



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

December 11, 2017

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Attention: MEPA Office – Erin Flaherty, MEPA #13886
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: MBTA Green Line Extension Notice of Project Change (NPC), MEPA #13886

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) regularly reviews proposals deemed to have regional impacts. The Council reviews proposed projects for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area, the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles, as well as impacts on the environment.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) have filed a Notice of Project Change (NPC) for the further extension of the Green Line, which covers the one-mile extension of the Green Line along the MBTA Lowell Line commuter rail right-of-way from College Avenue in Medford to a new terminus of the extension at Route 16/Mystic Valley Parkway (MVP) on the border of Somerville and Medford.

MAPC supports MassDOT and the MBTA in their request that the Secretary issue a limited scope for further evaluation of the GLX from College Avenue to Route 16/MVP to allow for public review of impacts and mitigation measures associated with the Route 16 station design changes under consideration by the MBTA and to update relevant analyses where necessary.

In addition to the elements of the scope proposed by MassDOT and MBTA in the NPC, MAPC recommends the following measures for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR):

- Review the recommendations of MAPC's 2012 report focusing on opportunities for redevelopment and job growth in this area, *Mystic Valley Parkway Green Line Extension Community Visioning Process*, and scope the EIR for consistency, such as the ability to retain the buildings at 600 Mystic Valley Parkway and 200 Boston Avenue. MAPC found that extending the Green Line all the way to Route 16/MVP could support an additional 236 housing units, 82,000 square feet of commercial and office space, 240 new jobs, and a doubling of the municipal tax base in the area around the proposed station.
- Coordinate the review of impacts on adjacent properties along the rail corridor with Somerville and Medford to ensure adequate access for public safety purposes and emergency response.
- Identify vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian improvements that may be needed along Boston Avenue to facilitate good access to the new station. MAPC's 2012 report notes several recommendations in this topic area.

MAPC respectfully requests that the Secretary incorporate these recommendations into the Project's EIR scope. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Burke, Medford
Mayor Curtatone, Somerville
David Mohler, MassDOT