



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

Monday, January 9, 2012
MINUTES by Jonah Petri

Next meeting: Monday Feb. 6, 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the VNA, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville

1. Attendees

- Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Frank Moore, Heather Van Aelst, Mike Carty (Medford), Rebecca Schrumm, Alan Moore, Rachel Burckardt

2. Debriefings/Follow-ups

- **Somerville Comprehensive Plan** has a goal of 50% new trips via transit/bike/walk
- **12/7 GLX Working Group Meeting (Heather)**
 - Talked about GLX staging - worth taking a look at online archives of the presentation. Multiple phases are overlapped, so pay attention to the end dates.
 - Some talk about station design at this meeting, but no budget discussion.
 - Some talk of ramps and lead tracks around Brickbottom. Mike McBride said the MBTA has agreed to an at-grade crossing of the GLX lead track from Lechmere to the Maintenance Facility with the eventual Urban Ring bridge. This is good news for Brickbottom, since this GLX lead track can be farther away from property (re: noise, privacy, pollution), and good news for a future Urban Ring bridge that is not as elevated (i.e, about 20' lower). This lowered, ADA-compliant Urban Ring bridge could have bike/ped accommodations and the Community Path.
- **12/8 Grand Junction Commuter Rail (Frank)**
 - Two pieces of good news: (1) State abandoning the GJ commuter rail plan due to due lowership predictions at a very high cost. (2) No matter what, a GJ commuter rail (in the future) will not preclude a future GJ bike/ped path.
- **12/12 Public Hearing on 2013 State Transportation Budget**
 - Missed meeting, but not much to say. Transportation budgeting is very tight right now because of insufficient tax revenue.
- **12/13 Sec Davey Tour (Alan/Lynn)**
 - Went well! They seemed to get a better idea of what was required for connections. Sec. Davey and head of Planning David Mohler attended.
- **12/14 GLX Lechmere Station Public Hearing (Jonah)**

- There is no clear bike routing for Path/station connectivity. We need to follow-up on this with NorthPoint as Lechmere/Northpoint design progresses.
- 22 Water St. property vs NP land - we should make sure that responsibility every Path segment through Northpoint is assigned.
- Now the planned Bike Cage (= “Pedal & Park”) has room for 250 bikes – many more than before
- Still a 6(?) Lane crossing over McGrath (but not 7 lanes)
- First Street has been realignment to allow better access to the future Lechmere station
- T Parking will be garaged over the GLC until NP buildings are built. After that some T parking will move to underground garages at building, and the former parking area will be used for some type of urban market.

- **Cedar-to-Lowell Path**

- Grading
 - MaxWell’s Green (MG) has added soil on the ROW near the Lowell St. bridge. We will follow up to make sure that the MG contractors are not doing harm to the W&S-designed path. The material should help with drainage, not be contaminated, etc.
 - Also we will ask W&S to audit the offsets of the MG property to check for encroachment on the path ROW.
 - **Lynn will follow up to make sure that the new material has been evaluated by a geotechnical engineer, and also check for any contamination. These results need to be passed to W&S for evaluation with respect to their designs and its suitability for drainage and surfacing.**
 - **Alan will take some pictures.**
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- Staircase at Lowell
 - Mass Architectural Review Board (MAAB) hearing on stairway at Lowell
 - Result of preliminary meeting on 12/19 was that there needs to be a hearing including public participation. The MAAB public hearing is now scheduled for April, but the City is trying to expedite that hearing since there needs to be Lowell-to-Cedar construction contract signed by September .
 - FCP are trying to meet with the ADA advocates to discuss the plans and address any misunderstandings about them.
 - **Alan will call the City or W&S to get plans as an aid for the meeting.**
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- Somerville Junction Park Connection
 - **Alan/Jonah/Rachel will sketch up a proposal for adding the retaining wall to Somerville Junction Park. There’s the cost issue, and the issue that the GLX**

will have to tear out part of the turnaround section. We should CC W&S on this. (Lynn will edit for readability once they have drafted the letter.)

- HDR/Gilbane should be able to tell us where the retaining wall needs to be at this point. They would also be able to tell us where the GLX ROW needs to be to avoid conflicts.

- **Camden NJ Urban Greenways Meeting, sponsored by RTC**
 - Alan will attend on 2/10, trying to learn about Path funding options and cooperation

- **Proposed MBTA Service Cuts & Fare Hikes**
 - We will not overly emphasize since it gets beyond the scope of our mission. These cuts are largely in the Community Path corridor, but not strictly Path related. We do not need the bus routes to get the Path built. By contrast, we do need the GLX to get the Path built.