

## **Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership**

Regular Meeting of the Steering Committee and Members

**Date:** August 23, 2010

**Attendees:** Ellin Reisner , Wig Zamore, Steve Mulder, Heather Van Aelst  
Ken Krause, Kristi Chase, Steve Mackey, Karen Molloy, Andrea Yakovakis  
Robert Buchanan, Jim McGinnis

**Quorum Present?** Yes.

**VOTES:** None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Brickbottom is filing a Notice of Intent to Challenge the FEIR, which shows the track layout closely abutting Brickbottom, through its driveway and loading dock. The hope is that this will force MassDOT to consider Steve Kaiser's modified Option L ideas and diagrams.

GLX Design contract vote will Sept 7.

Jim Gallagher is retiring from MAPC. STEP will give him a gift or maybe host a thank-you event in recognition of his work. (As he lives in Somerville, perhaps he'll be interested in getting active in STEP at some point....)

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

#### *Updates*

- GLX Design Working Group – Ellin, Steve, Heather, and Jim attended the first meeting. (This meeting is available for viewing on the web.) Not much happened at this kickoff meeting. The next meeting will be in 5 months; why it is so far out is puzzling. There will be subcommittees but it's unclear right now how it will all work. Does this working group have the strong urban design skills required for this project? Kate Fichter had a favorable response to the CCP presentation of designs that came out of the he community station design workshop this summer. MassDOT will hold its own station design meetings starting this fall. There has been an urban design firm working with MassDOT behind the scenes on station design for past few years, but they are not visible, Who are they?
- ISEE – Wig leaves for the conference on Thursday. The conference will be held in Seoul. His presentation will be on the last day. Internal review of the STEP webpage featuring videos from the environmental scientists interviewed from the 2008 conference in CA is going well. The 5-10 minute clips are quite compelling. The page will go live after all the featured scientists have had a chance to review it.
- Tiger II grant application due today. The City is submitting the application to obtain funds for construction of the Community path extension alongside the GLX, to Inner Belt (which is as far as MassDOT has promised to design it). Letters of support came from STEP, MGNA, and area bike committees: Medford BiPeds, Watertown Bike & Ped Committee, Cambridge Bike Committee, Friends of Lexington Bikeways, and Bedford Friends of the Minuteman.
- Ellin wrote STEP's letter in support of the City's Community Challenge Planning Grant application

- MAPC's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant application is due today for obtaining federal funds for MetroFuture Implementation Plan.
- Mass Highway has issued RFP for the reconstruction of McGrath or de-elevation study of McGrath. The City has issued an RFP for TOD design of Brickbottom/InnerBelt. Should hear result soon, by Labor Day.
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*Action Items*

- STEP table at Union Sq Farmers' Market – Sept 11. Logistics/staffing details firming up via email.
- Community Path fundraiser "Pennies for the Path" – tabled until the next meeting.
- How to get best results from GLX design working group? Holding a tour for the community of the station sitings? Being a coordinator of a station's design.

*Other Business*

- STEP has \$19K in grant money in the bank.
- STEP recently paid \$965 for liability insurance.

**Next Meeting:** Monday September 27, at the VNA Community Room