

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership

Monthly Meeting

April 25, 2011

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Janet Steins, Kristi Chase, Jim McGinnis, Heather Van Aelst, Lynn Weissman, Naomi Slagowski, Andrea Yakovakis, Wig Zamore

Quorum Present? No.

VOTES:

Voting postponed until next meeting due to lack of quorum.

PROCEEDINGS

1. Financial Report for 2010 was presented by Andrea Yakovakis, treasurer.
Total Revenues: \$32,777.61
Total Expenses: \$23,044.16
Most of our revenue came from grant payments for Community Assessment of Freeway Environment and Health (CAFEH) study and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) study.
Our expenses were typically small amounts for events, an insurance binder for the HUD study, and engineering analysis payment.
2. Meeting Agenda items:
 - Videos from International Society of Environmental Epidemiologist (ISEE) meeting:
 - Videos are in production. We recently contributed toward some equipment to finish the editing.
 - EPA put out a final report on particulate matter policy, as a step toward a new lowered standard. The ISEE videos will be released before the public comment period, and we need ideas for social media broadcasting. A group will meet to brainstorm ideas for outreach. One idea was raised to submit them through and editorial on the Huffington Post.
 - Washington Street Station Design:
The Washington Street Station has had a preliminary design released. Jim attended a meeting with the Green Line Design Working Group representatives from Somerville and a few other people, along with the design and construction consultants, and he will post some of the points from that meeting on the STEP listserv. There are concerns with the current design of this station, because of lack of access to the path from East Somerville since it is planned to be elevated.
 - McGrath Highway de-elevation study:
Ellin has been in contact with the project manager for the McGrath highway de-elevation study. We discussed how unsafe the raised portion of McGrath is for cars on it and pedestrians below it. Friends of the Community Path is working on a summary report of what is going on with the study. He will post this to the STEP listserv and Patch.
 - Friends of the Community Path updates:
 - They will start a letter writing campaign to get the Community Path on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). They are

- planning to discuss this plan at the May 5th Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting.
 - Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) got a federal grant to form a Sustainable Communities Consortium. STEP and Friends of the Community Path are members.
 - Inner Belt and North Point update with respect to the Path: On the North Point Master Plan the Community Path is shown, but with the new situation at North Point it is unknown if the path or a street grid from North Point to Somerville is part of the North Point plan. A crossing from the Gore Street area of Cambridge on the path is needed for access to Twin City Plaza. We need to stay aware of public meetings for this project now that there is a new development team, and these should be posted on the East Cambridge Planning Team listserv.
 - Friends of the Community Path will send a thank you letter to Secretary Mullan for his commitment to the Path.
- Update on the MBTA:
 - Secretary Mullan made it possible for the T to find new revenue. They will file a finance plan for South Coast Rail this year.
 - The Secretary said they will file for federal funding, but it is unclear if there is appropriate financial backing to file for this funding.
 - Lechmere Station will be shutting down for 6 months starting this weekend.
 - A white paper has been released about Green Line Maintenance Facility siting.
 - The Ride costs have risen a lot lately, and they released a paper that they will evaluate cost savings for that program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Community Assessment of Freeway Environment and Health (CAFEH) study on health near highways will be presenting a preliminary report of Somerville data at the Mystic Activities Center from 9-11, May 19th.
- May 26th Green Line Design Working Group will meet in Medford. The main focus of the meeting is planned to be about Washington Street.
- Brickbottom-Inner Belt focus group meeting to study development in that area of the city will be held on May 16th at Holiday Inn in Somerville.

Project Reports

- Green Line Extension:
 - Now that there are new design consultants, it would be useful to have a site walk with them.
- New Orange Line stations:
 - 100% design is done, and station designs haven't been released.
 - We talked about the crowding at Sullivan Station during rush hour, and the need for more trains on the orange line is great, especially with the development at Assembly Square. There is a legal mandate to purchase more T trains, but they are behind.

The next meeting will be May 23rd.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:00.