

STEP meeting minutes
September 22, 2008
At the Visiting Nurses Association

In Attendance: Ellin Reisner, Andrea Yakovakis, Naomi Slagowski, Wig Zamore, Kristi Chase, Steve Mulder, Jim McGinnis, Joe Cutrufo, Jared Ingersoll, and Lisa Buckilucchi

Inner Belt/Maintenance Facility

STEP and Brickbottom have been working together on the Green Line extension maintenance facility site, and are in agreement that the location is not good for the future development of Inner Belt. There have been some developments on this issue coming from the city. No matter what happens in Inner Belt, it will make future development cheaper and easier if the Fitchburg Line is depressed below grade.

Green Line Extension

The Green Line Neighborhood Alliance in Medford gave an update on their progress with the Green Line extension to Route 16 terminus. People in Arlington, the majority of Medford residents in the area, and Somerville residents support the Rte. 16 terminus. There have been some positive developments on this terminus, but there is still work to be done. For more information or to get a free "I'd rather be riding the Green Line Extension to Medford" bumper sticker go to: <http://www.medfordgreenline.org/>

There is still no definitive plan for Union Square station and track alignment, but it is most likely that something will be decided in the next few months.

Urban Ring

There has been talk of the Urban Ring not being connected through Assembly Square. This is an important transportation connection, and it will be bad for Somerville if this is lost.

Community Path

The path is being designed in pieces, with some pieces finished. There are places where the path is a large source of connections for riders of the future Green Line extension. The most efficient and convenient way to promote path use is to tie in its planning with the Green Line extension planning. The path that feeds to the Red Line extension was planned along with the train plans, and is extremely successful. The current Green Line planning doesn't include community path and station access. STEP advocates for these to be planned together.

Other

Sometime late this year/early next year, another bus survey will be prepared, especially trying to ask people how the Green Line extension might affect their bus use. At the MBTA Transportation Rider Oversight Committee, it was mentioned that some regular bus riders are still not using Charlie Cards. This is something that could possibly be addressed in the bus survey. Once the populations that avoid Charlie Cards have been identified, perhaps STEP should play a role in trying to educate people about how to obtain and use Charlie Cards.

Next meeting

October 20th from 7-9pm at the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) at 259 Lowell Street, in the Community Room.