



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

Thursday, July 7, 2011 Meeting
Minutes by Jonah Petri

Next meeting: August 18, 2011, 7:00 PM (instead of the normal 2nd Thursday each month), hopefully at the VNA building on Lowell St.

1. MAPC meeting 7/7 (Alan)

- Federal grant with ~\$4m to spend on MAPC Sustainable Communities project, RFP will be out in July for more projects, but 3 grants already approved, separate from RFP. One of these grants is to STEP, in 3 parts, and of that:
 - 1 part for City of Somerville to match existing grant money for sustainable communities
 - 1 part for anti-displacement measures
 - 1 part (\$15,000 or \$20,000) to Friends of the Community Path
- Lynn: Is this the same as the \$20k/2yrs from the GNI? **Update: Probably not the same.**

2. TIP Criteria Update (Jonah)

- TIP projects are analyzed by MPO staff, and their LRTP and TIP priorities are based at least partly on that score. Our scores are artificially low because the City has not submitted the needed information to the TIP database (available at ctps.org). Jonah, with input from Lynn and Alan, wrote a large update for the CP Phase II entry in the TIP database, and provided it to Mike Lambert. We hope he will use it as a basis for an update of the TIP data base entry, and that he will then request that the CP Phase II project be re-scored by the MPO based on the significant amount of new information.
 - Jonah: The TIP data base should describe the CP project as going all the way to North Point. There was some discussion with Mike???? on this issue.
 - HDR/Gilbane said at Washington St Station Workshop that they've done a design, with CP staying South (just North of Brickbottom) and crossing "near" the Fitchburg commuter rail crossing. HDR/Gilbane is working with The City of Somerville's designers on this issue.

3. Mike Lambert meeting, Monday July 18 (Lynn)

- Just Lynn and Alan for now
- Ask Mike to ask MPO to re-score the SCP once the TIP update is in.
- Ask about path possible inclusion as interim offset project
- Ask about Maxwell's Green
 - Old design had lousy bike access due to a curb, and they're starting construction at this point, and we want to see the current design.

- Developers were supposed to do the Cedar St raised crossing, in the \$40k range, but MassHighway might be do it. Ask Mike to confirm. If so, we would like them to repurpose the money for the Comm Path.
- Ask about Brickbottom-North Point bridge progress update
- Community preservation Act? Rep Provost suggested it to Lynn it as a possible source for funds. But CPA requires that the City jump through many hoops, including raising property taxes.
- Ask about K. Zeigenfuss job - is there a search for a replacement? (update: now posted)
- Discuss McGrath de-elevation

4. MPO MOU

- Restructuring the MPO passed. Very unfair to inner core.

5. Lowell St switchback (Alan)

- Alan, Jonah and Rachel created a proposal for GLX team on how to change the design to remove the need for a cantilever at the VNA.

6. McGrath study (Lynn)

- Steve Miller wrote editorial, but it has not been published. What should our role in the editorial be?
 - Jonah: We should wait before pursuing more publicity on this, as the McGrath process will be slow compared to our other priorities.

7. Funding: Tiger III + New Starts + LRTP

- Get letters at Art Beat to submit to MPO for Path inclusion in Long Range Transportation Plan
- Keep asking to be included in GLX funding requestsI
- Impact of Sec. Mullan resigning?
- We should get the copy of the successful applications from the two successful bike/ped projects from Tiger II.
 - Rebecca volunteered, Alan will get her the contact info for those applications.

8. \$10m rule (Rebecca)

- Tom Bent said that we are the only MPO in country which uses the \$10 million dollar rule.
 - Rebecca will email an update from her notes.

9. GNI Summit June 23

- Good networking, but nothing new. Mayor Curtatone was there, as a speaking in favor of smart growth.

10. ArtBeat

- Frank got confirmation on our location and tent number. We are in 7 Hills Park. We will have to provide table and chairs.
 - Ken Carlson will give Lynn a tent.
- Lynn will draft a letter for LRTP campaign.
- Frank will get our waterbottles and 4" stickers from Cambridge reprographics. He will pick them up.
- Frank will bring easels.
- Lynn will get high rez graphics from Steve Mulder and print one big copy

- Frank will bring clipboards.

11. GLX Station design

- Bridge design Brickbottom/Northpoint
 - MassDOT meeting in July - Date TBA
- Lechmere Station Design workshop Workshop in late June (Lynn)
 - There was a sense on the part of the community (ECPT & others) that they had not been listened to in the past.

12. Funding Opportunities (Lynn)

- Alan suggested Rec Trails program. Proposals due in Sept. What could ~\$50k do? Could we repave or regrade parts of the existing path? Solve the Willow/Cedar segment drainage problem? Alan to evaluate further

13. Outreach

- Change.org petition? Not a bad idea.
 - Lynn will contact the person who suggested it to see if they can volunteer.
- Website volunteer at ArtBeat.
 - Lynn will make a poster.
- Facebook presence: Rebecca suggested that we broaden our posts beyond the path to transportation issues in general. We do some of this, as it relates to Path, GLX, federal and state funding, etc.
 - Lynn is working on our PowerPoint presentation - still in progress.
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