



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

Thursday, March 10, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Andy Hinterman, Heather Van Aelst, Jonah Petri, Kyann Anderson, Alan Moore, Rebecca Schrumm, Frank Moore, Lynn Weissman

Jonah Petri taking minutes.

Next meeting: April 14, 2011, 7 PM (2nd Thursday each month) at the VNA ([map](#))

I. 2/17 MPO/TIP meeting, TIP funding update (Alan, Lynn)

- A. We lost \$3.5 M in MPO money because path design for the section from Lowell to Central Street was not ready (the existing design for this section is 5 years old). That is the bad news. The good news is that the funding was shifted to the Assembly Square Orange Line station. And we are asking the MPO to fund the \$1.7M needed to build the Cedar-to-Lowell section and ramp. Our letter is here:
<http://pathfriends.org/scp/March%202022%20Friends%20comments%20to%20MPO%20on%20funding.pdf>
- B. The Cedar-to-Lowell Streets section will be designed this year by a consultant hired by the City of Somerville. We hope this section might be built in FY 2012 (i.e., late 2012 or 2013).
- C. The TIP runs in 4 year cycles. This summer the Boston MPO will formulate the 2012-2015 cycle, along with the Long Range Transportation Plan.
http://www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/3_programs/2_tip/tip.html
http://www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/3_programs/1_transportation_plan/plan.html
- D. Lynn: The City of Somerville can't ask for TIP (construction) funding for the Lowell-to-Central Streets section (or beyond!) until we have a GLX/Path design from MassDOT/MBTA and a maybe even a construction schedule for the shared infrastructure. The Path cannot be built without GLX construction (due to shared retaining walls, ramp/cantilever, other concerns). Thus, we are stymied by GLX delays.

II. MassDOT/PanAm Lechmere land deal

- NorthPoint land developers (and actually the railroad that owns much of the land) are getting a land trade and cash deal from MassDOT which affects land ownership in the Inner Belt and Lechmere area.
- MBTA Press release:
http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/news_events/?id=21232&month&year
- Somerville Patch: <http://somerville.patch.com/articles/green-line-extension-gets-crucial-go-ahead-new-lechmere-station-agreement-approved>
- ECPT wants to make the old Lechmere station into a public market:
<http://www.eastcambridge.org/docs/Lechmere%20Presentation.pdfv>

- A. We should we talk to the NorthPoint developer with some other groups Perhaps team up with ECPT, STEP, Brickbottom folks, City of Cambridge, or Somerville. The previous (and we hope the present) developers intended to make an accessible path through the development. What types of arguments could we make which would persuade them to help the SCP? Economic arguments about their value? Would they want to help advocate for SCP completion?
1. Other concerns: Path access hours? Plowing in winter? Maintenance? Public safety? This will be a transportation asset to the community as well as a park for the residents.
 2. We could approach them with a presentation of the Path's benefits to their development, and environmental and community health impact.

III. 2/14 Great Neighborhood Initiative (Lynn)

- A. Requested \$ for developing metrics on benefits of the path in terms of ridership, reduced vehicle miles, reduced emissions. We need to figure out what numbers we can use to make our case strongly in this area.

IV. 3/7 Mayoral Meeting (Lynn)

- A. MassDOT won't design through Inner Belt with federal funds because then they would be required to build what was designed. It will be an expensive challenge to build through Brickbottom area, so they may try to stop the infrastructure design after Washington St.
- B. Mayor will try to meet with Sec Mullan to talk about issues like designing through Inner Belt and New Starts application.
- C. Mayor says existing soil contamination sites will be dealt with this spring.
- D. City wants help identifying the parts of the path that need repaving. Volunteers?
1. Anyone with info on needy trail sections can email it to friendspath@yahoo.com

2. Jonah mentioned the site <http://seeclickfix.com>, which he's found useful for submitting road repair requests to the city, as well as leaving the requests publicly documented.

V. 2/16 MPO Open House (Lynn)

- A. Meeting was good, Alan and Lynn learned a lot about the details of the TIP process, and the tasks which need to happen for TIP application success.

VI. 2/16 CCP Rt. 16 Meeting

- A. Very positive and well-run meeting. Generally the crowd was very pro-Rt. 16, with a minority opposed.

VII. Current MaxPak Plans (Alan)

- A. Alan will stay in contact w/ developer to get clarification on which paths are ped (sidewalks/steps) vs bike/ped (ADA compliant path), and whether the paths will allow 24/7 bike access to the inner street in the site.
- B. Alan presented the current plan for Lowell St access (switchbacks) and his alternative (wishbone). Another issue is MaxPak access to the future GLX station. Currently only access is via Lowell St, though we would like direct access to the station platform from the path somewhere. The city also would like this.

VIII. MPO Concord meeting (Jonah)

- A. Jonah summarized a MPO mini-workshop which was very well-attended and almost unanimously in favor of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). The BFRT folks seem to have a challenge in seeking MPO funding, as they need to show that it's a valuable transit project, rather than a recreation trail.
- B. One interesting thing learned was that projects must be on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) before they can get TIP money. Are we on the LRTP? **Alan thinks so, but said he would check. UPDATE: We are not but will launch a letter campaign to get on the LRTP.**

IX. GLX Stakeholder Meeting @ CLF (Lynn)

- A. 30ish people. Discussion focused on funding issues, particularly finding alternative sources of funding for the GLX.
 1. Grand Junction commuter rail: We need to keep an eye on this to ensure that it does not preclude bike/ped path along that rail line.

X. Upcoming Meetings

A. **Somervision Meetings.** There's good bike representation there; quite idealistic. This will be a forum for the city to share their plans with constituents.

1. Michelle volunteered to attend one of these meeting

B. **3/24 MPO meeting** - MPO will approve TIP budget with Path money moved to new Assembly Square T station.

C. **Tour of Lechmere to Brickbottom area** McGrath-O'Brien Highway Walk, Saturday, **April 2nd, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** The McGrath-O'Brien Highway presents some significant challenges to pedestrian, bike, and public transportation access, especially with regard to future implementation of the Green Line Extension and the Community Path.

D. **April 12, 1:30 – 4:30 pm MAPC Sustainable Communities** - Full Consortium meets, Steering Committee forms: <http://mapc.org/sites/default/files/Flyer%20Invite%202.pdf>

XI. Path Name (Lynn)

A. Lynn is often using "Community Path Connector" in written and spoken communications. People attending the meeting agreed that we won't lose brand identity with this moniker and will also communicate that it will connect other paths (Minuteman and Charles River paths)

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