

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership

Regular Meeting of the Steering Committee and Members

Date: May 23, 2011, at the VNA Community Room, 259 Lowell Ave.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Andrea Yakovakis, Karen Molloy, Heather Van Aelst, Lynn Weismann, Ken Krause.
(Meeting notes taken by Karen Molloy.)

Quorum Present? No.

VOTES: No.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Livable Streets invitation-only Route 28 visioning meeting on 24 May.
- GLX DWG meeting 26 May.
- Friends of Community Path meeting 9 June.
- ArtBeat, 16 July.

PROCEEDINGS:

- Voting for new STEP officers was postponed due to lack of quorum.
- May 3rd public meeting by MBTA to meet-greet new HDR/Gilbane design team working with MBTA on GLX. The new design team wants to award design/build in summer of 2012, this will issue RFQ in the fall. There will be a public hearing on Federal EA this summer. They will hold station design workshops in the community for each station.
- Outreach – We need to put the word out to all listservs and email lists about upcoming MBTA/HDR/Gilbane station design workshops to be held in June when the schedule is released.
- GLX DWG – The team’s design principles are closely aligned with the T’s. At the station design workshops. Among design topics like connections for the Community Path, the community should advocate for sustainable materials.

CAFEH – held public meeting on progress on May 19. About 40 attendees heard report on preliminary data. One finding: central air conditioning reduces indoor exposure to ultrafine particles from vehicle emission pollution a lot. Closed windows and HEPA filters also alleviate exposure to the ultrafines.

Orange Line Assembly Sq station – the station is supposed to open in 2014. The project is at 100 % design (and has been for some time) but there has been no public meeting to review the design which had been promised by the MBTA back when the project was at 30% design a year ago. The project is in public comment period now in relation to Chapter 91/waterfront.

- Rutherford Ave redesign meeting - 400 people attended the meeting regarding the redesign. The community wants it to become a boulevard (thus foreshadowing community desire to take down McGrath/Rte 28 overpass and make it a boulevard as well.). But entrance to Tobin, Routes 1-93 and 99 are on Rutherford.

- CCP – The Great Neighborhood Grant to CCP has primarily been directed to SCC for organizing around anti-displacement and to hire a CCP coordinator. On June 6, there will be an MAPC Sustainable Communities project meeting to discuss details of funding work on the community path and economic development and land use in Eastern Somerville.
- GLX strategy for MPO-TIP-LRTP comment period. We could do a letter campaign over the summer to advocate for a timely offset mitigation project (Path, Route 16 station). State has to submit plan by 1 September.
- TROC – Wig reports that it was announced at the TROC meeting today that all SIP commitments are behind schedule. GLX is considered one year behind, officially described by MassDOT as being due to planning the siting of the maintenance facility. The Stet will seek increase bond funding in next Transportation Bond Bill. The State still expects to get some help from Federal funding. Noting has moved on a decision of the the offset project.
- Community Path – The City held a community design meeting on 19 May on the segment of the Path extension from Cedar St to Lowell St, mainly to garner ideas from the community. (No rep from Maxpak development was there.) There was an old 25% design, but the new team, Weston Samson, is starting from scratch. The plan is to have 25% of the design completed by mid-June with 75-100% by the end of the year. The design team unveiled a website dedicated to the project where viewers can mark different areas and include information on a Google Map of the 1/4 mile long stretch of Community Path:
WWW.CommunityWalk.Com/SomervilleCommunityPath.

MaxPak developers are supposed to out in a raised crosswalk at Cedar St. Also recall MaxPak (now renamed Maxwell's Green) was granted \$490K from the State for a ramp to Lowell St and access to the Path from the development. At an earlier meeting with the City, citizens communicated that access is not bike-friendly in the MaxPak design.

- ISEE videos update – Wig met with Steve on finishing the videos page; Wig is working on some intros. The 1st 8 should be done soon, then there will be 6 to follow. The videos have been used in classes at Harvard and Tufts. There is an opportunity to create a few new videos of interviews at the upcoming ISEE in Barcelona in Sept. Wig has asked STEP to cover payment of a couple of PHD candidates who are working on the videos and/or the CAFEH study.
- ArtBeat – Karen submitted our application. Most communication about logistics and brochure updates can happen via email. Need to assess whether the big map and or the timeline need updating. We will have STEP tote bags this year. Friends of the Community Path will have its own table this year; STEP has requested that the tables of the 2 organizations be co-located. We again invite MGNA, ECPT, Brickbottom to join us at the STEP table.

Next Meeting: Monday 27 June 2011, at the VNA Community Room