fichter@state.ma.us

By November 18, 2011

