



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

Thursday, September 8th, 2011
Minutes by Jonah Petri

**Next meeting: October 13th, 2011, 7:00 PM (2nd Thursday each month)
VNA, 259 Lowell Street., Somerville**

1. GLX delay

- Letter campaign - 9/13 Deadline for Public comment period on TIP/LRTP.
 - Thank MPO for Cedar-to-Lowell funds
 - Ask for sufficient \$ for the GLX and CPX in the LRTP and future TIPs
 - Get path-specific comments sent in.
 - Friends and individual letters. Pass it on.
 - ArtBeat letters re: TIP/LRTP. Even if SCP doesn't get into this LRTP, it could be easily added as an amendment later, as it doesn't require modeling. ArtBeat letters ask for CPX in TIP and LRTP with GLX
- Meetings to make a spoken comment:

Tuesday, Sept 13, 1:00 pm or 5:00 pm

Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Hearing on SIP
One Winter St, Boston - Conference Center, 2nd floor

- *We need people and organization reps to show up and make spoken comment against the delay (and its effects in the Path). As possible, get public involvement at 5 PM meeting is better as it's not during the workday.*

Thursday, Sept 22, 10:00 am

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting
MPO vote on TIP and LRTP (Short and Long Term Transportation Budgets)
Transportation Building, 2nd floor 10 Park Plaza, Boston

- *We need people and organization reps to show up and make spoken comment against the delay (and its effects in the Path), especially with feds in mind.*

2. GLX Design Working Group Meeting on 8/25 (Heather)

- GLX Design team did not want to talk about the delay, but the audience asked about it anyhow and explanations were given for the delay. Upcoming station and community path workshops were announced. A 3D video perspective of traveling thru the viaducts at the Brickbottom split was shown

3. Brickbottom/HDR meeting 9/8 (Heather)

- Some of the design suggestions from the BB community did not result in the height savings that the BB folks were hoping for.
- Heather showed a map from HDR/Gilbane, and there was discussion of the GLX track alignments near Brickbottom and Red Bridge and impacts to the CPX.

4. FCP/City/GLX Design Team

- GLX team summarized each segment of the path, from Lowell Street to North Point.
- Interesting issues:
 - At Lowell St/VNA, HDR confirmed that their track engineers had squeezed enough space for the Community Path to avoid a cantilevered section.
 - Walnut St design gives us two options:
 - Go under BOTH Walnut and Medford
 - Expensive, since a SCP Walnut St under-crossing requires tunneling through the abutment.
 - Cross BOTH Walnut and Medford at-grade
 - Medford is a high-traffic street. More crossing makes for slower travel times.
 - They reported that there is not enough room to go under Medford and then rise at an ADA-compliant slope to cross Medford at-grade. But it appears that this may not be true. Jonah and Alan to investigate.
 - At Washington St, GLX team's current design has path crossing above Washington St, with access to the south side of Washington St and the station via a switchback.
 - Options after Washington St. include getting to NorthPoint via the former Red Bridge location or the formerly proposed Urban Ring bridge location. HDR team has 4-5 options.

5. 8/26 Meeting - Lynn and Alan with City

- City is NOT applying for TIGER III, since MassDOT cannot commit to the GLX match (shared infrastructure) due to the GLX delay
 - FCP will not pursue TIGER III further
- GLX Delay
 - GLX Funding - Money could come from New Starts or State Bonding.
 - Mitigation - Offset projects should be announced in September, good opportunity for path advocacy.
- Lowell to Central
 - Need to get updates from City on MBTA Lease and MaxGreen bike/ped access.
 - Perhaps there will be more design money for W&S from the City
 - Maybe apply next year for TIP money to extend to Central St

6. GNI/MPAC funding

- We can get \$10k of MAPC services and an additional \$15K. This might include Metrics for Path, which we could use for advocacy, grants, etc. What advocacy advice can they give? Alan and Lynn to meet with MAPC. Ask MAPC if we use their metrics to support Path inclusion in the LRTP? Can MAPC help with Needs Assessment?

7. Statistics from CTPS (Jonah)

- We can wait until we need something quick, simple, and free.

8. Upcoming Meetings

Livable Streets Come Shape McGrath/O'Brien Redesign Goals

September 14, 2011 - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.

A network of local community people along the Rt. 28 corridor a meeting to develop a set of common values and vision for the planning projects now occurring between the Charles and Mystic Rivers. It is important to reunite neighborhoods, lower traffic speeds, and add more trees to make McGrath Hwy a boulevard.

<http://www.somervillevoices.org/2011/08/29/events/91411-come-shape-mcgrath%E2%80%99brien-redesign-goals/>

Public meeting on Community Path with GLX Design Team

Somerville High School cafeteria, September 22: 6:00-8:00 pm

MassDOT invites you to an upcoming public workshop on the design of the extension of the Somerville Community Path. Share your ideas and vision for the extension of the Somerville Community Path.

<http://transportation.blog.state.ma.us/blog/2011/09/somerville-community-path-workshop.html>

Questions to ask for 9/22:

N Side Washington SCP access

Thursday September 15, 2011 - 7:00 Somerville City Hall

Cross Street Bridge - Design Public Hearing

Aldermanic Chambers - 2nd Floor, City Hall

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Bridge Rehabilitation Project at Cross Street over B&M / MBTA Railroad in the City of Somerville, MA. Project#:602219. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Rehabilitation Project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. The Community Path Route will go under this bridge.

Written statements by 9/25: Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer
MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, ATTN: Accelerated Bridge Program
Project File No. 602219

**Grounding McGrath Meeting Determining the Future of the Route 28 Corridor
Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 PM, Somerville High School (Auditorium)**

In partnership with the City of Somerville, MassDOT has initiated Grounding McGrath: Determining the Future of the Route 28 Corridor (Grounding McGrath Study). This conceptual planning study offers MassDOT and the general public the opportunity to consider the future use and potential redesign or removal of elevated portions of the roadway within the City of Somerville, promote economic development, and enhance access for all modes of travel.

MassDOT will review the goals and objectives of the study, present a summary of the existing conditions analysis, review the upcoming scheduled repair work for the McCarthy Overpass, and solicit input from the public. The meeting will conclude with a question and answer session with the project team. Team members will also be available before the meeting to answer questions.

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/planning/GroundingMcGrath.aspx>

Moving Together Conference, Wednesday, October 12, 8:30am-4:30pm

Boston Sheraton Hotel, 39 Dalton Street

Moving Together 2011, the Commonwealth's annual statewide walking and bicycling conference will focus on "Advancing Healthy Transportation with GreenDOT."

<http://transportation.blog.state.ma.us/blog/2011/08/moving-together-2011-october-12-1.html>

Thurs, Oct 20: GLX Federal Transit Authority Environmental Assessment Public Hearing (TBA)

9. **Meeting Attendees:** Heather van Aelst, Alan Moore, Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Beth Green, Rebecca Schrumm

10. Action Items

Lynn will:

- **Call Ellin and discuss further email blasts.**
- **Email Friends' GLX delay letter to Heather.**
- **Ask the city to send out the public meeting date and time via ResiStat, along with her shorter letter, and for status of MBTA lease agreement (Lowell to Central)**
- **Include a thank-you for Cedar-Lowell to LRTP letter to MPO**
- **Follow up with Mass DOT Secretary Rich Davey tour of the future path**
- **Jonah will send Lynn a summary of the Needs Assessment points which the SCP fulfills.**
- **Alan will confirm whether the Cedar-Lowell Segment is 2011 or 2012 TIP (NOTE: 2012)**
- **Lynn/Alan will ask MAPC about strategies and metrics for LRTP advocacy**