

# Notes from STEP meeting 17 December 2007

December 17, 2007, 7-9 PM  
At SCAT, Union Square

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Karen Molloy, Andrea Yakovakis, Jim McGinnis, Kristie Chase, Naomi Slagowski, Lilly Shoup, Bob Nesson

Notes by Karen Molloy

## 1. Green Line Update

Ellin reported that she and Wig recently met with Kate Fichter and Steve Woelfel (EOT Project Manager for the Green Line Extension project) after the first Green Line Advisory Group meeting to give them an overview of some land use issues: characteristic of the neighborhoods along the Green Line extension corridors, economic opportunities (residential neighborhoods along the Medford branch vs. Union Sq. for example). They discussed InnerBelt which is ripe for new development; however the MBTA is eyeing it as the location for a maintenance facility (of the size between the sizes of Riverside and Cleveland Circle.)

Discussion ensued about parcels in Union Sq that are for sale (Ames, Nissanbaum).

Ellin reported that SCC got a Reconnecting America grant from Surdna ([www.surdna.org](http://www.surdna.org)) for economic development analysis. They want to use some leftover of the funding for land-use planning, which we (STEP, City of Somerville, SCC) might be able to leverage to get additional funding of \$500K for TOD transportation planning, from Surdna or Smart Growth Funders Network.

Wig mentioned the New Urbanist listserv ([PRO-URB@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU](mailto:PRO-URB@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU)).

## 2. USMS-STEP Plan for Community Meeting on Green Line Station Siting

USMS and STEP will hold 2 joint community meetings to inform interested residents about the options and considerations around the station siting and land use of Union Sq Green Line station: First meeting to be 8 Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> one will be in early Feb. The Green Line Advisory Board will be considering Union Sq station siting starting in Feb. We'll need some aerial maps to show proposed routes and station sitings at the community meetings. A subgroup has been planning the details.

## 3. MPO Update

The federal government rejected the MPO TIP several months ago. The word is just getting out now. It was rejected because there was no concrete matching funding planned. (The TIP has a backlog of projects from a couple of years with no funding) This means MA is in danger of getting its federal funding for transportation projects cut off, losing \$1 billion a year, though likely to be more of a reprimand. Gov Patrick recently released his \$2.9 billion transportation bond bill, which will go before the legislature in January. Includes Green Line Extensions, and other transit projects (Blue Line to Lynn, South Coast etc.)

## 4. ByLaws/Non-Profit Status

We need to engage a new attorney to wrap up the 501c3 application which has dragged on for a very long time. Ellin and Jim each have candidates to pursue.

#### **5. Green Line Forum – EPA Grant**

EPA has issued guidelines for a grant focused on community environmental problems. We will apply, focusing concern on mobile pollution.

Interested folks will meet on 29 Dec 10AM to brainstorm a STEP concept paper for grant-writing (goals etc).

Wig has been involved in a project with Doug Brugge and MVTF in testing air quality around the city. They placed 55 air monitors in various locations for 2 weeks in Nov and 2 weeks in early Dec.

#### **6. Urban Ring**

Ellin and Wig attended the latest meeting, which went through aspects of Phase 2. The Ring stops in South Boston and picks up in Everett. The EIR talks about a link to the Commuter Rail in InnerBest. VHB (consultants for Green Line Extension) and EarthTech (Consultants for Urban Ring) will be meeting soon.

The Urban Ring bus will need to have at least 50% of its route as a dedicated lane in order to meet New Starts funding requirements.

#### **7. Citizen School Program**

Discussed recent Globe article about 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Roslindale teaming up with architects from Boston's Gund Partnership to brainstorm ways to improve the Jackson Square MBTA Station on the Orange Line. The program, sponsored by Citizen Schools Boston, was created to give minority and low-income students the knowledge that they have a voice in the development of their neighborhoods, and in particular, their T stations.  
([http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/12/14/urban\\_planning\\_sparks\\_pupils\\_creativity/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/12/14/urban_planning_sparks_pupils_creativity/))

**Next STEP meeting:** TBA [due to scheduling conflict with upcoming EOT community meetings]  
location TBA