
City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

June 2023





Welcome

Purpose

Get feedback from appointed members of the TAC, the City's "community experts"

Outcomes

City staff and project teams understand TAC feedback; TAC members understand purpose, outcomes, and process of studies and projects

Process

TAC to 'raise hand' during presentations and discussions

Public to type in questions in zoom Q&A or speak verbal comments during public comment period



Discussion: Grand Junction Transit Study



Grand Junction transit service is an important priority for the city

Studies and design projects that inform City's work

- **Kendall Square Mobility Task Force (2017)**
 - Recommended updating transit demand estimates, develop a concept
- **MBTA Rail Vision (2019)**
 - “Urban” rail with 15-minute frequencies – West Station to North Station
- **Multi-use Path project (Ongoing)**
 - Designing a path assuming the presence of future two-track railroad

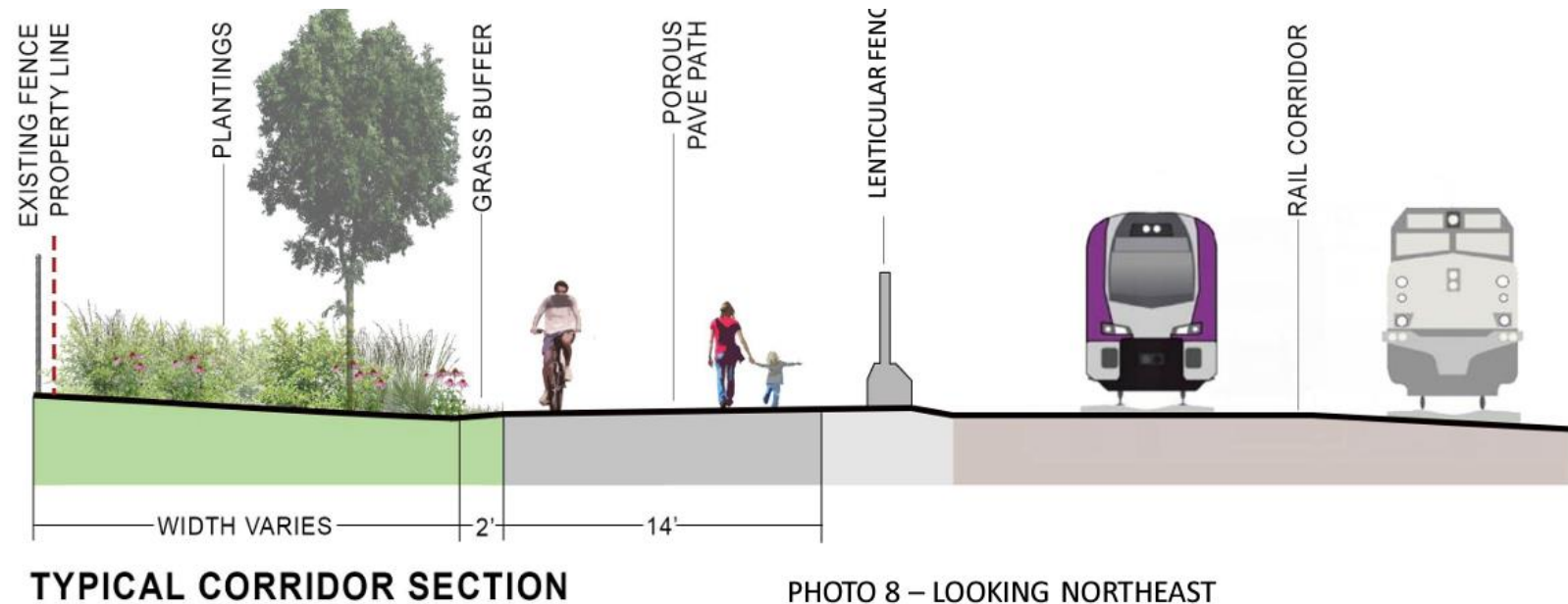
We will have a better understanding of transit service & design trade-offs

Some potential design choices:

- Vehicle type
- Station locations
- Route

Some potential outcomes:

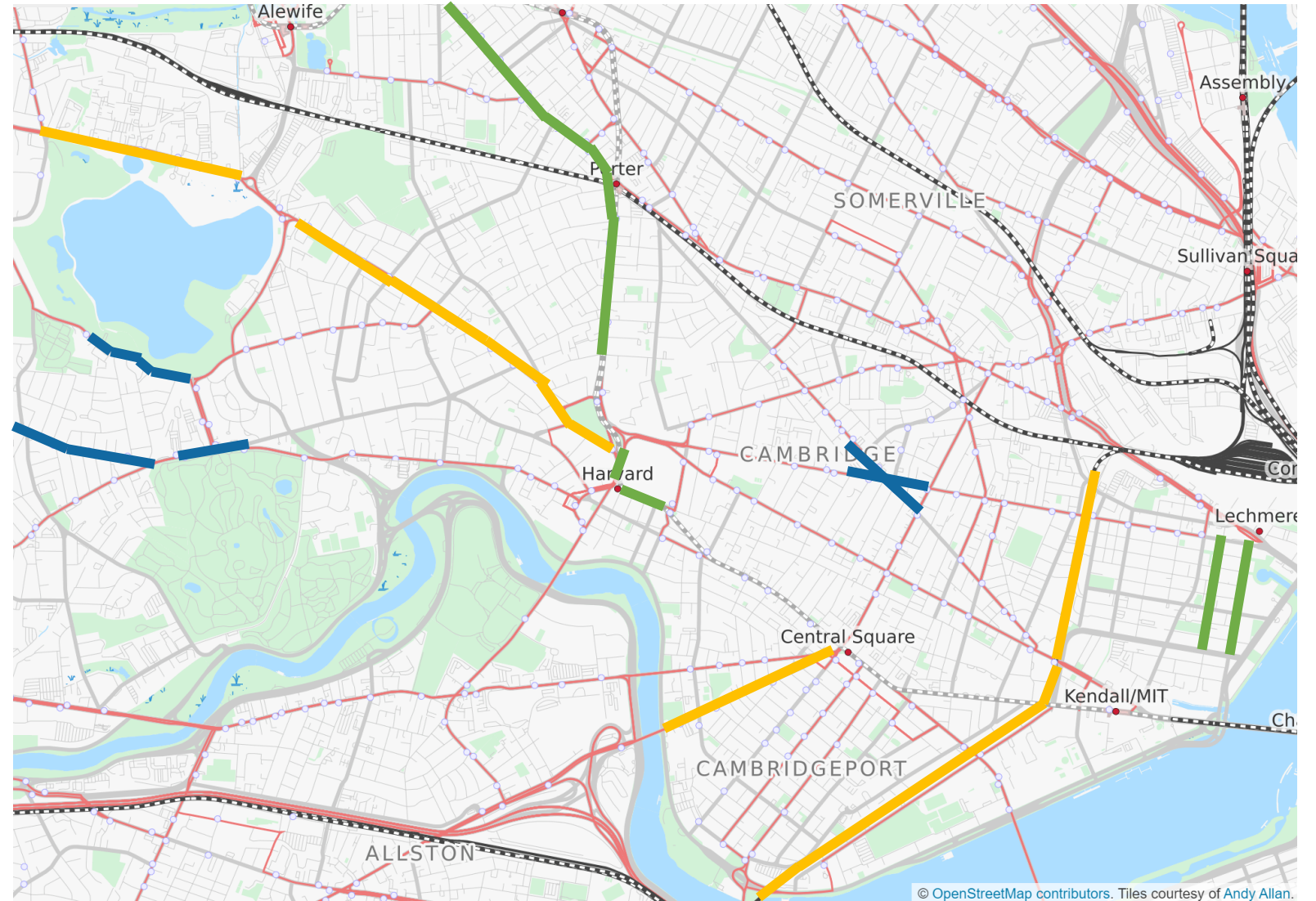
- Local cross-street traffic changes
- Regional travel connections





City and TAC Updates

Selected street projects





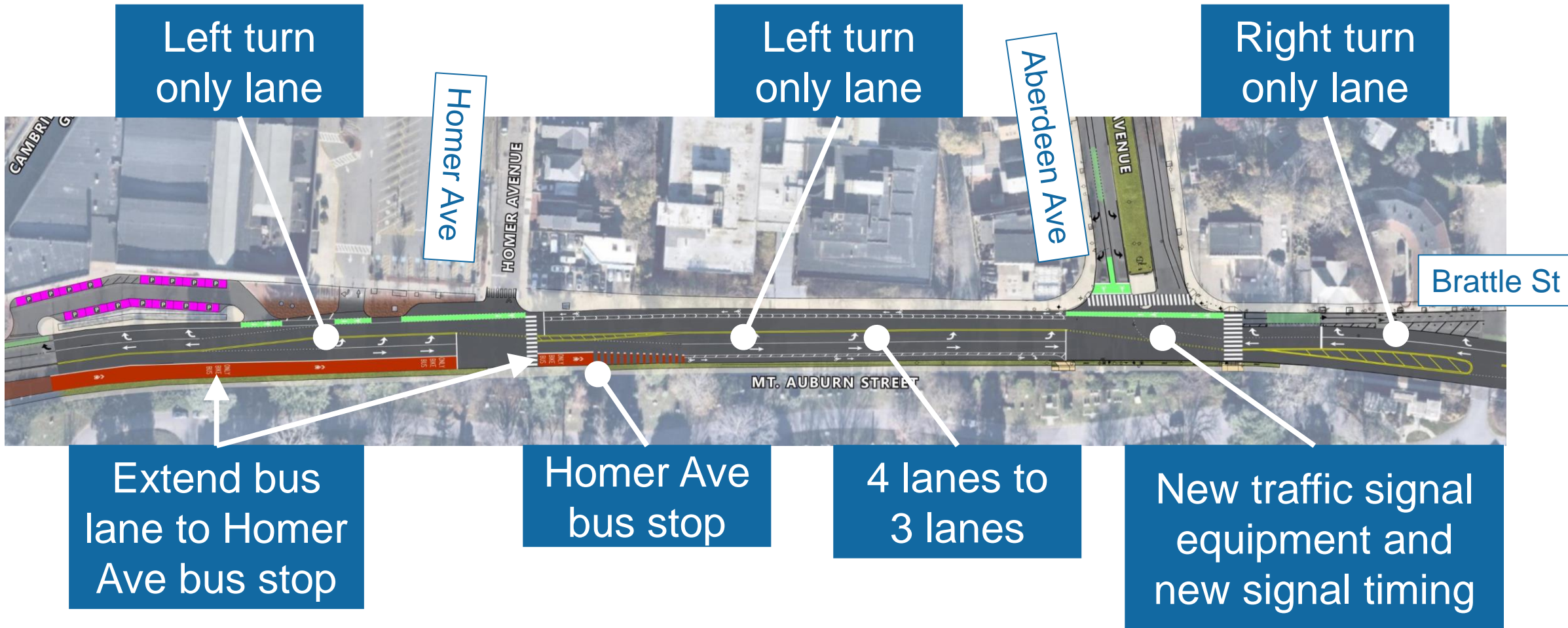
Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

Installing new signal equipment and making modifications to Mount Auburn Street

Changing traffic patterns on Mount Auburn St. and installing new traffic signal equipment

Community engagement through summer; timeline for installation to be determined

Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue





Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

Several improvements are related to public feedback after Mt Auburn bus priority project in 2018-2019

- Extending bus-bike lane | awkward merge before bus stop
- Dedicated left-turn lanes | awkward transitions to continue on Mount Auburn

In addition, we will be making changes to traffic signal timing to continue to prioritize movements along Mount Auburn Street.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/streetsandtransportation/projectsandprograms/mtauburnaberdeenintersection>



New information on city webpages

City staff updated webpages for:

- Bus priority
 - List of bus lane projects
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Locations of signal priority
 - Reports on bus priority
 - Delay and unreliability studies
- Transit in Cambridge
- Bus stop amenities and shelter program



Implementation

Project	Update	Next public event
Brattle Street CSO	Paving on Brattle St in June (Sparks-Fresh Pond and Larch-Mount Auburn)	
Belmont Street Project	Sidewalk reconstruction through summer	
Huron Avenue – Glacken Field Project	Drainage work ongoing	
River Street Reconstruction Project	Test pits on River Street	

In planning and design

Project	Update	Next public event
Grand Junction MUP Project	Working to complete final design plans and construction phasing	Public meeting expected fall 2023 - TBA
Concord Ave – Transit Signal Priority Project	Working with MBTA on procurement	
Real-time Transit Signage (PB 2017)	Reviewing bidders	TBA
Transit signal priority (PB 2016)	Working with MBTA on procurement for Mass Ave signal priority upgrades	

Under study

Project	Update	Next public event
Harvard Square Area	50% design completion; planning for outreach	TBA – Joint meeting
Mass Ave Partial Construction	Working group met – second meeting in June	TBD
Grand Junction Transit	CRA to study transit on GJ	
Hampshire St CSO	City to build SBLs + relocate bus stops	Open house at DPW: June 13 4:30pm



MBTA and State Updates



Upcoming subway diversions

Because of MBTA maintenance work and developer construction, the MBTA will have subway-replacement shuttles on:

- Red Line JFK/UMass-North Quincy
- Green Line
 - Union Sq and Medford Tufts to Government Center
 - North Station to Government Center
- Orange Line
- Lowell, Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines

Rail-
replacement
shuttles

Weekends and
evenings all
month



New commuter rail schedules

The MBTA began running on new schedules for the Commuter Rail on Monday, May 22, 2023.

All lines have some sort of minor changes to schedules.

At Porter Square

Weekdays
have hourly
service

Weekends
have 2-hourly
service



Bus service reductions

The MBTA announced that they will adjust bus schedules on Sunday, July 2, 2023.

The MBTA expects that the schedule changes will make buses more reliable.

- Today – MBTA cannot run all trips because they do not have enough drivers
- After schedule change – MBTA expects to be able to run almost all trips with the number of operators they have

Schedules not yet published.

Virtual public meeting

June 12

6:30 pm.



Subway service reductions

Since June 2022, the MBTA has increased the time between trains on all subway lines.

Current regular weekday schedules are:

- Red Line – Every 8 to 15 minutes
- Green Line – Every 6 to 12 minutes

**In Cambridge,
Somerville,
and
Downtown
Boston, Red
Line trains
arrive**

**Every 7 to 8
minutes**



Subway slow zone

Since March 2023, the MBTA has added new temporary slow zones because of poor track conditions.

On the Red Line, this means average delays of up to 30 minutes one-way for end-to-end trips.

In Cambridge, there are noticeable slow zones between:

- Alewife to/from Davis
- Porter to/from Harvard
- Harvard to/from Central

**MBTA
published an
online
dashboard**

**[MBTA.com/
speedrestrictions](https://www.mbta.com/speedrestrictions)**



Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday, July 6, 2023 – cancelled
 - Thursday, August 3, 2023 – potential orientation month
 - Thursday, September 7, 2023 – Note: Thursday after Labor Day
- Committee meetings
 - None scheduled
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
 - Wednesday, June 28, 2023
 - Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Thank you for participating in this Transit
Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and warm tonight.

Thank You