

RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

Extend the Green Line through Somerville!

**Keep the State on track to honor its legal
commitment to Somerville.
Don't let them derail an important project
promised for almost 15 years.**

**6:30 – 8:30 PM
Monday, March 14, 2005
Somerville High School Auditorium
81 Highland Avenue**

For more information, go to www.SomervilleSTEP.org

In case of a snow emergency, call 617-625-6600 ext. 2526

SOMERVILLE

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY

PARTNERSHIP

Key Points to make about the Green Line Extension at the March 14th Hearing at Somerville High School

The Green Line extension through Somerville is a binding legal obligation of the State of Massachusetts with a 2011 deadline (Ozone SIP at 310 CMR 7.36).

The state may only substitute for the Green Line extension if the project “is infeasible due to associated adverse engineering, environmental or economic impacts” AND the Executive Office of Transportation can demonstrate that an alternative “project achieves equal or greater” air quality benefits “in the area where the required project was to have been implemented”.

Somerville residents bear a huge burden from regional transportation.

- Before completing I-93 in the early 1970s, the State knew that Somerville air quality did not meet Federal standards and would worsen with I-93’s traffic increases. Now there are roughly 300,000 vehicles per day on I-93 and local arterial highways alone.
- 200 diesel commuter trains pass through Somerville every weekday and contribute to our health burdens but do not provide service to our residents.

Transportation related air pollution is serious for both children and adults.

- The Children’s Health Study from California shows that children who play year round near heavy traffic are 3 times as likely to develop asthma (McConnell, 2002). The same study shows that children who grow up in heavily polluted neighborhoods are over 4 times as likely to never achieve full lung capacity (Gauderman, 2004).
- Over 2000 studies funded by US Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and others have shown a linear relationship between fine particulate matter air pollution – soot too small to see - and excess lung cancer and heart attack deaths (Pope, 2002, e.g.).
 - Massachusetts public health records from 1996 through 2000 show Somerville having 145 excess lung cancer and heart attack deaths, 29 per year (Mass DPH). But Somerville residents smoke less than average. Somerville leads the state’s 351 cities and towns in excess lung cancer and heart attack deaths per square mile.
 - Cambridge and Brookline have extensive clean transit, pedestrian friendly environments and far less highway and truck traffic. Their lower than (state) average lung cancer and heart attack deaths demonstrate how communities’ unequal environmental benefits and burdens result in very large local impacts.
- The state executive agencies have failed over the last 14 years to deliver the transit commitments that were made to Somerville or even to find funding for them. But it is now time for action without further delay. The Green Line extension will start to correct the environmental injustice done to Somerville residents for over a generation.