



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

Thursday, June 9, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Next meeting: July 7, 2011, 7:00 PM at the VNA, 1st floor Private dining room.

1. Boston MPO (Lynn)

- **Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):**
 - Funding for the Community Path did not make it to draft LRTP. Secretary Mullan sent out public letter to this effect after the MPO/TPPC vote on the draft LRTP. Secretary Mullan wrote that all of our support letters were heard and that he supports the Comm Path but there wasn't enough \$ for the Path too (in addition to the GLX to Route 16).
 - Public comment period on LRTP draft begins 2 days before ArtBeat, so we will have a letter campaign then to get funding allocated in final LRTP.
 - There will be no separate _Transit_ Investment Strategy in LRTP. All of the MPO's Transit \$ went to GLX to Route 16 as shown in the Highway Investment Strategy:
http://www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/5_meetings_and_events/2_past/2011/pdfs/5.27_Plan_WorkingDraft.pdf
 - We are pretty sure that LRTP Highway Discretionary Funding: (\$68,0129,959) is same as MPO TIP funding
 - \$10 million rule. Congressman Capuano met with Federal Highway Admin last week about alleviating the >\$10 Million rule. Could affect our LRTP funding opportunities.
- **Cedar/Lowell Segment**
 - TIP Year 2012-2105: Cedar-to-Lowell segment construction for 2012 is in the draft TIP. When public comment period starts (TBA), we'll draft a public comment letter in support of this funding so it stays in the TIP
 - Even though we think this funding is relatively secure, the project's rating was low compared to other projects on the MRTO list – which were all road projects except for Assebet RRT and Bruce Freeman trails. Looking at the other project ratings, we think the CPX rating was erroneously low. We will help the City correct this via the TIP entry.

- Alan will draft a response to Email from Kathleen with Weston Sampson plans update.
- MPO re-structuring: MetroWest would have dis-proportionally more votes, and Inner Core fewer. Going out to public comment soon, we should write letters then (and ask others to do the same).

2. CPX Funding options/updates

- MassDOT/GLX New Starts
- Tiger III
 - Grant application upcoming
 - Will MassDOT play a bigger role?
 - Can Path apply for both Tiger III and New Starts funding?
- Path as a GLX interim offset project seems non-feasible due to timing
 - Possible other projects will be evaluated by CTPS
- State treasurer, has a business in Somerville. Might be receptive.

3. Upcoming meetings/Scheduling

GLX Station Design re: Path

**June 13th from 6PM – 8PM: Lowell Street Station
Somerville High School Auditorium, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville**

**June 15th from 6PM – 8PM: Gilman Square Station
Somerville High School Auditorium, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville**

**June 22nd from 6PM – 8PM: Union Square Station
Cummings Elementary School, 42 Prescott Street, Somerville**

**June 23rd from 6PM- 8PM: Washington Street Station
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville, MA -- LOCATION CHANGE**

**June 29th from 6PM – 8PM: Lechmere Station DATE CHANGE
Kennedy/Longfellow School, 158 Spring Street, Cambridge**

MPO Meeting Restructuring Workshops (MOU)

**Wednesday, June 15 12 noon to 1 pm and 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150**

Public Forum, Lechmere/NorthPoint - A New Beginning

Wednesday, June 15 · 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Broad Institute auditorium (Ames and Main Streets), Cambridge

The East Cambridge Planning Team will host this forum. Developers, MassDOT, the T, and City representatives will speak and answer community questions.

** Special Permit status - NorthPoint developers promised they will continue to build the path from the existing paths at North Point to the end point of their land, approaching the Fitchburg line tracks. We aim for the Community Path to meet up with that future path. Let's ensure that the new developers build this section of the path on the NorthPoint property!

Public Meeting on Grand Junction Commuter Rail Feasibility Study

Thursday, June 16 · 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Morse School – Auditorium, 40 Granite Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

MassDOT invites all interested stakeholders to a community meeting to discuss progress on the Grand Junction Commuter Rail Feasibility Study. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss an ongoing study of the potential use of the Grand Junction Railroad for supplemental MBTA Commuter Rail service to Cambridge and North Station.

Great Neighborhoods Summit 2011

Thurs June 23, 8:00 am-12:00 noon

UMass Boston

Free – need to RSVP

http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1590622595?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=new_eventv2&utm_term=eventurl_text

Inner Belt Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting and Walkshop

Saturday, June 25 · 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Location to be announced

Somerville's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, assisted by a consulting team lead by the Boston-based firm of Goody Clancy is having the first public meeting for the Somerville Inner Belt Brickbottom Plan and will consist of an all-day walkabout. The Inner Belt, soon to have a new Green Line T-Stop, is one of the few locations in Somerville still available for transformation.

** We want the Community Path route to go through Inner Belt and over the Fitchburg tracks (somewhere near Brickbottom) so it can meet up with the future and existing paths at North Point.

<http://www.somervillevoices.org/2011/06/04/events/62511-inner-belt-brickbottom-plan-public-meeting-and-walkshop/>

MassDOT McGrath Highway - Route 28 Meeting, Jun 29, 4-6pm

- De-elevation study – Friends invited to be on working group
- Jonah's article discussion
- Debrief - Tues 5/24 meeting on Route 28 Visioning with Livable Streets Joel Bennett also attended. There was agreement that we should support the coalition as it gathers.
- Cycletrack idea

4. Saturday July 16: ArtBeat Table:

- Sign up for shifts 10am to 6 pm
 - Lynn is going to put in a bunch of time, including set-up and breakdown
 - Rebecca, Frank, and Karen Molloy will take some hours, they're flexible
 - Jonah will figure out when he is available and fill out the rest of the day
 - Alan and Andy may not be available
- Frank reserved a space for table via SAC, next to STEP table (\$75). DONE!
- Lynn will draft email to sign up for 1 or 2 hours shifts.
- We still need a Tent with an open front 10'x10',
- Letter campaign: Public comments on LRTP draft and MPO restructuring?
- Printing Fliers, T-shirt, sticker, button sales, Water bottles? No progress update from Frank yet.

5. GLX - Debrief Thurs, 5/26 GLX, Design Working Group re: Washington Street Station

- Alan summarized the meeting. Design team said Comm Path design meeting wouldn't be until the Fall.

6. Inner Belt Study Update Alan on the Focus Group

- Debrief: Monday, 5/16 first Inner Belt Study meeting of focus group Holiday Inn, Washington Street Somerville. Alan said the meeting was very introductory, but the study group is very positive, and is thinking big about the path.

7. Outreach (Lynn)

- Website changes and updating
 - Need a volunteer. Maybe look for one at ArtBeat?

ACTION ITEMS

Rebecca will

- Work with Tom Bent about \$10M rule and MPO re-structuring. Rebecca will speak with Tom and ask Andy & Frank about MPO restructuring meeting on the 15th.
- Draft a letter of public comment about \$10M rule and MPO restructuring, based on what she learns
- Contact treasurer about CPX, who is a member of the Somerville CoC (Rebecca?)
- Ask Frank about going to Grand Junction meeting on June 16th

Jonah/Alan/Lynn

- Review TIP links for the CPX description
- To start to figure out why our LRTP rating is erroneously low. Alan will contact Hayes.

Alan will

- Draft a Weston & Sampson Path design Response for the City:
 - Connect to Junction Park
 - Straight path is way better. Maybe a ped path and a bike path, both straight.
 - Spend money on the connection infrastructure to make that right
- Ask Mike about a private Monday pre-meeting with Weston/Sampson/HDR before 6/13 meeting

Lynn/Alan

- Will find whether Path apply for both Tiger III and New Starts funding

Lynn will

- find someone to ask why the GJ CR study can get money at this point

In Early July:

- Draft email to sign up for 1 or 2 hours ArtBeat shifts. Draft a sign to recruit a website designer at ArtBeat
- Lynn to draft a public comment letter to MPO re: TIP should include thanks for \$600k - TIP 2012-2015 Public Comment
- Draft a public comment letter to MPO re: LRTP
- Post Kathleen Z. position replacement to various places

** end **