



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Corridor Planning (CCP)—a coalition of Groundwork Somerville, the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP), the Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) and the Somerville Community Health Agenda—organized a three-session workshop in order to raise awareness and interest in the station designs for the anticipated Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s (MBTA) Green Line Extension. The purpose of the workshops was to familiarize community participants with the project and encourage them to actively participate in a civic engagement processes, in anticipation of a series of workshops and public hearings to be held by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) addressing the same project. An introductory session was held on Friday evening, May 21, 2010, a half-day design charrette on Saturday afternoon, May 22, and a report back session on Wednesday evening, June 2.

In addition to this document, a PowerPoint document and a DVD archive the groups’ final presentations.

Over 120 members of the Somerville, Medford and Cambridge communities participated along with interested citizens from the metropolitan region. Teams were organized around the seven stations to evaluate the current MassDOT concept design, articulate the relationship between the station and the surrounding community, and make recommendations to improve both the stations and the surrounding neighborhoods.

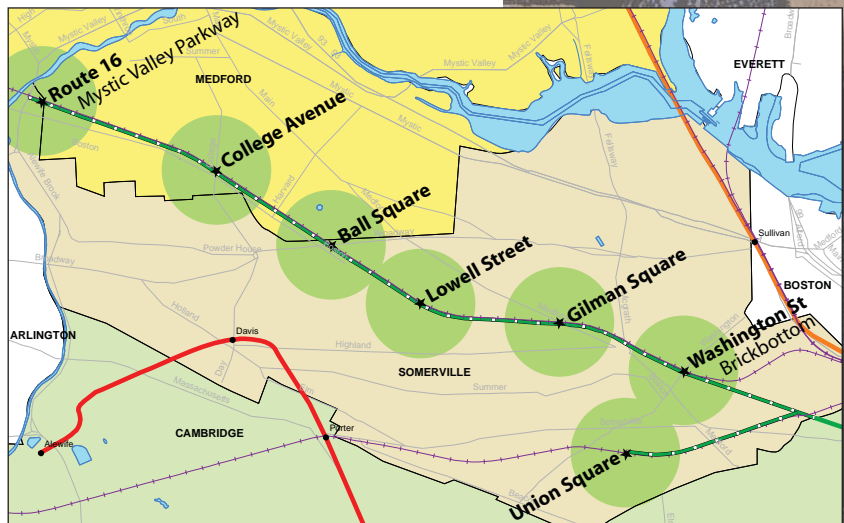
The results of the analysis, designs and recommendations are described in the following pages on a station-by-station basis. However, seven common themes and issues were raised that apply to all of the station areas.

- 1. Community** – The construction of new stations creates an unprecedented opportunity for community building. The stations cannot exist in isolation and must become part of the surrounding community: physically, economically and socially. This integration of station and community can only be achieved with the support and coordination of MassDOT and its design team, the cities of Somerville, Medford and Cambridge, and representatives of each area working together in a spirit of cooperation.
- 2. Connections** – Strong walking, biking, transit and spatial connections must be provided between the stations and the surrounding neighborhoods in all directions. Walking to each station must be encouraged by providing well-lit, accessible, visible and safe routes between the neighborhoods and the station. Bicycling to each station must be encouraged by providing paths, on-street facilities and bicycle storage. Strong connections between the planned Community Path and the station are of critical importance. The principles of Universal Design must be applied to provide the best

possible access for users of all abilities. In many cases where MassDOT's early concept showed a station entrance located on one side of a busy street, a recommendation was made for a second entrance provided on the opposite side of the street so that patrons do not have to cross the street.

3. **Larger investment in infrastructure** – A station is more than an entrance and a platform. Stations should become highly visible identifiers for the neighborhood providing opportunities for transit-oriented development, public art and open space amenities.
4. **Station as icon** – These stations will become symbols of the neighborhoods they serve and a high-quality design is important. While the platforms are often below grade or otherwise hidden, the station design should incorporate highly visible elements to mark the station's entrance and its importance in the community.
5. **Places where people come together** - Seize the opportunity to create meeting spaces, green spaces and plaza spaces that serve as community crossroads and common grounds for the entire neighborhood.
6. **Neighborhood activity and business** – Stations will change the travel patterns in neighborhoods and this increased level of activity and access must be leveraged to support existing local businesses and create opportunities for new businesses and jobs.
7. **Sustainability** – Sustainability should not only be considered in terms of building design, energy conservation and the generation of materials, but also in the larger sense of economic development and community stability.

As MassDOT's concept station plans included in the draft Environmental Impact Statement represent a first step toward a station design, the summaries included in this report represent a first step toward neighborhood planning. Stakeholders for each station look forward to working with MassDOT and the cities of Somerville, Medford and Cambridge in order to make these stations an integral part of each neighborhood and a catalyst for community vitality.



Green Line Extension stations addressed in the workshops. Circles around station locations show quarter-mile radii, equivalent to approximately a five-minute walk.

