

Transit Advisory Committee

January 2020

Abbreviated meeting summary

Attendance

Members	Present (14) Joseph Beggan, Kelly Brown, Devin Chausse, Matthew Coogan, Jim Gascoigne, Jackie Jones, Kristiana Lachiusa, Bill McAvinney, Sylvia Parsons, Katherine Rafferty, Arthur Strang, Saul Tannenbaum, Alex Taylor, Melissa Zampitella
	Absent (3) John Attanucci, Margaret McKenna, Robert Ricchi
City staff (2)	Bill Deignan (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT)
Others (2)	Wes Edwards (MBTA); 4 members of the public

Welcome

Bill Deignan (BD) opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and public introduced themselves with their name and affiliation. The summary for this meeting is heavily abbreviated for this meeting.

Public comment

James Williamson provided several comments asking for updates on the issues that he has raised to the committee's attention.

Presentation: MBTA Bus Priority Program

Wes Edwards (WE) from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) presented on the MBTA's bus priority program. WE first provided an update on an inbound dedicated bus lane on the ramp from Route 2 to the Alewife station complex. MassDOT is currently designing bridge improvements and hope to implement them in spring 2020 with the bus striping following. In addition, WE reported that the MBTA is looking into bus priority for the corridor between Lechmere and North Stations for when the Green Line is closed between May 2020 and April 2021.

TAC asked about if the MBTA/MassDOT would be able to stripe a bus lane on the ramp up to the bridge before completing repairs. WE offered to look into possibilities of doing striping before repairs.

Breakout: Transit Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan

BD presented slides describing the plan for the TAC to develop subcommittees and laid out objectives for the breakout discussions. Afterwards, TAC members broke into three discussion groups, one for each subcommittee: streets and infrastructure, bus service planning, and policy development. In the discussion groups, each subcommittee brainstormed specific tasks or goals for each subcommittee.

Presentation: Subcommittee report-back

Each subcommittee reported on the brainstorm for their subcommittee and listed some of the ideas that they had developed as potential work plan ideas for 2020.

The streets and infrastructure subcommittee shared the following ideas:

- Help to share information about upcoming transit projects on CCTV,
- Additional project information for street projects in the city
- Update applications for project events
- Create a users guide to Cambridge
- Create a short summary of transit-related information since web site is not always easiest to understand or access

The policy development subcommittee shared the following ideas:

- Provide feedback on existing development process
- Suggest improvements or changes to the PTDM ordinance
- Research and share on regulation on TNCs to improve safety, curb uses, and revenues from fees/taxes
- Investigate free bus service
- Help define measurable, broad goals to gauge change in mode share

The bus service planning subcommittee shared the following ideas:

- Give input to Bus Network Redesign
- Research bus routing changes post-GLX
- MBTA fares – free-fares for people in Cambridge -- look at subsidizing fares or pay per ride programs like MIT

Presentation: Updates and announcements

BD presented local project updates on the following:

- City proposal for signal priority on Concord Avenue
- Inner Mount Auburn Corridor Safety Improvements
- Belmont Street Reconstruction
- River Street Reconstruction
- Grand Junction Multi-use Path Design

BD then presented regional project updates on the following:

- MBTA Better Bus Project implementation
- MBTA's bus priority "challenge" fund or grant
- MBTA's pilot program – increased bus service on weekend and evenings
- MBTA Bus Network Redesign
- MBTA Green Line Extension
- MBTA construction at Harvard
- MBTA's Fare Transformation (formerly known as AFC 2)
- MassDOT Allston I-90 Multimodal
- DCR Memorial Drive Greenway, Phase III

Public Comment

Public commenters stated the following:

- A request for a status update on the late-night service pilot
- A request for more information on \$50m challenge grant
- A suggestion to look at Miles Taylor blog “Miles in Transit”

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Version Information

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