

## SOMERVILLE/STATE SIDE

An e.newsletter from State Representative Denise Provost

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#### A. What's Up With the Green Line?

##### 1. Higher Costs, More Delay Proposed

On July 3, 2009 the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) submitted a draft amendment to the state's long-term Regional Transportation Plan (RTP, or "plan") and a draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the federal fiscal years 2010-2013. to the Boston Municipal Planning Organization (MPO). These documents reflect changes in the state's thinking about the funding and implementation of Somerville projects, most significantly, the Green Line. To view the draft documents, go to the MPO website, [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org).

##### 2. Opportunity to Comment

The MPO is seeking public comment on the proposed changes until their deadline of 5pm on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 [...]

##### 3. What Changes Does EOT Propose?

If you look at the proposed RTP Amendment, you'll see that the Green Line Extension has now been broken into two phases; Phase 1 being the stretch from Lechmere Station to College Avenue at a cost of \$934 million. Phase 2, College Avenue to Rt. 16, is estimated to cost \$130 million, for a total of \$1 billion, 64 million (\$1,064,000,000). This amount represents a big jump from the \$600 million that EOT, in 2008, said would fully fund the project.

The administration asked the legislature in 2008 to authorize the issuance of \$600 million in bonded debt to pay for the Green Line Extension project – and we did. Since that amount is no longer pay for the re-estimated project cost,

the financing plan for the Green Line Extension now depends upon 50% of the project being paid for by the federal government, under its “new starts” grant program. EOT has not yet completed the grant application process, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is not able to endorse “EOT’s current cost estimates, which FTA fears will continue to creep upward.

WOT has not proposed to amend its project completion deadline, which remains December 31, 2014. EOT is, however, pushing back an important internal project deadline, the filing of its Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). In its July, 2009 RTA amendment, EOT said it would make this filing in August, 2009 – but it did not. At a September 9, 2009 hearing at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and EOT official verbally represented that there would be a three-month delay in this filing – putting it a full year behind its originally scheduled date.

DEP has responsibility to monitor the progress that EOT is making in implementing requirement of the federal Clean Air Act. Construction of the Green Line Extension is one of the Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) which Massachusetts is obliged to construct as part of its State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Clean Air Act. To read my comments to DEP on EOT’s plans, click here:

#### **4. Build Transit Options with “Rail-Volution”**

A national conference devoted to expanding Massachusetts transit and transit-oriented development will be held in Boston at the end of October. “Rail-Volution 2009” will include, among other features, a New Starts Symposium (on Friday, 10/30/09), which offers guidance on how the program works, and how to succeed in getting New Starts funding – something to consider, how that the Green Line Extension appears to have become New Starts dependant. For more information on the conference, go to [www.railvolution.com](http://www.railvolution.com).

#### **5. What’s Wrong with Transportation in Massachusetts?**

#### **B. See This Great Film – For Free!**

Please join me and the Somerville Climate Action group on October 26 at 7pm in the Somerville Public Library (main branch) for a free screening of the critically acclaimed film “The Greening of Southie.”

Documentary filmmaker Ian Cheney tells the unlikely story of Boston's first residential "green" building and how it united a tight-knit community. With its sloping grass roof and recycled materials, The Macallen Building seemed an odd addition to South Boston - "Southie" - a traditionally working-class neighborhood. Yet The Macallen not only won high marks for its sustainable design ideas and

offered its diverse residents luxury features, its creation also spurred construction workers and environmentalists to think about the city of the future.

## **C. Opportunities**

### **1. Employment**

#### **a. Development Coordinator at Centro Presente**

Centro Presente, a non-profit based in Somerville, is looking for a Development Coordinator. This person should be bilingual, adept at grant writing in English and committed to social and economic justice.

To learn how to apply, please contact Patricia Montes at 617-629-4731 x 211.

#### **b. Part-time Position at MMA**

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) is seeking an employee to organize home energy efficiency workshops throughout Massachusetts this winter.

To apply, send your resume to Paul Bockelman at [PBockelman@mma.org](mailto:PBockelman@mma.org). No phone calls, please. The position will be open until we fill it.

### **2. Training/Employment (LIPS)**

The Liaison Interpreters Program of Somerville (LIPS) is looking for your help in reaching bilingual high school students who may be eligible to participate.

For more information, please contact youth programs organizer Maria Landaverde by phone: 617-623-6633, or by email at [maria@welcomeproject.org](mailto:maria@welcomeproject.org).

### **3. Responsible Graduate Student Looking to Rent Room**

Female graduate student is seeking to rent a room in a family home this upcoming academic year. Individual is in mid-30s, "calm, clean, organized, considerate, and friendly."

If you are interested in renting your room, should you have the space, please email [carmithshai@gmail.com](mailto:carmithshai@gmail.com) or call 617-959-9078.