



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Arlington Planning Department
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA

TO: Arlington Board of Selectmen

FROM: Howard Muise, Chair

RE: Financial Issues with Green Line Extension Project

DATE: November 5, 2015

The MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) to Somerville and Medford with a potential eventual terminus at Route 16 (Alewife Brook Parkway) is currently under extreme financial pressure due to various causes (see attached memo for details). The original \$1.9B budget (with a \$1B Federal contribution) appears to now be \$2.9B. TAC has been monitoring this project for several years and has supported bringing the Green Line to Route 16.

Bringing the Green Line to Route 16 would provide the following significant benefits to Arlington and to Medford:

- The Route 16 station would be within walking distance for a significant low income population in the northeast corner of Arlington (also for Medford and Somerville);
- The station is easily accessible by bicycle with connections enhanced by the recently completed DCR Greenway parallel to Route 16;
- The station could help relieve congestion at the Alewife Red Line station, where the garage and bicycle facilities are full every weekday; and
- The station could reduce the number of vehicle trips from Arlington to Cambridge and beyond.

TAC is concerned that the current budget concerns will lead to abandoning or severely curtailing the project. TAC believes it would be very short-sighted to abandon or significantly reduce such a beneficial project. Although it is important to reduce the cost of the project to the extent practicable, no reductions should be made that compromise the long-term effectiveness of the GLX.

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Wayne Chouinard, Seth Federspiel, John Hurd, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Marjorie Moores,
Howard Muise, Officer Corey Rateau, Jeanette Rebecchi, Scott Smith, and Laura Wiener

Web site: www.arlingtonma.gov/tac

The Governor has requested that the MBTA management provide recommendations for a funding and project strategy by December 9. Since MBTA funding is severely constrained, it appears any additional funds must come from the Legislature or the Administration. Legislative members from Cambridge, Somerville, Arlington and Medford have participated in many of the meetings held to date about this funding issue. At its October meeting, TAC recommended that the Board (and Town Manager) send a letter similar to the attached to the Governor, Secretary of Transportation and the Town's legislative delegation to express their strong continuing support for the project and its extension to Route 16.

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