

**MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) Project
Community Working Group (CWG) Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021
8:00 – 10:30 a.m., via Webinar**

*This meeting marked the 46th consecutive, monthly GLX Community Working Group meeting.

ATTENDEES:

CWG Members:

Jennifer Dorsen (Ball Square)
Joseph Barr (City of Cambridge)
Jim McGinnis (Union Square)
Andy Reker (City of Cambridge)
Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square)
Elliot Bradshaw (Brickbottom Area)
Jason Alves (East Cambridge)

MassDOT/MBTA:

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

GLX Project Team:

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

Other Guests:

Matt Hartman (Senator Jehlen's office)
Christian MiNeil
Jacquelyn Goddard (City of Medford)
Kristen Pennucci
Tim Dineen (VNA Resident)
Rocco DiRico (Tufts)
Viola Augustin (City of Somerville)

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 with a safety moment on School Safety tips for motorists. The topic included a series of tips for motorists on sharing the road with school-age pedestrians and school buses.

Terry then presented information and materials concerning GLX transitioning to Revenue Service from a public outreach perspective. He noted that heavy civil work will be wrapping up toward the end of 2021 which is expected to produce far less construction impacts in the communities. He explained that GLX will soon become a literal extension of the MBTA's Green Line and therefore, communication channels with the public will transition from the GLX public outreach team to the existing MBTA platform and protocols. He went through the contact options available at www.mbta.com including emergency numbers, service updates and alerts, social media connections, etc. He noted that the GLX email info@glxinfo.com will remain active for the next six months or so. It will then transition to the MBTA customer support ticket system. Every contact with the MBTA, whether an inquiry, comment, or complaint, will be logged in and given a tracking number.

Terry then introduced Jeff Wagner from GLXC who provided a construction overview. Jeff gave an update on:

- Safety – How GLXC keeps workers and pedestrians separated from machines. A series of precautions are in place and diligently adhered to. Awareness is the key.
- Vehicle Maintenance Facility has been handed over to the MBTA for final testing and future operations.
- GLX track is in place in nearly all areas. A few small gaps exist at Magoun Square, Ball Square, and Medford/Tufts Station.
- Systems installation is underway 24/7 throughout the length of both branches. Branch 1 (Union) is near completion and Branch 2 (Medford) is beginning to see ground lines going up.
- The Red Bridge Traction Power Substation is in the final stages of readiness for operation.
- Union Square Station platform is substantially constructed with electric work now being finalized.
- Lechmere Station is undergoing a great deal of detail work. The area is nearing completion.
- Lechmere Viaduct is nearing final completion. Communication, signal, electric, and traction power to the East Cambridge Viaduct is in final stages.
- East Somerville Station: Track, platform, and Community Path is taking shape.
- Gilman Square is undergoing work on elevated structures including elevator approaches and stairs.
- Magoun Square: Station structures are in place and detail work continues.
- Ball Square: Sound wall panel installation continues. Lots of activity on Ball Square Station site. Paving is expected soon.
- Medford/Tufts Station: Pedestrian bridge and track work continues in this area. Roof installation is well underway and concrete pours are soon to follow.
- Bridge closures: Washington Street Underpass painting will wrap up soon and sidewalk opening will follow. Medford Street Bridge is advancing on the bridge deck, sidewalks, parapet, and rail underpass for opening later this year. School Street Bridge sidewalk opened August 24 and utility work continues. School Street vehicle traffic opening is expected this fall.
- Community Path: Work continues along entire alignment. The Path is taking shape nicely and expected to open at GLX project completion.
- Outreach Hotline: Near 2000 contacts to date (1,993) with 1918 contacts closed out. Remainder of those remaining open require construction to be completed.

Question & Answer

Jim Silva: What is the status of Automated Fare Collection (AFC)? Terry answered that Fare Vending Machines will be installed in the lobbies at opening. He stated that AFC 2.0 is a few years away. GLX will undergo AFC 1.5. in the near future and GLX is expected to open using AFC 1.5. Terry agreed to get back to Jim with more information.

Jim Silva: What caused the flooding at Washington Street Bridge during the hurricane remnants? Terry explained there is a temporary pumping system in place. The final pumping station now under construction as part of GLX will dramatically improve the situation in the future.

Jim McGinnis: When will School St. open to vehicular traffic? Terry explained we are pushing to have it open in the next month or so.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., via Video Conference (see www.Mass.gov/GLX for registration details).

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