

City of Cambridge

Transit Advisory Committee

Abbreviated Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 6, 2019

Ballroom, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue

Attendance (12 people)

Members (7) John Attanucci (Chair); Kelley Brown; Devin Chausse; Robert Fitzgerald; Katherine Rafferty; Arthur Strang; Alexander Taylor

City Staff (2) Tegin Teich, Andrew Reker (CDD);

Others (3) 3 members of the public

As a result of technical difficulties, this meeting of the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) began at approximately 5:45 PM. Tegin Teich (TT) introduced the meeting agenda and started self-introductions.

Public comment

No members of the public made a comment.

Workshop: Transit Advisory Committee work plans

TT started the workshop with an overview of recent TAC work noting the heavy focus over the past half-year on state processes with local project updates. TT shifted the focus away from state processes to local projects and the Transit Strategic Plan implementation plan and a workshop exercise to help TAC members identify priority areas for the remainder of 2019. TT reintroduced the Transit Strategic Plan implementation plan document that was reproduced as posters for this meeting. TAC members were then given each three sets of color-coded stickers to highlight: (1) in red-orange, high priority, (2) in yellow, medium priority, and (3) low priority implementation items. Then, TAC members then had some time to review the implementation plan, write out new implementation ideas, and affix stickers to items that they wanted to prioritize.

TAC members proposed several new implementation plan ideas, prioritized existing ideas, and also discussed a way to organize their actions in relationship to the implementation plan.

[New ideas for Implementation Plan](#)

TAC members proposed the following new implementation ideas:

- Revive First Street transit priority ideas
- Battery-electric bus facilities
- New bus facilities for the MBTA
- Alewife-area Route 2 ramp bus priority

[Implementation Plan prioritization results](#)

TAC members categorized the following ideas to have the high levels of interest:

- Transit signal priority program – accountability and transparency for current initiatives
- Bus priority program – South Mass Ave and follow-up or spot improvements
- Grand Junction transit conceptual design

In the coming months, TAC members noted that they would like to continue to monitor the progress of bus priority in the North Mass. Ave. corridor. However, TAC members noted the following projects had lower levels of interest: Ames Street bus routing and bus stop improvements, realtime bus signage.

[TAC action framework](#)

TT facilitated a conversation about how to organize the priorities into discreet actions for the TAC; this resulted in the following list of actions:

- Development of short-term action items:
 - Route 2 ramp bus priority
 - Watertown bus maintenance/storage facility
 - Follow-up bus priority improvements to SMACSI project
 - North Mass Ave bus priority improvements
 - Alewife transit/bike-ped bridge in Quadrangle to Cambridge Park Drive
 - Kendall Square Transit Enhancement Program by Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

- Monitoring ongoing projects: Grand Junction transit conceptual design, River Street reconstruction, Mount Auburn bus priority, Inman Square reconstruction, realtime bus signage
- Accountability and transparency: City transit signal priority implementation, realtime bus signage
- Development of policy: Transportation demand management ordinance expansion, review of best practice, policy expansion
- Early engagement in service planning: Green Line Extension bus routing and service planning
- Early engagement in infrastructure design: Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square

[Presentation: Local project updates](#)

TT gave an update on River Street project. TAC asked questions about how much the MBTA is driving the designs and if route changes would help.

[Version Information](#)

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