



Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is partnering with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to extend the Green Line to improve transit service, mobility and regional access for residents and visitors in Cambridge, Somerville and Medford. Bringing MBTA light rail service to these densely populated cities will address longstanding transportation inequities, result in fewer automobiles on local roads and help to combat greenhouse gas emissions and other components of air pollution. The Green Line Extension will also support municipal plans for local economic growth and provide residents of environmental justice communities with faster rides to jobs, schools, health care and other destinations.

In-depth information about the Green Line Extension project can be found on the project website, www.mass.gov/greenlineextension.

As the project nears the end of the environmental review phase, work is currently underway on field surveys, community workshops, and the establishment of the Green Line Extension Design Working Group. The project team is preparing for the Preliminary Engineering phase, which begins later this year.



Coming Next: the Final Environmental Impact Report

The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a Certificate on the Green Line Extension *Draft Environmental Impact Report* (DEIR) on January 15, 2010. The Certificate requires MassDOT to produce a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) with a limited scope covering the following topics:

- Quantitative environmental analysis of both the Option L and Mirror H Green Line vehicle storage and maintenance facility locations
- Narrative discussion clarifying air quality modeling assumptions
- Impacts associated with College Avenue Station as a terminal station
- Refined design of Lechmere Station
- Mitigation measures and Section 61 findings for project impacts
- Development of a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for community participation beyond the environmental process

MassDOT is currently preparing the FEIR and expects it will be publicly released this spring. MassDOT will host a public hearing to accompany the release of the FEIR.

Ongoing Work: Field Survey

MassDOT has been performing field work in support of the extension of the Green Line. Contractors have been undertaking field surveys, noise and vibration testing, and soil borings. The data collected will be used to advance the design of the Green Line Extension project.

MassDOT announced the start of this work in a mailing to property owners along the rail right-of-way. Weekly updates are now sent by email, including a detailed schedule of activities.

If you have any questions or concerns about these activities, you may contact Katherine Fichter, Project Manager for the Green Line Extension, at 617-973-7342 and katherine.fichter@state.ma.us.

Public Workshops

Responding to public interest, MassDOT and the MBTA are partnering with Cambridge, Somerville and Medford to organize public planning and design workshops for the Green Line Extension project. These events will take place later this spring and summer. While the formats may be slightly different in each community, the goal of the sessions is to gather ideas and suggestions on all of the Green Line Extension stations and station areas, the vehicle storage and maintenance facility, and the Community Path. People who live or work in the Green Line Extension corridor have a lot of valuable information that can help make the Extension a good neighbor.

Land Use Workshops: May and June

The first round of workshops this spring will focus on **land use planning** for the areas around the station locations. After a short presentation, participants will be asked to respond to questions about the neighborhoods around the stations, what types of land uses they would like to see and what currently works and doesn't in their neighborhoods. The project team will compile the comments and ideas and share them with the communities and the public.

The following dates and locations have been scheduled:

Medford - Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Columbus School Cafeteria, 37 Hicks Avenue, Medford

Cambridge - Wednesday, May 26, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
Kennedy Longfellow School, 158 Spring Street, Cambridge

Somerville - Saturday, June 12, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Argenziano School, 85 Elm Street, Somerville
This event is in partnership with the City of Somerville's SomerVision process.

Flyers for each event are posted on the project website. Please share them with your friends and neighbors. To request access or language accommodations, contact Regan Checchio, 617-357-5772 or rchechchio@reginavilla.com a week before the event. For more information, contact Katherine Fichter at MassDOT, 617-973-7342 or Katherine.Fichter@state.ma.us.

Design Workshops: Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

The second series of workshops beginning this fall will focus on the design of the Green Line Extension stations. These workshops will outline the MBTA's building program (the elements necessary for all MBTA stations), provide sample station designs both in Massachusetts and around the nation, and sample materials and ideas about the look and feel of the stations. After collecting public comments on these topics, the team will present draft designs in a later series of meetings.



A truck-mounted boring rig performs borings for the proposed Lechmere viaduct.

Green Line Extension Design Working Group

MassDOT anticipates announcing the members of the new Green Line Extension Design Working Group in May. This group will advise the project team on the design workshops and help gather and share local input on Preliminary Engineering topics. MassDOT invited local citizens and business representatives from Cambridge, Somerville and Medford to apply for the group. Qualifications include living in a corridor community, familiarity with the neighborhoods where the Green Line facilities will be located and being transit users. Thank you to everyone who responded. The project team looks forward to working with the group to create a Green Line Extension that best meets the needs of future riders, the corridor municipalities and the MBTA.



Technicians take soil samples for testing.

Project Components

The Green Line Extension project includes construction of approximately four miles of light rail track and systems, seven new stations, and a new maintenance facility to support the service. MassDOT is also designing the proposed Community Path adjacent to the Green Line Extension between Lowell Street and the Inner Belt Area.

Stations

The Green Line Extension stations will be designed for access by foot, bicycle, and where appropriate, short-term vehicular drop-off/pickup. Stations are proposed for the following locations:

Lechmere Station: The new Lechmere Station would be relocated to the east side of Monsignor O'Brien Highway and elevated. There would be approximately 200 commuter parking spaces at the station (to replace existing station parking).

Brickbottom Station: This station would be located on the east side of Joy Street, south of the intersection of Washington Street.

Gilman Square Station: This station would be located along Medford Street, directly behind Somerville High School.

Lowell Street Station: This station would be located north of Lowell Street, along a newly constructed

bridge that would accept automobile drop-off/pick-ups and bicycle traffic.

Ball Square Station: This station would be located north of the Broadway Bridge, near the corner of Broadway and Boston Avenue.

College Avenue Station: Located on the north side of the intersection of College Avenue and Boston Avenue, this station would serve residential neighborhoods adjacent to the station and the Tufts University campus.

Union Square Station: This station would be located at the intersection of the MBTA Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line and Prospect Street.

Please see the Green Line Extension website, mass.gov/greenlineextension, to see station design plans, concept drawings and simulations.

Maintenance Facility

The Green Line Extension project requires a layover/maintenance facility with four storage tracks (providing storage capacity for approximately 80 Green Line vehicles), an employee parking lot (for approximately 100 automobiles), and equipment for Green Line vehicle maintenance. A support facility building is also required, including maintenance bays, a storage room, loading docks, administrative offices, and employee facilities. The FEIR will document MassDOT's preferred location for this facility.

Thanks for Your Participation

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment drew a great deal of attention when it was released in October 2009. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs received more than 400 individual comment letters — with more than 3,000 individual comments. The stack of letters measures 5 1/4 inches high! Comments came from abutters; elected officials; business owners; regional agencies; environmental, bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups; neighborhood organizations; groups representing people with disabilities and environmental justice populations, and from many other interested individuals. Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles noted that while expansion of any light rail service through an urban area is a challenging task and prompted a variety of views, “comment letters generally expressed overall support” for the project. Thank you for your interest. The FEIR will respond to your ideas and questions.

The full January 15, 2010 DEIR Certificate can be viewed on the project website at www.mass.gov/greenlineextension.

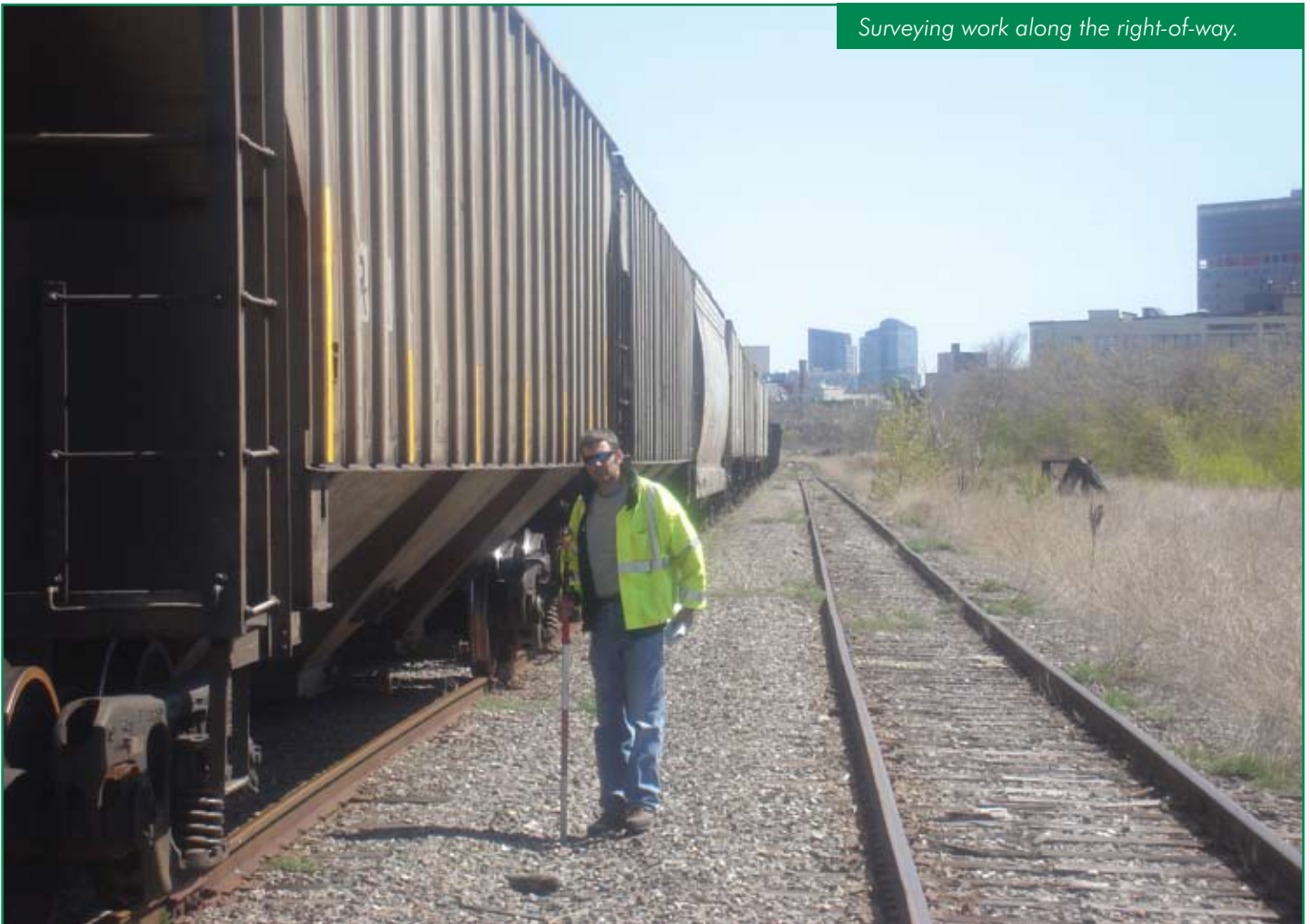
Want more information?

**Check out our project website,
mass.gov/greenlineextension**

The Green Line Extension website has a wealth of project information for anyone wanting to catch up on progress to date.

For additional project information, please contact:

Katherine Fichter
617-973-7342 or
katherine.fichter@state.ma.us



Surveying work along the right-of-way.