

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

Date, Time & Place: December 3, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center

Attendance

Committee Members

John Attanucci, Kelley Brown, Charles Fineman, Jim Gascoigne, Doug Manz, Simon Shapiro, Saul Tannenbaum, and Ritesh Warade

City of Cambridge

Adam Shulman (Traffic, Parking and Transportation); Susanne Rasmussen and Cleo Stoughton (Community Development Department)

3 members of the public were present. Melissa Dullea (MBTA) was present.

Committee Introductions and Approve Minutes

Attachment: Draft November minutes

Committee Updates

- MassDOT Kendall Square Mobility Task Force Study
MassDOT has selected a consultant and will make an official announcement soon.
- Bus arrival countdown display in Central Square
The MBTA will be installing a bus arrival countdown display in Central Square. The Committee discussed the proposed location of the display and the possibility of integrating Red Line and private shuttle (such as EZ Ride and MASCO) real-time information into the display as well. The Committee requested that additional displays be installed at other convenient locations in Central Square and throughout Cambridge.
- Green Line Extension funding
The federal government has pledged nearly \$1 billion to help finance the expansion of the Green Line. More info: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/12/02/federal-officials-pledge-nearly-help-extend-green-line-into-somerville-and-medford/WstVh8YwfH6dbL6toVIWNI/story.html>
- Announcement of DCR traffic study
The DCR has announced that they will conduct a traffic study of several intersections along Mount Auburn Street and Fresh Pond Parkway in Cambridge and Watertown. More info: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/news/2014/2014-12-2pr.pdf>
- November 2014 Ballot Question 1
Although Ballot Question 1 passed in the recent election, those who had advocated for a “No” vote are still working to gather information about why the Question passed and what the next steps are.

Central Square Bus Circulation and Access Study Task 3: Ideas List and Selection for Initial Recommendations

Attachment: Draft Ideas List with Ratings, Draft Circulation Options

Task 3 of the Central Square Bus Circulation and Access Study is the development of a “universe of ideas” to solve the issues gathered together as part of Task 2. Ideas are rated based on effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and barriers to implementation, and the more promising ideas are then selected for further consideration.

The Committee discussed the following ideas relating to bus circulation and access in Central Square:

- The Committee generally supported relocating bus layover locations so that buses that are laying over no longer take up valuable space within active pick-up locations for long periods of time

- The Committee generally supported altering bus routes so that bus stop locations in Central Square are closer to Mass Ave and Red Line access points. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each potential alternate route
- The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of extending Route 64 or Route 70 from Central Square to Kendall Square along an alternate route (compared to the existing Route 64 peak-hour route) and during the off-peak as well as peak hours
- The Committee generally supported lengthening existing bus stops and/or increasing the number of bus stops along Mass Ave in Central Square to reduce crowding and increase boarding and alighting efficiency
- Some members of the Committee proposed combining Route 1 and CT1 service to increase service frequency on Route 1. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this idea
- The Committee generally did not support using one bus stop location for boarding and a different location for alighting, unless the bus would be laying over in between dropping off and picking up passengers
- The idea of relocating bus layovers from the island at Magazine St and Green St, removing one or both berths from the island (filling in the island to create a larger pedestrian and waiting area), and primarily using this space for active pick-ups, was brought up but not discussed at length, though the Committee has generally supported this idea in the past

City Budget Process and Outcomes

At the November meeting, each Committee member was asked to rank a number of potential transit budget items by how strongly the City should prioritize those items in the coming year. Based on that feedback, a draft list of FY16 transit budget priorities was developed and presented for discussion at this meeting. Comments from Committee members will help shape the City's coming budget year request regarding transit. The Committee discussed whether real-time transit information display software (such as that currently purchased from TransitScreen to display real-time bus and Red Line arrival information, as well as Hubway availability) could be obtained at a lower cost—for example, through sponsorship and collaboration with other cities and institutions.

Solicit Ideas for Next Meeting

The Committee would like to see the following topics discussed at a future meeting:

- Jim Gascoigne would be willing to give an EZRide update
- Kendall Square Mobility Task Force
- Congestion on Mass Ave north of the Common and opportunities to improve bus service

Public Comment

Ken Terrell voiced support for the CT1 bus route and advocated for more express bus service in general. He also noted that the MBTA should invest in 35-foot buses for the Route 47 bus, which operates on narrow side streets, and that bus boarding delays would be reduced if riders were encouraged to load funds onto Charlie Cards prior to boarding.

Adjourned at 7:30pm