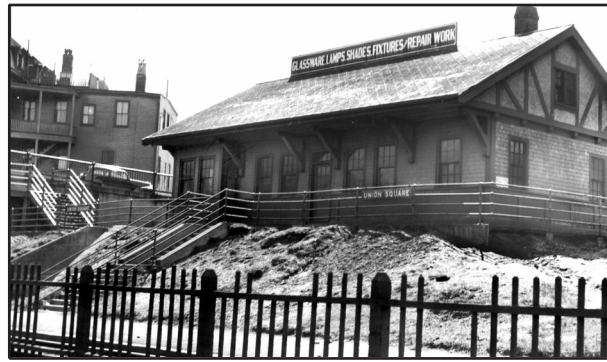


What needs to happen next

- EOT must complete and submit its Environmental Impact Review to the State, and submit an environmental review to the federal government to secure New Starts funding.
- EOT must submit a New Starts application to the Federal Transit Administration for federal funding for the Green Line Extension.
- The State must secure financing for the Green Line Extension to move forward with the engineering design.
- The location of the maintenance and storage facility must be finalized.
- Somerville residents should participate in land use planning and station design for Somerville Green Line stations to increase future transit access, preserve affordable housing, and encourage appropriate commercial development.
- An economic development strategy must be developed for Inner Belt/Brickbottom, Boynton Yards, and Assembly Square.
- We all must ensure that the Urban Ring plan includes connections in Somerville at Inner Belt and Assembly Square.



The B&M station that was once in Union Square. (Photo courtesy of Walker Transportation Collection, Beverly Historical Society.)

What you can do

Become involved in STEP's efforts to secure better public transit for all residents and advocate for a more walkable and bikeable Somerville.

Stay informed about actions you can take by attending meetings or writing letters by checking our website at www.somervillestep.org or signing up for the STEP listserv on our website. These resources also post information about upcoming meetings.

Participate in community, city, and EOT-sponsored meetings and hearings related to transportation planning and advocacy in Somerville. You can find out about meetings and hearings from the STEP listserv, the Somerville City website, or local news media. Follow transportation issues in the news. Check the EOT website about the Green Line project at www.greenlineextension.org, the MBTA website at www.mbta.com, and the Boston MPO website at www.ctps.org/bostonmipo for their latest news.

Make sure your local aldermen and state representatives know that you want better public transportation and cleaner air for Somerville. (To find out who represents you, see the City of Somerville website at www.somervillema.gov or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website at www.mass.gov.)

Did you know that Somerville once had eight passenger train stops? The stops were on the Fitchburg and Lowell Lines, and the former Lexington Branch.



SOMERVILLE
TRANSPORTATION EQUITY
PARTNERSHIP

What is STEP?

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP) is a group of concerned residents advocating for greatly needed transportation improvements for Somerville. Our mission is to secure transportation that will increase social equity, environmental health, and economic opportunity. STEP started working on these issues six years ago. We welcome our neighbors, non-profits, businesses, and government to join in this work.

What STEP does

STEP advocates for public transportation improvements that will promote the best land uses and will reduce traffic in Somerville, such as:

- Extending two branches of the Green Line: one to travel to the heart of Union Square to revitalize it and relieve traffic on the Rte. 28 Corridor, the other to travel along the Lowell commuter rail line, terminating at the Mystic Valley Parkway on the Somerville/Medford line.
- Locating an Orange Line station at Assembly Square to serve economic and mixed-use development, and to relieve traffic traveling to and from the area.
- Extending community ped/bike paths to transit stations and to communities along the Green Line extension routes and at Assembly Square.
- Raising awareness of the need to reduce mobile sources of pollution caused by heavy traffic on major highways and diesel trains, both of which pass through Somerville.
- Conducting research with Tufts University School of Medicine and community partners on the effects of mobile sources of pollution on the health of people living near highways.

We participate in MBTA Rider Oversight Committee and Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings, bringing attention to Somerville's transportation needs. We also attend Urban Ring meetings to advocate for Somerville connections.

What STEP accomplished this past year

STEP has rallied local, regional, state and federal support for the Green Line extensions with great success. The continued pressure from Somerville citizens who attend and testify at key public hearings, and write letters and emails ensures the State stays on track to honor its long-standing commitment to extend the Green Line through our city.

During the past year STEP has:

- Actively participated in Executive Office of Transportation's (EOT's) Green Line Advisory Group.
- Held joint meetings with East Cambridge Planning team on the new Lechmere station focused on issues and impacts on the neighborhood and the Green Line Extension project.
- Publicized and attended EOT's community meetings about each proposed Green Line station.
- Participated in Union Square and East Broadway rezoning focus groups.
- Urged EOT to explore other possibilities for the site of new maintenance and storage facility rather than taking 11 acres on developable and taxable land in Inner Belt.
- Successfully advocated with the City for including the extension of the Community Path along the proposed Green Line Extension route as part of the Green Line Extension.
- Participated in meetings to secure and plan an Orange Line station at Assembly Square.
- Advocated for lowering the Fitchburg commuter rail line and proposed Union Square Green Line tracks to traverse beneath McGrath Highway (similar to the Fitchburg line's rail tracks at Porter Square) to make the highway more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Participated in the Community Corridor Planning Project with Groundwork Somerville, Somerville Community Corporation and the Somerville Health Agenda in neighborhood outreach to involve all Somerville residents in planning for land uses around the proposed Green Line stations.
- Prepared to conduct the Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH) study with Tufts University School of Medicine to study health effects of mobile sources of pollution of people living near highways in Somerville, starting in the summer of 2009.
- Secured a grant with Tufts University School of Medicine to study health effects of mobile sources of pollution on people who live near highways.

Why Somerville needs public transportation improvements

Obtain benefit for transportation infrastructure burdens. Seven passenger-carrying train lines (six of which are diesel-powered) cross the city without stopping. Each year 60,000 diesel train trips travel through Somerville. The MBTA uses a large piece of untaxed land in the city to repair commuter trains. With Somerville bearing so many transportation burdens, we deserve a greater share of the benefits.

Decrease traffic congestion. Traffic in many parts of Somerville is badly congested. Most of us leave the city to commute to work. Good public transportation would ease our commutes and personal trips, and would minimize trips by car.

Improve air quality. From 1994 through 2003, Somerville had 29% higher lung cancer and heart attack age-adjusted mortality rates than the Massachusetts population as a whole. Mobile pollution from regional traffic has a profound affect on our health.

Attract business, create jobs, increase tax base. As we have seen in Davis Square, rail service can help commercial districts grow and bring critical tax dollars to the city to pay for needed services.

Improve quality of life. In the densest city in the state with nearly 19,000 residents per square mile, 27% of Somerville's households don't own a car. Green and Orange Line service can anchor vibrant neighborhoods, encourage walking and bicycling, and improve our quality of life.

