Bus service updates

November 6, 2019
Topics

• Updates on Better Bus Project Implementations
• New bus stop location – Cambridge @ Columbia
• Comment letter re: GLX Lechmere bus bridge
Updates on MBTA BBP Implementation

MBTA route changes and implementation timelines
MBTA Better Bus Project team is implementing 36 route changes until March 2020

• Implemented 29 changes including the combining of Routes 1 and CT1 in September
• In late December 2019, 17 more changes:
  • Route changes in West Cambridge/Fresh Pond
  • Extension of Route 64
  • Reorganization of Routes 70/70A into Routes 61 and 70
• Route 1 on Dunster St in mid-March 2020
• Evaluation report in September 2020
West Cambridge/Fresh Pond route changes

• Original proposal
  • Route 72 rush-hours only
  • Straighten routing for Routes 74/75

• City staff have worked with MBTA to refine the proposal and scheduling
  • Route 72 rush-hours only, peak-direction only
  • Coordinate schedules for all routes with nearly clockface schedules
Proposed route
Deleted sections
Rush hour-only route

MBTA BBP West Cambridge Bus Routes – Proposed routing changes
MBTA BBP West Cambridge Bus Routes – Changes to effective headways of bus trips to Harvard Square during AM rush hours

No stops on FPP

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<th>Proposed route</th>
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<th>AM Rush effective headway before / after / change</th>
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MBTA BBP West Cambridge Bus Routes – Changes to effective headways of bus trips to Belmont/Arlington during PM rush hours

No stops on FPP

Proposed route

Deleted sections

AM Rush effective headway before / after / change
West Cambridge/Fresh Pond route changes

• MBTA’s initial analysis shows that in the AM rush hour headways are:
  • Better for 69% of riders
  • About the same for 27% of riders
  • Worse for 5% of riders

• For the PM rush hour, headways are:
  • Better for 53% of riders
  • About the same for 33% of riders
  • Worse for 14% of riders
Changes to Route 64 in late December

• Extend route to Kendall/MIT
  • Currently peak-hours only
  • All day on weekdays
  • Weekends: University Park
• MBTA is planning to use current routing on Prospect St and Broadway
Changes to Route 70/70A in late December

- Combine Route 70/70A between Central Sq. and Waltham Center
- Current frequency xx mins in peak; future, xx mins in peak
Route 1 on Dunster St has additional work required

• MBTA has completed a set of travel-time runs to use Dunster Street but analysis is not yet complete.

• City is evaluating:
  • Curb-use changes on Dunster St (location of loading zones and parking spaces)
  • Additional changes through the Inner Mount Auburn project
MBTA BBP Route 1 Changes – Changes to Harvard Square area routing and stops

- Proposed route
- Deleted sections
- Stops with no changes
- Proposed stop closure
Proposed bus stop changes at Cambridge @ Columbia

Relocating bus stops for Routes 69, 85, and CT2
Consolidate two bus stops at Columbia St

1. Cambridge St @ Windsor St | Route 69 – Lechmere to Harvard via Cambridge St
   • Narrow sidewalk with no space for bench/shelter

2. Webster Ave @ Cambridge St
   1. Route 85 – Spring Hill to Kendall via Webster
   2. Route CT2 – Sullivan to Kendall via Webster, Kendall to Ruggles via LMA
      • Awkward place for bus stop before bus needs to turn left
      • Narrow sidewalk with no space for bench/shelter
Consolidate two bus stops at Columbia

1. **Move** bus stop for routes 85 and CT2 from nearside Webster Avenue southbound to far side Cambridge St at Columbia St eastbound (*move diagonally across the intersection*)

2. **Move** bus stop for route 69 toward Lechmere from far side Cambridge St at Windsor St to far side Cambridge St at Columbia St eastbound (*move 1 block “back”*)

3. **Maintain** bus stops for other directions for 69, 85, CT2
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Implementation around the time of the late December schedule change
Discussion on a letter to MBTA and GLX Constructors

Advocating for changes to bus bridge
Green Line-replacement Bus Service Plan

1. GLX project will close Lechmere viaduct and station between May 2020 and April 2021

2. Current plan is for a bus shuttle between Lechmere Station and North Station.
   1. Stops will be Lechmere, Science Park, and North Station
   2. Approximately 15-20 buses needed during rush hours between Lechmere and North Station
At Lechmere Station
Transit Advisory Committee letters

1. Advisory Committees have written letters to state agencies advocating for specific items during project planning, design, and construction
   • Cambridge City Manager, Council, staff are copied

2. Letters are signed by chair on behalf of the advisory committee

3. Discussion is based on consensus decision-making model; simple majority required for quorum, simple majority to decide