

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES

Date, Time & Place:  
January 4, 2017, 5:30-7:30  
MIT building E25, room 117

#### Attendance

##### *Committee Members*

John Attanucci, Joseph Beggan, Devin Chausse, Charlie Fineman, Robert Fitzgerald, Jim Gascoigne, Andrew McFarland, Katherine Rafferty, Robert Ricchi, Simon Shapiro, Arthur Strang, Saul Tannenbaum, and Alex Taylor

##### *City of Cambridge*

Tegin Bennett and Cleo Stoughton (Community Development); Adam Shulman (Traffic, Parking, and Transportation)

##### *Presenters, official entities, and members of the public*

Three members of the public were present. Philip Groth (MBTA) was present.

#### Committee Introductions, Administrative Business, and Updates

The November and December notes were approved. The committee reviewed the draft letter addressed to the Planning Board regarding the Mass+Main project distributed prior to the meeting. The committee debated whether to recommend that the developer provide larger MBTA pass subsidies and/or for a longer period of time, as well as whether to recommend that fully subsidized MBTA passes be distributed to future Mass+Main residents with incomes below a certain level. The committee decided to leave both recommendations out of this letter but may consider adding them to future letters. It was suggested to add that the ideas in the letter are aligned with the non-zoning recommendations of the Central Square Advisory Committee. With that addition, all committee members voted to approve the letter, with the exception that Joseph Beggan and Andrew McFarland abstained.

#### Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

#### Preparation for Review of the Five Year Plan

Committee members reviewed transit ideas and recommendations and discussed how they can be incorporated into the Department of Public Works' Five Year Plan for Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction.

##### *Discussion:*

- The committee discussed which streets on the current five year plan have bus routes on them.
- There was discussion about which kinds of projects are included in the five year plan. For example, some pilot projects (e.g., the pilot protected bike lanes implemented in December 2016) are not part of the five year plan, resulting from other processes instead.
- The committee talked about barriers, such as bulb-outs and parking lanes, to implementing transit priority treatments (e.g., queue jumps) and how to ensure future projects don't preclude bus priority.
- The five year plan takes into account other ongoing projects and programs; for example, it should be informed by the Vision Zero Action Plan once that plan is developed.
- The committee asked for more information about how the plan shifts over time and what kinds of input cause streets to drop off or be included in the plan each year.
- The five year plan needs to be able to take into account future changes in bus routings.
- The committee would like to see the portion of Mt Auburn St where a bus only lane would be most effective (between Brattle St. and Fresh Pond Parkway) included in the five year plan. Similarly, there is a need for better transit service around Alewife. There are also bus routing recommendations and desire for bus priority in Central Square.
- John Attanucci is working on a list of priority transit projects at the state and city level and would like to put together a subcommittee to discuss with the city manager.

## Real-Time Transit Info Displays

City staff summarized the options for piloting real-time displays at bus shelters. Staff presented the pros and cons of two display technologies: LED and E Ink.

### *Discussion:*

- The committee stressed that displays should be easily identifiable, from a distance, as hosting real-time transit information (e.g., with a “T” sticker near the display).
- The committee wondered whether the displays could be made without branding from the company producing them.
- The committee agreed that providing wayfinding information near the screen would be useful.
- In December 2016, the city installed a pilot Soofa Sign in Porter Square. The city plans to affix information above and/or below the screen and on the back of the screen to provide wayfinding information and highlight that the screen displays real-time transit information.

## Final Public Comment

There were no further comments.

## Announcements, Events, and Updates

- *Kendall Square Mobility Task Force:* The next task force meeting will be held January 24.
- *DCR Mt Auburn St Corridor Study:* The next meeting will be held on January 31.
- *MBTA overnight service survey:* There will be a presentation with the survey results made to the FMCB at the end of January. The city manager will be sending a modified version of the letter the TAC drafted to the FMCB, Secretary of Transportation, and others.
- *Green Line Extension:* John Dalton has been hired as the project manager and the MBTA is in the process of hiring others for the project team.
- In December, MBTA buses officially began using Acorn Park Drive and the bus stop on Broadway at Galileo Galilei Way heading to Kendall Square was shifted farside.
- There will be a public meeting to discuss design options for Inman Square this month.
- The city is in the process of selecting volunteers for the Envision Cambridge Working Groups, including the mobility group.

*Adjourned at 7:30 pm*