

STEP MEETING

Date: October 24 2005, 7-9 PM

Location Community Room of VNA Assisted Living Center 259 Lowell St.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Andrea Yakovakas, Karen Molloy, Asher Miller, Bob Nesson, Lisa LePore

Notes taken by Karen Molloy

1. Lisa LePore, new Transportation Planner for the City of Somerville, will talk about city transportation planning and answer questions.

The City wants to tie Green Line Extension and Community Path extension outreach together.

The window displays of the Green Line map and our timeline were well received in Union Sq. MBTA substitution still looms. Competing projects are seeking funding and the state could still push or substitute the Green Line with BRT. Red-Blue Connector is one such project, Arborway is another. Not yet on the radar but gathering support is a proposal to improve Fenway Commuter Rail stop. The State does, however, recognize unprecedented public support in Somerville for the Green Line.

The DEP hearing in Dec needs a good turnout from Somerville (outreach to be discussed at next STEP meeting.)

2.. Comments due for 20 year plan .

The Green Line is not a done deal yet!. For one thing, no funding has been earmarked. Wig stressed that the project must be on the next transportation bond bill. He mentioned we will need to stay on top of the long ranch plans of DEP.EPA, MPO and Sate, environmental regulations and funding.

Public process in planning, and design is important. City and STEP need to organize the involvement. The City will need be vigilant about TOD etc.

3. Bob Nesson's Off Track video; Bob's report on AIA conference

Bob showed his Off-track video. (Yay!) He had showed at recent AIA conference. Said it was really well-received and stimulated more interest in having architects work with regional planning with communities, which was a major topic at the conference. (He also brought along printouts from our website.)

4. Meeting with Senator Barrios on EJ legislation

Ellyn and Wig testified at the State House hearing on the EJ bill. The bill (Bill 471) was held up last year, resubmitted this year, contains no language about

mobile sources of pollution. E & W are meeting with Sen. Barrios soon – he may be able to get the language amended.

Ellin has been giving talks about the Green Line Extension at the VNA and Council on Aging at Tab Bldg. The director of VNA told her that employees are very interested in the Green Line as a means to commute to work.

FYI: Lisa has a list of truck routes in Somerville (as result of Cambridge excluding trucks, they come through Somerville instead. Somerville bears the brunt of being a cut-thru to I93. The State knew in the '70s when it built I93 that the resulting vehicular pollution would have an impact on the health of residents of Somerville.

5. Forums

Land use issues, air quality m=need ot be addressed with good desing that includes affordable housing, good TOD

Lisa suggested Step come to City Hall and brainstorm with her and Jim Kostaris (see notes from that meeting held 23 Nov). Lisa would like to see STEP and City work collaboratively with united front.

Bob will contact Urban Design team at BSA on behalf of STEP and see if they could educate us on land use/design of green Line extension affected areas (stations, linkage, TOD).

If the BSA agreed to work with us, it could be a 1 –3 yr relationship; they could educate us on designs that of this type that have been done successfully elsewhere. Ellin suggested that the BSA could facilitate community design process that reflects us, engages us bring people into the process: could have subgroups focused on bike/ped access, affordable housing, etc.

Next meeting: 28 November, 2005 7pm at the VNA.