

NOTES FROM STEP MEETING 24 July 2006

July 24, 2006, 7-9 PM

SCAT, Union Sq. Somerville

Present: Ellin Reisner, Andrea Yakovakis, Karen Molloy, Jim McGinnis, Joe Beckman, Chungchi Che,
Notes written by Ellin Reisner, Karen Molloy

1. **Debrief of ArtBeat participation**

Discussion of participation in ArtBeat with the Bike Committee, Livable Streets, Medford Green Line Advocates. Overall, participants thought the collaboration worked well because many people who came to the table had multiple transportation interests. It was recommended that we debrief with the other groups and if we plan to collaborate again at the event next year that we do some preparation for the volunteers.

2. **Outreach for MPO TIP and UPWP comment period**

Ellin reported that she had written an op-ed for the Somerville Journal about submitting comments to the MPO about the TIP and UPWP drafts by August 15th. Follow up is required to send out speaking points for comments to STEP listserv and for posting on the STEP website. Comments should address topics included in these drafts regarding the Community Path and its dependency on the Green Line extension, corridor planning, and so on.

3. **Distribution of the bus survey**

Brief discussion of bus survey, which has been translated into Spanish and Portuguese. Plans need to be made for distribution of written survey and publicity about online survey. This will be done in August. Because August is a slow month due to vacations, it was decided to distribute the hard-copy survey after Labor Day. (The online survey is live; linked from the STEP website. Will eventually be linked from the City website too.)

Outreach about the survey and distribution will be done through community agencies, listservs, local newspapers and possibly study the Brazilian and Spanish newspapers, Pat Jehlen and Denise Provost's newsletter, at bus stops, Laundromats and other businesses.

4. Participation in Union Square Farmer's Market and Mystic Community Barbecue

Jim McGinnis is going to find out what dates would be available for STEP to have a table in August and September at the Farmer's Market. Jim and Kristi Chase will coordinate this and staff the booth. If others are interested in assisting they should contact Jim or Kristi.

Ellin will notify Warren Goldstein-Gelb about STEP's plan to participate in the Mystic Barbecue on 22 August. Ellin Reisner, Joe Beckmann and Andrea Yakovakis agreed to staff the table.

5. Report on Urban Ring regarding relationship with the Green Line extension

Joe Beckmann provided a report on what is happening with the Urban Ring and its relationship to the Green Line extension in Somerville. It was noted that the ridership projections for the Union Square Green Line branch were reduced based in the Beyond Lechmere study due to utilization of the Urban Ring. However, Joe pointed out that the Green Line should be considered part of the urban ring.

6. Other Green Line issues

- Discussion held about need for Green Line outreach and fundraising. There was discussion about holding an awareness event in October as the 2nd anniversary of the big public hearing the night of the Red Sox World Series win. It would be a way to look at the status of the project now and what needs to be done. It was recommended that the event be held in Union Square on a Saturday after the Farmer's Market with mini-charrettes, activities for children, information about the need to pay attention to mobile sources of air pollution and other activities to attract participation. Perhaps we could hold a forum at the event with Somerville, Medford, East Cambridge represented.
- It was recommended that Somerville request that the MBTA have a person designated to be the Green Line liaison to the communities and EOT.
- A community meeting is planned in East Cambridge in September regarding North Point. This will likely touch on the new Lechmere Station.

7. **World Carfree Day participation**

This international event [<http://www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd/>] takes place this year on September 22nd. (Sadly, few US cities participate in this annual event.) It was decided that STEP would try to work with other local transit advocacy groups (such as Livable Streets, APT) to plan for large local participation in the event in 2007. We could also enlist grad students (Tufts, Harvard MIT) to help with prepare for event participation. This year we can, at a minimum, acknowledge this world-wide event on the STEP listserv and website, and add it to the Livable Streets calendar.