

December 8, 2016

Green Line Extension – College Avenue Station – Tufts contribution

The MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) to Somerville and Medford is expected to receive significant financial support from Somerville and Cambridge. The GLX project will result in enhanced mobility, improved public transportation access, and opportunities for economic growth. Tufts University strongly supports the Green Line Extension project.

Tufts University, a non-profit, is committed to several contributions related to the MBTA Green Line extension in the environs of the planned College Avenue station. These include investment in public infrastructure improvements adjacent to the planned station, temporary and permanent use of Tufts University real estate by the MBTA in order to facilitate construction, and a significant ongoing contribution for maintenance and upkeep of the station after it opens. The following is an overview of these contributions. **All costs are estimates and subject to on-going discussion with the MBTA.**

- Temporary and permanent use of Tufts real estate, including an athletic field to be used for construction staging for the five year construction duration and temporary and permanent access to the MBTA right of way. Estimated value: **\$1,100,000**
- Construction of a pedestrian pathway from the Burret/Sunset neighborhood to College Avenue, providing more direct access for neighborhood residents to the station. Estimated value: **\$1,000,000**
- Signal, safety, and alignment improvements to the Boston Avenue/College Avenue intersection. Estimated value: **\$2,000,000**
- A 99 year commitment to maintenance, cleaning, snow removal, trash removal, and security for the station and pathways and sidewalks in the vicinity.
 - Start-up costs: Estimated value: **\$300,000**
 - Ongoing costs: Estimated value: **\$900,000 annually (in FY17 dollars)**

Tufts University is also planning to construct a new academic building adjacent to the new MBTA station on Tufts land along College Avenue. This project is a substitute for the previously approved “Air Rights Building” that would have existed partially in the air rights over MBTA right of way and the planned station. Due to several factors, constructing in the air rights over the MBTA tracks and station is now cost prohibitive. The updated location for the academic building on Tufts-owned land will meet many of the Tufts and neighborhood goals and objectives that were included in the previously approved air rights scheme. All of the municipal, neighborhood, and MBTA coordination and approval processes that were undertaken for the air rights scheme will be repeated as the design for the new building is developed. Tufts expects the neighborhood and community process to commence in early Spring 2017.