

# City of Cambridge

## Transit Advisory Committee

### Abbreviated Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Ballroom, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue

#### Attendance (22 people)

**Members (9)** John Attanucci (Chair); Devin Chausse; Jim Gascoine; Katherine Rafferty; Robert Ricchi; Neil Rodriguez; Arthur Strang; Saul Tannenbaum; Alexander Taylor

**City Staff (6)** Wendell Joseph, Tegin Teich, and Andrew Reker (CDD); Sargent Vellucci, Officer Lamonica (CPD); Adam Shulman (TPT)

**Others (7)** Andy Smith (MBTA); 6 members of the public

This joint meeting of the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and Central Square Advisory Committee began at approximately 5:30 PM. Tegin Teich (TT) opened the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda.

#### Committee introductions

Members of the TAC and public introduced themselves.

#### Public comment

No members of the public made a comment.

#### Presentation: Bus priority project updates

TT presented latest updates from the City's two projects with bus priority features – South Mass Ave and Mount Auburn – which included the following for Mount Auburn Street:

- Early bus rider evaluations
- Implementation concerns
- Next steps through spring 2019

For South Massachusetts Avenue, TT shared the following updates:

- Recent implementation photos
- Changes to design
- Possible future additions

TAC members asked the following questions:

- Locations of transit signal priority (TSP) in Central Square and along Massachusetts Avenue
- Private shuttles and buses in the bus priority lanes.
- Evaluation strategies
- Bus priority lane maintenance and enforcement
- Bus operator training
- Relocations of tour bus layover and loading locations and private vehicle un/loading in the South Mass Ave project
- Extensions or expansions of the bus lanes in the South Mass Ave project area

TT responded with information about the TSP locations and deployment strategy, clarification on vehicles allowed to use bus priority lanes, enforcement and evaluation strategies, and information on some sources of data for the evaluation. South Mass Ave Corridor Safety Improvements project updates. TT also shared about efforts to educate police department and MBTA operators, while the MBTA rep shared about his own education efforts for the service planning district for which he is responsible. TT shared the new locations of the tour bus layover and loading and other loading areas in the project. TT also shared some details about coordinating with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

### [Presentation: Update on City's Better Bus Project supplemental outreach](#)

Andy Reker (AR) presented some initial results from the City's Better Bus Outreach Initiative these updates included:

- Overview of outreach materials: online survey questions and wikimap
- Summary of responses from online survey
- Selected bus routing concepts from WikiMap

TAC members had questions regarding some of the responses to the online survey, overall statistics from the outreach efforts, and about specific concepts. AR responded with summary information for the online responses, the statistics of the outreach efforts, and details, as best described from the wikimap concepts, for the various responses.

### [Discussion: Upcoming Transit Advisory Committee meetings and action to approve meeting notes for August, September, October](#)

TAC moved to have a December 2018 TAC Meeting. The main topic will be to workshop new concepts that the City heard through the supplemental outreach.

TAC moved to have the January 2019 TAC meeting on 1/9/2018. The main topic was not yet determined.

TAC also moved to approve three months of meeting notes: August, September, and October. The motion to approve was unanimously agreed to by voice vote.

### [Discussion: River St. redesign and Central Square as a place](#)

TT began the discussion with a presentation about the River Street design process. The presentation included the following elements about the River Street project:

- Design objectives including Central Square charette and Carl Baron Plaza designs
- Transit elements
- Previously-completed, related studies for bus circulation in Central Square and transit service in Cambridge
- Public process

TAC members asked questions relating to:

- Bus circulation in Central Square and River St. project details
- Statistics on buses in Central Square
- Working group/advisory committee information

TT responded with information on bus circulation and working group/advisory committee information. TT then passed on the presentation to Wendell Joseph

(WJ) for a presentation on the Central Square Advisory Committee's work and further discussion on public space in Central Square.

WJ presented on the following about the work of the Central Square Advisory Committee (CSAC):

- Recent meetings to discuss public realm and placemaking
- Topics that the CSAC has discussed, including: public safety, public health, transportation, urban design, programming and the arts,
- Relationship to the River Street design project
- Context and purpose of the recent work

TAC asked several questions for the remainder of the discussion, including:

- Did discussion include an analysis of existing conditions, policies, plans and future expectations?

The City staff that presented in the CSAC meetings spoke to those considerations in their presentations. The purpose of this process was not to produce a comprehensive report or design recommendations, but to educate and inform in advance of the River Street design project, Central Square visioning charrette, and construction in Carl Baron Plaza

- The place of grand, visionary transit infrastructure – i.e. the best bus terminal in the Commonwealth – within the context of this design project
- The place for better integrated transfers between bus and rapid transit in Central Square
- Recommendations that have come out of previous planning efforts like K2C2

Members of the Cambridge Police Department also attended this meeting and shared details on a soon-to-be-opened police substation in Central Square. Police officers assigned to this substation have already been engaging the public since September. TAC members and members of the public asked questions to the CPD staff about the public safety and human services aspects specific to this new substation.

## Public comment

James Williamson (JW) made a comment on public spaces in Central Square and moving bus layovers outside of the central part of public spaces.

JW also made a recommendation on interacting with the bus operators to find out about infrastructure issues in Cambridge. He recommended to continue to dialogue with bus operators about the issues facing the route 83 and a space for bathroom breaks at University Park.

JW also made a comment sharing a concern about the advertising shelter for routes 83 and 91 at Central Square and the inappropriateness of advertising in a public space.

Following the close of public comment, at 7:30 PM, the TAC moved to adjourn.

## Version Information

Draft: 11/28/2018 AR

Approved: 1/9/2019