



Friends of the Community Path www.pathfriends.org/scp/

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 14, 2011

Next meeting: May 12, 2011, 7:00 PM (2nd Thursday each month)
VNA, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville

Attendees: Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Alan Moore, Andy Hinterman, Frank Moore, Rebecca Schrumm, Alex Feldman

Minutes taken: Jonah Petri

I. Green Line Extension design Team "Meet and Greet"

- Tuesday, May 3, at 6PM, [Argenziano School, 290 Washington Street, Somerville](#)
- Thursday, May 12, at 6PM, [Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Dr., Medford](#)

MassDOT and the MBTA will host two public "meet and greet" sessions to introduce the members of the new Green Line Extension project team to the Green Line Extension community. An opportunity to hear from the new team members about their past experience and their plans for the GLX, and to share with them your ideas, questions, and aspirations for the project.

Please get the word out to the community!

II. MPO

A. TIP funding update (Alan, Lynn), 138 support letters.

1. According to MPO, 138 letters is 'high' but not unheard of. We hope the Cedar-to-Lowell section with ramp will get \$500,000 - \$700,000 from the MPO plus \$1M earmark. Up to \$200k may also come from the City Somerville. The MPO staff has recommended that the Path receive this money but the formal allocation voting won't take place until this summer.

B. LRTP Letter Campaign (Alan/Lynn)

2. Long-Range Transportation Plan, Community Path needs to be in the plan to get be eligible for funding.

3. Only (large) projects in the LRTP can be funded through the TIP. We must get the Path into the plan because it will cost more than \$10M, so must be funded through the TIP.

4. Jonah commented on the MPO process where they evaluate all of the available projects in terms of how they conform to the LRTP goals. Sources for their evaluations?

Metrics: What data is available from the MAPC, etc? How can we use existing and future data to support our data? Hopefully we will get some funding through Great Neighborhoods initiative for someone to gather metrics.

III. Thank You Letter to Sec Mullan (Alan/Lynn)

We will send a thank you letter for his commitment to design the path through Inner Belt, plus construction of shared infrastructure.

IV. April 5 Somerville PAC Plus Meeting (Alan)

Kate Fichter/MassDOT, along with new and former MBTA PE consultants, discussed the new Washington Street design concept, etc

V. April 12, 1:30 – 4:30 pm MAPC Sustainable Communities (Alan) Debriefing

1. Full Consortium met, Steering Committees formed (we are in the Transportation caucus), Conservation Law Foundation was elected the caucus representative to the 27 member Steering Committee:

<http://mapc.org/sites/default/files/Flyer%20Invite%202.pdf>

2. They have \$4M to be spent, with up to \$2M to be given out to communities, organizations, agencies towards sustainable development. It was announced that any member of the consortium can suggest an idea to move towards its sustainability goals. Alan will suggest the creation of a region-wide bike transportation implementation plan to help drive the completion of the regional network.

VI. McGrath Highway De-elevation study:

A. Study covers the Washington Street overpass to Somerville Ave. (near Target). Contract is signed, and should start soon (Alan has RFP and Scope)

B. Alan will send the RFP to Jonah, who will read it and check for bike/ped access.

1. MassDOT is overseeing this study.

VII. Inner Belt Redevelopment Study

A. Consultant starting soon, Alan will be on the Focus Group (Alan has 2008 study)

B. City of Somerville is funding the study.

VIII. NorthPoint

1. Desire (not set up yet) to meet with NorthPoint land developers on Path inclusion, and routing.
2. Lynn went to ECPT meeting, and there was told that the NorthPoint developer is required, by a 2003 Special Permit from the City of Cambridge, to building the path all the way to end point of their property, (which is in Somerville) just east of the tracks by Brickbottom .
3. Alan gave an overview of a large map of the Washington St-to-NorthPoint stretch of the GLX route. We hope to improve the design for the Washington St station and routing for the GLX & CP.
4. Lynn wants a prepared presentation in place before we go to NorthPoint. How much should we be worried about access hours/plowing/security? Perhaps we just need to get them to build it and then worry about the details later? Alan wants to consider a less formal meeting to understand their general inclination towards a path and their current thinking before going in with a polished presentation.

IX. Somerville Bike/Ped Counting Project – needs volunteers

City of Somerville counting at over 30 locations throughout Somerville this spring. This will be the 3rd time the counting project has been undertaken, providing the City with rich data to help shape policy and infrastructure decisions.

Training session for new volunteers:

Thursday (next week), April 21, 5:00 – 5:30 pm
Somerville City Hall, 3rd floor conference room.

Counting dates are April 26, 27, 28 and May 3, 4, 5.
(You can count on just one day or on more days.)

To sign up and learn more, please contact:
Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Senior Planner, Transportation & Infrastructure
ph: 617.625.6600 ext. 2519
kziegenfuss@somervillema.gov

X. Tabling

1. Art Beat, Saturday, July 16
2. Rebecca will get us a table from Somerville Art Council, next to STEP
3. Frank will research t-shirt pricing, etc., from local vendors. 100% Cotton unisex tank (sand color), S,M,L?
4. Alex and others will look into getting a 10x10 tent for ArtBeat

5. Need volunteers to table: Later, Lynn will draft email to sign up for 1 or 2 hours shifts, 10am to 6 pm
6. Later: \$ Printing: Fliers, Letter campaign, T-shirt and button sales
7. Rebecca suggested listing upcoming community events, and tabling at more than just ArtBeat. Jonah suggested Somerville Open Studios. Lynn is lukewarm on tabling, wants to make sure that there's a knowledgeable person at the table at all times, and someone to organize the table beforehand. ***Jonah and Rebecca will discuss tabling opportunities.***

XI. Networking

Rebecca Schrumm will contact, Nicole Freedman, Boston Bike czar contact. The Friends would like to get a letter of support from the City of Boston for the Community Path. Rebecca will also try to get us table at one of the BikeWeek events that Nicole organizes.

XII. Group size and participation

1. Lynn and Alan spoke on the need for a core group (6-8?) of informed, committed people.
2. Alex suggested some sort of incentive to get people to get involved and stay involved.
3. Jonah suggested perhaps varying the day of week of the meetings to try to get some of the folks who cannot meet on Thursdays.