



Friends of the Community Path

www.pathfriends.org/scp/

<http://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheCommunityPath>

January 10, 2012

MINUTES by Jonah Petri

1. **Next Meeting: Feb 7 (Thurs.), 7:00-9:00 PM . VNA, 259 Lowell St., Somerville**
2. **Attendees: Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Alan Moore, Max Morrow, Rachel Burkhardt, Katharyn Hurd, John Sanzone, Dave Rajczewski**
3. **Lynn: CPA Update**
 - Meeting today with the Mayor concerning the CPA board. 5 seats are required, 4 are at-large, and all may be chosen by Mayor and Alders.
 - Somerville has no Park & Rec Commission, so attendees recommended that Somerville create one to fill that required seat.
4. **Alan: Cedar to Lowell Update**
 - Construction bids/timing: Sarah: "...we have the bids on the Community Path extension and MDR Construction of Tewksbury has been selected as low bidder, whose estimates were right in line with our expectations. We look forward to proceeding on schedule."
 - All bids are public, contact MassDOT project manager to get access (note: Sarah has since provided the bid's to us).
 - **MaxWell's Green Concerns:**
 - Bike/Ped Access. Sidewalks need some re-work to accomodate peds, and to interface with bikes heading to the Path.
 - **RJ to write a letter to City, Jonah to edit. Best to send letter out before construction equipment leaves so that modifications can be.**
 - New gate at Maxwell's Green prevents through cycling – Photos (**Max will take photo; send to RJ**), add to letter to City
 - Community Access Project is a disabilities access advocacy group in Somerville, is also aware of issues with MWG and may take up the issue with the City.
5. **CPX Crossing of the Fitchburg Tracks**
 - Timeline of significant recent events:
 - 12/6 Presentation and discussion with Somerville Legislative Delegation.
 - 12/7 meeting w/Congressman Capuano and staff
 - 12/11 CPX/GLX Public Design Meeting at Holiday Inn

- Somerville News: "A large turnout gathers for discussion of the Community Path and GLX" <http://www.thesomervilleneews.com/archives/33386#comment-71672>
- 12/14 Meeting: MBTA will ask engineering team for a cost estimate for a Fitchburg crossing design, but first need consensus from FCP and Cities of Somerville and Cambridge
- 1/8/13 call w/Hayes Morrison, Transportation Director of Somerville:
 - City will advocate for the CPX route along the GLX viaduct that the Friends prefer
 - MBTA may want the City of Somerville to fund construction of any CPX crossing over the Fitchburg tracks - even if it's on the GLX viaduct
 - Hayes thinks that adding the CPX to GLX New Starts would delay the New Starts application by a couple of years, but maybe State could somehow be convinced to fund CPX separately.

- **Jonah to write up a summary of advantages of FCP Alt. and send out**

- Cost of CPX-specific elements
- Access to Poplar St and Brickbottom
- Much less CPX on segregated viaduct.
- When CPX is on viaduct, it is next to the GLX for safety.
- Others?

- **Jonah to email PDFs of Fitchburg Crossing to RJ**

6. Grand Junction Path – John Sanzone is starting a Friends of Grand Junction Path group. FCP will support/assist as possible and also aim to make the GJP/CPX connection near NorthPoint.

7. Strategic Planning/Outreach

- Designer: Katharyn Hurd, designer. CPX map- Cedar to Lowell street GLX segments and connections, 3d CPX-on-viaduct, web design?, etc.
- Possible upcoming Livable Streets Street Talk? No reply yet.
- Other possible audiences for our presentation:
 - FCP public presentation, with allies: STEP, BCU? At HYM, VNA, other location(s)
 - A Better City (with HYM)
 - City of Boston
 - Beverly Scott/MBTA General Manager
 - New Charles River Basin Citizens Advisory – February meeting presentation?
 - MetroFutures talk/walk?
 - Lt. Governor, Governor
 - Mayor
 - Somerville Mayor Wants to Hang Out in Residents' Kitchens & 'Man Caves' to Talk About City Issues: <http://bostinno.com/2012/12/03/somerville-launches-program-to-get-mayor-in-peoples-homes/>

8. Boston MPO Transportation Improvement Program

- The FFYs 2014-17 TIP is a capital program funded from October 2013 through September 2017. Municipalities have been asked to identify and provide updated information on their priority projects by February 1. Throughout the month of February, the MPO will evaluate projects to determine how well each project advances the MPO's visions and policies, and estimate the potential greenhouse gas emission impacts of the projects.
- Recommendation will be discussed by the MPO in April and at the first MPO meeting in May. The MPO expects to release a draft TIP for public review in May and endorse a final version of the document in late June.
- Ask the City to submit request for CPX \$ and MassDOT to agree/support.
- Ask MBTA/HDR for the CPX 30% cost estimate before 2/1

9. Other debriefs

- 12/12 East Cambridge Planning Team Meeting w/ DCR and Charles River Basin Council (Max Morrow)
 - Presentation by DCR about boathouse and drawbridge. Drawbridge w/ 12' wide bridge area. Not clear if it's a ped-only (i.e., bikes must walk) or bike/ped.
 - Skate park is impressive.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- 1/18 MAPC Meeting: Comments on Final Draft of Metrics Report, present on CPX progress
- 2/6 to 2/9 Equity/Smart Growth Meetings in Kansas City? Volunteer to attend?