

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

Date, Time & Place:
June 1, 2016, 5:30-7:30
MIT building E25, Room 117

Attendance

Committee Members

John Attanucci, Kelley Brown, Devin Chausse, Karen Dumaine, Charlie Fineman, Denise Jillson, Doug Manz, George Metzger, Susan Pacheco, Katherine Rafferty, Robert Ricchi, Alexander Taylor, Ritesh Warade

City of Cambridge

Tegin Bennett and Cleo Stoughton (Community Development); Adam Shulman (Traffic, Parking, and Transportation)

Presenters, official entities, and members of the public

Four members of the public were present. Philip Groth (MBTA) was present.

Committee Introductions, Administrative Business, and Updates

May notes were approved. As voted on at the May meeting, the July Transit Advisory Committee meeting is canceled. The Committee expressed interest in touring the MBTA's maintenance facility in Everett in July.

Public Comment

Mike Stanley described a proposal for his company, TransitX, to serve the Alewife and Kendall Square areas. To discuss further, email mike@transitx.com.

Announcements, Events, and Updates

- *Kendall Square Mobility Task Force*: The City will be taking on more of the leadership and coordination of this process. MassDOT will continue to participate in the task force and contribute any remaining resources.
- *Green Line Extension (GLX)*: The latest revised cost estimate for the project is \$2.29 billion. The Boston region MPO voted to shift funds from the second stage of the project to the first. Cambridge and Somerville have tentatively agreed to contribute a total of \$75 million to the project, leaving a gap of \$73 million. The Committee voted unanimously to notify City Council that the Committee endorses the City Manager's recommendation to contribute funds to the GLX.
- *Envision Cambridge*: The current plan is to have the Envision team come to a fall Transit Committee meeting.
- *DCR Mt Auburn study*: Committee members Katherine Rafferty and Arthur Strang participate in a stakeholder group. A [website](#) has been created. City staff will coordinate with consultants and the public throughout the project. Committee members expressed a desire to pilot a bus only lane in certain segments of the corridor to alleviate bus delay.
- *Focus40*: The kickoff for the project took place on May 24. A survey has been posted [here](#).
- *NACTO Transit Accelerator Program*: The City applied for and received a spot in this program, focusing over the next year on coming up with a conceptual design for Massachusetts Avenue within Cambridge and beyond that incorporates best multimodal design practices.
- *NoMa/SoMa*: Committee member Alex Taylor presented the Committee's comments on the project to the Planning Board at the May 17 meeting. Additionally, the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department submitted a [memo](#) regarding the project.

Committee Role and Transit Strategic Plan Implementation

Building off of the conversation at the May Transit Committee meeting, the Committee discussed and started to prioritize a list of the most feasible short-term projects from the Transit Strategic Plan and more recent planning efforts.

Discussion:

- Overall, the Transit Advisory Committee is interested in working toward implementing bus priority treatments (beyond TSP), identifying potential bus routing changes, and reviewing development and infrastructure projects.
- The Committee discussed the importance of demonstration projects to make the case for additional, more substantial or permanent changes to the streetscape.

- While some projects have momentum and are likely to come to fruition, others need a “champion,” which could be the Committee.
- The Committee should give substantial input into the MBTA’s service planning process (however comprehensive that process ends up being), and can also make suggestions about smaller changes between service plans.
- Increased coordination with surrounding municipalities would be valuable.
- There is a Chinese company, BYD, that is interested in demoing in an east coast city electric buses with solar powered charging. City staff will follow up.

Summary of Transit Advisory Committee priorities:

After the meeting, City staff compiled Committee members’ comments into a list of priorities for the upcoming year:

- Increase public support for transit priority concepts and advocate for specific transit priority projects
- Participate in the Participatory Budgeting process
- Throughout the NACTO Transit Accelerator program, participate as a key stakeholder and help NACTO, MBTA, and City staff work with the community
- Rethink bus routing in Cambridge
- Review, in conjunction with City staff, infrastructure projects (e.g., 5-year plan projects) during the design phase and ensure progressive transit design concepts are incorporated
- Review, in conjunction with City staff, development projects and submit comments to the Planning Board
- Keep pressure on City staff, MBTA, MassDOT, and others to complete projects and uphold commitments to transit improvements
- Participate in ongoing projects and processes with transit implications (e.g., DCR Mt Auburn study, Envision Cambridge, Focus40)

Final Public Comment

There were no additional public comments.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm