

September 9, 2015

Ms. Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116-3979

Dear Secretary Pollack,

The City of Cambridge's appointed Transit Advisory Committee (composed of a diverse set of 23 representatives of neighborhoods, businesses, institutions, and advocacy groups) wishes to comment on the recent MBTA report that the Green Line Extension project to Somerville and Medford is significantly over budget and is likely to be delayed as a result of this funding issue and a planned reexamination of the various cost and scope issues associated with the GLX project. In May 2013, Cambridge established the Transit Advisory Committee to help guide City policies and positions on major transit expansion projects, Red Line service issues, local bus route planning, and service reliability improvements including better design of its street and pedestrian networks to prioritize bus transit.

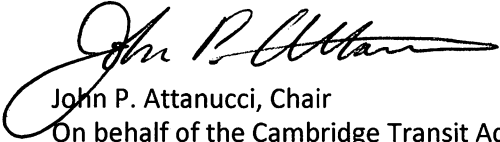
The Committee is unanimous in its strong support to continue the GLX project to its planned completion. And while the Committee understands that some reexamination may be necessary to resolve this funding issue, we urge the Commonwealth to expedite this review and proceed with the essence of the originally planned project in recognition of the following issues:

- The project is legally mandated and any further delay or significant modification will likely cost taxpayers millions of dollars in unnecessary legal fees.
- The USDOT-pledged \$1B in discretionary funding for this local project is in itself a powerful economic stimulator for our region.
- The GLX project fills a specific transit access gap in the MBTA system while providing more direct service to one of the densest communities in the region almost exclusively using currently underutilized existing public rights-of-way.
- For Cambridge specifically, the project will have an important and lasting impact on transit access in East Cambridge and the Kendall Square area, providing residents and thousands of commuters with enhanced mobility and two additional sustainable modes of transportation.
- The GLX project is a critical economic development component for this part of Cambridge, without which many private investment projects may be canceled or delayed.
- It is likely that the economic development, travel time, and other livability benefits of this project will exceed even the most pessimistic cost estimates.
- The project has been planned and designed with extensive public input and support over a long period of time; the Committee urges the Commonwealth to recognize that new modifications may negatively impact future users of the line and reduce the potential benefits of the project.

In summary, the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee urges you to expedite the review of this critical project, keeping all of the stakeholders fully informed of any changes to the project that are being considered through a robust public involvement process, and, most importantly, focusing on identifying the necessary resources to continue the project to its planned completion without further

delays that will only serve to drive up its inflationary costs even further. We remain committed to helping you and the project team in any way to resolve these unfortunate issues facing the project.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Attanucci, Chair

On behalf of the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee

C.c. City Manager Richard C. Rossi
Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson
Cambridge City Council
Mayor David P. Maher
Iram Farooq, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development
Joseph Barr, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation
Tegin Bennett, Transportation Planner