Camera Use Policy Discussion

Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee
September 7, 2016
General Principles

- Increasing use of cameras for “transportation-related” purposes creates need for a policy, rather than an outright prohibition
- Policy should be open and transparent
- Cameras should record/retain as little video data as possible
  - As much as possible, avoid capturing faces, license plates, or other identifying information
  - Retain video for as short a time as possible (including not retaining at all)
- Data should be “abstracted” as quickly as possible
Transportation-Related Use of Cameras

- Use of cameras for the purpose of planning, designing, managing, operating, and maintaining the City’s multimodal transportation network, including cars, buses, trucks, cyclists, pedestrians, and other transportation users and vehicles.

- Does not cover:
  - Cameras on private property (even if they include public right-of-way)
  - Attended cameras (news gathering, camera phones)
  - Use of cameras by law enforcement
Proposed Uses of Cameras

- **Data Collection**
  - Traffic impact studies
  - Permanent count stations

- **Traffic Signal Control**
  - Signal actuation
  - Adaptive traffic signals

- **Research**
  - Sensor technology
  - Observing user behavior
  - Others?
Outstanding Questions

- Access to data
- Notification
- Public records retention
- Indemnification
Questions/Comments