

GREEN LINE EXTENSION PROJECT
April 3, 2018 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING – SUMMARY MINUTES

LOCATION OF MEETING: GLX Project Office, 200 Inner Belt Rd, 3rd Floor, Somerville, MA 02143

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: April, 2018; 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

ATTENDANCE:

CWG Members: Dylan Manley (East Somerville), Jennifer Dorsen (Medford), Ryan Dunn (Magoun Square), Mark Johnson (DivcoWest), Jim McGinnis (Union Square), Justin Moeling (Gilman Square), Elliott Bradshaw (Brickbottom/East Somerville), Laurel Ruma (College Ave), Jim Silva (Medford Ball Square)

MassDOT/MBTA: John Dalton – MBTA GLX Program Manager, Terry McCarthy – MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement, Jeff Sarin – MBTA Project Manager, Randy Henke – GLX Design

GLX Constructors: Clyde Joseph, John West, Jeff Wagner, Megan Jarrett

GLX Project Team: Randy Henke, Martin Nee, Steve Taylor

Other Attendees: Brad Rawson (City of Somerville), Polly Pook (Brickbottom), Matt Hartman (Office of Sen. Jehlen)

PURPOSE: The GLX Community Working Group (CWG) was formed to help engage and foster communication with the communities along the GLX corridor by meeting with representative members (both residents and officials) of Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford.

BACKGROUND: The Green Line Extension (GLX) Project is an initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), in coordination with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The project intent is to extend existing MBTA Green Line service from Lechmere Station through the northwest corridor communities of Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. The goals of the project are to increase mobility; encourage public transit usage; improve regional air quality; ensure a more equitable distribution of transit services; and support opportunities for sustainable development.

PRESENTATION:

Terry McCarthy welcomed the group, thanked the members for attending the recent Public Meeting at Somerville High School on March 28, 2018, and kicked off the meeting with a Safety Message followed by round-table introductions. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the latest stakeholder engagement activities and plan. Terry then introduced Clyde Joseph, project executive for GLX Constructors, who presented a detailed construction outlook including a rough schedule. Clyde's overview also included detailed design renderings for Gilman Square, Lechmere, and a series of construction sequencing slides.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ISSUES:

Schedule of upcoming CWG Meetings:

The group agreed to schedule meetings the first Tuesday of each month with times alternating between morning and evening. Inner Belt Road will be the default venue unless members request different locations.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2018, 8:30 to 10:00 AM, at the GLX Project Office at 200 Inner Belt Rd in Somerville.

Construction

In addition to the topics included in the construction section of the PowerPoint, there was a general consensus that residents are anxious to get more detailed information on construction that will affect them. As indicated by Clyde Joseph, those details are beginning to come into focus and future notifications will include more detail. Discussion centered on just how to present information geographically to each neighborhood. It was agreed that the project would modify its "Construction Update" format going forward to reflect activity broken from one cross-street to another as soon as there is enough activity to support this. For example, a future update will state the dates, time of day, type of activity, and anticipated impacts from north of College Avenue Bridge, continuing south to the Harvard Avenue Bridge, and so on from Harvard Avenue Bridge to Broadway Bridge. This narrative will continue for each major cross-street section along the entire alignment.

The new "Construction Update" format will continue to be email blasted and uploaded to the GLX site as needed for the foreseeable future of the project.

The project agreed to accept invitations to community groups within neighborhoods to make presentations and answer questions. Project management also requested that members forward any ideas on specific groups to Terry McCarthy.

In addition, the project agreed to post the RFP Responses of the Design Build Contractors who bid on GLX but did not win the contract.

Communication Plan

There was a general discussion on the best way to get information out to the general public. Terry McCarthy and Marty Nee went over the numerous ways in which the project is currently disseminating information on a regular basis, including; the GLX project website, blast emails to 5,500 subscribers, the GLX 24-hour hotline, incoming email (info@glxinfo.com), Flickr, and regular door to door flyers.

A concern was expressed that residents are not hearing enough regular information from the project and more material needs to be shared by the project. McCarthy and Nee pointed out that the project has been in a quiet stage and is just now gearing up to the first active construction. There has not been a great deal of new information to share. Over the past 3 months or so, people haven't heard a great deal from the project because construction is still ramping up.

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Laurel Ruma raised the concept of perhaps forming a handful of sub-groups within the CWG to take on specific topics in more detail. For example, perhaps a social media sub-group would make sense. The group agreed to give this idea further consideration.

The group inquired as to the process for neighborhood leafletting. McCarthy and Nee explained leaflets customized for activities affecting specific neighborhoods are anticipated to go out on a regular basis throughout the life of the project.

Marty Nee agreed to provide a list at the next meeting of local media outlets that could be targeted for regular columns.

Cycling Community

Jim McGinnis raised the point that the CWG should reach out to the cycling community and perhaps they should have a representative in the group. McCarthy welcomed the attendance of any cycling groups interested in participating with the CWG, however, he stressed their participation should be as members of the public rather than formal members of the group because the number of members had already been set in agreement with municipalities.

McGinnis also expressed a desire for GLX to attend community events with tables and displays presenting project updates and benefits. The project agreed to seek out events for participation.

Community Path

It was agreed a future meeting should be dedicated to the redesigned Community Path. Polly Pook stated that the project should consider moving the section of path from Washington Street to its terminus in Cambridge from the east side of the alignment to the west side along Inner Belt Road. She also stated that the CWG should reach out to the Inner Belt Business Association. No commitments were made by the GLX Program Management Team with regard to the location of the Community Path.

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