

Kendall Square Mobility Task Force Meeting #12

LOCATION OF MEETING: One Main Street, First Floor, East Arcade Conference Room

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: June 6, 2017 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

TASK FORCE ATTENDEES:

Kelley Brown, MIT
Joseph Barr, City of Cambridge
Brian Dacey, Kendall Square Association (Co-Chair)
Melissa Dullea, MBTA
Tom Evans, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
Patrick Magee, East Cambridge Business Association
Michael Owu, MIT Investment Management Company
Susanne Rasmussen, City of Cambridge (Co-Chair)
Jen Slesinger, MassDOT (representing Scott Hamwey)

MASSDOT, MBTA, CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND PROJECT TEAM ATTENDEES:

Tegin Bennett, City of Cambridge
Adam Shulman, City of Cambridge
Jason Zogg, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

PUBLIC:

John Hawkinson

PURPOSE/SUBJECT: Initiatives and Priorities, Next Steps

Summary

S. Rasmussen, City of Cambridge, opened the meeting. She described the two main goals of the meeting were to:

- finalize and prioritize the initiatives, including discussing next steps, and
- discuss a graphical document summarizing the Task Force's work.

The majority of this meeting was spent on discussing each initiative, which had been edited based on feedback from the last Task Force meeting. Task Force members discussed the timeframe for each initiative, the primary "lead" that would ensure progress on the initiatives, and a hierarchy of prioritization within each category (i.e. Red Line, Grand Junction, Bus, and Shuttle / Ride-hailing). T. Bennett, City of Cambridge, described the materials that the Task Force members could use for the meeting, including a draft document with "strawman" document with timeframes, leads, possible resources, and priorities assigned to each initiative. Task Force members were also provided with a summary list of possible resources that could be targeted for the initiatives, although those resources must go through an appropriate process before allocated to any specific effort.

Task Force members discussed each initiative and refined the priorities and other details based on the discussion. See the attached modified table based on the group's discussion.

Discussion*Resources:*

Task Force members asked for an update on the Kendall Square Transit Enhancement Program. T. Evans explained that Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) would convene a working group, which would make a recommendation to the CRA Board, and the use of the funds would need final approval by the City Manager and the proposed recipient of the funding. The money is expected to be deposited in a special account in the next month or so, and a portion of those funds will need to be allocated in a shorter time space (such as within the first year).

Initiatives:

While most of the discussion has been incorporated into the attached summary table of the initiatives, the following additional points were discussed in detail:

- Task Force members discussed the proposed Red Line capacity increases due to the new cars and how to advocate for further capacity improvements. They discussed initiatives such as screen door pilots, marking platforms where to board, signal improvements, and a test track facility.
- Task Force members suggested eliminating the proposed new initiative related to supporting the Green Line Extension (GLX), and instead incorporate discussion of GLX into the Grand Junction and Bus Implementation Plans.
- Task Force members discussed how to organize stakeholder groups around implementing the Grand Junction multi-use path, and whether it would best be a city-led group, an outside advocacy group, or both.
- Task Force members proposed adding an initiative related to analyzing the benefits of construction of the Grand Junction multi-use path.
- Members had different opinions regarding the importance of completing demand estimations for future Grand Junction transit. After some discussion, the group decided to elevate this initiative to a #1 priority.
- Task Force members decided to elevate the extension of the 64/70/70A into Kendall Square to a #1 priority and decrease the priority of the CT4 service to #2.
- Task Force members discussed the new EZRide vehicles and the fact that those vehicles are now 5' longer and therefore increase capacity (possibly reducing the need to increase EZRide service in the near-term).
- Finally, the members discussed the need to further scope and understand what it would mean to make shuttle services in Kendall Square more efficient, and possible opportunities to explore it through data and research.

From the discussion, seven (7) initiatives emerged as top priorities for which work plans need to be developed:

- 1.1 Review results of ABC analysis of anticipated capacity increase from Red Line car purchase and advocate for additional Red Line capacity improvements
- 2.1 Convene stakeholders to collaborate on implementing the Grand Junction multi-use path
- 2.2 Analyze of benefits of Grand Junction path connection
- 2.4 Produce new Grand Junction transit demand estimations

- 3.1 Further study bus priority treatments Lechmere to Kendall Square
- 3.3 Pilot extended 64/70/70A into Kendall Square
- 4.3 Explore opportunities for increase efficiency of shuttles

Graphical Summary of the Task Force's Work:

Task Force members have expressed an interest in creating a short, graphical summary of their work to be able to easily communicate the outcomes to important stakeholders, legislators, and other potential audiences. The resources to develop these materials have not yet been clearly identified.

Task Force members generally praised the graphics presented for the GoBoston 2030 materials. Those graphics were produced by Utile, a consultant also under contract for the Envision Cambridge process. K. Brown and B. Dacey expressed interest in convening a smaller group to work on the messaging, audience, layout, content, and distribution of this product.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Task Force members agreed that the Task Force process would, at this point, be considered complete. It was agreed that a similar stakeholder group should meet intermittently, such as biannually, to revisit progress on the initiatives.