

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

Date, Time & Place: November 5, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center, 2nd floor Kitchen Classroom

Attendance

Committee Members

John Attanucci, Kelley Brown, Brian Dacey, Charles Fineman, Jim Gascoigne, Eric Hoke, Doug Manz, George Metzger, Katherine Rafferty, Simon Shapiro, Saul Tannenbaum, Ritesh Warade

City of Cambridge

Adam Shulman (Traffic, Parking and Transportation); Tegin Teich Bennett, Susanne Rasmussen, Jennifer Lawrence, and Cleo Stoughton (Community Development Department)

1 member of the public was present.

Committee Introductions and Approve Minutes

Attachment: Draft October minutes

Committee Updates

- Kendall Square Mobility Task Force RFR released
Tegin informed the Committee that MassDOT had released an RFR to form a Kendall Square Transportation Task Force to identify short-, medium-, and long-term projects and policy initiatives to improve transportation in Kendall Square.
- BRT Study Group meeting October 17, 2014
Tegin updated the Committee on the progress of a study group to look at the feasibility of implementing BRT in Boston.
- Updates on MBTA coordination: Transit Service Analysis, EV technology
The City has been discussing the progress of implementing bus priority treatments at a couple locations in Boston and has asked for information on their effectiveness. The MBTA is interested in piloting electric vehicle technology and the City is working with them to help identify possible funding sources.
- Pearl Street Reconnection and Dana Park Hubway solicitation for input
The City is seeking input on the Pearl Street Reconstruction project. More information can be found here:
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/cityprojects/2014/pearlstreetreconstruction.aspx>.
The City is seeking input on options for the long-term location of the Dana Park Hubway station. More information can be found here:
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Transportation/gettingaroundcambridge/bikeshare/danaparkhubwaystation.aspx>
- Bridj agreement with City
The Committee discussed concern over the impact of Bridj's use of MBTA bus stops on MBTA bus service. The City has approved a six-month pilot program for Bridj. More information can be found here: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/Bridj.pdf
- West Station presentation and Environmental Notification Form (ENF)
There is an opportunity to provide feedback on the ENF for the proposed West Station in Allston. More information can be found here:
<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/HighlightedProjects/AllstonI90InterchangeImprovementProject.aspx>

Central Square Bus Circulation and Access Study Task 2: Issues List

Attachment: Draft Issues List

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed. Committee members were encouraged to provide comments after the meeting by email.

Summary of Healthy Aging and Public Transportation reports (related to Goal 5: Improve Usability, Accessibility, and Safety)

Attachment: Healthy Aging and Public Transportation, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

Partnering with the Council on Aging, the Community Development Department conducted a series of community meetings with seniors focusing on “usability, mobility, and accessibility” to transit. The goal of each meeting was to engage seniors in a discussion about their experiences with public transit, including challenges, barriers, and opportunities. Meeting facilitators recorded notes detailing the comments and generated a catalogue of transit and transit access issues for the City’s review and consideration. Following the meetings, the issues were organized into categories and, where possible, projects were identified.

Attachment: User/Expert Field Analysis of Public Transit in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Institute of Human Centered Design

IHCD’s team of designers met with ten seniors to conduct reviews of the major T stations and bus lines in Cambridge. Each senior was taken through one of three “trips” that had been created by IHCD based on data collected by the City of Cambridge. Each trip took two hours and was defined by a series of four actions that occurred several times in each trip: arrival at the bus or T station, waiting inside the bus stop or T station, boarding, and finally getting off of the bus or train. IHCD evaluated and broke its findings into five environments: the physical, informational, communication, attitudinal, and policy environments.

One issue identified by the Healthy Aging studies was a shortage of real-time transit information available to those who do not have smart phones. The City obtained funding to install TransitScreens in three locations to address this issue: the Citywide Senior Center, City Hall, and the main Cambridge Public Library. These are currently being installed and should be operational soon. Another issue identified by the study included difficulty in accessing fare card media. To address this issue, the City will also be coordinating Senior Charlie Card registration sessions at the Senior Center.

Discussion:

- More and more locations should be installing TransitScreens to provide real-time transit information. There should be sponsorship opportunities.
- TransitScreen licenses are for one year and will be renewed each year.
- Charlie Cards should be easy to obtain and convenient to use.

Draft Objectives for Transit Strategic Plan

Attachment: Draft Objectives

The City sought feedback from the Committee on a list of draft objectives for the Transit Strategic Plan.

Discussion:

- More emphasis needs to be put on improving Red Line capacity.
- The City should continue to review studies and designs (by MassDOT, the MBTA, and others) to ensure consistency with City goals and objectives.
- Allocation of roadway space to transit and other sustainable transportation modes should be emphasized.
- Emphasize goal of reducing travel times via transit and other sustainable transportation modes.
- Commuter Rail should be discussed in the objectives.

Potential Budget Items Prioritization Exercise

The City provided the Committee with a worksheet listing potential budget items for the next fiscal year and asked each member of the Committee to rank these items and suggest any additional items he/she felt were high priority. Worksheets were collected by the City and will help shape the City’s coming budget year request regarding transit.

Public Comment

- Ken Terrell spoke about extending the Blue Line to Lechmere (improving upon the Blue-Red Connector concept), as well as about West Station and the Grand Junction corridor.

Adjourned at 7:30pm