

# **South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee**

Meeting minutes - final  
Acton Town Hall, Room 204  
27 September, 2012

## **South Acton Train Station Construction -- Public Information Session**

### **Committee Members Present:**

- David Martin, SATSAC Chair
- Clare Siska, SATSAC Co-chair / Clerk
- Sean Hanley
- Pat Clifford
- Tom Campbell
- Michaela Moran

### **Panel Members:**

- Paul Hadley, MBTA Project Manager
- Philip Brake, HNTB Lead Engineer
- Jonathan Bruneau, Jacobs Engineering
- Steve Frick, McCourt Construction
- Jack Connors, MBCR
- Joe Nolan, Director, Public Outreach, City Point Partners LLC
- Michael Baskin – Lazano, Baskin & Associates, Architects
- Corey York, Director of Public Works & Town Engineer
- John Sonner, Selectman & SATSAC liason to BoS

### **Guests:**

- Senator Jamie Eldridge
- Town residents and commuters

**Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.**

### **1. Introduction**

- Mr. Martin introduced the members of SATSAC
- Mr. Martin gave a brief history of the South Acton Station design process and acknowledged public officials, committee members, and the public for their participation and support.
- Mr. Nolan introduced the panel

### **2. Fitchburg Line Project Overview**

- Mr. Nolan gave a presentation of the overall Fitchburg Line Project, including South Acton station construction phases and impact.
- Expect builder's notice to proceed in November.

### 3. Public Concerns, Q & A

- **Temporary Platform**
  - Timing of the removal
  - Safety issues around the narrowness + fencing which restricts movement; permanent structure & platform dimensions
    - Temporary platform is removed after the inbound platform and bridge structure are in place. Removal of the temporary platform allows for the second track to be completed. Refer to project phases presented.
    - 6 ft width of temporary platform is standard along the system; fencing prevents falls. MBTA and MBCR will review current setup and consider adjustments.
  
- **Crossings & Second Track construction**
  - Where will the second track be located and how does that relate to the current new track?
  - When will the crossings be installed? How will communications and rerouting of traffic be handled?
  - Why the island on rte111?
  - Detail about the whistle ban
  - Can we alert businesses in West Acton before we do the crossings there?
    - The track recently laid is the inbound track. Currently / temporarily it hooks up to what will be the outbound track, around the area of the Rt. 27 bridge. When the new outbound track is laid, the track near Rt 27 will be cut and realigned.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> track work involves several elements in addition to track work, including intricate signal systems which take 18 – 24 months to design. Work is complete in phases and multiple locations and the dots are connected over time. It is proceeding, even if it doesn't look that way!
    - Central and Martin Street crossings to be installed Spring, 2014. Mass Ave (West Acton) will be Spring 2013. Work is typically 2 – 5 days, depending on complexity: Friday + a weekend + sometimes Monday, Tuesday. Mass Ave will be more complicated; Arlington Street less.
    - Joe Nolan's role is community outreach and communications. Notice will be made a couple weeks ahead of time. Objective is to inform as many people as possible, and more, through Police, Acton Patch, Beacon, messageboards, SATSAC website; Joe Nolan's email list (anyone can request to be added by contacting [jnolan@citypointpartners.com](mailto:jnolan@citypointpartners.com). MBTA will reach out to Police Dept to ask advice on detours, etc. re: emergency response planning and will work with SATSAC for any additional advice on notifications. Send any suggestions or requests to Joe Nolan.
    - The town is putting it in the island. For Mass Ave, its high traffic called for the divider for safety; an island is not needed on a smaller streets like Martin. Such safety mitigation efforts help retain the quiet zone. We apply for recertification every 2 years, and the numbers we need to meet are a moving target. Improvements anywhere in town count towards the town's overall score. The MBTA is not doing anything to negatively (or positively) impact the quiet zones.
  
- **Neighborhood issues**
  - Truck Traffic, speeding
  - Repaving possibilities
  - Noise issues with idling trains (turning off aux power)
  - Construction fencing?

- Any traffic, truck complaints please contact Joe Nolan or Jack. Connors. Provide license plate if possible..
  - Highway Dept. looks at roads when construction is done and will reassess it for any damage and repaving needs.
  - Trains are now idling further west than they did before, at temporary platform. Weekend work will not continue past September. Powering down trains will meet with resistance from MBTA Operations issue. They will not want to shut anything on the train down for fear it won't start up again. When project is complete, trains will be stopping further east, closer to Rt. 27. Eventually, long-term idling and train turning will be at Littleton.
  - Safety fencing will be put in place. No plans for fence screening, but could be considered.
- **Building Questions**
    - Will the new station have ticket machines?
    - Do the platforms have access at the ends?
    - Provide more detail about the architecture of the building (shelters, width of the platforms, stairs...)
    - Permanent platform width typically 12 feet wide, 800 feet long; 2 canopies – spanning the width of the platform -- on each of the platforms. The headhouses provide approximately 100 feet of canopy cover along with sheltered areas inside the headhouses themselves, and the bridge. Stair widths are approximately 8 feet. There are multiple exits off of the outbound platform. A canopy on the railroad street side covers the pedestrian ramp. (Full details in the plans posted on the SATSAC website). A sloped walkway on the west end of the inbound platform is for emergency egress only.
    - Headhouses include conduit/infrastructure for ticket vending machines in the future, but still years away.
- **Other Questions**
    - What is the impact on the condos?
      - Railroad Street will always be open. The project is working within MBTA and town property lines. Residents encouraged to contact Joe Nolan with questions or concerns.
    - Status of the Littleton station acting as a turn around
      - All of the tracking and signaling has to be in place, as well as a functional Littleton Station – 2015-16? After the infrastructure is in place, it is an Operational task to set the schedule. Anticipate that the Express train will continue to stop in South Acton..
    - East side access during construction? What about access?
      - Managing this will be a challenge; they are still working these issues out. People must be kept out of construction area for safety. There will be a period when commuters may need to take “the long way around,” although there will always be foot traffic from the main parking lot to the platform – current temporary platform or south side platform (via stairs/bridge/elevator).
    - Main parking lot takeover? When, how long?
      - Refer to the schedule. As little as possible parking will be displaced, but could be up to 1/3 of lot. Contractor is responsible for alternate accommodations. MBTA plans to coordinate with town re: shuttle services to/from offsite parking, to replace lot spaces lost to construction staging.

- Who is responsible for snow removal of the platforms and walkways during construction?
  - Responsibilities remain the same as always – MBCR and town will coordinate.
- Will the crews work a single shift or a double shift?
  - Single, 9 – 5 shift is planned/preferred, M-F, with as little weekend work as possible.

## 5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clare Siska

*Links:*

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/satsac> is the SATSAC page.

<http://www.littletonma.org/content/49/3594/5590/default.aspx> is Littleton's MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Committee.

[http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/t\\_projects/default.asp?id=15585](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585) is the MBTA site about the project.

<http://groups.google.com/group/South-Acton-Rail-Chat?lnk=srg&hl=en> – South Acton Rail Chat