

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

Date, Time & Place: February 4, 2015, 5:30-7:30 PM
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center

Attendance

Committee Members

John Attanucci, Kelley Brown, Charles Fineman, Jim Gascoigne, George Metzger, Saul Tannenbaum, Ritesh Warade, Jeremy Mendelson (for Livable Streets)

City of Cambridge

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

2 members of the public were present. Philip Groth (MBTA) and Pete Sutton (MassDOT) were present.

Committee Introductions and Approve Minutes

Attachment: Draft November and December minutes

There were no comments on the minutes but also no quorum to approve them.

Committee Updates

- Installation of Transit Screens, and launch event on February 11, 9 AM at the Citywide Senior Center
Transit Screens have been installed at the Citywide Senior Center and City Hall, and a third Transit Screen will be installed at the Main Library. The City has budgeted for three new screens next year, and the Committee encourages the installation of more than three. The Transit Screen launch event has been postponed, with the new date to be determined.
- MassDOT Kendall Square Mobility Task Force study
Pete Sutton (MassDOT) announced that the study will be led by McMahon Associates.
- Transit Service Analysis site walk follow-up
The final report from IBI Group detailing observations made during site walks of locations identified in the Transit Service Analysis, as well as suggested improvements, will be discussed at the April meeting.
- Snow clearance
In light of recent major snow events, the City gave an update on snow clearance efforts. The Committee discussed the snow clearance responsibilities of all involved parties, including the City, the MBTA, Cemusa (the company that installs and maintains many of the bus shelters in the city), and property owners. The Committee noted successes but also called for improvements in some aspects of snow clearance, such as ensuring that wider paths were cleared from bus stops to points at the curb where buses pick up.
- New City of Cambridge Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department Director
Joseph Barr has been selected as the new Director of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation at the City of Cambridge. Barr was a transportation planner at the City from 1997-2002, and has since then worked at Parsons Brinckerhoff and the New York City Department of Transportation.

Recent News Reports

- MBTA's operations today 'unacceptable,' Baker says ([Boston Globe](#))
Philip Groth (MBTA) discussed winter challenges for the MBTA. Committee members noted the importance of and suggested there be more crosstown bus service to relieve Red Line capacity. The City should continue working to identify ways in which it can improve MBTA service.
- Budget squeeze may imperil late-night MBTA service ([Boston Globe](#))
Philip Groth (MBTA) discussed evaluation metrics for late-night MBTA service. The Committee raised concerns about the public's ability to comment on the program. It was noted that the planning processes for the MBTA's service plan and Program for Mass Transportation are beginning, and that there may be opportunities to align these efforts. The MBTA and MassDOT

were encouraged to hold effective public meetings in Cambridge so that the public would have a chance to provide input. The Committee encouraged the MBTA to continue to do innovative things, such as releasing real-time transit data and piloting late-night service.

- MBTA fines commuter rail operator \$1.6 million ([Boston Globe](#))
- MBTA shopping for new rail cars ([Boston Globe](#))
- Ex-transportation chief to head Boston 2024 campaign ([Boston Globe](#))
- Baker-Polito Administration names Stephanie Pollack Secretary of Transportation ([Mass.gov](#))
- Olympics can give Boston its overdue urban transit ring ([Boston Globe](#))

EZ Ride Development and Operations

Jim Gascoigne, Executive Director of the Charles River Transportation Management Association, presented on the development and operations of the EZRide shuttle (<http://www.charlesrivertma.org/>). EZRide serves the greater Kendall Square area, connecting the Commuter Rail, Red Line, and Green Line to major employers and MIT. Gascoigne discussed the goals of EZRide, the keys to its success, recent service upgrades, ridership levels, and ideas for future improvements.

Update on City Budget Process

At the November and December meetings, Committee members suggested, discussed, and prioritized potential budget items. This input helped shape how to prioritize transit in next year's budget, which will focus on bus stop enhancements, additional Transit Screens, consultants to advance transit studies, and support for the EZRide service.

Public Comment

- Steve Kaiser emphasized that Kendall Square growth needs to rely on non-auto modes, and that bunching of buses should be minimized.
- Arthur Strang talked about proper allocation of roadway space, including the need to designate more space for use by buses.

Adjourned at 7:30pm