

Community Corridor Planning Monthly Updates

March 2010

Cold winter days are good for two things: sipping hot tea and having productive meetings! The CCP Advisory Team met on February 3rd to help plan the work in front of us. Here's what's coming down the train tracks:

1. The on-line mapping tool—a place where people can go on line to swap ideas, post photos and videos that are linked to places on the Green Line Corridor Map—will be launched in March. We will be hosting workshops at the high school and at other community settings to teach people how to use the tool. Look for a schedule of workshops in the near future on our website.
2. PhotoVision: at the CCP Community Vision meeting at the Argenziano School last fall (October 28th), participants were asked to list —important places|| along the Green Line Corridor. Since that meeting, a team of 23 volunteers took over 400 photos of these places. In February a jury made up of community members selected their top photos from this list that will be posted on the on-line mapping tool when it is launched in March. Stay tuned for details!
3. CCP will be hosting a series of planning —charettes|| this spring, where residents will be asked to help design plans for the 7 new Green Line stations. The CCP Advisory Team and CCP partners will work closely with a planning facilitator to design these workshops.
4. In addition to station design, we will also begin hosting 3 working groups for interested Somerville residents to help turn the Corridor Principles into policy recommendations: 1. Affordability and Diversity; 2. Community and Economic Development, Local Jobs, and Local Businesses; and 3. The Green Environment.
5. A team of 5 UEP students from Tufts will be doing their field project with us this spring to evaluate how effective our on line mapping tool is in engaging residents in community planning.

Please let us know if you are interested in being a part of any of the activities above!

Contact: [Meridith Levy](mailto:Meridith.Levy@somervillecdc.org) 617-776-5931 x242

April 2010

inTeractive Somerville—CCP's online, interactive mapping tool, is on its way to being used to involve Somerville residents in planning around the coming of the Green Line to Somerville. On Wednesday, March 31st, a diverse group of 11 Somerville residents tested a beta (draft) version of the mapping site. At the end of the workshop, a team of Tufts University UEP graduate students led an evaluation focus group session, to gather feedback to help improve the site. Look out for an announcement in upcoming weeks for the launch of this interactive mapping tool. We will be hosting workshops with interested groups to show how to use the tool so that people-- young and old, with or without computer experience, English or non-English speakers—have an opportunity to share ideas about Somerville and the Green Line through words, photos, videos, and more. Working Groups—Last fall, over 150 residents gathered to prioritize and ratify principles for development along the Green line corridor. Now, 3 working groups will be working to turn these principles into concrete recommendations and action plans.

If YOU want to be a part of giving your ideas for how to make sure Somerville continues to be the place for you once the Green Line arrives, please join one of these working groups:

- Affordability and Diversity: First meeting will be held on April 21st, 6:30pm at the office of SCC. Contact Mary Regan @ [mregan@somerville CDC.org](mailto:mregan@somervillecdc.org) or (617) 776-5931x 230
- Jobs, Local Businesses, Commercial Development: First meeting will be on April 27th, time and place to be announced. Contact Lisa Gimbel at (617) 776-5931 x 235 or lgimbel@somervillecdc.org
- Open Space, the Environment, and Sustainability: First meeting time and place to be announced. Contact Jen Lawrence at (617) 628-9988 jlawrence@groundworksomerville.org
- Station Design Workshops—Stay Tuned! In MAY, CCP will host workshops by station areas to introduce the community to the designing process for the specific stations. These will be followed by a series of design workshops over the summer with MA Department of Transportation. We will announce

time and place once these are set. For more information, or to sign up for a workshop near you, please call 617 776-5931 x 230 or 235 or email mregan@somervillecdc.org

May 2010

May is a busy month for CCP. This is a great month to have your voice be heard and start moving general visions about Somerville along the Green Line corridor into very real recommendations. Here's how you can take part:

1. The People's 3-Day Station Design Event

- Do you want to have a say in how buses connect with the new train stations, or how people with disabilities can easily access the station, or where to park bikes by the stations, or what these stations will look like? While so many people care about these things, it's easy to think you don't have a role if you don't have any experience in design or planning. Aha, but CCP is here to change that! In preparation for the State's design planning process this summer, CCP is holding a people's planning blitz for community members who may have never done anything like this. On May 21st and 22nd, and June 2nd, you'll get to talk, draw, build, and learn how to turn your ideas into a design. There will be volunteer and professional architects and designers helping to take all of the creative ideas from the community and shape them into designs that we will eventually give to the MA Dept. of Transportation. Don't miss this very cool opportunity! It is free of charge. There will be food, child care, and interpretation.
 - The People's Station Design Blitz
 - Friday, May 21 6–8:30 pm : Dinner, Group Assignments, Orientation, and Music
 - Saturday, May 22 1–5 pm : Creative designing using materials, drawings, and a lot of idea sharing
 - Wednesday, June 2 6–8:30 pm Presentation of community developed designs, next steps
 - All three workshop sessions will be held at:
 - Prospect Hill Academy Cafetorium (St. Benedict Church Hall) 17 Franklin St., East Somerville – Handicap Accesible
 - Accessible by # 89 and # 90 buses, Orange Line (Sullivan Station).
 - Parking available behind the building; the parking lot entrance is on Cutter Street.

2. Working Groups are off and running.

- It's not too late to join a group! These groups are turning our core principles into a concrete Action Agenda, to be shaped throughout the summer. Call is if you'd like to sign up to be a part of one of the following groups. Next meeting date for each group is as follows:
 - Jobs, Economic Dev't, Local Business: Tuesday, May 11th, 7-8:30pm, Office of SCC Call: Lisa Gimbel, (617) 776 5931 x235
 - Affordability and Diversity: Wednesday, May 26th, 7-8:30pm, Office of SCC Call: Mary Regan, (617) 776 5931 x230
 - Green Space and Sustainability: Wednesday, May 26th, 7-8:30, Office of GWS Call: Jennifer Lawrence, (617) 628-9988

3. Next CCP Advisory Team: Wednesday, May 19th, 6:00-7:30, Office of SCC

June 2010

June 2nd marked the last session of a 3-part design workshop to get residents to explore design ideas for their neighborhood stations. Over 75 people from Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford participated in the sessions. Anyone walking into the room would immediately be blasted with the energy of this group of residents, hard at work, every person in the room fully participating.

During the last session, each of the small groups representing the 7 proposed Green Line stations presented their ideas and recommendations to the others. It was a dynamic night, filled with cheering, applause, and startling,

innovative ideas. As the central facilitator, a consultant hired by CCP, Gretchen VonGrossmann, stated—no one knows a neighborhood better than the people who live there.

One of the exciting components of the design workshops was that each small group was facilitated by a graduate of SCC's Leadership Development Institute. Also, CCP had reached out to a dynamic group of volunteer design professionals to help with each of the small groups, so that residents could learn how to turn their ideas and values into graphic representation on the station plans and maps.

This workshop series gave residents from the community hands on skills and the opportunity to creatively and pragmatically express what kinds of stations would serve their neighborhoods best when the Green Line arrives.

This gives Somerville and neighboring communities a head start in working with MA DOT to make sure th final plans will best meet the needs of the community. CCP (Community Corridor Planning) will now work with workshop participants to facilitate continued design work, as well as to make sure these vibrant ideas are delivered to MA Department of Transportation. CCP will work with the station groups to host neighborhood walks with their local alderman.

We also encourage people to attend a community meeting about the Green Line hosted by the City of Somerville and MA DOT on June 12th at the Argenziano School, 10am.

CCP Working Groups:

- If you are interested in making sure that the post-Green Line Somerville is the city you want to live in, please consider joining a CCP working group. These groups meet regularly, and it's not too late to join. Please contact the following people if you are interested:
 1. Affordability and Diversity: [Mary Regan](#) (617) 776-5931 x230
 2. Jobs, Local Businesses, and Economic Development: [Lisa Gimbel](#) (617) 776-5931 x235
 3. Green Space, Open Space, and Sustainability: [Jennifer Lawrence](#) (617) 628-9988

July 2010

Video of Community Design Workshop hosted by CCP on June 2nd at Prospect Hill Academy Cafetorium in East Somerville: <http://scatstaffvlog.blogspot.com/2010/07/green-line-extension-workshop.html>

COMING SOON: we will soon have a link to the "Report on Summary of Results of the Community Workshop on the Green Line Extension Through Somerville and Medford"

It's never too late to participate in Working Groups for CCP:

- Housing and Affordability- Next Meeting: July 7th, 6:30-8pm at SCC; Contact: Mary Regan 617 776 5931x230 mregan@somervillecdc.org
- Jobs, Local Businesses, and Economic Development- Next Meeting: July 20th, 7:00-8:30pm and August 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm; Contact: Lisa Gimbel: 617 776 5931x235 lgimbel@somervillecdc.org
- Green Space, Open Space, and Sustainability- Next Meeting: July 7th, 6:30-8pm, July 21st 6:30-8pm and August 4th 6:30-8pm; Contact: Jen Lawrence: (617) 628-9988, jllawrence@groundworksomerville.org

August 2010

CCP releases the final report for the Community Design Workshop. Take a look at the ideas and designs for the 7 Green Line stations created by community members this spring. Please view the document [here](#).

September 2010

In late May, 2010, CCP organized a three-session workshop, during which community members met to discuss and evaluate the current MassDOT station designs, and to create their own design ideas and recommendations. Participants had a great time, and came up with very innovative ideas and practical suggestions to improve the use, safety, and design of the current station designs. Read the final report [here](#).

It was an important opportunity to prepare community members to participate in the state process. Over 120 members of the Somerville, Medford and Cambridge communities participated in this process and teams were organized around the seven stations. Small groups were facilitated by volunteer community residents and local design experts. Von Grossman and Associates, a local urban design firm, served as primary facilitator and compiled the final report.

The MBTA has announced that its first two Station Design meetings have been scheduled, as follows:

- Tuesday, September 28, Argenziano School, 290 Washington St., Somerville
- Wednesday, September 29, Medford City Hall Council Chambers, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford

The presentations will be the same at both events. They will begin with an Introduction to the Green Line Extension at 5:30 pm for people who are new to the project. The new, Station section of the meeting will begin at 6:15 (to 8 pm). The goal of these events is to lay out the MBTA's program and requirements for stations as an introduction to discussions about individual stations. The station workshops are being scheduled for November and early December.

January 2011

If you happened to be standing on Glen Street outside of the Capuano School in East Somerville on December 2nd at about 8:45pm, you may have noticed a stream of people leaving the building wearing green wrist bands saying "Get On Board". In fact, that night CCP community leaders presented the "CCP Action Agenda" to a diverse audience of 125 people, asking attendees to "get on board" with these action recommendations. Peter Marquez and Enxhi Popa shared the spotlight as emcees for the evening. Leanne Darigo and Sal Islam told the CCP story through a slide show, with many of the photos taken by Greg Hill, as well as a few from the Historic Commission thanks to Kristi Chase. Participants learned about the three main components of the Action Agenda in small group sessions: Affordability; Local Jobs and Businesses; and Green Space/Sustainability. Working group leaders from each group presented and facilitated discussion about the action recommendations (Matan BenYishay, Ashlee Snell, Chris Evans, Nelly Termitus, Roger Galan, Zulfiqar Ahmed). We then screened a video of community residents expressing their thoughts about the Green Line and the Action Agenda—this video was created by Ron Leaks and Greg Hill, with editing help from Mauricio Filho. Yvette Verdieu and Danny McLaughlin then asked attendees to hold up CCP Charlie Cards in support of the Action Agenda, which highlights action steps including: Green Line construction jobs for Somerville residents; mitigation to business owners during construction; extension of the Community Path; and more resources for affordable housing in areas along the Green Line corridor. Throughout the evening, the Capuaono Cafetorium was filled with energetic conversations and involvement, with a genuine sense that people are ready to roll up their sleeves and take action toward these goals. Thanks to all of the hard work behind the scenes and at the meeting of CCP Advisory Team and Working Group members. Stay tuned for neighborhood walks in station areas, and organizing activities related to the Action Agenda. As always, if you're interested in getting involved, call us! 617-776-5931 x242