

**MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) Project
Community Working Group (CWG) Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
8:30 to 10:00 a.m., Via Webinar**

*This meeting is the 40th consecutive, monthly GLX Community Working Group meeting.

ATTENDEES:

CWG Members:

Ryan Dunn (Co-Chair)
Viola Augustin (Somerville)
Joseph Barr (City of Cambridge)
Elliot Bradshaw (Brickbottom)
Jim McGinnis (Union Square)
Andrew Reker (City of Cambridge)
Laurel Ruma (Medford – College Ave)
Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square)
Jason Alves

MassDOT/MBTA:

Melissa Dullea (Senior Director MBTA Service and Planning)
Terry McCarthy (MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement)
Bill Ferrari (Deputy Director of Construction, MBTA-GLX)

GLX Project Team:

Randy Henke (GLX Program Management Team - Design)
Martin Nee (GLX Program Management Team – Stakeholder Engagement)
Erin Reed (GLXC)
Jeff Wagner (GLXC)

Other Guests:

Tim Dineen (VNA Resident)
Rocco Dirico (Tufts University)
Tyner Lawrence
Bob Seay
Amanda Smith

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.

Terry McCarthy welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a safety moment on reminding everyone to keep up with cancer screening tests during COVID-19. He pointed out that overall cancer screenings have plummeted throughout the U.S. which will undoubtedly affect the health and wellbeing of large segments of the population.

Terry then provided an MBTA update showing highlighting progress in the following areas:

- Steel beams have been placed at School Street Bridge representing a major milestone in having the surface street system reopen to local traffic, expected in late spring 2021.
- The track yard at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility is nearing completion.
- The interior of the Vehicle Maintenance Facility is in the final stages of track work and electrical and mechanical systems.
- The project is also in the late stages of having all catenary poles installed along the alignment.

Terry turned the meeting over to Bill Ferrari, GLX Deputy Director of Construction, who provided an in-depth, visual construction overview using an intricate system of time-lapse cameras placed at strategic locations throughout the entire GLX alignment, including the Lechmere area, the Union Square Branch, and the Medford Branch. Realtime images were shown of:

- The Lechmere Viaduct Replacement
- The East Cambridge Viaduct interface with GLX
- Union Square Station
- The Vehicle Maintenance Facility (interior, exterior, and track yard).
- Red Bridge Area with:
 - Union Square and Medford Line Viaducts
 - The Traction Power Substation
 - Stormwater pumping station
- East Somerville Station and Washington Street Bridge
- Gilman Square with Traction Power substation and School Street Bridge
- Magoun Square
- Ball Square
- Medford/Tufts

Jeff Wagner, GLX Constructors:

Jeff Wagner followed Bill with an update on Community Outreach. He highlighted a recent leafletting campaign at Montrose and School Streets in Somerville where a crane operation to lift the steel beams at School Street would require temporary street closures. Jeff mentioned that GLX has received more than 1,740 inquiries through the project hotline and email of which approximately 1,653 have been closed out.

He also announced that a 28-minute video documentary will be released on GLX on March 10 via ACEC Boston. The video was produced by The Moles, an engineering industry organization. The segment features MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak, GLX Program Manager John Dalton, Christine Keville, President and CEO of Keville Enterprises and President of The Moles, as well as a number of young engineers working on the GLX Project who promote Civil Engineering as a rewarding career choice. Jeff concluded with a brief description of GLX's Community Connection Team support for Project Soup.

Q&A:

Ryan Dunn mentioned that the City of Somerville School Reopening Plan will include students at the high school for the last few months of the school year. He wondered if construction noise would be an issue. Terry McCarthy pointed out that the new buildings are extremely well soundproofed, and noise will be buffered considerably by the hill.

Laurel Ruma asked for follow-up materials on the design of the Medford/Tufts Station emergency egress ramps. Bill Ferrari and Randy Henke provided a verbal description of what is to be constructed and Terry agreed to resend design drawing materials which were distributed after a previous meeting.

Jim McGinnis inquired as to the timing of the elevator construction at Union Square. The elevator is to be designed and constructed by the developer, US2. Brad Rawson from the City of Somerville explained that due to the timing of the US2 development, the elevator will likely not be completed by the opening of Union Square Station, however, the developer, the MBTA, and City of Somerville are doing everything they can to accelerate the schedule for the elevator.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR April 6, 2021, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. via Video Conference.

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