

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES

Date, Time & Place:  
March 1, 2017, 5:30-7:30  
MIT building E25, room 117

## Attendance

### *Committee Members*

John Attanucci, Joseph Beggan, Kelley Brown, Devin Chausse, Karen Dumaine, Charlie Fineman, Robert Fitzgerald, Jim Gascoigne, Andrew McFarland, Katherine Rafferty, Robert Ricchi, Simon Shapiro, 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*

Two members of the public were present.

## Committee Introductions, Administrative Business, and Updates

The January and February notes were approved.

## Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

## Kendall Square Mobility Task Force

Staff gave an overview of materials presented at the February 28 KSMTF public meeting and the committee discussed and provided feedback.

### *Discussion:*

- Committee members and staff discussed plans to upgrade the north headhouse at the Kendall/MIT station.
- Bus routing draft recommendations were discussed further. Routes 70 and 70A: proposed changes on the western end of the route were noted, and an alternate routing into Kendall was discussed (using Vassar St. instead of Main St.). An alternate routing for the Masco M2 was discussed. It was suggested the proposed CT4 stop at Yawkey station.
- Grand Junction: Committee members asked how many stations there would be and where they would be located, as well as what the termini would be.
- The committee agreed that additional (and more useful—e.g., peak vs. off-peak) data from Lyft, Uber, and other ride-hailing and taxi companies is desired.

## Development Project Review

The committee discussed a draft letter to the Planning Board regarding the 211 Concord Turnpike project. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

### *Discussion:*

- This project will have a second hearing—likely in April. The committee has not yet submitted a letter regarding this project, but members Alex Taylor and John Attanucci submitted comments as private citizens before the initial hearing.
- The committee discussed the tradeoffs between asking developers for a one-time subsidy (e.g., to fund a study) vs. an ongoing subsidy (e.g., for MBTA passes for residents).
- The committee discussed MBTA pass subsidies further. There is not yet a consensus about how much of a subsidy and for what period of time a developer such as this one should be providing to residents. It's an open question whether the developer can provide a higher subsidy to residents of affordable units. Committee members generally felt that city staff should ask for more from developers. In general, the committee asked for more information from city staff when discussing development projects like this one. It was requested the city research—or work with a consultant, university research group, etc., to research—the behavioral economics around pass subsidies and policies other peer cities use, among other topics.
- The committee elected to not send an official letter as a committee; rather, to discuss these and other topics in more detail at a future date. The next project to come before the Planning Board will likely be the 55 Wheeler St. project.

### Implementation Plan Check-In

Staff gave an update on the drafting of an implementation plan building off of the 2015 Transit Strategic Plan and committee input.

### Final Public Comment

There were no further comments.

### Announcements, Events, and Updates

- *Cambridge Street*: The city is beginning outreach around a pilot parking-protected bike lane on Cambridge Street between Inman Square and Quincy Street. The pilot will be implemented using temporary materials (rather than permanent construction). Data collection will be completed this spring, with implementation likely occurring in June. At the end of March, a stakeholder group will begin meeting, and staff are asking for a volunteer from the Transit Committee to serve on the stakeholder group. Among other important topics is the discussion of how bus stops should be treated in the context of this particular implementation of a parking-protected bike lane.
- *Envision Cambridge*: Ideas are being solicited for tactical urbanism type projects, and city staff are looking into whether at least one of these projects to have a transit focus.
- *MassDOT Capital Investment Plan*: City staff have submitted comments on the draft CIP, which are similar to comments reviewed by the Transit Committee previously.

*Adjourned at 7:30 pm*