

Transit Strategic Plan Update

Wednesday, June 5,
2019

Transit Advisory
Committee

Progress on Transit Strategic Plan Update

Started

- Reviewed goals and objectives and progress report
- Identified TAC focus areas
- Work plan and template development

To do

- Discuss creating TAC subcommittees with high-level work plans
- Updated data analysis and graphics
- Formalize documentation

Reviewed Goals and Objectives, Progress Report

Reviewed in January and April

Suggestions for new goals and objectives

- Equity – race, gender, and income

Suggestions for process

- Regular progress updates – quarterly?
- TAC subcommittees focused on advancing particular interest
- City staff need tools and process to maintain focus on strategic plan items

Follow-up

- Workshop to identify focus areas – May 2019
- Development of work plans – Started

TAC Focus Areas

Reviewed Implementation Plan in May

Suggestions for new implementation plan ideas

- Revive First Street transit priority strategy
- Advocate for new bus facilities and BEB facilities
- Advocate for bus priority strategy on Route 2 ramps
- Multimodal bridges over Fitchburg Main Line

TAC interest areas

- Short-term action plan development
- Accountability and transparency for city projects
- Policy development for parking and development review
- Early engagement in service planning and infrastructure design

Legend: blue = new; yellow = update; bold = has TAC role

Implementation Item	Progress Updates & Notes	Possible or Next Steps
Policy development - TDM expansion, review, policy		Best practices review (may require engaging consultant, students, etc.)
Finance - 1-year term transit funding sources	Kendall Square Transportation Enhancement Program MOU was signed by all parties in June 2017	Best practices review (may require engaging consultant, students, etc.)
Advocacy and Coordination (7 items)		
Service expansion - Cosponsor overnight pilot	City formally co-sponsored a pilot proposal (NOT a financial commitment). MBTA made permanent the additional early morning service. And evaluating the additional late night service. In Cambridge this service was on Route 66 on working days and Saturdays.	
Bus priority - Coordinate with other stakeholders on delays that happen across boundaries, particularly on bridges across the Charles River	Coordination with Boston, MassDOT, DCR on Mass Ave. Coordination with MassDOT and DCR on "the box" of Memorial Drive, Soldiers Field Road, Western Ave, and River St. Coordination with DCR for Memorial Drive Phase III (BU Bridge, Rotary).	Advocate/coordinate with MBTA, DCR and MassDOT processes
Infrastructure - Advocate for two-track Grand Junction corridor transit service	KSMTF recommended both demand estimation and conceptual design for transit; Susanne Rasmussen (ETP, Director) participating in RailVision stakeholder group	Advocate with MassDOT/MBTA
Infrastructure - Advocate for best implementation of Red Line signaling system		Included in MBTA's Red/Orange Line Improvements Program
Infrastructure - Advocate for best		Included in MBTA's Red/Orange Line

TOPICS - stake shift, ...

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Implementation Item	Progress Updates & Notes	Possible or Next Steps
Bus priority - Mt Auburn St	Evaluation survey completed. Mt. Auburn St. Bus Priority project partners to complete evaluation of user survey, MBTA vehicle and passenger counter data.	TAC to draft letter on capital investments to enhance bus priority (also South Mass Ave)
Reconstruction - River Street	River Street infrastructure project has had one public meeting and several working group meetings. Currently in the concept development stage.	Engage in stakeholder process
Reconstruction - Inman Square	Inman Square concept released with peak-only queue-jump lane for Route 69 EB and floating bus stops. Home-rule petition passed statehouse and governor approvals. Early action work to start soon.	Continue to engage in public process.
Transit Expansion - Grand Junction Transit Conceptual Design	First working group meeting happened on April 30. Other public activities planned for the rest of the calendar year including several working group meetings and a couple public meetings.	Engage in stakeholder process
New, resources not yet identified - Requires new resources; funding strategy under development (5 items)		
Service - New service "CT4" and bus priority between North Station and Kendall Square	Developed a rough operating plan, cost estimates, and demand estimate for CT4 service.	Coordinate with major ongoing development projects as they progress (e.g. Volpe site) and the KSMTF process to identify opportunities for funding/implementation.
Infrastructure - Alewife	Rerouted buses all day onto Acorn Park Drive (APD) with an estimated significant time savings in peak (almost 2 minutes). CTPS completed a first-last mile study showing benefits for buses using APD and estimating benefits for a queue jump on the jug handle. MassDOT now considering in bus priority study.	Continue to coordinate with MassDOT on a newly-scoped study evaluating bus priority improvements on state-owned roadways With Alewife as early action.

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Bus Priority - Central Square (Mass. Ave.)	Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square is in the out years of DPW 5-year Streets and Sidewalks Plan. Currently expected to be a \$30 mil project for subsurface and surface construction.	Identify where capital investment required (e.g., bus stop ADA compliance)
Bus Priority - Routes 85/CT2	KSMTF included plan for stop consolidation, TSP, and other improvements	Identify where capital investment required (e.g., bus stop ADA compliance)
Service Expansion - Increase EZRide shuttle service	EZRide recently modified service and new, larger buses are in operation	Charles River TMA to determine opportunities for service expansion
Infrastructure - Alewife transit/bike-bridge (from the Quadrangle toward Cambridge Park Dr.)	Conceptual designs of bridge and commuter rail station have been completed using mitigation funds. Evison process includes Alewife improvements	Advance design based on developer contributions (no current mechanism to fund construction)
New, not yet started - Requires new resources; source to be determined (1 item)		
Transit wayfinding strategy	Central Square Bus Access and Circulation Study (2014) includes some routing and wayfinding recommendations. River Street scope has localized signage and wayfinding tasks to support in Central Square	Interim wayfinding improvements in Central Square (longer term process to follow)
Revisit - Ongoing, but needs new focus/energy (3 items)		
Street network - Paired one-way Vassar/Albany with bus priority	link to shp.	
Green Line Extension - bus service planning	MassDOT GLX team closed several major streets for railway bridge construction. GLX team also hosted a community meeting in Cambridge earlier this year.	Coordinate with MBTA on planning for bus stop at Lechmere and modified routings to Lechmere/Union

MITIGATION? MORE EZ RIDE

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Implementation Item	Progress Updates & Notes	Possible or Next Steps
Moving forward - Allocating resources, still needs momentum build (12 items)		
Develop ideas for Participatory Budgeting projects		TAC to prepare for 2020 cycle
Service - MBTA Better Bus Project	City submitted a comment letter during comment period. In April 2019, MBTA board approved all Cambridge proposals with no modifications.	Staff to coordinate with MBTA on implementation
Service / Amenities - Ames Street bus stops	MBTA and EZRide buses are now serving stops on Ames St. "Floating" stop implemented, JCD working on Ames @ Broadway shelter installation.	Work with MBTA to evaluate impact of rerouting CT2 (timeline not set)
Amenities - Real-time transit displays	Evaluation completed developing framework for procurement of signage	Participatory Budgeting "Solar-Powered Real-Time Bus Tracker Displays" project to be implemented in FY19
Bus priority - transit signal priority	TPT in the process of evaluating connected vehicle/cloud based platform.	TP&T to acquire software and hardware required for centralized transit signal priority systems.
Bus priority - Mass Ave at Arlington line	Arlington will be implementing a permanent version of their BostonBRT pilot project.	
Bus priority - Mass Ave north, including Porter	Tested bus priority lane from Rindge to Walden IB/OB and Exeter Park to Somerville Ave (OB) during PARKING Day.	Follow and participate in Porter Sq. improvements project.
Bus priority - South Mass Ave	Implemented South Mass Ave Corridor Safety project from Lafayette Square to Memorial Drive with separated bike lanes and bus lanes.	Evaluation ongoing and will discuss with TAC

Policy Policy Policy

Participate in MBTA climate vulnerability assessment and advocate to prioritize Cambridge infrastructure as appropriate	City has met with MBTA and advocated for including Red Line in early assessment. MBTA has some projects in Red/Orange Line improvements to address portal from Longfellow Bridge to Main St. subway.	Included in MBTA's CIP, City to follow up and track
Fares - MASCO/EZRide access	MASCO LMA Shuttle M2 tickets now available at City Hall for purchase	Coordinate with AFC2.0 rollout (expected 2020)
Policy - Improve regulations for bus stops and bus facilities	City is updating regulations to better define bus lane and bus stop use	Advocate with MassDOT
Policy - Reform parking minimums		Advocate with City

NEW IDEAS ↓

- Revive 1st St. TSP Bus Priority Battery electric Buses? on trolley routes ✓
- Short term action on Alewife - Rt 2 slip ramp. + improve facilities
- Bridge To: Jefferson Park / North Cambridge - work w/ community

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May 2019 Prioritization Exercise

- Used current implementation plan
- Preference survey using colored dots
- Brainstorm of new implementation plan ideas

Examples of TAC interest areas

Short-term action plan development

- Bus priority on Alewife-area Route 2 ramps
- Watertown bus maintenance/storage facility

Accountability and transparency for city projects

- Follow-up bus priority improvements to SMACSI project
- Realtime bus signage development
- Grand Junction transit conceptual design

Policy development for parking and development review

- Transportation demand management ordinance review and expansion
- Parking policy review

Early engagement in service planning and infrastructure design

- Green Line Extension temporary diversions and final bus routings
- Mass Ave in Central Square

Work plan template and work plan

TAC desire for project-by-project work plans

City staff asked consultants to develop work plan templates and populate several initial work plans this fiscal year

- One initial work plan is “CT4” service

Follow-up

- Consultants to create template
- City staff to bring template to next TAC meeting
- TAC to provide feedback, comments



Discussion: How to address TAC interest areas?

- One method: subcommittees
 - Identify advisory committee organizer/leader, city staff to support
 - Meet outside of regular meeting times
 - Define interest area
 - Make a work plan
- What could change at TAC regular meetings?
 - Regular agendas have time devoted to report/discussion on subcommittee work
 - Spend most time on local initiatives and planning
- Other methods?

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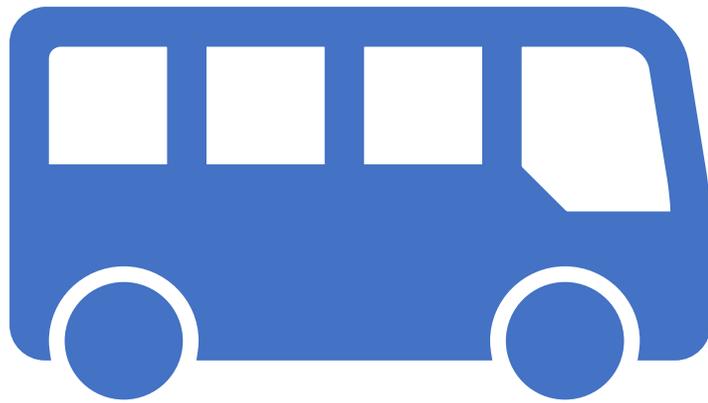
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Staff: Update text, data analysis and graphics



- Cambridge Transit Service Analysis
 - 2014 and 2018
 - 2018: Highlighted segments of concern
- Cambridge Better Bus Outreach Initiative
 - 2018 – Community outreach effort
- Quick-build and transit operations improvements
 - Mount Auburn Bus Priority Pilot Project
 - South Mass Ave Corridor Safety Improvements Project
 - Transit Signal Priority - Connected-vehicle cloud-based and center-to-center
- Updated MBTA ridership data

Interrelated plans and documents

