

Green Street Bus Stop Public Meeting

June 30, 2016, 6-7 PM, Central Square Public Library, Lewis Room

Meeting notes

City of Cambridge Community Development (CDD) and Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Departments were represented. Three members of the public attended. A representative from the MBTA was also in attendance.

Tegin Bennett (CDD) gave a brief overview of the City's goal of increasing our transit system's usability, accessibility, and safety, and past and ongoing efforts to improve conditions at bus stops. She described the proposed construction of a curb extension at the bus stop on Green Street at Pearl Street to widen the sidewalk, providing additional space for bus users and pedestrians passing by. This would also make it possible to install a bench or shelter. Curb extensions also make pedestrians crossing the street more visible to drivers.

The City proposes shifting parking on the block of Green Street between Pearl Street and Brookline Street to the north side of the street in order to minimize the impact on parking. This change would result in the loss of about one parking space. If parking remains on the south side of the street, at least three parking spaces would be lost. Additionally, parking should be located on the same side of the street as the curb extension for safety reasons.

After the presentation, time was given to the public for comments and questions. The following topics were addressed:

- This project does not involve changes to lighting, although if a shelter was installed, it may include additional lighting.
- The City and MBTA would not support eliminating this stop entirely. This stop relieves congestion and crowding at the downstream bus stop, Green St at Magazine St, and some bus users seem to prefer to board and alight at Pearl St (potentially to access different points in Central Square).
- Funding has been identified for the construction of the curb extension only. If a shelter is to be installed, additional funding will need to be identified.
- A member of the public proposed adding to the list of Participatory Budgeting ideas the purchase and installation of a bus shelter at this stop.
- Real-time transit information was requested. In parallel with this project, the City is working to identify appropriate solar-powered signage to post at bus stops.
- A shelter, if installed, would need to be placed at the back of the sidewalk rather than closer to the curb in order to meet accessibility codes.