

Transit Advisory Committee

February 2021

Abbreviated meeting summary

Attendance

Members	Present (12) John Attanucci (Chair), Devin Chausse, Mathew Coogan, Jim Gascoigne, Jackie Jones, Kristiana Lachiusa, Bill McAvinney, Sylvia Parsons, Katherine Rafferty, Arthur Strang, Saul Tannenbaum, Melissa Zampitella
	Absent (6) Kelly Brown, Joseph Beggan, Margaret McKenna, Robert Ricchi, Alexander Taylor
City staff (2)	Andrew Reker (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT);
Others (3)	3 members of the public

Welcome and committee introductions

Andy Reker (AR) began the virtual meeting at 5:35 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: Transit Advisory Committee Member updates

Melissa Zampitella, TAC member representing the Alewife Transportation Management Association (TMA) [MZ] presented about the TripCentives incentive program that the Alewife TMA ran with the support of the Commonwealth. The presentation included information on the:

- History and purpose of the Alewife TMA
- Incentive program and grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Results from the incentive program

Jackie Jones, TAC member representing Cambridge residents, [JJ] presented about the Equity4Cambridge podcast that Jackie and her daughter, Lisa, created. TAC members listened to one episode about public transit during the pandemic.

Transit Advisory Committee Action Updates

The next item was a review of TAC comment letters. Three letters have been proposed: a letter to the MBTA with a routing proposal for Route 47, a letter to the MBTA about service changes that are part of Forging Ahead, and a letter to the planning board about the MIT Volpe planned-unit development proposal.

AR presented on the protocols for advisory committees to draft comment letters.

Proposal for changing the Route 47

John Attanucci (JA) presented a proposal for a comment letter to the MBTA Service Planning department on route changes for the Route 47. This proposed comment letter was in response to changes required to the routing of Route 47 in order to create a larger plaza at Carl Barron Plaza in the River Street Reconstruction project.

TAC members also asked about the following:

- The traffic conditions on Massachusetts Avenue at Pearl Street are challenging including blocked loading zones
- Request for enforcement or education about private vehicles blocking buses

The TAC approved the comment letter and selected JA to draft a full letter based on the following points:

- The significant proportion of riders connecting from the Route 47 to the Red Line
- Riders currently have the choice between the Route 47 and the Route 1 at Pearl Street
- Challenges for pedestrian crossing of Massachusetts Avenue and sidewalks between the Red Line and Green Street
- Recommendation of a proposed routing of the Route 47 to use Massachusetts Avenue instead of Green Street and serve the stops at Mass/Prospect and Mass/Pearl
- Recommendation that the MBTA pilot this route immediately while congestion is still manageable

Responding to the latest about MBTA's Forging Ahead proposals

JA also presented a proposal for a comment letter to the MBTA on the service changes proposed to be included as part of MBTA's Forging Ahead plans.

The TAC approved the comment letter and selected JA to draft a full letter based on the following points:

- Restating the Transit Advisory Committee's opposition to any significant service reductions
- Requesting the MBTA commit to completely restore service by no later than September 2021
- Comments on specific service reductions including, Routes 47, 68, and 70.

City Updates

AR presented a number of updates for the City including:

- Progress on the River Street Reconstruction project
- Huron Avenue – Glacken Field project
- Transit Signal Priority evaluation
- Concord Avenue – Transit Signal Priority project

AR also presented a number of updates on MBTA projects, including:

- Green Line Extension
- Bus Network Redesign

- Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis study
- North Cambridge garage retrofit

Public comment

A member of the public made comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM

Version Information

Draft: 8/26/2021 AR

Approval: 10/6/21 Unanimously with 9 votes