

SOMERVILLE/STATESIDE

An e.newsletter from State Representative Denise Provost

Vol. 5, No. 7

September 22, 2010

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**A. Important! Email Address Change**

**B. Big Projects Moving Forward - Public Input Sought**

1.) Green Line Extension

- a. Delay?
- b. Mitigation?
- c. Speak Up!

2.) Another Step at Assembly Square

**C. Opportunities for Young People**

- 1.) Young Writers for Books of Hope
- 2.) Bilingual High School Students
- 3.) WSCC Citizenship in Action Contest

**D. Employment**

- 1.) ¿Oiste? Position
- 2.) TURI position

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**A. Important! Email Address Change**

The Information Services Department at the State House recently changed our computer system. Although my existing State House email address apparently will work for some time, I have a new State House email address:

[denise.provost@MAHouse.gov](mailto:denise.provost@MAHouse.gov)

Please make note of it, as I don't know how much longer the old address will be in service. Most importantly, the system change wiped

out my collection of your email address. So, please send me mail, and allow me to re-establish these connections.

Communications of a more personal nature should be directed to:  
[denise.provost@verizon.net](mailto:denise.provost@verizon.net).

## **B. Big Projects Moving Forward - Public Input Sought**

### **1.) Green Line Extension**

#### **a) Delay?**

On September 7, 2010, I attended the annual meeting at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review the progress made by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) on the State Implementation Plan (SIP) projects. The Plan comprises transportation improvements legally mandated under the Federal Clean Air Act. The biggest such project is the Green Line Extension (GLX).

There have been positive developments in the long saga of the GLX. Most recently, we learned of movement of the maintenance facility away from Brickbottom. Less favorable news, however, has been announced by MassDOT at regular intervals.

Most recently, there have been two announcements of project delay. The first was ten months lost, due to MassDOT's late filing of the FEIR for the project. This slippage occurred after MassDOT planner David Mohler told DEP in September of 2009 that the GLX project was on schedule.

Just before this year's DEP hearing, MassDOT declined to extend its design contract for the GLX, and will re-bid that project instead. David Mohler told DEP that this process would cost the project "three months." He had previously told the MassDOT board that the consequent delay would be from three months to a year - all of which sounds like it's adding up to a late 2016 completion.

#### **b) Mitigation? What kind?**

David Mohler says that it is MassDOT's "goal" to get the GLX "back on schedule." Yet the project, delayed already, may be delayed further. MassDOT should be providing "mitigation" - the concrete steps to improve air quality - for the delay.

Disturbingly, MassDOT has not yet formally petitioned DEP to delay the project, as it is obligated to do. Nor has it stated its intentions respecting what forms of mitigation it plans to offer. MassDOT has stated that it does not intend to take either of these steps until January of 2011.

### **c) Speak Up!**

The affected public has a voice in this process, however. There will be a second hearing at DEP from 4-6 on Thursday, September 30. Written comment will be accepted until 5pm on Friday, October 1. Many in Somerville will be advocating for complete design and construction of the Community Path as the best and most logical mitigation for the GLX project delay - we can all have our say.

### **2.) Another Step at Assembly Square**

MassDEP held its hearing on the Chapter 91 License for Assembly Square on September 13, 2010, and presented plans which are thoughtful, though not yet evolved to a particularly deep level of detail. To see the contents of the application, click here:

<http://www.assemblysquare.com/mixed-use.html>

### **3.) Mystic River Master Plan**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has released its Mystic River Master Plan. The plan provides a long-term framework for restoring and preserving areas along the river, protecting natural resources and wildlife habitats, and determining the areas most suitable and desirable for recreation, education, and preservation. To see the plan, click here:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/pe/MysticRiverMasterPlann-Final.11-09.pdf>

## **C. Opportunities for Young People**

### **1.) Young Writers for Books of Hope**

Books of Hope (BOH) opens its 11<sup>th</sup> season of providing Creative Writing Workshops, Academic Support, Performances, Events, and Publishing and Entrepreneurial Training on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave, Somerville.

Books of Hope is a free literacy empowerment program for youth ages 13-23, offering three levels of programming to serve youth based upon interest, age and experience. Participants will go new places, meet inspiring artists, and explore creative ideas. They will focus on publishing a book and performing at community events. Youth who

successfully complete the program receive a stipend and opportunity to earn more dollars through book sales.

Program meets on Mondays 6-9 pm and Thursdays 3-6 pm. Field trips are held on alternate Thursday nights 6-9 pm. For high school juniors and seniors college visits will also be held during the fall. For more information, please contact Soul Brown, at: [griothouse@aol.com](mailto:griothouse@aol.com).

## **2.) WSCC Citizenship in Action Contest**

As a member of the Massachusetts Women's Legislative Caucus, I am privileged to participate in the Women's Suffrage Celebration Committee (WSCC) spearheaded by Attorney General Martha Coakley to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

In observance of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote, junior and senior high school students from across Massachusetts are being invited compete in a **Citizenship in Action** contest by submitting either a 400-600 word essay, a digital video under 3 minutes in length or a poster up to 22"x28" in size. The application form is attached.

Attorney General Martha Coakley's office has requested that members:

- (1) Post info on the WSCC and this contest on your website
- (2) Link to our website [www.mass.gov/ago/womensequality](http://www.mass.gov/ago/womensequality)
- (3) Forward the attached contest information to your email list(s) as appropriate
- (4) Include info on the WSCC and this contest in your e-newsletter, etc.
- (5) Send a follow-up notification to your school districts about the contest

## **D. Employment**

### **1.) ¿Oiste? Position**

### **2.) TURI position**

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell has an immediate opening for a Training Program Manager. We are seeking a highly motivated and creative person to develop and deliver courses and workshops that help Massachusetts companies reduce their use of toxic chemicals. Make a difference by lending your expertise and new ideas to environmental health and safety managers throughout the state.

Our ideal candidate would be an education and training professional with experience in pollution prevention and/or toxics use reduction who has worked in industries that use toxic chemicals, been engaged in energy and water conservation projects or who are familiar with environmental management systems. The position will involve management and development of content, materials, budgets and contracted trainers. Because we are part of the University of Massachusetts, experience teaching in a higher education environment is considered a plus

[Click here to see more at the official posting](#), and please tell your friends!