

## **STEP meeting minutes**

**June 23, 2008**

### **At Brickbottom Gallery**

In Attendance: members of STEP, Brickbottom residents, and a representative from Rep. Toomey's office.

1. Intros and welcome to the many attendees from Brickbottom
2. Maintenance Facility discussion.

There was a summary of the space needed for a maintenance facility for the Green Line extension, saying that the current thinking is to put the facility in Yard 8/200 Inner Belt Road area, which would put the facility adjoining Brickbottom. STEP prefers shifting maintenance of commuter rail trains to where they operate, especially with an expansion to south of Boston. This would open space in existing Maintenance Facility for Green Line trains, and the planned greater capacity building would not be needed.

Please contact your Alderman with your opinion on this matter, as well as local and state representatives.

Decisions on the maintenance of trains are planned to be in place by September, but there might be room for amending this plan. During the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) there will be a time for public input as well.

3. Union Square station options:
  1. Fitchburg Right of Way (ROW) with stop at Prospect St./Webster Ave.
  2. Fitchburg ROW with loop through Pat's Towing area.
  3. Two tracks from Fitchburg ROW onto Somerville Ave. into heart of square.

It is looking like option 1 or 2 are going to be the only options, and of the two, option 2 provides the best access, and favors greater ridership. No matter what the station in Union Square is, it would be best to depress the Fitchburg line, which improves access to the street grid on other side of McGrath, and reduces noise. Also, the option to extend the Green Line along the Fitchburg ROW to Porter Square in the future should be kept open.

4. Assembly Square EIR

Comments due August 8<sup>th</sup>. It would be best if the Assembly Square Orange line T station has a second entrance/exit that opens to the side of the future IKEA site. The Assembly Square development includes plans for a bike/community path parallel to railroad tracks from lower Broadway to IKEA. If IKEA can give up a little bit of land, this could extend to the Mystic River.

## 5. EPA Care grant

STEP, Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Groundworks Somerville received a grant to study land use and open space. They are looking at how the community can be engaged in what they want from T stations and surrounding connections (such as the community path).

## 6. National Institute of Health (NIH) grant

This grant is a great opportunity for STEP, and a big achievement, as it is one of the first community group-led grant proposal funded by the EPA. It is a five year study with Tufts researchers on health issues in communities along I-93. Previously a small amount of air monitoring has been done near I-93 to support this study with Tufts and input from STEP. This is a Community Based Research Study that will do a risk analysis using air quality monitoring, blood tests, and community researcher interviewers.

## 7. Welcome interns!

Welcome to STEP, Joe Cutrufo and Ashley Tran, and thanks!

## 8. Future work

ArtBeat planning happened at this meeting, but unfortunately these minutes came out after ArtBeat happened. It was a success by all accounts.

STEP will have a table at the Union Square Farmer's Market this year on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting: July 28<sup>th</sup>. Location and time TBA.