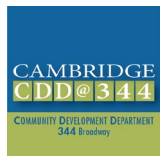


City of Cambridge  
Community Development Department

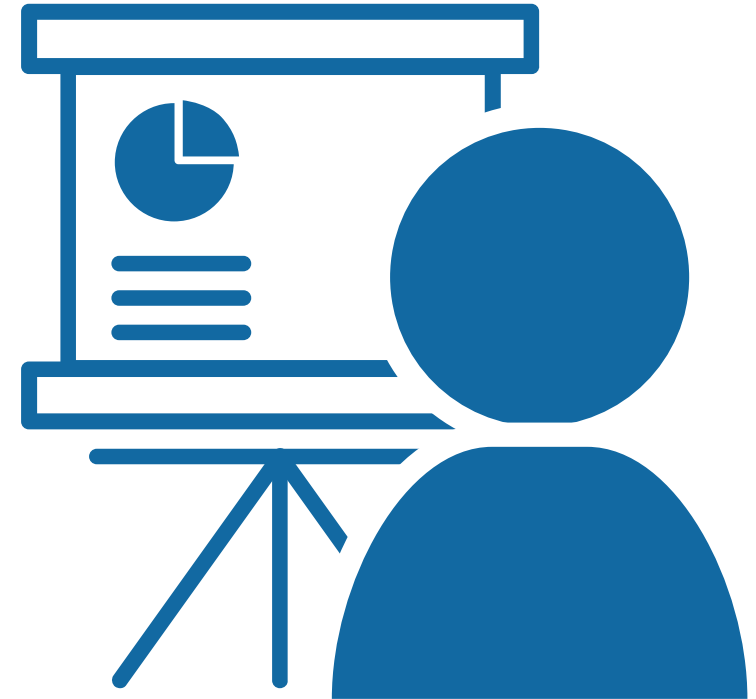
# Transit Advisory Committee

February 2021



# Meeting agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Presentation: Transit Advisory Committee member updates
4. Discussion: Transit Advisory Committee action updates
  - MBTA Route 47 Proposal
  - MBTA Forging Ahead
5. Presentation: City project and development review updates
6. Public comment





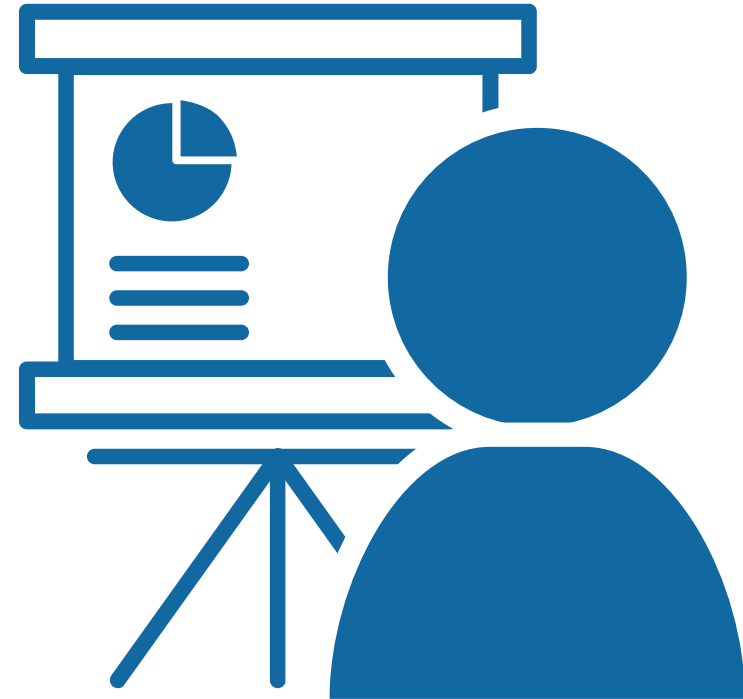
# Transit Advisory Committee Member Updates

Melissa Zampitella

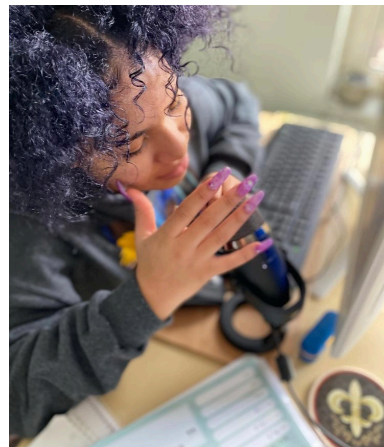
Jackie Jones

# TAC member updates

- Alewife TMA's TripCentives Program
  - Melissa Zamiptella
- Equity4Cambridge podcast – Transit episode
  - Jackie Jones



# Equity4Cambridge! Podcast



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE 2020-21  
EQUITY FELLOWS COHORT!**

We are inspired by the number and brilliance of this year's applications. And we are **deeply grateful to all applicants** for their thoughtful, creative ideas to address urgent equity issues in our community.

Fifty community-driven projects were submitted, and 22 projects have been invited to join this year's cohort.

**This will be a powerful year of learning, mutual support, & collective action.**

Stay tuned for more details as the work begins!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTPS://WWW.LEARNINGFORLIBERATION.ORG/EQUITY-COLLABORATIVE/](https://www.learningforliberation.org/equity-collaborative/)



# Equity4Cambridge! Podcast

- The Cambridge Equity Collaborative selected Lisa Jones and Jackie Jones to be 2021 Fellows in a cohort with 22 other Cambridge Equity projects
- The Equity4Cambridge! Podcast is Lisa and Jackie's project. The goal is to have diverse voices in Cambridge express the goal for equity in Cambridge. This includes transit. Lisa and Jackie interviewed a Cambridge resident who reminisced about memories of transit
- The Collaborative is also a Cambridge Public Schools collaborative



# **Transit Advisory Committee Action Updates**

John Attanucci, Chair



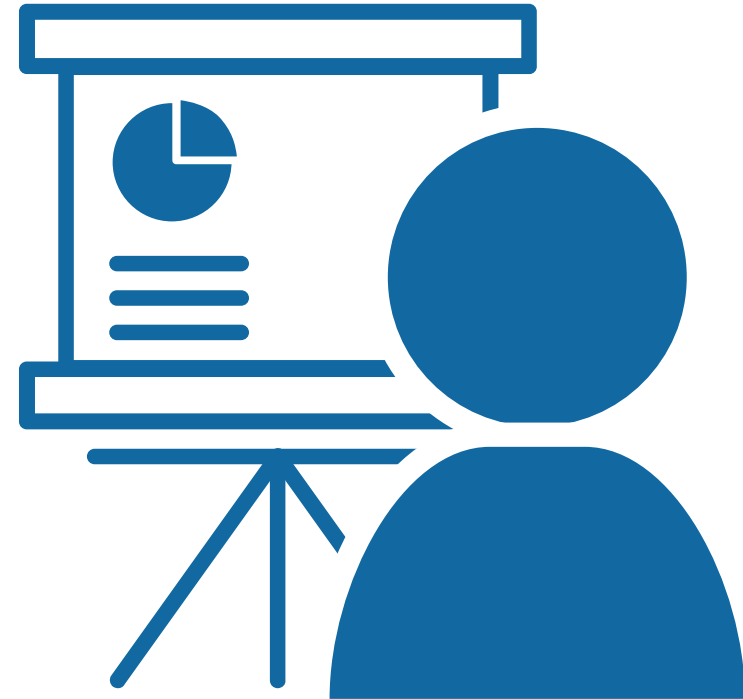
# TAC comment letters

- Advisory Committees have written letters to :
  - State agencies advocating for specific items during project planning, design, and construction or in response to a planning initiative
  - Planning Board with comments on development proposals
- Letters are signed by the chair on behalf of the advisory committee but do not represent City's position
- Consensus is desired, but a simple majority vote by a quorum of TAC members empowers a selected/volunteered member to:
  - Draft and finalize a comment letter from an approved outline
  - Update and edit a draft letter



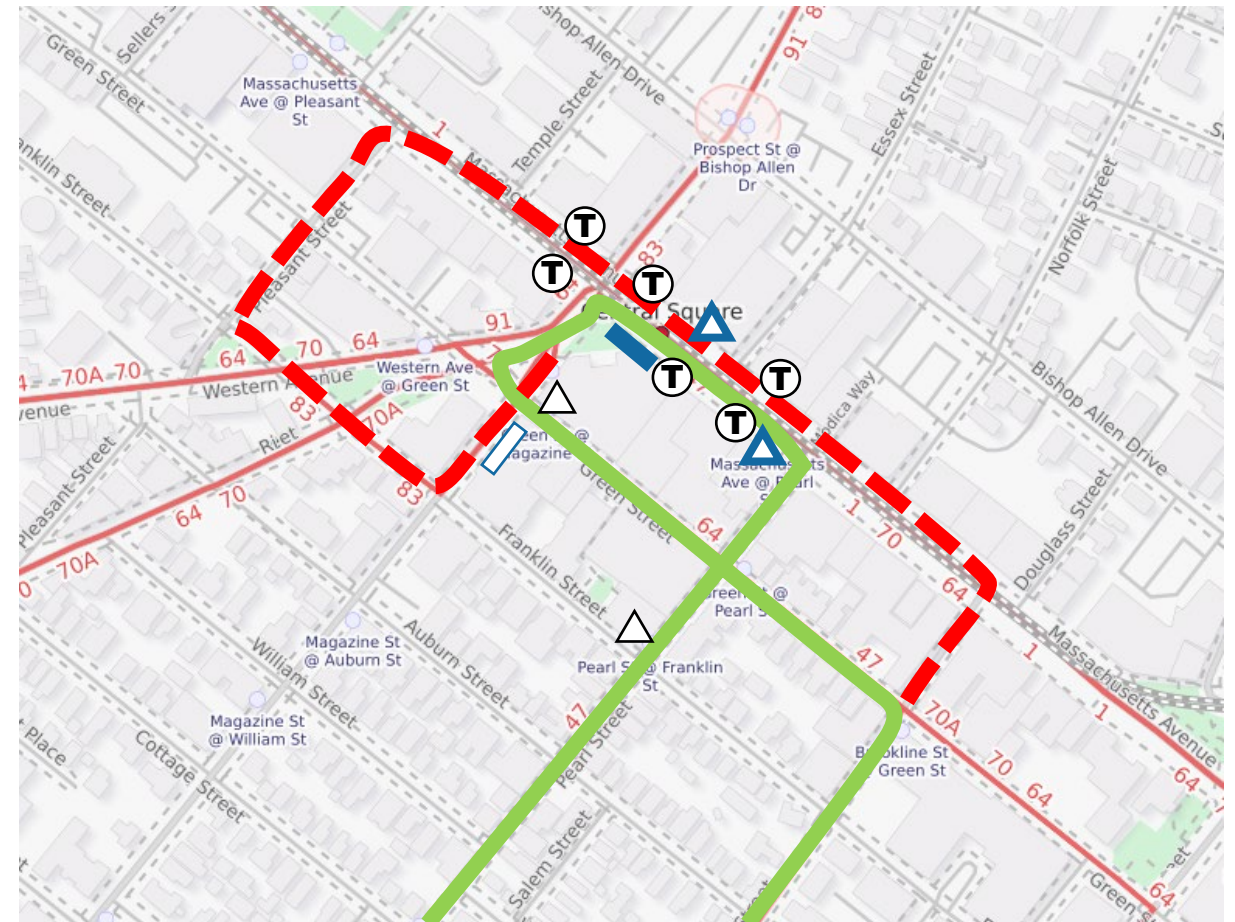
# TAC proposed actions

- TAC comment letter: Route 47 proposal
  - Discussion and potential action
- TAC comment letter: Forging Ahead comment letter
  - Discussion and potential action
- Pending TAC comment letter: MIT Volpe
  - Next Planning Board meeting - to be announced



# TAC Proposal for Route 47

- Review: TAC developed proposal for changing Route 47
- Motivations:
  - Shorter transfers and connections on Mass Ave, i.e. to Route 1 and Red Line





# TAC Comments on Forging Ahead

- Review a new TAC comment letter
- Motivations:
  - Reductions are more than expected given previous communication from MBTA
  - Reductions, even temporary, inhibits transit's role in the city
- Route 47 – Peak service decreased by ~50%
- Route 68 – Suspended fully
- Route 70 – Peak service reduced by 2/3rds
- Route 72 – Suspended fully
- Route 85 – Suspended during middays
- Routes to Arlington



# Other Updates



# Next TAC and Joint meeting of TAC/BC/PC

## Upcoming TAC Meetings

- Wednesday, March 3, 2020
- Wednesday, April 7, 2020
  - Potential: MBTA/MassDOT Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis

## Tentative Joint meetings with Bicycle and Pedestrian committees

- Wednesday, February 17
- Wednesday, March 17

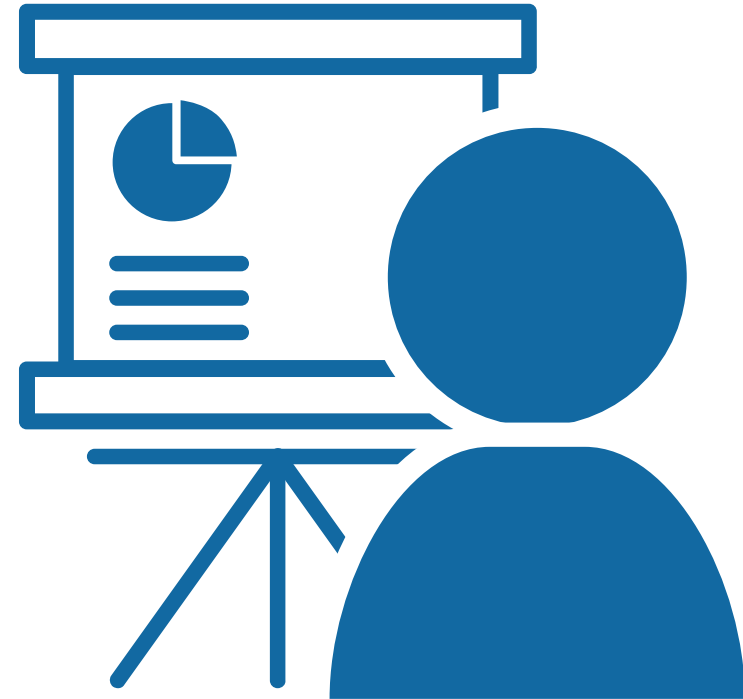


# Local Updates

Andrew Reker, Transit Planner, Community Development

# Cambridge updates

- City Updates
  - Development review
  - Street projects
- MBTA Updates





# City Updates





# River Street Reconstruction

- Processed feedback on corridor designs
- Continuing work on Carl Barron Plaza design concepts with urban design staff, consultants
- Expect a meeting of the working group soon

# Huron Avenue | Glacken Field

- Department of Public Works staff presented an update at joint meeting on January 20; additional update with designs expected at Feb or March joint meeting
- Project includes, among other things:
  - Constructing sidewalks along edge of Glacken Field from golf course to Fresh Pond Parkway
  - Creation of 1 new bus stop, relocation of others
  - Improving pedestrian crossings of Huron Avenue
  - Constructing two-way separated bicycle facility
  - Constructing “floating” bus stops



*Above Cartoon showing a bus boarding island with a raised crosswalk with a two-way separated bike lane. Shows a trolleybus that would not be found on this section of Huron Avenue. Illustration by Eric Tuvel.*

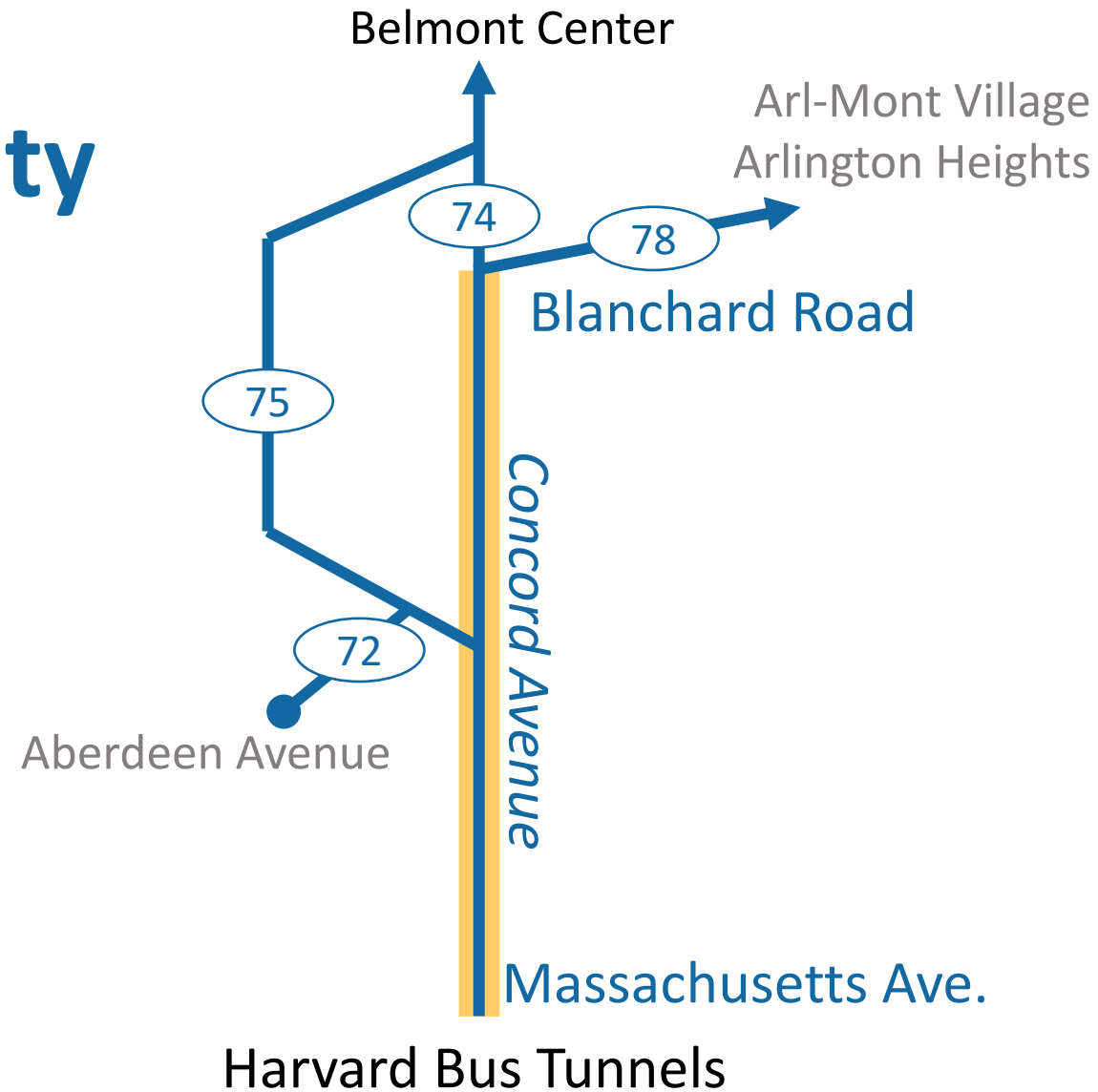


# Signal Priority

- MBTA and City of Cambridge are piloting 2 locations of cloud-based signal priority on Mass Ave. at Albany Street and at Vassar Street
- New product allows for wireless communication with signal equipment

# Concord Ave. Signal Priority

- Upgrade signal equipment at 12 locations – equipment and cabinet only
- City to engage consultant for signal plans, coordinating with MBTA for procurement
- What does the TAC want to know about this corridor?





# City projects

Project	Update	Next public event
<b>Delay &amp; Unreliability Update</b>	Last updated in 2018, some routes have had route changes	None expected



# City projects

Project	Update	Next public event
<b>Belmont Street</b>	Final designs and coordination	TBA – Meeting with remote participation planned for early March
<b>Grand Junction MUP</b>	Completed outreach on conceptual designs	TBA – Expecting meeting soon
<b>South Mass Ave. Follow-up</b>	Engaged with MBTA on studying additional lengths of bus lanes on Mass Ave., at Harvard Bridge	TBD – Partial follow-up to SMACSI project



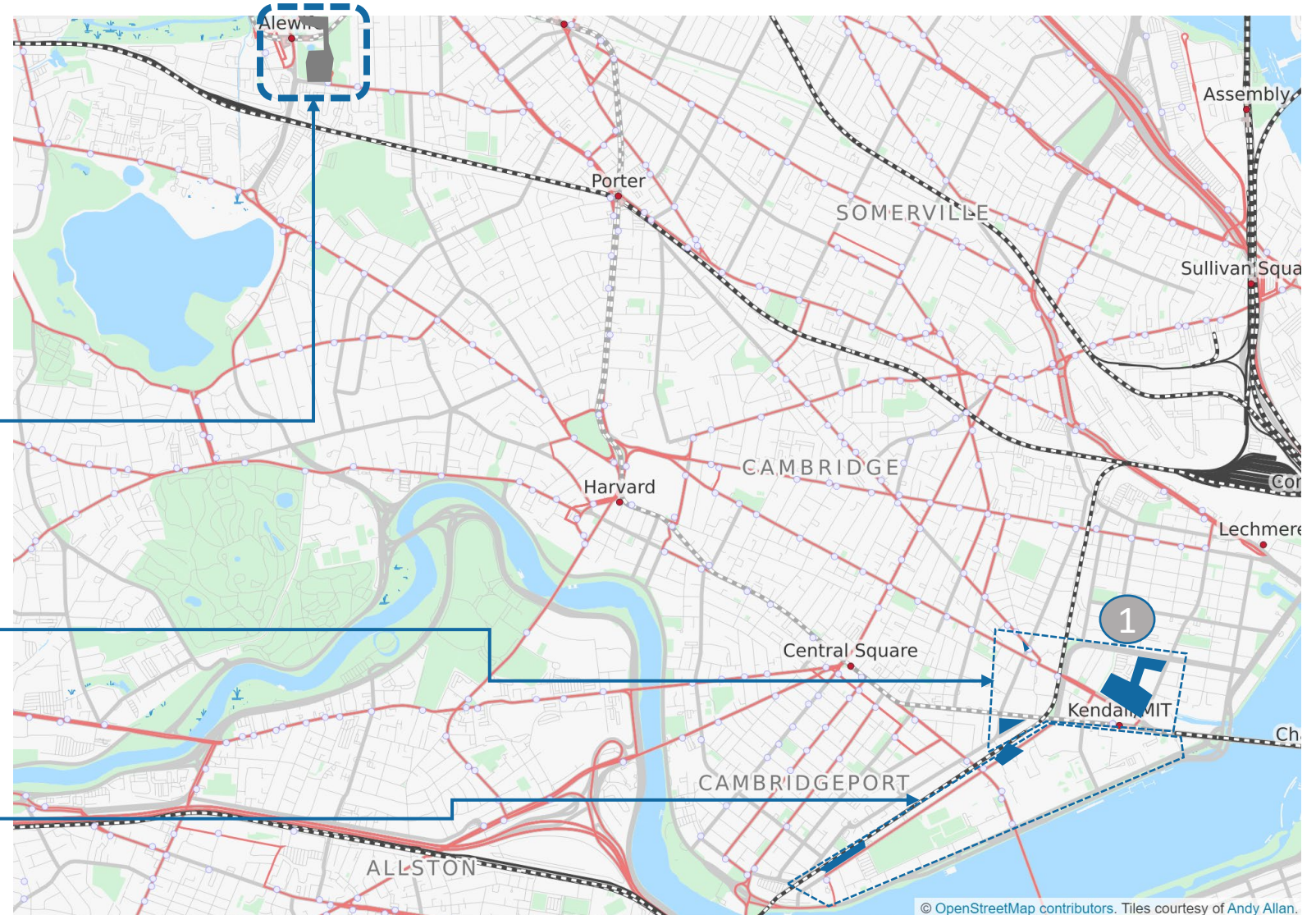
# Development Project Updates

# Development Review

North Cambridge - Alewife

Kendall Square area

MIT Campus

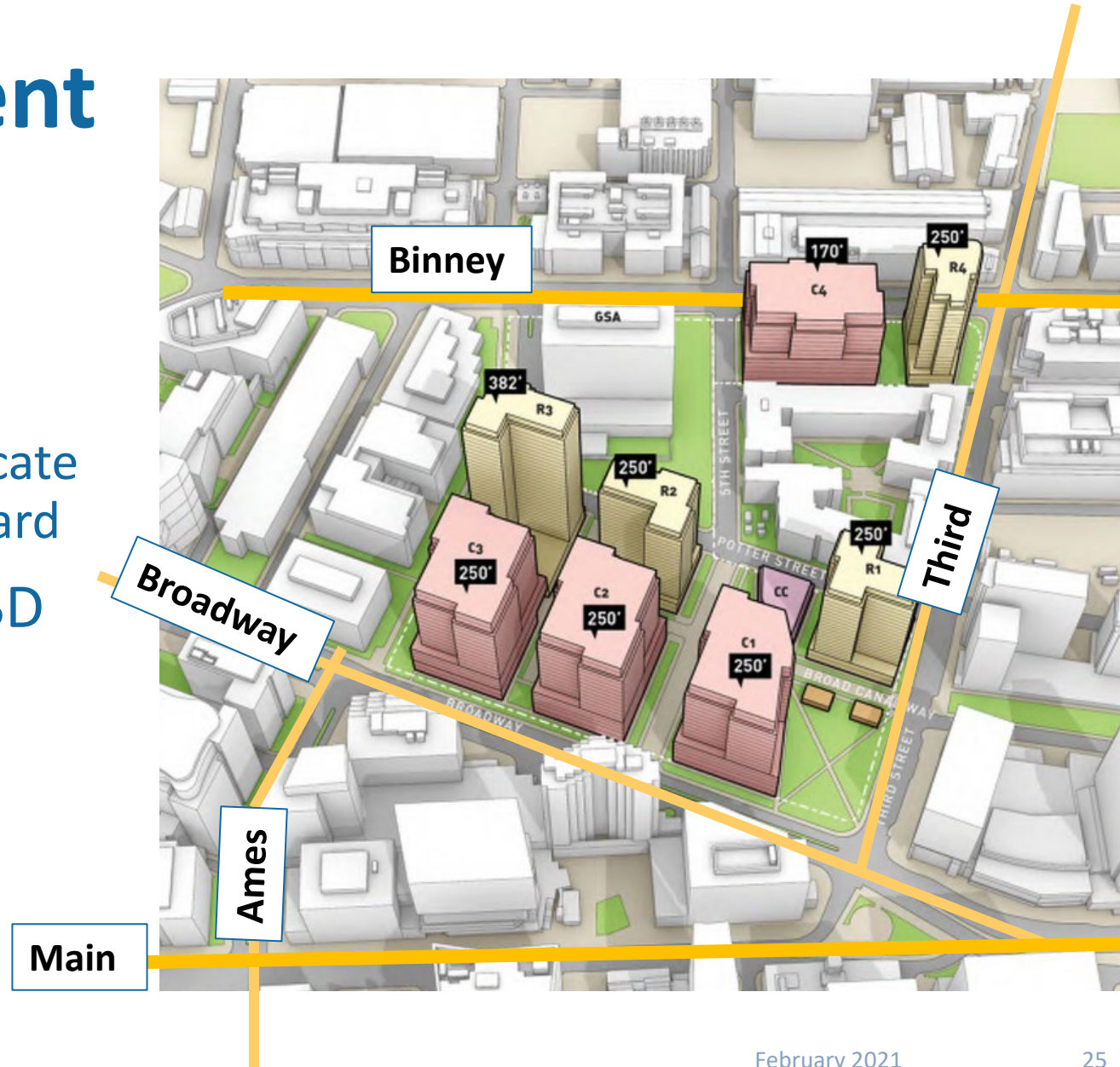


© OpenStreetMap contributors. Tiles courtesy of Andy Allan.



# Volpe MIT Development

- Planning Board presentation on October 27
- Potential TAC actions
  - Review application and communicate comments to staff or planning board
- Next Planning Board meeting TBD





# Other upcoming project reviews

- **Kendall Square**

- Volpe parcel – MIT’s mixed-use project (separate from GSA-DOT Volpe site) – TIS certified
- 600 Main Street – Research & development proposal – TIS certified
- 34-40 Hampshire – Hotel – No TIS required / PTDM Plan approved

- **MIT Campus**

- Vassar Street / Cyclotron – MIT Schwarzman College – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study
- Vassar Street / West Campus – MIT Graduate housing – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study. Planning Board review tomorrow



# Other upcoming project reviews

- North Cambridge
  - Alewife Center (Former WR Grace) – IQHQ pursuing community engagement to talk about their plans to redevelop the site
  - No formal submittals to City of Cambridge as of date



# **MBTA & Commonwealth Updates**



# MBTA Green Line Extension

- Union Square station access from Cambridge will not be finished until 2022 as a result of US2 developer delays in constructing elevator
- Lechmere station trending to reopen summer 2021
  - Route 80 to be consolidated with Route 88 and diverted to serve Sullivan
  - Routes 69 (to Harvard) and 87 (to Arlington Center via Davis and Union Squares) would remain
  - EZRide to serve station area
- GLX team provided an update at Community Working Group about the public art program, showed images of public art at Lechmere station



# Ongoing MBTA Initiatives

- Bus Network Redesign ongoing
  - Summer 2021 – outreach on network alternatives
  - Winter 2022 – outreach on final alternative and phased implementation
- MBTA/MassDOT Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis held first meeting
- MBTA proposal to renovate North Cambridge facility in order to replace electric trackless trolleys with battery-electric buses



# Other initiatives

- MBTA Fare Transformation (formerly known as AFC 2.0)
  - To install renewed faregates at stations
  - Testing fare “touch” pads on buses now through spring 2021



# Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment



Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting with remote participation.

**Be safe, warm, and well!**

---

**Thank You**