

**MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) Project
Community Working Group (CWG) Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021
8:30 – 10:00 a.m., Via Webinar**

*This meeting marked the 44th consecutive, monthly GLX Community Working Group meeting.

ATTENDEES:

CWG Members:

Elliott Bradshaw (Brickbottom)
Jennifer Dorsen (Ball Square)
Joseph Barr (City of Cambridge)
Jim McGinnis (Union Square)
Andrew Reker (City of Cambridge)
Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square)

MassDOT/MBTA:

Melissa Dullea (Senior Director MBTA Service and Planning)
Terry McCarthy (MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement)

GLX Project Team:

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

Other Guests:

Chris Lisinski
Nik DeCosta-Klipa
Yinnon
Michaela Boneva
Ron Newman
Brad Rawson (City of Somerville)
Matt Hartman (Senator Jehlen's office)
Rocco DiRico (Tufts University)
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 McCarty opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He went on to provide a Safety Moment involving the use of fireworks which are illegal in Massachusetts. If out of state, eye protection and common sense rules apply. Also, abide by grill safety rules when barbecuing. Lastly, Terry spoke about enforcing water safety rules.

He went on to present a brief summary of the recent GLX update to the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB).

Terry then provided an update on the GLX Testing and Commissioning Phase including the revised schedule announced in the FMCB meeting. The revised revenue service dates are December 2021 for the Union Branch and May 2022 for the Medford Branch.

He followed with an update on the latest bridge reopening schedules for School and Medford Street Bridges which are currently trending toward mid to late August of 2021 for completion. The primary focus of GLX is to have the School Street Bridge open for pedestrian traffic before the start of the school year.

Terry responded to a request from the group concerning Transit Oriented Development (TOD) received from the Community Working Group.

- Jennifer Dorsen asked when the Community Path will open. Terry responded that it is part of the Medford Branch and would open at that branch's completion.
- Jennifer asked to go back to the slide on TOD. Can you please review the interplay between the municipalities and the MBTA. Terry explained it would require a developer to come forward with a useable idea that meets the TOD requirements. Cities and advocates would be included in the process at that point.
- Jennifer asked if there is a bid process or date? Terry explained developers would have to submit proposals. The date to begin the process would probably fall a year or so after GLX Revenue Service.
- Terry explained that today's discussions should not be construed as any sort of a commitment regarding TOD. In essence, the MBTA could conceivably not have a TOD development if they determined they needed the land for operational reasons.
- Jennifer asked if GLX would be the entity working with the developer? Terry explained, that GLX would not be the entity that works with the developer. The TOD is clearly outside the scope of the GLX. The process would involve many different departments within the MBTA and MassDOT.
- Jim McGinnis asked about the viaduct stub that was terminated in the Red Bridge viaduct area. Terry explained it is a dual use, possible future lead into the yard, and also possible car storage in the meantime.
- Joe Barr asked about pre-revenue testing and whether there was any risk of this pushing out the revenue service date. Terry explained, testing and commissioning has been worked into the revised dates for Revenue Service announced in the FMCB meeting

Jeff Wagner then provided a construction update.

- Jeff explained the mask mandate had been lifted for construction workers inside GLX construction sites, but Terry explained that the MBTA requirement for mask wearing at all times on all MBTA vehicles and stations is still in full force. .
- A discussion ensued regarding the flooding that took place at Washington Street Underpass on Friday, July 2. The CWG requested that GLX share further information at the next Community

Working Group meeting. The questions from the group include whether this level of flooding should be expected in the future, and what exactly caused this episode of flooding.

Question & Answer

Jim McGinnis asked, “What are the foundations going into place along the US2 property?”. Jeff thinks they are OCS pole foundations that need more work. Jim McGinnis also asked if the project is coming in under budget. He asked if the City contributions would be refunded if they are not needed. Terry explained that refunding municipalities for funds that are not needed is conceivable, it is too early to make that determination. Brad Rawson, City of Somerville, reiterated that a refund is conceivable for some or all of the funds but we are too early in the process to predict if that will materialize.

Seeing no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., via Video Conference.

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