City of Cambridge
Community Development Department

Transit Advisory Committee

November 2020
Meeting agenda

1. Welcome
2. Meeting note approval – February, March, July, October
3. Presentation: Central Square bus route and stop change proposals
4. Cambridge transportation updates
   • City street project updates
   • Development project updates
5. Public comment
To be approved

- **February** – River Street
- **March** – PTDM Program
- **July** – MBTA COVID-19 Response; Cycling Safety Ordinance
- **October** – MBTA Service Planning

**Notes:**
- TAC meetings canceled in April, May, June, August, September as a result of COVID-19 response
- Joint meeting of Ped/Bike/Transit committees in July
River Street Reconstruction
Bus terminal & Carl Barron Plaza

Project updates
Two-year design and engagement process

• Design has been underway for 24-months
  • Project working/stakeholder group
  • Public meetings x 2
  • Virtual open house, comments until 11/14

• TAC presentations
  • October 2019, February 2020, Today
Tonight

• Invite you to visit Virtual Open House, open until 11/14 – your comments help us refine the final designs
• Share more info from previous TAC meeting, River Street Q&A information session, and feedback from Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association
• Your additional questions
“Butterfly” shaped plaza meets many highly desired project goals

Greatest potential for more space for pedestrians and transit riders

• Additional space for flexible uses in plaza
• Dedicated berths for many buses
• Construct additional amenities at bus stops – shelters, wayfinding signage, “iconic” structures
• Also looking at seating, planting, realtime signage
Transit-specific changes

• “Butterfly” plaza design has greatest potential for more space for pedestrians and transit riders
• Requires changes to bus routing and stop locations on Route 47
• Other operational changes for Routes 64, 83, and 91
Bus shelter precedent/example

Chicago, Ill. - Washington / Clark “LoopLink”
Benefits of Route 47 change on Mass Ave

• Shorter route with travel time improvement
• Travel time improvement by avoiding traffic signals and Massachusetts Avenue crosswalks at Pearl St
• Total travel time improvement of 1-2 minutes
• Route 1 buses able to pull up to curb without navigating around Route 47 buses on layover
• Cycling lane often blocked by buses laying over
Other considerations

• Majority of riders transferring bus-bus or bus-subway will have:
  • No significant change to transfer distances
  • Better amenities at stops

• Project team making sure to design for good circulation with wide accessible paths of travel
  • Paths and materials
Questions from February TAC meeting

• What are the demographics of the Route 47 riders?
• How many transfers are there between Route 47 and Red Line?
• Consider and commit to realtime signage
# Demographics from MBTA Systemwide Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Average Weekday Riders</th>
<th>Minority</th>
<th>Low-income</th>
<th>HH with 0 Car</th>
<th>Reduced Fare Pass</th>
<th>Over 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Route 1</td>
<td>11,831 (4,377)</td>
<td>37% (4,022)</td>
<td>47% (5,560)</td>
<td>12% (1,420)</td>
<td>6% (709)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 47</td>
<td>4,699 (1,550)</td>
<td>33% (1,222)</td>
<td>39% (1,833)</td>
<td>13% (611)</td>
<td>3% (141)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 64</td>
<td>1,829 (549)</td>
<td>30% (457)</td>
<td>36% (658)</td>
<td>15% (274)</td>
<td>8% (146)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 70 (and 70A)</td>
<td>6,645 (2,326)</td>
<td>35% (2,392)</td>
<td>44% (2,924)</td>
<td>10% (665)</td>
<td>7% (465)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 83</td>
<td>1,849 (536)</td>
<td>29% (647)</td>
<td>42% (777)</td>
<td>27% (499)</td>
<td>9% (166)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 91</td>
<td>1,540 (492)</td>
<td>32% (739)</td>
<td>52% (800)</td>
<td>24% (370)</td>
<td>4% (108)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Line at Central</td>
<td>15,175 (492)</td>
<td>28% (739)</td>
<td>38% (800)</td>
<td>6% (108)</td>
<td>4% (108)</td>
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MBTA Transfer Information

- MBTA Origin-Destination-Transfer model provides information on flows of passengers from bus-to-bus, bus-to-subway
- We were able to get information that showed:
  - Transfers by route - Route 47, in particular
  - Weekdays and weekend days
- MBTA also planning for two additional elevators on Mass Ave. at Pearl Street
# = Riders transferring from route to route on a weekday; Arrow = Direction of transfer
Central Square

Weekdays

# = Riders transferring from route to route on a weekday; Arrow = Direction of transfer
Realtime signage

• Coordinating with MBTA’s ongoing pilot with solar-powered eInk signage

• MBTA recently began talking about potential for municipal procurement of the same system

• Opportunity to use as part of River Street project and for Participatory Budgeting project
Location of elevators to Red Line platforms

- First Stop
- Last Stop
- Elevators
- Planned Elevators
Recent questions

• What about people who take either the 47 or 1?
• Could the last proposed stop be combined with the new proposed first stop?
Project team to ask MBTA for data on # passengers who travel from Central Square to BMC-area stops on either Route 1 or Route 47.
Project team to look at layover location on Green Street
Tell us your thoughts

• **Virtual Open House** – arcg.is/10Xvum
  • Comment forms throughout
  • Comment Map – arcg.is/WPu0j
    • At the end of the “Corridor Design” section

• Spread the word to others who are interested in transportation and transit, spend time in the neighborhood, etc.
Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment
Updates

City development project updates, MBTA service planning updates
Cambridge updates

• Development project updates
• Non-city initiatives
Development Project Updates
Overview
Cambridgeside 2.0 Planned Unit Development

- **Planning Board** – first hearing was October 6, next hearing TBD
  - Study of First & Second Streets is moving forward
  - Ongoing negotiations for mitigation
- **Potential TAC actions**
  - TAC representative to stakeholder working group for study – Are you interested?
  - Review initial application and draft comment letter to Planning Board
Volpe MIT Development

• Planning Board presentation on October 27

• Tentative date for joint committee review November 18 or 19

• Potential TAC actions
  • Review application and communicate comments to staff or planning board
  • Brainstorm transit issues, concerns, recommendations in relation to this site
Other projects

- Alewife Quadrangle
- North Cambridge
- Central Square
- Kendall Square area
- MIT Campus
Other upcoming project reviews

• Kendall Square and surrounding area
  • 600 Main Street – Research & development proposal – **TIS Certified**
  • Vassar Street / Cyclotron – MIT Schwarzman College – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study
  • Vassar Street / West Campus – MIT Graduate housing – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study

• Central Square
  • 600 Mass Ave – Residential proposal – **Potential PB meeting in December - to discuss at December TAC**
Other upcoming project review

• **Alewife Quadrangle (Concord Avenue)**
  • Mooney Street – mixed-use proposal – TIS underway
  • 40 Wilson Road – Research & development proposal – TIS underway

• **North Cambridge**
  • 2072 Mass Ave. – 100% Affordable Housing proposal – *Ch. 40B exclusion from TIS* – Seeking BZA permit

• **Others**
  • City to evaluate updates TIS guidelines and methodologies
Non-city updates
MBTA “Forging Ahead”

• MBTA gave a preview presentation to TAC in October
  • Total expected budget gap $308-577 million
  • Range of $60-255 million expected service cuts
  • 2012 gap was $167 million but only $15 mil came from service cuts, fares rest

• “Essential service” routes
  • Reduce to minimum standards
  • Routes 1, 69, 83, 85, 86

• Other routes
  • Reduce below minimum, consolidate routes, or eliminate routes
  • Routes 71, 73, 77, and others
MBTA “Forging Ahead”

- Proposal to be released – Monday 11/9/2020
- Public meetings with remote participation
  - Tues 11/17 6:00 PM – Cambridge/Central area-focused
  - Thurs 11/19 6:00 PM – Systemwide
  - Wednesday 12/2 6:00 PM – Systemwide
- Expected vote – Monday 12/7/2020
- Update in May-June 2021
Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment
Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting with remote participation.