

## **Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership**

Regular Meeting of the Steering Committee and Members

**Date:** January 31, 2010, at the VNA Community Room, 259 Lowell Ave.

**Attendees:** Rep. Denise Provost, Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Andrea Yakovakis, Karen Molloy, Naomi Slagowski, Kristi Chase, Jim McGinnis, Heather Van Aelst, Lynn Weismann. (Meeting notes taken by Karen Molloy.)

**Quorum Present?** Yes.

**VOTES:** To provide payment to Steve Kaiser for recent work on Brickbottom track alignment design alternatives.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- MAPC Mystic Valley Parkway/Route 16 Community Visioning Process  
Wed. Feb. 16, 2011 from 6-8pm at the Brooks Elementary School in Medford.  
STEP attendees should remind folks about the Mytic Path connection.
- Next Friends of Community Path meeting 10 February at 7 pm at the VNA.
- Boston MPO public meetings in February:
  - Transportation Equity Forum, Wed. Feb. 2 at 5:30 pm at Boston Public Library, Conference Room 6, 700 Boylston St.
  - Workshops on Needs Assessment, Thurs. Feb. 10 5:30 pm Saugus Town Hall
  - Tues., Feb. 15 at 5:30 pm Needham Public Library Community Room.
  - MPO Open House, Wed. Feb. 16, 12n + 5:00 pm, State Trans. Bldg, 10 Park Plaza.
  - Boston MPO TIP Building Workshops: 9:00 am on Feb. 8 in Peabody, Feb. 15 in Framingham, and Feb. 22 in Hingham. The Open House on Feb. 16 in Boston will include a TIP Building Workshop at approximately 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

#### *Updates*

- Rep. Provost reported on a topic of the delegation meeting with Mayor Curtatone last week regarding the GLX Lowell St station. The City has hired someone to design the intersection, including intersection of the Path and Lowell St bridge. The topography at Lowell St station (and Gilman Sq station too) requires good design ideas. Currently the Lowell St. station design only has one entrance/exit (for reasons unknown) to the station -- above grade/off the bridge This does not meet needs of the neighborhood or folks on the Path. The Mayor asked Mike Lambert to work out an easy way for a 2<sup>nd</sup>, neighborhood, access to the T stop.
- SIP status: GLX is not in the TIP draft; out of compliance with the SIP. The EA has been submitted to the Federal government. The New Starts application is still in the works; prelim. engineering to start "Winter 2011"; MassDOT must submit response to public comments to last year's Annual Status Report by January 30. 600 million from the Transportation Bond bill of 2008 has not been release.
- Although the MBTA is running the GLX project now, it's unclear where the responsibility of the Community Path extension falls – is the MBTA responsible for the Path piece of the project? \$600 million from the Transportation Bond bill of 2008 has not been released.

- On Feb. 2, the MassDOT/MBTA Board of Directors will be asked to approve a \$95 million contract for preliminary design and construction management for GLX. The contract is proposed to be awarded to Gilbane Building Co. and HDR Engineering. The current station design concepts have no vertical designs, we need to keep an eye on that in this next phase, as well as to look for opportunities to fund and build the Path extension with GLX.
- Great Neighborhood Initiative will be meeting soon. (Ellin and Wig will attend.) The initiative is comprised of the Smart Growth Alliance, MAPC, and Barr Foundation, with the purpose of getting technical assistance for economic development planning. STEP applied for a grant with CCP; we are finalists.
- MassDOT has hired a contractor to conduct a Route 28 McGrath Highway de-Elevation study, subbed to Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates. The original study draft focused on maximum throughput; this new study will focus on reconstruction within the context of GLX and bike/ped access.
- Community Path update–
  - Clean Air Mobility grant application – Mike Lambert (SPCD) working on it with Alan Moore (Friends of the Community Path).
  - Friends of Community Path interested in forming more alliances with regional like-minded organizations.
- Annual Transportation Research Board conference: General sentiment was “We’ve got to do something different”. The topic of transportation and health came up a lot during the conference (environmental as well as safety). TRB will be forming a subcommittee on transportation and health. Also, there were suggestions that the federal government purchase all the railroads.
- The HUD/HEPA filter study will get underway shortly.
- Brickbottom representatives met with VHB regarding the track layout. Current plan has Brickbottom losing 15-16 parking spaces (on Grand Junction side). The Union Sq side keeps the fire lane. The plan includes three levels of track with viaduct and noise wall. One area of difficulty is the Miller River beneath it; it impedes any idea of building below grade. The Miller River is one of the biggest impediments to planning Inner Belt; it floods badly (and plans to update the sewage system there in the 1980s never materialized.) The Trash transfer station will move out of the Brickbottom area in a year.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 28 February 2011, at the VNA Community Room