

Transit Advisory Committee

March 2021

Abbreviated meeting summary

Attendance

Members

Present (11) John Attanucci (Chair), Kelly Brown, Mathew Coogan, Jim Gascoigne, Jackie Jones, Kristiana Lachiusa, Bill McAvinney, Sylvia Parsons, Katherine Rafferty, Saul Tannenbaum, Melissa Zampitella

Absent (6) Joseph Beggan, Devin Chausse, Margaret McKenna, Robert Ricchi, Arthur Strang, Alexander Taylor

City staff (2)

Andrew Reker (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT);

Others (6)

5 members of the public; Rachel Nadkarni (MBTA)

Note: CDD = Community Development Department; TPT = Traffic Parking and Transportation Department

Welcome and committee introductions

Andy Reker (AR) began the virtual meeting at 5:33 PM by welcoming members of the TAC, members of the public and presenters. AR gave a tour of the virtual space for people joining by application and telephone and shared some ground rules for virtual meeting participation. AR then welcomed the members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and public and conducted a roll call – 12 members were present, 5 were absent.

Presentations: City project updates

AR presented an update on a number of City projects which are underway. The presentation included information on the following City projects:

- Belmont Street Reconstruction
- Huron Avenue – Glacken Field Reconstruction
- River Street Reconstruction
- Inman Square Intersection Reconstruction
- Massachusetts Avenue Cycling Safety Ordinance Projects, including – Mid-Mass Ave.
- Bus priority evaluation
- Concord Avenue Bus Signal Priority project

AR also presented the latest updates on the following MBTA or Commonwealth of Massachusetts projects:

- Forging Ahead service cuts
- Bus Network Redesign
- Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis

- Fare Transformation (AFC 2.0)

Discussion: Transit Advisory Committee Implementation Plan

The next item was a review of the TAC implementation plan. AR presented a summary of the previous version of the TAC implementation plan.

TAC members discussed various points. Comments and questions are grouped by topic below.

MBTA projects

- Finding information about the Forging Ahead process was challenging, the MBTA has not provided information that helps people understand how the changes could affect them
- Recommend including information like: total trips per day, hours of service, service-hours, trips per service period (e.g. AM peak, midday, etc.)
- Suggest inviting members of Cambridge's state delegation to meetings of the advisory committee

City projects

- Challenge on Massachusetts Avenue projects will be to not make the conversation into one where cyclists are pitted against bus riders
- What is the best way to stay engaged and advocate for transit riders?
- City staff should focus on changes that won't negatively impact bus riders – changes to curb use, parking/loading, turn restrictions.

Other initiatives

- Request updates on the TIS Guideline Update project and the proposal to update the PTDM ordinance

Public comment

A member of the public made the following comments:

- Concern about the rough pavement in Inman Square affecting comfort and safety of bus riders

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM

Version Information

Draft: 8/26/2021 AR

Approval: 10/6/21 Unanimously with 9 votes