



WalkBoston

June 16, 2008

Secretary Bernard Cohen
Executive Office of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 3170
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Cohen:

WalkBoston was founded 17 years ago to work towards safer conditions for pedestrians throughout the Greater Boston area. Since then, the organization has become the Commonwealth's principal advocate for pedestrian safety and the improved design of walking facilities throughout the state.

We are strong supporters of public transportation, as it means that more people seeking transportation can walk through their neighborhoods, take transit and avoid using their cars – three results that make the city's residential communities more vibrant. We also strongly support having multiple locations where potential transit users can board transit because for good service pedestrians need encouragement to walk to public transportation stations.

This is an exciting moment in the history of the Green Line Extension. On the immediate agenda is a decision about whether to include further study of extending the Green Line to a station at Route 16 at the Somerville/Medford border. There is substantial public support for continuing the exploration of that station, because it is situated where a network of streets, bus routes and pedestrian ways converge to make a very accessible location. The site appears to have the potential for significantly high levels of ridership, perhaps in part because the location provides access for a large number of potential walkers. Further, two multipurpose paths being planned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation along the Mystic River and Alewife Brook would lead directly to the location.

WalkBoston supports further study of the proposed extension to Route 16 and hopes that the proposed station will be taken to the next level of analysis to determine the details of the benefits it may bring to the area. We hope that EOT and the MBTA will continue the analysis of this extension and station as part of the proposed Green Line Extension. Good data and analysis for all options should be used to make a decision about extending the Green Line to Route 16.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Michael J. McGlynn, Medford
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Somerville
Senator Pat Jehlen
Rep. Denise Provost
Rep. Carl Sciortino
Rep. Sean Garballey
Rep. Paul Donato