

**SOMERVILLE**  

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**TRANSPORTATION EQUITY**  

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**PARTNERSHIP**

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership - May Monthly Meeting  
Community Room, Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), 259 Lowell St., Somerville, MA  
May 17, 2010, 7pm-9pm

**Minutes**

- Introductions
  - Attendees: Karen Molloy, Naomi Slagowski, Liz Fong, Jim McGinnis, Steve Mulder, Tom Nash (Somerville News), Kristi Chase, Andrea Yakovakis, Ellin Reisner, Lisa B, Joe Beckmann, Heather Van Aelst, Lia B., Alex Epstein, Wig Zamore, Alan Moore
  - Quorum: Yes
- Announcements
  - Option L was announced
    - [applause] - very good news. Allen will be coming at 8:15 to discuss the community path.
    - Steve Kaiser and Alan Moore have been working on a design to reduce the footprint on Somerville land and move closer to maintenance facility. Steve has submitted documents to MassDOT but not acknowledged in report. plenty of time to work on it.
    - Plan recommended to hold meeting with key people to discuss technical issues and siting of facility and storage yards. Will invite . East Cambridge and Brickbottom communities.
    - Public Hearing on the FEIR to be held by Mass DOT and MEPA on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Somerville High School.
    - Developer of condo on Water St. (right after Glass Factory) in Cambridge wants to work collaboratively with East Cambridge planning team to address bus and other vehicle circulation around the buildings and relocated Lechmere Station.
  - Historic tour this Sunday starting from Somerville City Hall at 1pm
  - Interviews for MassDOT GLX working group started happening today, it was reported that there were more than 100 applicants
- Organizational
  - Approve minutes from last meeting
    - Motion to accept the minutes with proviso that they can be corrected later
    - Unanimous consent
  - Discussion on disbanding 501(c)(4) (STEP foundation) application The issues discussed were:
    - The kinds of lobbying STEP will do can be done under 501(c)3. since we don't take positions on candidates.
    - It will require extra work of officers, annual reports.
    - Attorney who worked on 501(c)3 stated that he couldn't conceive of a situation in which we'd need a 501(c)4.

- Current officers are not interested in becoming officers of the 501(c)4
    - Motion to table until next meeting.
  - Governance structure: changes recommend by STEP accountant to have an elected Board of Directors in addition to officers
    - Committee of three officers plus minimum of two other directors and recommendation to elect two additional alternates) to act as executive committee?
    - Should we use the steering committee?
    - Andrea noted that we need to amend the bylaws, write proposal, give required notice. Action is to discuss this and review by-law changes before voting at next meeting. .
  - Financial report
    - Financial situation is sound. STEP has \$17,158 in its account
    - Financial report requested for EPA CARE grant. Ellin reported that we have not billed this grant for STEP services.. It's receivable but not paid yet.
    - STEP will pay for custodians at Prospect Hill Academy for community design workshops. SCC will pay for Friday refreshments, STEP will help pay for Saturday refreshments.
    - Accountant (Jack Gonsalves) went through STEP finances and filed Form 990 for us on time. He will be asked to write checks for STEP disbursements.
- Updates
  - Community Corridor Project charrette/workshop update
    - Ellin updated the attendees on the outreach to designers reporting that their experience ranges from people with 20 years of experience to students and people who are just graduating.
    - There has been no response from MIT There will be participants from BAC and Jeff Levine, Elizabeth Murphy (transportation planners) will participate.
    - Events to be held this May 21, May 22, June 2
    - We owe Naomi and Steve a round of applause for producing 2000 dpi maps of the station areas - 3 hours per map!
    - CCP is still working with Gretchen Von Grossman on the final agenda. Drafts passed around.
    - Gretchen will be doing the presentation on the details of what people should be doing, immediate goals
    - Recommendation to have someone present the background information on GLX
    - Recommendation to have ECPT person discuss their design efforts on Lechmere to inspire. Ellin reported that there sill not be time in the agenda for this but that we would use some of their design slides to illustrate their process.
    - Useful documents on the DOT website that have technical requirements will be provided at the workshops.
    - There is a large screen and projector in the space.
    - Plans for the finished products include circulating slides online, on STEP website and producing some printed versions of what people have produced. All designs will be presented at the June 2 meeting.

- People from the city and state working on the project have been invited.
  - Videos will be taken of June 2 meeting, but likely not of the Saturday meeting unless students want to volunteer.
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting being held by the city with the state is to present station information and seek input on land use around stations.
  - Ball Square and College Avenue station “land use” meeting by state are starting this week
  - There was discussion of how to ensure that design workshop materials are submitted to Mass DOT.
  - Discussion of using MassDOT’s designs to provide skeleton of scale, ADA requirements, dimensions, etc.
  - Discussion of challenges of Union Square discussed including the issue of rebuilding the Prospect bridge to be rebuilt,
  - It was noted that the MassDOT designs have not been integrated into the street grid and land uses around stations.
  - The Medford/Somerville stations will be included in the design workshops because stations will be used by both Medford and Somerville residents. s
  - DOT is not designing the route 16 terminus, but MAPC may be asked to work with the two cities to come up with design recommendations that can be supported by both cities.
- Artbeat update
    - Karen reported that it is on July 17th of July. She said we will need to update green line brochure. Steve, and Naomi worked on.
    - We should add update on the second headhouse for Orange Line Assembly Square station, removal of Urban Ring Project, etc.
    - Status of GLX project to Route 16 and funding and construction of Community Path
    - Major changes to include: FEIR, decision on maintenance facility, second headhouse on Assembly Square, bike path design improvements, EOT/MassDOT incorporated Lechmere Station into project, HUD study to test HEPA filters (City of Somerville w/ Mystic Housing Tenants Association, Tufts, STEP as community partners).
    - Table staffing issues to be worked out online.
    - It was agreed to have three primary written pieces, plus map and timeline.
    - We need to get the big map laminated, plus possibly one of each station area map (just to have, not for Artbeat)
    - High school print shop can do this for us if we ask
    - We should come up with the timeline before the end of the school year so the students can print it (with expected completion dates for various items). We can ask them to reprint in the fall if things change.
    - We need to check inventory of t-shirt sand buttons to figure out if we need to reorder.

- New business
  - Community path strategy (incl. funding)
    - Since last meeting:
    - Alan has sent around material about TIGER (transportation investments generating economic recovery) grant funding.
    - Draft EIR for GLX has 10% conceptual design for community path
    - Trying to have it included as part of FEIR.
    - City is onboard and is pushing state.
    - Meeting with City planning staff on Friday specifically about applying for TIGER grant
    - Preference to have Path included in New Starts application.
    - Tiger Grant application deadline is July 16 for preliminary application and August 23 for full application.
    - Wig reported on Logan airport quality of life issues:  
FAA has rejected plan to reduce noise in Somerville due to extra controller work, conflict with incoming patterns involved in sending planes out further before they turn south coming out of 33L  
Previously, was only 1/3 as much air traffic in 2007. city lost court case, FAA rejected plan  
Massport is fighting East Boston community to not address air quality impacts of a 2000 car garages within 50 feet of housing, playgrounds without EPA review
    - Casino on other side of East Boston will start becoming an issue too
  - Next meeting on June 21.