

Green Line Extension (GLX) Community Working Group (CWG) Meeting
April 7, 2020
4:00 PM To 5:30 PM
200 Inner Belt Road, Somerville, MA

*This meeting is the 29th consecutive, monthly GLX Community Working Group meeting.

ATTENDEES:

CWG Members: Viola Augustin (Somerville), Joseph Barr (Cambridge), Elliott Bradshaw (East Somerville - Brickbottom), Ryan Dunn (Magoun Square), Jim McGinnis (Union Square advocate), Nicole Morell (City of Medford City Council), Andrew Reker (City of Cambridge), Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square), Laurel Ruma (City of Medford), Justin Moeling (Gilman Square), Jennifer Dorsen (Ball Square)

MassDOT/MBTA: Melissa Dullea (MBTA) – on the phone, Terry McCarthy (MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement), Horace Cooper, MBTA Green Line Transformation

GLX Project Team: Martin Nee (GLX-MBTA), Erin Reed (GLXC), Amanda Smith (GLX-MBTA), T.J. Steinhilber (GLXC) and Jeff Wagner (GLXC)

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.

T. McCarthy welcomed everyone for attending and thanked them for taking the time out to attend the meeting. Prior to starting, Erin Reed provided instructions and ground rules for the GoToWebinar format.

T. McCarthy proceeded to deliver a presentation as follows:

- Safety Moment – Review of COVID-19 procedures for construction
 - Gov. Baker Safety Order issued March 23, 2020
 - Functions and Objectives of the Order
 - Essential Services
 - Guidelines
 - Training protocols
 - Zero Tolerance for symptomatic employees at work
- Project Status
 - Lechmere Station progress
 - Upcoming Bus Replacement Service North Station to Lechmere
 - Viaduct demolition
 - Bus replacement planning

- Conversion to dedicated bus lanes at Charles River Dam Road
- Continued, unobstructed operation of Lechmere bus garage during construction
- Planned and ongoing outreach concerning Lechmere diversion

T.J. Steinhilber (GLXC) presented detailed plans and construction staging operations for the viaduct demolition, replacement, and relocation as follows:

- Delineation of workzones
 - Gilmore Bridge to East St.
 - East St. to North First St.
 - North First St. to Water St.
- Work Period 1
 - Demolition
- Work Period 2
 - Pier cap and structural steel installation
- Work Period 3
 - Superstructure construction
- Work Period 4
 - Track Build / Systems Install / Testing
- Traffic Management Planning during construction

Jeff Wagner (GLXC) presented a project-wide update on GLX construction as follows:

- Union Square Station Area
 - Foundation construction continues
 - Retaining walls progressing
- Lechmere Area
 - Steel placement continues to advance
- Boston Engine Terminal Area
 - Deck construction at Fitchburg Viaduct advancing
- Vehicle Maintenance Facility Area
 - Retaining walls, drainage, and foundation work progressing
- East Somerville Station Area
 - Station platform, drainage, and Washington Street Bridge abutments advancing
- Gilman Square Area
 - Track shift complete in this area
 - Medford St. Bridge modifications
 - School St. storm sewer connections
- Ball Square Station Area
 - East and West Abutments and Center Pier advancing
 - Drainage work continues
 - Traction Power Substation progressing
- Medford / Tufts Station Area
 - Foundation Drilling for retaining wall along Boston Ave continues
- Work on West Side
 - Track shifts make way for work to ramp up on the west side of the alignment
- Outreach – Hotline Responses
 - 1165 inquiries to date
 - 1053 actions closed out

A limited discussion followed the presentation concerning rough timelines for the opening and closing of bridges in Somerville. Those timelines continue to follow publicly stated schedule estimates.

T. McCarthy thanked everyone for coming and for taking the time to attend this month's community working group meeting.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5, 8:30 – 10:00 AM: Via Video Conference.

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