

**MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) Project
Community Working Group (CWG) Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2021
8:30 to 10:00 a.m., via Microsoft Teams Video Conference**

*This meeting marked the 48th consecutive, monthly GLX Community Working Group meeting.

ATTENDEES:

CWG Members:

Jennifer Dorsen (Ball Square)
Jim McGinnis (Union Square)
Andy Reker (City of Cambridge)
Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square)
Michaela Bogosh (At-Large)
Elliott Bradshaw (Brickbottom Area)
Laurel Ruma (Medford)
Viola Augustin (Somerville)

MassDOT/MBTA:

John Dalton (MBTA-GLX Program Manager)
Terry McCarthy (MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement)

GLX Project Team:

Casey Berg (GLX Report Manager)
Erin Reed (GLXC)
Jeff Wagner (GLXC)
Martin Nee (GLX Stakeholder Engagement)

Other Guests:

Rocco DiRico (Tufts)
Tim Dineen (VNA Resident)

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 opened the meeting and went over the agenda. He delegated the safety moment to Martin Nee who proceeded with a brief reminder on storm safety and preparedness in the face of power outages.

The meeting was turned over to John Dalton, GLX Program Manager, who thanked the members of the Community Working Group for their service and dedication over the past 48 months. He recognized the high level of commitment exhibited by the members as evidenced by the group's faithful attendance every month for four years. He also recognized the valuable liaison role they provide between the project and the community.

John then proceeded to highlight the project's construction in recent years using a series of before and after images depicting:

- Lechmere Station
- Union Square Station
- Red Bridge Viaducts
- The Vehicle Maintenance Facility
- The Community Path
- East Somerville Station
- Gilman Square Station
- Magoun Square Station
- Ball Square Station
- Medford/Tufts Station

Following his progress report, John opened it up for questions.

Question: Laurel Ruma asked John to provide insight on the project's recent schedule revision for opening the Union Branch, now anticipated in March 2022. She also asked if the opening of the Medford Branch is still expected in May 2022.

Answer: John explained the schedule revision is multifaceted and is not attributed to any individual cause. He outlined several contributing factors including supply chain interruptions, the contractor's underestimation of productivity rates, testing and commissioning challenges, and external delays in securing critical utility services. John also said the project continues to push for a May opening of the Medford Branch.

Comment: Laurel Ruma voiced her frustration on the project schedule being revised. She would like to see more communication concerning project schedule. She also voiced concern that focusing resources on the Union Branch may affect progress on the Medford Branch.

Jeff Wagner, GLXC Public outreach, followed with an overview of recent construction activities. He presented visual images and updates on:

- Changing conditions and safety protocols with electrified rail
- The Vehicle Maintenance Facility
- Light rail track placement
- Systems installation and integration
- Union Square Station platform
- Lechmere Station platform and bicycle facilities
- Medford Street Bridge
- School Street Bridge

- Hotline Responses

Following Jeff's update, a general Q & A ensued.

Laurel Ruma asked if the Lechmere Station bus diversion would be in place until revenue service begins. Terry confirmed that is the case.

Laurel also asked if the Community Path opening would also coincide with the current revenue service date projections. Terry confirmed that the Community Path opening is expected to open when revenue service begins on the Medford Branch.

Jim Silva asked for an update on the walls at University Condominiums in Medford and the panels that were removed at Granville Ave. Jeff Wagner said he would research and report back to Jim.

Jim McGinness inquired about the treatments and street markings where the Community Path crosses roadways in Somerville. Terry explained the path entrances will be treated with bollards and paint markings. Viola agreed to share information on the street crossings that the City of Somerville is designing. Jim requested a look at the designs before they are etched in stone.

Comment: Jim McGinness said he was pleased to see the recent news article indicating that John Dalton is interested in remaining in the Boston area post GLX construction. He expressed his opinion that John's leadership has been excellent. Jim went on to say that John, "does not sugar-coat anything, and his productivity has been amazing".

Terry McCarthy reiterated his previous statements that the elevator may not be in service when the Union Branch opens. The design and construction of the elevator is being done by the developer adjacent to Union Square Station, US2, and is not part of the GLX scope. Upon completion, the elevator will be handed over to the MBTA for operation and maintenance going forward. US2 is pushing to complete the elevator as soon as possible.

Tim Dineen asked when track placement at Magoun Square would be complete. Jeff Wagner agreed to look into it, but felt it was scheduled for completion in the next few weeks.

Seeing no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., via Video Conference.

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