

**STEP meeting minutes**  
**October 20, 2008**  
**At the Visiting Nurses Association**

In Attendance: Ellin Reisner, Joe Cutrufo, Heather Von Aelst, Naomi Slagowski, Wig Zamore

ISEA/ISEE conference in Pasadena

Ellin, Wig, and Bob Nesson recently returned from the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and International Society of Exposure Analysis (ISEE/ISEA) 2009 joint conference in Pasadena. While there, they attended talks on air pollution, air quality and air testing research, and filmed interviews with researchers from all over the world. The interviews were about 20 minutes long. They still need to be edited and compiled, and eventually they will be available to STEP, and also a documentary. This might be made available on the web site. The scientists interviewed at the conference were:

<u>Researcher</u>	<u>University/Country</u>
Ed Avol	USC
Bert Brunekreef	Netherlands
Jim Gauderman	UC Berkeley
Joachim Heinrich	Germany
Barbara Hoffmann	Germany
Michael Jerret	UC Berkeley
Joel Kaufmann	University of Washington
Patrick Kinney	Columbia University
Nino Kunzil	Barcelona
Jon Levy	Harvard School of Public Health
Peter Molnar	Sweden
Annette Peters	Germany
Costas Sioutas	USC
Yifang Zhu	Texas A&M

The Somerville NIH grant for studying air pollution effects near highways was well received at the conference, and people were excited about the methodology. One study that they learned about at the conference reported that bike paths away from roads have much less pollution exposure than those on roads. They also saw the Gold Line light rail that runs along the highway in a median in Pasadena. Wig took some photos and will make them available to those interested.

Green Line Extension

A meeting planned with Medford Green Line Neighborhood Alliance (MGNA) about the Route 16 terminus has been proposed. Look for details on MGNA's web site: <http://www.medfordgreenline.org/>. There is no new news on the Union Square branch stop. At the Union Square zoning meeting, there was talk of Transit Oriented Development, and the heights of buildings "stepping up" for more pedestrian/transit friendly building have been changed. The heights used to be 55'-85'-100'-135', and now the heights are 55'-70'-100'-135'. This is a good change to make the height differential not so great close to the square. There haven't been a lot of other changes there, but there were some nice architectural drawings presented at the meeting. None of the sketches portrayed a train loop situation of the Green Line Extension.

There is currently not a stop planned at Pat's Tow along the Green Line Extension. This would be a good addition to the line, as a stop there would serve Brickbottom and possibly the Twin City Plaza shopping area.

#### Urban Ring/Assembly Square

The status of Assembly Square being included in the Urban Ring has not changed. Alan Moore sent out a summary of the meeting with IKEA architects. This can be found on the Yahoo! group or list serve email list.

#### Community Path

The path planning needs to be included in the Green Line Extension planning. If they are planned to work together, the path will feed riders to the Green Line, and ridership will increase.

#### Grants

- EPA CARE grant: There are interns from Tufts that are available to help with this study.
- NIH CAFEH grant: There are meetings being held for planning this work, and Ellin and Wig have been attending those meeting with Tufts researchers.

#### Learning opportunities/resources

- Alan Moore sent out a detailed report to the list serve on light rail in Baltimore. This is a good resource.
- There is going to be a course at Harvard on bike paths in the U.S. and the Netherlands.
- A study reported in Environmental Health Perspectives finds that women who exercise near highways have more health issues than those who don't. The correlations were not so significant between those just living (and not exercising) near highways.

#### Regulatory changes - any ideas?

Every five years, the criteria air pollutants are reviewed by the EPA – to determine which standards are sets to be protective of susceptible populations within an acceptable margin of safety. Currently, ozone and particulate matters standards are being reviewed, and in the next 4-6 months new standards could be set. How can STEP get involved with affecting the decisions so that mobile sources (automobiles) are considered? They are currently not. If anyone has any ideas, please write the list serve.

#### Inner Belt/Maintenance Facility

There is nothing new to report here.

#### Next meetings

- November 17th from 7-9pm at the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) at 259 Lowell Street, in the Community Room.