

Madalyn Letellier

From: Julie Corwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 9:01 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council; Ben Ewen-Campen; Senator Pat Jehlen; Katjana Ballantyne; Naima Sait; strezoatlargo@gmail.com; Willie Burnley, Jr.; Jake Wilson
Subject: Green Line Bypasses all of Somerville every day

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Elected officials who love Somerville -

Every day, or nearly every day, the Green Line extension bypasses Somerville, leaving hundreds of commuters in the cold and/or with delayed trips. Not on occasion. Likely every day, multiple times.

It happens so often that I tense up heading from the city into Lechmere, waiting to see if I can make it to Gilman or will be kicked off. It adds to the stress and time of a short 3-mile commute.

I know you've heard - or experienced - much about what is wrong with the Green Line extension. The newspapers cover issues with the rails, breakdowns, and signal issues. They don't mention that the new Green Line is bypassing a city of 80,000 daily.

I rely on the T to get to and from work. It's a 30-45 minute ride that often becomes 40-60 (although I've clocked 1.5 and 2 hours. I can get to NH in that time! To add insult to injury, the driver requests we request a stop by bringing the bell after Lechmere, as if the train is near empty. They are full! They are always full.

The residents of Somerville deserve better. It NEEDS better. The Somerville Bypass is an insult, and one more way, the T says that our city and its residents are not worthy. As if the hundreds of riders kicked off have nothing better to do or commitments. Are we still at the bottom of the barrel?

Cleveland has a better, more complete, reliable, and comprehensive system than we have. I do not say that in jest. WE are the river on fire!

I'm writing because the residents of Somerville need you to be our advocates. We deserve a full ride (we pay the same rate!) without being kicked off regularly. 50-100 angry and frustrated people on the platform have yet to make an impact. No one will listen.

The City of Somerville has advocated for a long time to get this extension. You've taken legal action to get this extension. Now, it needs to keep it up! What the riders are experiencing is not a wait-and-see situation because the T is not focused on his issue. What is happening is routine, day-to-day work for them.

No matter how many rail ties they fix, this habit of kicking us off will continue. No matter how many new cars they add, the Somerville Bypass will continue. Unless you stop it.

Somerville riders have yet to get the Green Line. Please help.

