

MBTA Project Subcommittee Meeting March 2023

Attendees

Peter Septoff, Devin Chausse, Carl Rothenhaus

Our committee discussed two action items that were agreed upon during the previous TAC meeting.

Project 1 Advocacy letter re: decision-making transparency

Writing a letter to the MBTA about the historical lack of transparency and the continuation and broadening of the MBTA's transparency initiative. This letter would cover topics such as more information and transparency about the MBTA's progress and methodology of completing the FTA directives, and eliminating slow zones.

1. Concrete next steps: 1) Peter will draft a letter and disseminate it to the subcommittee 2) subcommittee will discuss edits to the draft at a meeting TBD (but not at the Central Square meeting).
2. Timeline: Step 1 before April Subcommittee meeting, step 2 will be determined by subcommittee once step 1 is completed. Deadline to send to MBTA/City – May/June
3. Next Meeting: TBD based on completion of step 1 (again, this won't be discussed at Central Square meeting)

Project 2 Station upkeep survey

1. Concrete next steps:
 - 1) Carl will ask Andy about checklists that the City or MBTA uses to keep track of the upkeep of stations, such as: Do the elevators work? Are all the fare machines running? Are all the light fixtures working? is any glass smashed, etc.
 - 2) Carl will take this checklist that Andy sends and combine it with other items that the TAC has drafted during the March Subcommittee meeting to create a TAC Station Conditions Survey Checklist. This checklist will be disseminated to the members for use at
 - 3) April 20th at 5:30pm the subcommittee will meet as group Central Square Station, each member will take a copy of the checklist and observe the station and give each item a score. These scores will then be
 - 4) compiled and averaged to create an overall Station Quality Score that will be used to compare between Cambridge Stations.
 - 5) In addition to scoring the committee will get testimony from members of the public who attend the meeting/attend the meeting by accident simply because they were travelling through Central Square at that time, to ask them what they think are the main issues with the station. This would supplement the scoring system by providing concrete reasons from the public to why the quality of the flooring is a 4 etc.
 - 6) steps 3-5 will be repeated at further rail and bus stations in Cambridge in an order determined by the subcommittee at the April 20th meeting.

2. Timeline: Step 1) Completing RIGHT NOW, Step 2) by April TAC meeting, Step 3-5) April 20th and after.
3. Next subcommittee meeting: April 20th 5:30PM At Central Square Station (Meetup point: Carl Barron Plaza)

City Project Subcommittee Meeting March 2023

Attendees

Adam Shulman, Bill McAvinney, Casey Berg, Makayla Comas, Maha Aslam

Adam summarized last months discussions about the three topic of interest for the City subcommittee to work on this year (Ride hailing impacts on transit, Housing and transit needs, and Mass Ave and Mass4 projects).

- Bill stated he think the Housing topic should also include Office since both housing and office development impact transit needs.
- The group discussed the links that were sent by Andy via email before the meeting on resources about each of the three topic groups.
- Bill discussed his analysis and findings from the City Development Log Dashboard. He stated that his key findings included:
 - Office and R&D development is about twice as much as housing development in the city.
 - Both office/R&D(Lab) uses and Housing development are predominantly located in the Alewife and Lechmere/Kendall Square areas of the city.
- There was a discussion on how many topics to work on for the year and which of the three topics may be most helpful to the city.
- A comments was made that since the city planners are tracking development and demographic data, the group may not need to focus on where housing and office development is occurring, therefore the focus of the group should be on Ride hailing impacts on transit and the Mass. Ave projects.
- Bill stated that one person on the city subcommittee should be on the city's MassAve4 working group to advocate for transit needs/
- Adam said he would look into the status of the MassAve4 project from DPW. One idea could also be to have the Project Manager talk about the project directly at a subcommittee meeting with a focus on how the project will impact transit.
- The group discussed how the ride hailing impacts on transit topic seems to rise to the major topic to work on, although it was noted that Kathleen Rafferty was not at the meeting and was the one that raised the Housing topic at the last meeting.
- The group reviewed some of the Ride hailing study links that were provided by Andy.
- The group decided that subcommittee members should review the information at their own pace. They also talked about sharing information on what they are

reviewing by sending an email to Adam/Andy who would forward it to other subcommittee members. This would allow people to not have to review information if someone else is reviewing it.

- The Next steps is for Subcommittee members to report what they learned at the next subcommittee meeting (date to be determined).
- There was a discussion about if the subcommittee should meet once a month outside the normal monthly TAC meeting. Nobody indicated they wanted to do that, but there was interest in using the monthly TAC meeting time for subcommittee meeting time and potential to conduct field research (such as observations at bus stops).