

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership

Regular Meeting of the Steering Committee and Members

Date: August 22, 2011, 7-9 p.m., at the VNA Community Room, 259 Lowell Ave.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Karen Molloy, Andrea Yakovakis, Jim McGuinnis, Kristi Chase, John Walkey, Khalid Shakir, Steve Mulder, Chris Orchard, Heather Van Aelst, Todd Kaplan, Ethan Contini-Field, Aili Contini-Field, Rachel Fichtenbaum, Alex Epstein, Lynn Weismann, KyAnn Anderson (attended first few minutes)

(Meeting notes taken by Karen Molloy.)

Quorum Present? Yes.

VOTES: No.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Green Line Extension Design Working Group (DWG) will take place on Wednesday, August 24: 6:30 pm-8 pm at the Argenziano School Cafeteria, 290 Washington St., Somerville.
- MPO Open House, August 24, 5:30-7:30.
- MBTA Board and MassDOT Board meetings, September 7 at 1 pm.
- Mass DEP public hearing(s) on SIP transit projects status on September 13 at 1 pm and 5 pm (comments deadline: September 20).
- Boston MPO voting meeting September 22, at 10 am (TIP & LRTP). (comments deadline: September 13).

PROCEEDINGS:

- Regarding MassDOT's announced delay of GLX to 2018-2020, we need to develop and broadcast talking points for public comments to MPO on TIP and LRTP (such as violations of transportation conformity regulations, fiscal irresponsibility, repeated broken promises, economic development opportunities lost, challenging FTA/FHWA approval of TIP/LRTP, Changing TIP with 2011 SIP delays when DEP has not approved 2010 delays).
- KyAnn Anderson (architect on GLX design team) said that details about delay will be discussed at the DWG meeting on August 24th. They are looking at ways to phase things. The architects continue to work on designs toward the next round of community workshops in October. No slow-down in their work.
- Outreach for comments to MassDEP to reject the SIP Annual Status report with GLX delay. GLX has not been given the priority mandated for SIP commitments.
- Likely the biggest reason for delay is not the land takings, but MassDOT doesn't see a way to finance the building of the Extension or the operation of it.
- The hitch with the New Starts application is that MassDOT cannot prove it has the funds to run the GLX.
- The Boston MPO TIP +LRTP comment period is through September 13. (Per David Mohler of the MPO, there is no reasonable expectation of Federal New Starts funding during the next four years.)
- Outreach to push back on the delay: write letters to MPO & DEP, attend MPO's voting meeting and DEP public hearings, outreach to the communities and local and regional organizations, elected officials, media.

- Any notion of phasing the project will drive the cost up (or kill it). Already the cost will be much more to delay the construction; and additional burden to taxpayers on top of the delay.
- There is so much PR around GreenDOT, but no walking the talk: GLX is the model case for GreenDOT.
- Outreach for comments to MPO on TIP and LRTP (GLX supporters, elected officials, CLF, print, radio and TV media). Urge GLX supporters to attend the Boston MPO voting meeting on September 22. Can we get lots of people to attend a 10 AM weekday meeting?
- Urge GLX team to work on developing RFQ now, not after they complete 30% design.

Next Meeting: Monday 19 Sept 2011, at the VNA Community Room