

City of Cambridge

Transit Advisory Committee

Abbreviated Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 5, 2019

Arts/Crafts Classroom, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue

Attendance (19 people)

Members (7) John Attanucci (Chair); Devin Chausse; Kristiana Lachiusa; Katherine Rafferty; Rob Ricchi; Arthur Strang; Alexander Taylor

City Staff (2) Tegin Teich, Andrew Reker (CDD);

Others (10) 10 members of the public

This meeting of the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) began at approximately 5:30 PM. Tegin Teich (TT) introduced the meeting agenda and started self-introductions. Several members of the public introduced themselves as applicants to the Transit Advisory Committee.

Public comment

No members of the public made a comment.

Local Project Updates

TT presented the list of project updates that are queued up for today's meeting:

- River Street Reconstruction
- Transport Kendall, formerly known as Kendall Square Mobility Task Force
- Smaller updates for other projects

River Street

TT presented a list of upcoming public outreach events and activities and materials to promote these events and activities. TT presented updates from recent thinking about planning for bus operations in the Central Square area.

TAC members asked about bus operations. Member of the public asked about the event going on at the same time as this June TAC meeting and how to participate in both.

[Transport Kendall](#)

TT presented updates from the Kendall Square Mobility Task Force which included new advocacy materials with recommendations from the task force included in a brochure that is titled Transport Kendall. The advocacy materials include:

- Glossy brochure with the recommendations from Kendall Square Mobility Task Force
- Updated website
- Creation of videos for social media and other media
- Finalize printed materials

Member of the public asked about the status of the CambridgeSide-Kendall shuttle within the context of the Transport Kendall.

[Grand Junction Multiuse Path and Conceptual Transit Design Project](#)

TT introduced the project scope, city and consultant team, working group members, conceptual design. TAC members asked about construction schedule, right-of-way concerns. While, members of the public asked clarifying questions about sections, schedules for trains in the railroad, and future transit.

[Mount Auburn Bus Priority Pilot Project](#)

TT introduced the latest about the transit and traffic analysis from the Mount Auburn Bus Priority Project Evaluation open house. TAC members asked about, the following:

- roundtrip travel time data for buses
- if bus operators had provided input
- traffic analysis including travel time and parallel routes
- participation from DCR in the open house

[Other projects](#)

Andy Reker (AR) presented on updates of realtime bus arrival prediction signage; TAC members asked about displaying signage that shows total travel time to destinations at places around the city as a new type of signage that could also make the case for transit.

TT presented a summary overview of the Future of Mobility Blueprint [now called, the New Mobility Blueprint] study. TAC members asked about if similar studies have been completed in other cities.

TT presented about the Inner Mount Auburn Corridor Safety Improvements (IMACSI) project. TAC members indicated that they had experienced delays on the bus while approaching the Putnam Avenue bus stop. TT and AR noted and would share with project team.

Report: Progress on Transit Strategic Plan Update

AR presented on the latest on the update to the Transit Strategic Plan including the addition of the following list of ideas to be added to the list of potential projects.

- Revive First Street transit priority ideas
- Battery-electric bus facilities
- New bus facilities for the MBTA
- Alewife-area Route 2 ramp bus priority

Additionally, city staff has asked consultants to draft a work plan template that could be incorporated into an implementation plan. TAC members asked questions to clarify what consultants were tasked with providing the template.

A member of the TAC asked to include an additional item under policy development for further work on advancing the a city policy on street space & allocations to parking, transit, and cycling.

After AR finished presenting, the TAC voted on approving the previous months' meeting notes. On a voice vote, seven TAC members voted to approve, zero opposed, and zero abstained.

Public Comment

James Williamson (JW) made a comment about his disappointment with responses to his concerns about transit planning in Cambridge. He included a list of examples, the Rindge Avenue turnaround for the Route 83, fare gates that limit people to only use specific gates marked "special fares"; abrupt changes to announcements on the real-time signage and public announcement systems in

the subway; conditions in Central Square station and maintenance and repairs at other stations. TT acknowledge the slow pace of change.

A member of the public asked how a concern gets addressed when a member of the public shares at the TAC meetings. TT shared the resources available including the MBTA service planning staff that often attend these meetings.

Version Information

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Approval: 9/4/2019 Unanimous