

**STEP Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 25, 2005, 7 PM**  
**VNA Assisted Living Center, 259 Lowell Street**  
**Community Room on 3rd Floor**

In attendance: J. McGinnis, K. Malloy, A. Yakovakis, W. Zamore, E. Reisner, P. Morgan, K. Chase, S. Mulder, C. Crawford, B. Nesson, J. Lynch G. Hill

1. Follow-up on Environmental Social and City Democratic Committee Meeting  
transportation/land use activities

- Wig & Ellin attended, and felt generally positive about the event, noted its high attendance and felt that we should keep in touch with the organization and participate in future events like that. They spoke with some Tufts students who were interested in our organization. 2 Tufts students (not the same ones) presented at the date who have been working for a year on Mystic River environmental justice, and have said they would include Wig's particulate matter and premature mortality data, presented on date.
- Ellin reported back on Democratic City Meeting as being a good connection but was merely a presentation and not much has come out of it at this time.

2. Next Green Line Advisory Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 4th, Noon at VNA.  
First meeting since Oct/Nov

Agenda will be:

1. Introductions and review of minutes 11/04 meeting
2. Status of project (J. Cosgrove)
3. CTPS Ridership Modeling (S. Peterson)
4. Status of Alternatives Analysis (M. McArdle)
5. Issues/Next Steps (J. Cosgrove)
6. Open Comments

Wig believes green line will get go ahead, reasons: public health data and public participation, unified point of view

May 12<sup>th</sup> EOT, going to reveal their recommendation to Boston MPO, we are optimistic they will indicate support for green line

3. Update from Boston and Baltimore transportation, air and health - (Q&A)

A. MBTA automated fare and service plan

- Wig reported on rider oversight meeting. The rider oversight committee focuses heavily on operations, less on capital projects, and are/will be spending overwhelming amount of time, for at least a year, on rollout of new automated fair system. There will be sturdy "charlie cards", and disposable temporary "charlie tickets". These will slow system down, as people don't know how to use them.
- Wig felt it's important to focus on pricing policies. Allowing free automatic transfers in New York, increased bus ridership dramatically.
- There are privacy issues, brought up by Senator Barrios and others. The system could theoretically track use. Information collection, if not connected to names, could be useful marketing though. Name tracking comes into play as theoretically possible when using credit/debit/bank draft, senior discount etc.

#### B. Boston MPO air quality re-determination and the transit commitments

Draft document on rerun of air quality determination required by transit commitments and ozone sip coming. Inputs setup by DEP. #s are very simple, 3 #s for each of the transit commitment projects. On May2, will release new numbers, hoping for greater T green line ridership #s. Increase is reasonable seeing as Davis Square severely underestimated. If they raise estimates, air quality benefits of new line will be increased. Important for a few of us to write letters on this.

#### C. Boston's Action for Regional Equity and the Smart Growth Alliance

Wig went to meeting of this group (ARE) facilitated by Policy Link out of Berkeley. Tries to gather opinion leaders with regard to transportation, housing. Meeting was regarding process with regards to state transportation. State is saying green line is first project on list, other than other projects in process, but public process will determine order.

#### D. HEI annual conference in Baltimore

Wig attended a conference of the Health Effects Institutes (second largest publisher of air quality studies with 50% funding by EPA, 50% industry, located in Charlestown. Does many confirmatory studies on air quality standards that double check other group's studies.)

Last week was 3 days annual conference, most all important world epidemiologists there, many heavyweights. Highlights were discussions of localized geography as opposed to regional as correlated with negative health impacts. This has implications for cities such as Somerville

#### E. Negative Article in MassInc's Commonwealth Magazine on greenline

This article was discussed and the consensus was that its logic/arguments were poor and citations were lacking. There may have been an ulterior motivation on behalf of the writer. We felt there should be a response, both letters to the editor and maybe an article as well

Ellin to investigate deadline for future response

Steve to setup additional discussion list for items such as this.

#### 4. Planning for STEP fundraiser and for air quality/public health forum

- Ideas is to raise money to offset expenses, and people tend to become more supportive to organization, ties people who don't have time to get more heavily involved
- Have evening @ the Independent, which doesn't charge up front, supply basic appetizers for free, so long as there is cash bar, can charge admission
- 3 times as many people will buy tickets as will attend as they want to contribute, Jim predicted, based on experience.
- Steps: talking to Ken Kelley, reserving a date on Tuesday/Wednesday (Tuesdays in restaurant 80-100) Wednesdays (pub 50-60 people)
- Tasks line up entertainment, decide what we will charge, do publicity
- Potential entertainment: Pete Vargus, Jim has contacted him, Bob Nesson said could contact him
- Jim is responsible to calling a planning meeting for this group.
  
- Wed June 1st or 15<sup>th</sup> of June were first choice
- \$25/head suggested donation
- Jim will call organizing meeting
- Kristi will Check School calendar for conflicts
- Karen will Check Arts Community for conflicts

Andrea and Steve to work on getting online donations (eg paypal)

#### 5. Air quality public health forum

- To inform public and gov't employees and officials
- Epidemiology experts are in their own world, not bleeding information out to gov't or public
- Target audience: community first, transportation policy planners second
- Andrea will be a coordinator in terms of organizing a planning group and will take the lead on scheduling

6. Next meeting Monday, May 23 @ 7PM