

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES**

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**Date, Time & Place:** September 10, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM  
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center

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**Attendance**

Committee Members

John Attanucci, Kelley Brown, Robert Fitzgerald, Jim Gascoigne, Simon Shapiro, Saul Tannenbaum

City of Cambridge

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

*6 members of the public were present.*

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**Committee introductions and updates**

The City of Cambridge welcomes Tegin Teich Bennett to the role of Transportation Planner. She will be leading future Transit Advisory Committee meetings and the transit strategic planning effort.

**Status and next steps for transit strategic planning**

The October meeting will focus on Goal 7: Resiliency. Meanwhile, city staff are compiling feedback from previous meetings into objectives for each of the other six goals.

Committee members discussed possible future agenda items. Some were interested in learning more about groups like Bridj. Others mentioned sharing information about the referendum to repeal the gas tax increase.

Minutes from previous meetings will be sent out to committee members to be reviewed and then voted on by the committee at an upcoming meeting.

**Presentation: Central Square Bus Study**

Tegin presented the existing conditions analysis completed by IBI Group for the Central Square Bus Circulation and Access Study.

Discussion:

- For certain analyses, whether it is possible to obtain more complete data sets from other sources
- Site-specific findings (e.g., long dwell times at the Massachusetts Ave. at Sidney St. bus stops)
- Accounting for special cases (e.g., fare evasion)
- Consider moving bus stops back to Mass. Ave. to better serve bus users
- Consider the results of this study in context, particularly regarding future development in Central Square

**Presentation: Transit Service Analysis Study**

Tegin presented the TSA Study final report, identifying locations where bus routes 1, 69, 73, and 77 experience significant delay and/or reliability issues. The committee discussed results and implications for possible improvements (i.e., transit signal priority, bus queue jump lanes). In the coming weeks, city staff will be conducting site walks of a few segments with the worst delay for buses.

Discussion:

- Coordination with other cities and agencies (i.e., Boston and Massachusetts DCR) may be key
- At each segment, look at signal timing, turns (particularly left-hand turns), curb uses (e.g., tour bus stops), and other contributors to congestion (e.g., “blocking the box”)
- Coordinate this work and the Central Square work

**Public Comment**

- Recommendation that the city look to fill empty committee positions, especially adding a public housing representative to the committee
- Look at stop spacing on bus routes (especially on the Route 77 as a result of the Key Bus Routes initiative) and provide better notification when stops are removed
- Suggested improvements to the Route 83 bus through Porter Square
- The fans in the Senior Center ballroom are noisy
- Development of Volpe land at Kendall Square and at Alewife – good opportunities for transit oriented development
- Look carefully at Red Line efficiency (and ways it can be improved)
- Look into bus and train bunching
- The Planes, Trains, Automobiles (and Bikes) series at the Harvard Kennedy School will be hosting the founder of Bridj in an upcoming session – information to be sent out to the committee

**Adjourned at 7:20pm**

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