

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

October 1, 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Housing and Community Development held a meeting on October 1, 2009 with Chairman Rebekah Gewirtz presiding and Committee members Aldermen William Roche and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Maryann Heuston, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Michael Lambert, Ellen Reisner from the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP), Wig Zamore and interested members of the public.

Green Line Extension:

Mr. Lambert discussed what transpired at the recent Lechmere Station meeting and told the members that there are now three different sites being considered for the Green Line maintenance facility, with Scheme H being the city's preference. Mr. Lambert also said that Somerville and East Cambridge have many of the same goals with respect to the Green Line extension, but ultimately, the decision on which site to use rests with the state. Another meeting to discuss the options is scheduled for November 18th. Alderman Heuston expressed concern over having enough time to work on this issue and requested that all available information be submitted to the Board of Aldermen as soon as possible. As of now, the Environmental Impact Report (ERI) has not been submitted, but will be available in both hardcopy and on-line for review.

187938 – Union Square Traffic Study:

Mr. Lambert discussed the Union Square Traffic study and said that it called for the bridges to be widened. Mr. Lambert went on to say that he would like Union Square to be more defined and pedestrian friendly. Alderman Heuston spoke about the traffic problems on Washington Street, Prospect Street and Somerville Avenue and discussed the possibility of having a home rule petition to deal with truck routes. There was a brief discussion of what could be done to deal with the truck traffic around the square.

Alderman Heuston's motion **that the Director of Strategic Planning and Community Development direct the Planning Department to study the effects of deliveries on Union Square, both currently and in relation to the Union Square Traffic Study, and to advise the Board of Aldermen on implementing restrictive hours for delivery trucks,** was approved.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Chairman
Committee on Housing and Community Development