

Green Line Extension. The GLX project team held community meetings in early 2014 to present its plan for retaining walls and noise barriers along the corridor and its preliminary design for the Community Path extension from Washington St. to Lechmere. The project team, led by HDR/Gilbane, and AECOM and the MBTA, are planning early construction work to start Phase 2 in 2015. Phase 2 consists of building the Lechmere, Washington St., and Union Sq. stations and completing service between these stations in 2017. The remainder of 2014 will see preparation for: rebuilding the affected bridges on the route, moving utilities, relocating tracks and providing drainage, rebuilding the retaining walls and building noise walls. The GLX project is in the federal “New Starts funding” pipeline – a master list of transportation projects across the country under consideration for funding by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Funding decisions are expected to be released this autumn. Regardless, the state is legally obligated to build it. In the current plan, the new stations would open in a phased approach from 2017 through 2019.

Community Path. On April 30, 2014, State Transportation Secretary Richard Davey announced that the state will both design and construct the full Path extension along the GLX corridor from Lowell St. to Lechmere! This multi-use Path will share GLX corridor infrastructure (like bridges and retaining walls) along the four stations from Lowell St. to Lechmere. The Path will also connect the Minuteman and Charles River paths, linking a network of approximately 48 miles of continuous path. The Path extension is expected to be completed in late 2019 with the rest of the GLX project. The Washington St. to Lechmere segment is slated to be built by 2017. Construction of the first segment of the Community Path extension, from Cedar St. to Lowell St., is expected to be completed in autumn 2014. This segment is a City of Somerville project, which broke ground in May 2013.

Orange Line. Construction is nearly complete for the new Assembly Sq. Orange Line MBTA station! The new T station is scheduled to be operational by autumn 2014. There will be two shared-use paths adjacent to the station: one that will connect to Lombardi Way, and one that will be adjacent to the Partners Health Care headquarters, ending near the

Sullivan Sq. T station. The latter path will be built in with the construction of the Partners headquarters. A new bike/ped underpass now runs below Route 28 for improved access between Ten Hills and Assembly Sq. The Assembly Sq. T station project is a public/private partnership between the FTA, Federal Realty Investment Trust, and the MBTA.

Initiative to Change Policy Related to Populations Affected by Traffic

Pollutants. STEP, the City of Somerville, and the Chinese Progressive Association in partnership with Tufts University Schools of Public Health and Engineering, MAPC, and the Boston Public Health Commission are collaborating on a three-year project that started in 2013. The project’s goal is to protect the health of people living near highways in Somerville and Boston’s Chinatown. By applying knowledge gained from the Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH) study of the health impacts of mobile pollution on cardiac health, the team seeks to impact the siting and design of housing, schools, and open space near highways to reduce pollution exposure by developing practical, realistic proposals. A longer term goal is to broaden this effort regionally. This project is funded by a grant of \$750,000 from The Kresge Foundation, with additional funding from other sources.

Removing the Overpass on McGrath

Highway. Removing the McCarthy Overpass on Route 28 (McGrath Highway over Washington St.) and turning it into a street level boulevard would connect Union Sq. with East Somerville and Inner Belt, and would make the route safer and more accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. In 2013, results of MassDOT’s Grounding McGrath study recommended the de-elevation of the overpass and converting it to an at-grade boulevard with “complete streets” style bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. MassDOT’s recommendation included a preferred alternative design concept, but no detailed plan or timeline has yet been announced. MassDOT is currently repairing the overpass to make it operational for another 15 years. The next phase of immediate repair work is closing the ramp to Somerville Ave., opening up a roadway under McGrath from Somerville Ave. to McGrath and making traffic signalization changes at Washington St.

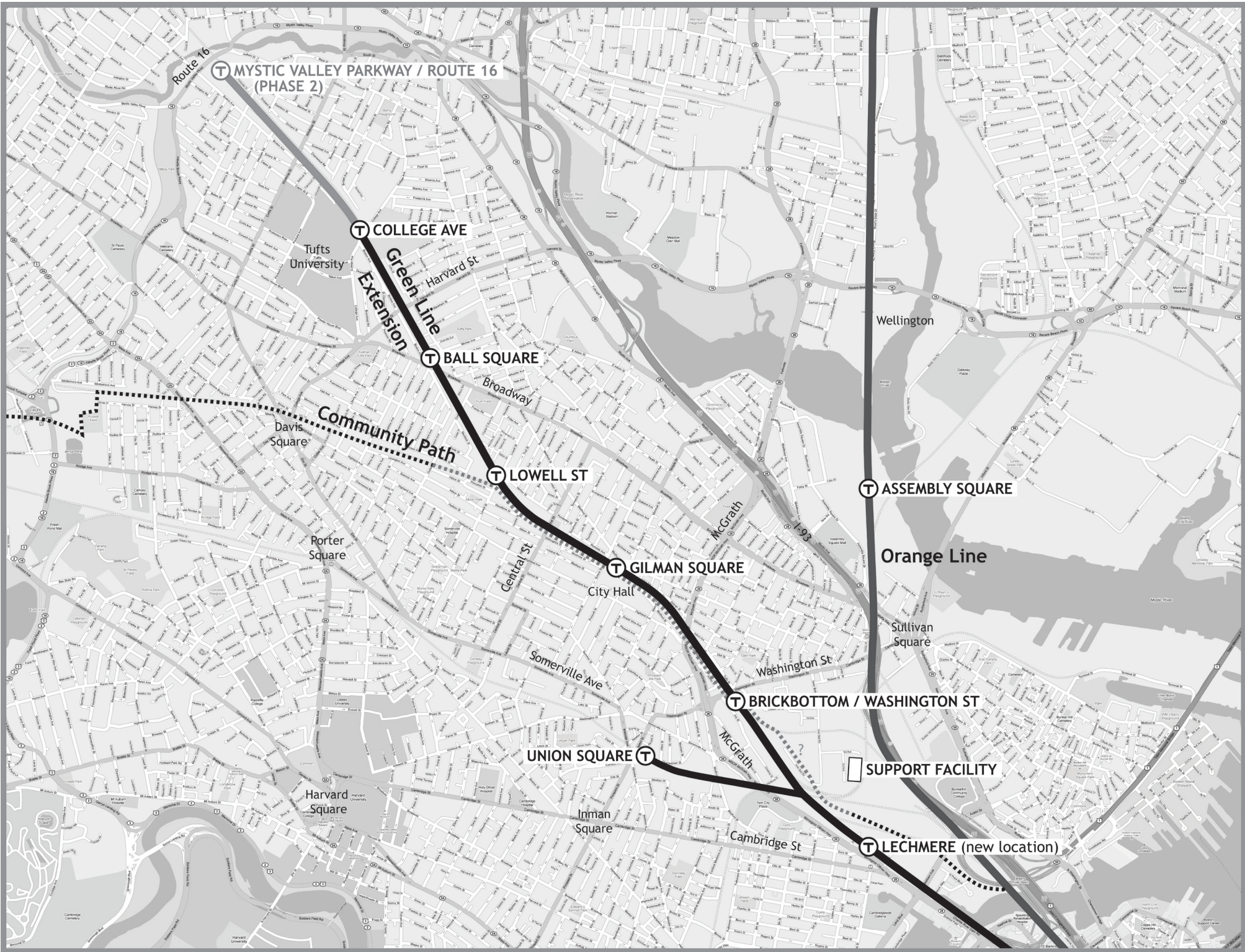
Copyright © 2014, Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership.



Current News About Transportation Projects in Somerville

SOMERVILLE
TRANSPORTATION EQUITY
PARTNERSHIP

www.somervillestep.org



T MYSTIC VALLEY PARKWAY / ROUTE 16 (PHASE 2)

T COLLEGE AVE

Green Line Extension

T BALL SQUARE

Community Path

T LOWELL ST

T GILMAN SQUARE

T ASSEMBLY SQUARE

Orange Line

T BRICKBOTTOM / WASHINGTON ST

T UNION SQUARE

SUPPORT FACILITY

T LECHMERE (new location)