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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Michael E. Capuano
8th District, Massachusetts

Washington Office:
1414 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2108
202-225-5111
Fax: 202-225-9322

District Offices:
110 First Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
617-621-6208
Fax: 617-621-8628

Roxbury Community College
Campus Library
Room 211

December 2, 2010

Board of Aldermen
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Honorable Board of Aldermen,

I write this letter to express my steadfast support for the realization of Assembly Square's economic development potential. I have worked tirelessly at the federal level to improve access to this underserved district. In my opinion, it is beyond question that mass transit is critically important for redeveloping the Assembly Square area.

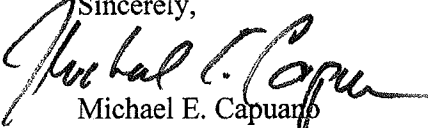
Progress at Assembly Square has come as a result of a partnership between the City of Somerville, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Federal Government, and Federal Realty Investment Trust, Inc (FRIT). Improvements currently under construction in Assembly Square were made possible through the unique combination of federal stimulus funds – also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state's Infrastructure Investment Incentive (I-Cubed) and Growth District Initiative (GDI) program funds, and developer contributions. This significant public infrastructure investment and the recent contract between FRIT and Avalon Bay represents momentum in the district, especially considering the current funding shortfall in the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts authorization for the Assembly Square Orange Line station. Of course, please be assured that I continue to work on accessing federal New Starts funding for this project.

I have long felt that District Improvement Financing is a solid concept for creative financing and I feel it could be an effective tool that will help speed the completion of the entire Assembly Square redevelopment – including the Orange Line station. At the same time, please be assured that I recognize and respect the Board of Aldermen's prerogative to make its own decision on this issue.



- 2 -

I thank you for your service to the City of Somerville, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on redeveloping Assembly Square.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

cc:
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
Executive Director Monica Lamboy
Program Manager Steven Azar