

## STEP Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2005

Attendees – Wig Zamore, Ellin Reisner, Andrea Yakovakis, Lisa Lepore (Somerville Planning Department), Steve Mulder, Elizabeth Mulrone, Joe Beckman, Virginia Duffy (RNA Assisted Living Center)

1. Joe Beckmann has been appointed STEP's representative to the Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee. He is looking for input from STEP members about how to best represent STEP's interests to the committee.
2. Joe also has a proposal for a GIS education project with the Somerville public schools.
3. Ellin described changes made to the Ozone SIP language that could allow the state to back out of the commitment to extend the Green Line through Somerville at a later date. Basically where the old agreement stated that any project substituted for a project listed in the original document must be in the same corridor. The new language removes the corridor restriction.
4. There was discussion of Harvard now pushing for public transportation improvements for their new Allston campus. This could affect plans for the Urban Ring. Currently there is very little public support for the Urban Ring due to its current multi-modal structure (i.e., light rail, heavy rail, and bus). A structure made up of light or heavy rail would be better supported by the public. Anyone interested in viewing Harvard's public transportation plans should contact Kathy Spiegelman. A model of the plan is in the Holyoke Center.
5. The 2011 deadline for the completion of the Green Line extension was pushed back to 2014. The new regulations allow for substitution of projects outside of the corridor where the original project was planned; this was not allowed in earlier versions.
6. Wig outlined 4 steps that must happen before work on building the Green Line extension can begin:
  - (1) DEP review / approval
  - (2) EPA review / comment period / approval
  - (3) Inclusion in long-term State Transportation Plan. . The MPO project submission is due in March 2006, and the Regional Transportation Plan is due in August 2006.
  - (4) State identification of financing source

The DEP Ozone SIP hearing is December 21 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Written comments are due January 3, 2006. Concern has been raised about the scheduling of these dates around the holidays.

### 7. DEP Ozone SIP Hearing Action Plan:

- Email to various listservs
  - ♣ Community Path
  - ♣ PDS
  - ♣ Massbike

♣ (others)

- Fliers for snail mail and posting
    - ♣ Multi-lingual
    - ♣ Speaking points
  - Notice in Somerville Journal
  - Notice in Somerville News
  - Notice to be sent home with students - from city
  - City may do its own flier-ing (Carlene Campbell of Planning Department)
  - Contact Steve Mackey to involve the Somerville Chamber of Commerce
  - Contact Joe Lynch and Sean O'Donovan to involve Magoun and Ball Square folks
  - Contact Peter Marcus to involve Brickbottom folks
  - Need to contact the East Somerville group
  - Need to contact Friends of Foss Park
  - Need to get Aldermen(people) involved – especially Rebecca Gerwitz
  - Need to arrange transportation for senior citizens and disabled so they can attend the hearing if they wish
8. Members of STEP and the city met to coordinate efforts in this undertaking. A timeline of critical events is being drafted including setting up a meeting with the city, the legislative delegation and STEP.
  9. We discussed identifying sponsors and speakers for community education forums. Anyone who has suggestions should email the other members of the group.
  10. Wig gave a short presentation of photos of the traffic issues surrounding the recent opening of IKEA in Stoughton, MA.
  11. Steve Mulder reported that he had made a number of updates to the STEP website (thanks Steve!). Ellin suggested that we should add information about other Light Rapid Transit systems.
  12. Service to the Lechmere station has been reduced since it reopened. Ellin suggested this may be something for STEP to address in the near future. It was agreed that this should wait until after the push for the December 21<sup>st</sup> hearing.
  13. We need to talk to the East Cambridge Planning Team and the Cambridgeside Galleria regarding the impact on ridership due to reduced Lechmere service. Perhaps we can request increased service as mitigation for the 3 year delay in opening the Green Line extension.