

# Transit Advisory Committee

## May 2021

### Abbreviated meeting summary

#### Attendance

**Members**                    **Present** (9) John Attanucci (Chair), Mathew Coogan, Jim Gascoigne, Jackie Jones, Kristiana Lachiusa, Bill McAvinney, Sylvia Parsons, Katherine Rafferty, Arthur Strang, Alexander Taylor, Saul Tannenbaum

**Absent** (8) Joseph Beggan, Kelly Brown, Devin Chausse, Margaret McKenna, Robert Ricchi, Melissa Zampitella

**City staff** (2)                Andrew Reker (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT)

**Others** (6)                 Doug Johnson (MassDOT); Olivia Mobayed (MBTA); 4 members of the public

**Note:**    CDD = Community Development Department; TPT = Traffic Parking and Transportation Department; MassDOT = Massachusetts Department of Transportation; MBTA = Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

#### Welcome and committee introductions

Andy Reker (AR) began the virtual meeting at 5:32 PM by welcoming members of the TAC, members of the public and presenters. AR gave a tour of the virtual space for people joining by application and telephone and shared some ground rules for virtual meeting participation. AR then welcomed the members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and public and conducted a roll call – 9 members were present, 8 were absent.

#### Presentation: Silver Line Extension

AR introduced Doug Johnson (DJ) who is the project manager for the Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis project. DJ presented a slideshow that included the following information:

- Project purpose and need statements
- Study area, project schedule, and the evaluation framework
- Review of potential alignments within the study area, including
  - Broadway in Everett
  - Revere Beach Parkway (Route 16)
  - McGrath-O'Brien Highway (Route 28)
  - Washington Street in Somerville
  - Rutherford Avenue in Boston
  - Gilmore Bridge between Charlestown, Boston and North Point, Cambridge
  - Land Boulevard
  - Inner Belt Road
- Next steps including online feedback opportunities and a public meeting

Members of the TAC had the following comments and questions:

- Wondering why the study ends at Kendall station? *This study is scoped to study improving mobility from Chelsea and Everett to Kendall or Boston. The Bus Network Redesign would be the best venue to address ideas from Kendall and beyond.*
- I think that the concept which includes both the current CT2 and the future CT4 looks best. *Thanks.*
- Could you share more of the existing conditions? *We'll share the full maps in the near future.*
- I have a concern that improving transit in this way may result in displacement. *Thanks. We are studying options that minimize the possibility of displacement.*

## Presentation: Community Engagement

The next item was a presentation from Kristiana Lachiusa, TAC member representing LivableStreets. Kristiana presented a slideshow that included the following:

- A prompt asking people to recall a time where the conversation at a community meeting resulted in a lot of frustration
- Inviting people to think about the make-up of the community meeting and to think about ways to engage people directly, outside a formal meeting
- Introducing LivableStreets Alliance's engagement tactics for real-time, direct engagement as an "anti-meeting"

Members of the TAC had the following suggestions for places to engage with people:

- Neighborhood associations: Cambridgeport has one
- Library has spaces for communicating and leaving messages and information
- Public television is also available on 98/99 CCTV
- Alex: Biotech commuters - at the office
- Bus drivers - in conversation

## Presentation: City and MBTA updates

The next item was a review of the various updates on City and MBTA projects. The MBTA staff in the meeting acknowledged that they received the TAC's letter about the Route 47 and are drafting a response.

AR presented updates on the MBTA Forging Ahead, Green Line Extension, and "Building Back" construction initiatives. AR also presented some updates on City projects.

## Public comment

A member of the public made the following comments:

- Concern about the lack of specifics in the MBTA Forging Ahead process, including the lack of information about routes which are seeing decreased service
- Continued concern about the pavement condition at Inman Square resulting in uncomfortable and unsafe conditions for bus riders
- Concern about the lack of maintenance for the Harvard Square MBTA station

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM

## Version Information

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Approval: 10/6/21 Unanimously with 9 votes