

## **STEP Monthly Meeting**

**When:** August 17, 2009 7-9 pm

**Location:** Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell St. Somerville

**Attendees:** Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Karen Molloy, Andrea Yakovakis, Steve Mulder, Alex Kaplan

**Notes by:** Karen Molloy

### **Updates and Announcements**

#### *Updates from interns on summer work, if available*

Ellin, Wig and Grant (intern) met with Bob Simna, campus planner at MIT; he has a very holistic view and gave some valuable strategic ideas on economic development issues.

#### *Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH) study*

Interviews are underway (1 hr interview, blood drawn,) One third of the interviews are with residents within 100 meters of I-93, one-third are between 100-400 meters of I-93 and the final third are around Kidder Ave (Kidder Ave. interviews are for comparison purposes, as the latter neighborhood is not near I-93.) Concurrently the van is sampling the air quality in the same neighborhoods.

STEP, Tufts and Somerville Housing Authority are applying for a HUD grant to do a study of 26 households at Mystic Housing Project on the effect of HEPA filters on improving the indoor air quality (from mobile pollution from I-93). The study would place 2 HEPA units in each apartment; air samples would be taken periodically for 6 weeks. The effect of the HEPA air filters on the air quality would be studied.

#### *EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Grant update*

Six neighborhood meetings were completed by Community Corridor Planning to get residents' input on the forthcoming stations in their neighborhoods. Brickbottom and Gilman Sq meetings attracted the most attendees. A large meeting will be held in the fall to sum up what Somerville residents want and don't want from the Green Line Extension stations in their neighborhoods.

#### *Green Line status*

- EOT has delayed putting out DEIR to September.
- MPO will not put the Green Line Extension in the TIP even though the federal government requested it. MPO maintains it does not have to be listed in it. (TIP is for short-term projects, but normally all projects are listed in it.) The TIP won't have any transit project in it.
- SIP hearing will be in early September.
- As EOT is thinking of the Green Line Extension being built in 2 phases, with the terminus at Rte. 16 built in Phase 2 (after 2014), perhaps the maintenance facility could be built in Phase 2 as well?

*Orange Line Assembly Square status*

Wig was part of a site visit with Todd Kaplan, Chris Hart, joined by the person at the T who works on accessibility in station design.

*Tufts Community Day table (9/27/09, 11-3)*

STEP will share a table with CAFEH. We'll have brochures, map

*Farmer's Market table – Oct. 3, 10, or 17th*

We will hear the final date for having a STEP table at Union Sq Farmer's Market in a week or so. [Note: we have the date now: Oct 3 -- km]

*Maintenance facility location*

What could be acceptable for both Somerville and Cambridge? – There are upcoming meetings on this topic with Conservation Law Foundation and Board of Aldermen Land Use and Planning Board. Noah Chesnin from CLF will attend the meeting at Bumblebee (E.Cambridge Planning) on Thurs. EOT will issue DEIR in Sept; still going with Yard 8 for siting, but “not set in stone.” EOT states that “Mirror H” scheme has too many parties to negotiate with. Brickbottom met with Kate F of EOT and VHB to discuss noise considerations. Activity at the proposed maintenance facility would be comparable to that of Reservoir and Riverside. The City of Somerville is considering devaluing some of its NorthPoint property.

*Seats on the City's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee*

STEP has been invited to fill 2 seats on the committee; we need to respond soon. It's an 18-month commitment, monthly meetings involving land use (such as TOD), economic development, and housing.

The next monthly STEP meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup>, location TBD.