

Transit Advisory Committee

April 2021

Abbreviated meeting summary

Attendance

Members	Present (9) John Attanucci (Chair), Devin Chausse, Mathew Coogan, Jackie Jones, Sylvia Parsons, Katherine Rafferty, Arthur Strang, Alexander Taylor, Saul Tannenbaum
	Absent (8) Joseph Beggan, Kelly Brown, Jim Gascoigne, Kristiana Lachiusa, Bill McAvinney, Margaret McKenna, Robert Ricchi, Melissa Zampitella
City staff (2)	Andrew Reker (CDD); Adam Shulman (TPT)
Others (8)	Alexandra Levering (CRA); Steve Engler, Rick Plenge (Consultants supporting CRA); Rachel Nadkarni, Olivia Mobayed, Josh Weiland (MBTA); 2 members of the public

Welcome and committee introductions

Andy Reker (AR) began the virtual meeting at 5:34 PM by welcoming members of the TAC, members of the public and presenters. AR gave a tour of the virtual space for people joining by application and telephone and shared some ground rules for virtual meeting participation. AR then welcomed the members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and public and conducted a roll call – 9 members were present, 8 were absent.

Presentations: Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA)-led streetscape design project for Broadway, Main, and Third

AR introduced the team that is leading the street scape design project for Broadway, Main Street, and Third Street in Kendall Square. Alexandra Levering (AL) from the CRA also introduced Steve Engler (SE) from Sasaki and Rick Plenge (RP) from HDR who are the design consultants that are supporting the design project. The presentation included the following information:

- Street reconstruction and development projects in the Kendall Square area
- Design goals and objectives for the streetscape design
- Study of bus priority with funding from the Kendall Square Transit Enhancement Program
- Existing conditions, design goals, and “inspiration board” images for Third, Broadway, and Main Street
- Review of dedicated bus lane concepts:
 - Queue jump approaching Galilei Way, Ames Street, and Third Street
 - Transit signal priority for these intersections

Members of the TAC had the following comments and questions:

- For locations where “floating” bus stops maybe implemented, how are you designing to make it comfortable for people to wait there? *We are implementing design features that are proven to minimize pedestrian and cyclist conflicts – raised pedestrian crossings and railings on the boarding island to direct passengers to dedicated crossings.*
- For boarding islands at “floating” bus stops, it is important to design the boarding island large enough so that accessible ramps can be deployed to allow everybody to board. *Yes, we will design boarding islands to allow for ramps to deploy and people to use the ramp.*
- What data was used to evaluate the bus priority treatments? *A hybrid of data from the MIT Volpe transportation impact study and data from the previous design project ALTA consulting did*
- Concern that signal priority doesn’t work well if buses are stuck in queues, so, it is important to study queue lengths and ensure that there’s dedicated space for the bus to get around
- Where will shuttle stops be on the interim and future Main Street designs? These shuttles serve an important purpose. *Confirmed that shuttle stops will be maintained.*
- Concern that snow removal will be haphazard with the bike lanes.

Presentation: City and MBTA updates

The next item was a review of the various updates on City and MBTA projects. The MBTA staff in the meeting acknowledged that they received the TAC’s letter about the Route 47 and are drafting a response.

AR presented updates on the MBTA Forging Ahead, Green Line Extension, and “Building Back” construction initiatives. AR also presented some updates on City projects.

Public comment

A member of the public made the following comments:

- Concern about the lack of specifics in the MBTA Forging Ahead process, including the lack of information about routes which are seeing decreased service
- Continued concern about the pavement condition at Inman Square resulting in uncomfortable and unsafe conditions for bus riders
- Concern about the lack of maintenance for the Harvard Square MBTA station

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

Version Information

Draft: 8/26/2021 AR

Approval: 10/6/21 Unanimously with 9 votes