

Transit Advisory Committee

February 2023

Abbreviated meeting summary

Attendance

Members **Present** (10) Arthur Strang, Melissa Zampitella, Jim Gascoigne, Peter Septoff, Carl Rothenhaus, Katherine Rafferty, Sylvia Parsons, Devin Chausse, Matthew Coogan, Bill McAvinney

Absent (2) Jackson Moore-Otto, Casey Berg

City staff (3) Andrew Reker, Moiz Abdul Majid (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT)

Others (1) 1 member of the public

Note: CDD = Community Development Department; TPT = Traffic Parking and Transportation Department; MBTA = Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, BNRD = Bus Network Redesign.

Welcome and committee introductions

Andy Reker (AR) began the virtual meeting at 5:31 PM by welcoming members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC), members of the public and presenters. AR gave a tour of the virtual space for people joining by application and telephone and shared ground rules for virtual meeting participation.

Carl Rothenhaus (RA) then conducted a roll call of the members of the TAC – 10 members were present, 2 were absent. The committee conducted a roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes for the April 2022 meeting. The committee voted 3 in favor and 7 present to approve the meeting minutes.

Moiz Abdul Majid introduced himself as the new sustainable transportation intern. Advisory committee members then introduced themselves. Members named their favorite public spaces in Cambridge. This included the boardwalk in the Alewife area, Central Square, Inman Square, Harvard Square, Cambridge Common, Rafferty Park, Jefferson Park, Clement Morgan Park, the walking path along the Charles River, and Memorial Drive when it is closed on the weekends.

City, MBTA, + TAC Updates

AR presented upcoming meetings for the TAC, including:

- Next meeting: March 2nd – this meeting will be conducted as two separate subcommittee meetings, these meetings may or may not be meetings with quorum.
- The April TAC is scheduled for the 13th to not conflict with the religious holidays at the beginning of the month.
- Next Joint committee meeting is February 15th

- The topic for the Wednesday March 15th joint committee meeting will be MassAve4

AR went on to review other updates for the TAC, including:

- City projects with updates that are:
 - **Finished or Under Construction**
 - Transit Signal priority/Transit only signals
 - Inman Square redesign of bus stops.
 - Changes in bus stop amenities and facilities
 - Brattle street CSO
 - Belmont Street Project
 - Huron Ave – Glacken Field
 - River Street reconstruction project
 - **In Design**
 - Grand Junction MUP Project
 - Concord Ave – Transit Signal Priority
 - Real Time Transit Signage
 - Transit Signal Priority
 - **Under Study**
 - Harvard Square area – MassAve4
 - Alewife Brook Pkwy area – MassAve4
 - Grand Junction Transit Projects
 - Mt Auburn St. at Aberdeen St. intersection redesign
 - Hampshire Street CSO
- MBTA projects with updates:
 - New bus lanes on the Cambridge end of the Harvard Bridge
 - Implementation of various bus dedicated signals
 - The GLX is fully open – further understanding of how GLX has changed how people move around.
 - Upcoming MBTA service diversions
 - Upcoming and ongoing MBTA service reductions
 - Redline modernization work
 - Could include a face lift for stations, more than just signals for RX

Public Comment

AR opened a short comment period for members of the public.

- No member of the public chose to speak during this time.

Discussion: Breakout groups by subcommittee

The TAC then divided up into subcommittees to discuss project(s) for 2023. Discussion happened in breakout groups. The groups then reconvened to report out and discuss their proceedings.

MBTA Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee will conduct sight visits with a checklist of things to look for in regard to station quality. City will send MBTA subcommittee checklists that the

city uses. The subcommittee will also look to see if the MBTA has its own station quality checklist.

- The subcommittee also plans to write a letter to the MBTA on transparency regarding “slow zones” and low morale.

City Subcommittee:

- The city subcommittee will look into MassAve4 project participation.
 - Examine where increases in residential life may be impacting MBTA-use. Encourage the City and MBTA to be proactive in how they see bus routes.
 - Examine the impact ride share and Uber Eats has on MBTA operations, such as blocking bus stops and bus lanes.

The TAC then discussed next steps, and determined a rough idea of what proceedings for their separate meetings in March will include.

Version Information

Draft: (2/9/23 - CFR)

Approval: