

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership

Regular Meeting of the Steering Committee and Members

Date: February 28, 2011, at the VNA Dining Room, 259 Lowell Ave.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Andrea Yakovakis, Karen Molloy, Kristi Chase, Jim McGinnis, Heather Van Aelst, Lynn Weismann, Chris Grillo
(Meeting notes taken by Karen Molloy.)

Quorum Present? Yes.

VOTES: No.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MassDOT's design public hearing to discuss the proposed Streetscape Improvements on lower Broadway will be held Thursday, March 3, 7 P.M. at Cross St. Senior/Community Center, 165 Broadway. Will be funded by MassDOT, to be built by Mass Highway, and will link up with Federal Realty's improvements to Lombardi Way. Work to start in the summer. A PDF of the plans can be found on the City's website.
- Next Friends of Community Path meeting March 10 at 7 pm at the VNA.
- Public comment period for TIP amendment to the FFY 2011 element of the FFYs 2011 "2014 Transportation Improvement Program" ends on Tuesday, March 22
- WalkBoston to honor State Rep. Provost as a recipient of a 2011 Golden Shoe Award at its annual meeting on March 24.

PROCEEDINGS:

- GLX Stakeholders meeting at CLF (Feb 28). About 36 participants attended the 2 hr. meeting, including five elected officials.
Next steps:
 - Seek clarity regarding delays from MassDOT.
 - What is MassDOT's latest estimate for completion of the Green Line Extension?
 - When will MassDOT come out with new estimate for delays?
 - Identify revenue streams for GLX.
 - Develop own financial strategic plan to share with MassDOT and others.
 - Monitor MPO process.
 - Look into status of federal environmental review of Green Line Extension.
 - Follow-up with MassDOT on Interim Offset Project and Measure Ideas.
 - Prepare sign-on letter in support of Route 16 terminus.
 - Make sure that design efforts continue.
- MAPC Mystic Valley Parkway/Rte 16 Community Visioning Process started on Feb. 16 with an initial meeting to kick off a year-long study/visioning about land use around the proposed Rte 16 GLX terminus, which is currently planned to be a "phase 2" of the project. The goal of project is to gather issues, look at possibilities, and make recommendations about the land use. About 100 people attended the meeting, which broke into discussion groups. The meeting also served to dispel some notions that still exist about whether the project would have a parking structure like Alewife station (no), take some land at 200 Boston Ave. (no). Many participants expressed interest in good bike/ped connections. For example, the station would be ½ mile from Dilboy, so the station would make it far more accessible. Perhaps the GLX DWG or MAPC could arrange a walking

tour of the area in the spring. Good bus connections were of a concern for many attendees as well. Some folk fear the Rte. 16 station will never be built. We might want to distribute FAQ flyers at the farmer's market held next to Whole Foods in the summer. A lot of people in the area have little knowledge about the Rte 16 station and misconceptions abound. The next MAPC visioning meeting will be March 30.

- Boston MPO TIP amendment public comment period ends Mar 22. The MPO is planning to take action on the amendment at its meeting scheduled for March 24. Amendment would allocate funding to the Assembly Sq. Orange Line station project using funds previously programmed for two other projects that will be unable to use the funds this federal fiscal year. One of the projects that would be moved out of the TIP is the Community Path project.

Lynn W. and Alan M. from Friends of the Community Path, Jen Lawrence from Groundwork Somerville, and Jim Gallagher will meet with the Mayor in March 7 to discuss the Cedar to Lowell section, and MPT process. (Will the MaxPak project still be using that section for construction? Is there anything in the VHB docs about staging areas at this location - the Path at Lowell St.?)

The Assembly Sq. Orange Line station is slated to break ground this year. IKEA is at a standstill at the moment at Assembly Sq. and its other USA projects. (IKEA is currently expanding in China.)

- HUD HEPA filter study has begun. Had initial delay due to manufacturing problems with the monitors. The project has two monitors now, will have two additional ones in June. The two monitors are in two apartments at Mystic Housing for six weeks.
- CCP Lowell St. meeting held on Feb. 22 was conducted by students at Tufts UEP, polling neighbors on what they'd like to see. (No one present was able to attend that meeting.)
- ECPT's recent meeting had urban design and placemaking presentation. Was taped. We'd like to see it. (Karen will follow up with Mark Jaquith.)

Next Meeting: Monday 21 March 2011, at the VNA Community Room