

# Transit Advisory Committee

## October 2019

### Abbreviated meeting notes

#### Attendance

##### Members

**Present** (9) John Attanucci (Chair), Devin Chausse, Robert Fitzgerald, Jim Gascoigne, Katherine Rafferty, Rob Ricchi, Arthur Strang, Saul Tannenbaum, Alex Taylor

**Absent** (4) Joseph Beggan, Kelly Brown, Kristiana Lachiusa, Melissa Zampitella

##### City Staff (3)

Tegin Teich, Andrew Reker (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT)

##### Others (6)

Andy Smith (MBTA), 3 members of the public

#### Welcome

Tegin Teich (TT) opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. TAC members went through a round of self-introductions.

#### Public comment

No public comment.

#### Present and discuss: River Street Reconstruction

Much of this meeting was a presentation and discussion on the River Street reconstruction project. TT presented on the City's progress in developing a street design for River Street thus far, including the following in her presentation:

- Project area included in the reconstruction, timeline for public engagement, and results of public outreach
- Highlight of current bus service conditions, locations of significant delay and unreliability, and ridership
- Current conditions specifically for bus riders at Central Square

TT then presented on the current conceptual designs for River Street between Memorial Drive and approximately Auburn Street, including the:

- "Givens" for this segment of street reconstruction
- General approach to the street design from a transit-focused perspective
- Conceptual designs for the corridor from Memorial Drive to Auburn St

- Conceptual design philosophy for the Central Square bus terminal area and some of the tools in the toolbox to improve the terminal area such as, layover locations, routing changes, traffic circulation and operation changes

TAC members asked:

- To confirm details of the overall conceptual design philosophy and the concept from Memorial Drive to Putnam Avenue, Putnam to Howard/Kelly, Howard/Kelly to Auburn Street, some options for Tubman Square and the River/Pleasant intersection

For the conversation about the MBTA bus terminal area, TAC members discussed the potential changes to the design of the bus terminal area and bus routing and circulation in the area. These included suggestions for:

- Additional service for Route 64 on weekends
- Routing Route 47 from Green to Pearl using Magazine rather than Western and using Mass Ave instead of Green St.
- Connecting with Masco about ridership in Central Square for riders who may choose between 47 to LMA Harvard Campus
- Considering how articulated buses would function in this space – how would it change the bus stop zones and curb requirements
- Imagining how transit space could be best programmed into the public spaces

TAC members also had concerns about several items, including:

- Curb extension being problematic on Green Street
- TNC drop-off and pick-up activity throughout the area

TAC members also voiced support for restricting portions of Green Street to buses and bicycles only with personal vehicles using other streets to circulate in the area. Finally, TAC members also had questions about the microsimulation model – to what extent it could be used and how it could inform this planning.

## Other project and programing updates

For the final few minutes of the meeting, TAC members asked about follow-up updates on the KSTEP governance process. TT responded that the governance document for the KSTEP funding is still in discussion and that city staff would be returning to the TAC as soon as possible to share updates.

## Public comment

No comments.

## Version Information

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Approval: 11/6/2019