

**JOURNEY TO 2030 “Invite Us Over”  
Meeting with the City of Somerville  
February 13, 2006, 10 AM**

MPO Staff Attendees:

Jared Fijalkowski  
Pam Wolfe

MPO staff was invited to meet with the Somerville Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development. Other attendees included representatives of the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP), Union Square Main Streets, and Federal Realty Investment Trust.

Somerville is seeing a lot of economic development and expects further development in the near future. Transportation is a critical part of development, and the City hopes to see transportation improvements in the City to support and encourage economic development.

Staff gave a brief overview of JOURNEY to 2030, including work done to date and future work to be undertaken. Attendees identified the following projects and needs to address in the City of Somerville:

- Increase service on Crosstown bus routes, specifically to Union Square
- Utilize the Grand Junction line right of way for the Urban Ring. This will serve underutilized land and spur economic development.
- Extend the Green Line through Somerville (no endpoint specified) with a spur to Union Square
- Conduct corridor studies in conjunction with the Green Line extension to ensure safe and efficient access to and travel around the proposed stations
- Transportation improvements in Magoun Square
- Transportation improvements in the Route 28 corridor in Somerville
- Transportation improvements at the I-93/Mystic Avenue interchange
- Transportation improvements on Rutherford Avenue that follow the design guidelines in MassHighway’s Project Design and Development Guidebook
- Lower McGrath Highway to be at grade with surrounding neighborhood
- Construct an Orange Line Station at Assembly Square to serve a planned high density, mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhood
- Improve access to the inner belt from Washington Street in Somerville
- Infrastructure and traffic design improvements at Union Square in Somerville
- Streetscape improvements in the lower Broadway corridor in East Somerville
- Conduct a multimodal access study for Assembly Square
- Extend the Somerville Community Path from Cedar Street to Central Street and beyond. This extension should occur in conjunction with the Green Line extension.
- Improve bicycle access to and from the proposed Green Line

- Construct a bicycle/pedestrian path over the Mystic River to Everett and to Charlestown, using a DCR Mystic River dam right of way

The City identified several congressional earmarks for studies and design work in Somerville, including: Union Square, I-93/Mystic Avenue interchange, and a multimodal access plan for Assembly Square.

Attendees asked the MPO to consider the aging of the population in its transportation planning work. SCM, a paratransit company serving social service populations in Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford, is facing a funding shortfall. The City is seeking a funding source to maintain the service.

Attendees suggested that the MPO reach out to non-traditional participants in the transportation planning process. Staff will coordinate with STEP and other Somerville-based organizations on a JOURNEY TO 2030 outreach event to be held in the future.

MPO staff will add the regionally significant needs and projects identified by the City of Somerville to the Compiled Corridor and Connection Needs map for the MPO's consideration. Some of the identified needs and projects fall more into the capital investment category and are not regionally significant.