

STEP Meeting Notes
March 28, 2005

The 3.28.05 meeting was held at the VNA Assisted Living Center, Community Room, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville from 7-9 PM

In attendance: P. Morgan, W. Wanere, A. Azia, A. Baptista, R. Heller, K. Chase, S. Mulder, J. McGinnis, A. Yakovakis, S. Batchelder, M. Sauffilippo. Rep Carl Sciortino, A. Ferrante, J. Bellew, W. Zamore, E. Reisner

1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and Ellin provided an introduction on the group's history for newcomers.

2. Green Line Meeting follow-up

Jim McGinnis spoke about substitution process and consultants' study. Now that public meetings are over, the consultant's work is continuing.

3. Federal Transportation Update

- ❑ The Federal Transportation Funding bill has passed the federal House of Representatives, but not Senate yet, including funding for analysis of green line extension, urban Ring BRT, North South Rail Link.
- ❑ Comment period for EPA review of Fine Particulate Matter Standard ends Thursday, March 31, 2005. EPA staff and NESCOM will recommend a lower standard given the number of lives that would be saved.
- ❑ Congressman Capuano remains on the House transportation committee.

4. State Transportation Discussion

- ❑ New 20 Year Transportation Plan – comment period will last through end of 2005.
- ❑ MPO transportation plans, including TIPs, are due in fall after public process.
- ❑ New state transportation finance commission has been taking testimony.
- ❑ DEP and EOT are proceeding with Ozone SIP TRANSIT PROJECT re-assessment.

- ❑ Senator Barrios and Representatives Toomey and Sciortino are on the State's Joint Legislative Transportation Committee
- ❑ The next Boston MPO meeting will spend all day this Thursday and all day a week from Thursday to develop the new TIP and UPWP.

5. Governor's Transportation Plan

Rep Carl Sciortino reported that:

- ❑ Green line included in Mulhern's T's top 5 expansion projects.
- ❑ Paraphrased quotes from Mulhern, via Carl
 - “Of the 3 remaining [Big Dig mitigation] projects, green line makes far more sense”
 - “Worthwhile project, shared throughout administration”
 - “The reason it became top priority was public support”

Next phase of funding either secretary of transportation or clean air act enforcement
Sciortino met with chairman of Ways and Means Committee and will follow-up when house budget is released

6. Air Quality/Health Update

Wig gave a PowerPoint presentation on various health statistical issues with respect to transit issues

7. Special Initiatives

Health fair

We should continue discussion about holding a Transportation, Air Quality and Public Health Forum
Potentially work with PDS, Groundworks

STEP Fundraiser

Ken Kelley has offered the Independent for a fundraiser; we would like to raise a couple thousand so we don't have to dip into our own plans.

Tentatively May 3, 4 or 10th a Tuesday or Thursday
Pub 70 people capacity restaurant 120
Independent provides free food, cash bar
Charge \$20 Wig suggested something higher, after experience of Bill Shelton's event. There was some non-contentious debate about the virtues of various price points

The following people expressed interest in planning for the health information session:

Wilson Wanere
Steve
Andrea
Margaret
Wig
Ellin

The following people expressed interest in planning for the STEP fundraiser:

Adam Azia
Andrea
Ellin
Paul
Jim

MBTA # 89 Bus Service issues

Split route now half of buses are running to Davis. Complaints and compliments. Less service for Clarendon Hill Service people. More service for east Somerville people going to Davis. Ellin suggested conducting survey to publicize this change and gauge public opinion. Nothing final was decided

Election of Steering Committee

Postponed in interest of time

Treasurer's Report

Will be done over email or will be added to next meeting agenda

Next meeting:

April 25th @ 7PM