

Background

The Transit Advisory Committee met on February 8, 2024 using remote participation. In addition to a presentation from the MBTA, we discussed updates and modifications to the TAC-endorsed Transit Strategic Plan Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan is the list of items that the TAC is most interested in and would like the City to prioritize. The items may be a design project, a construction project, a conceptual plan, a program, or any number of initiatives.

The Implementation Plan also includes the City's quick evaluation of the items included in the Implementation Plan. City staff categorize the items into the following groupings:

- a) Moving forward – item has or will have budget and staff assigned
- b) Resources not yet identified – item requires new resources or a funding strategy is under development
- c) Not yet started – item requires new resources, a source of resources is not yet determined
- d) Revisit – item is an ongoing initiative, but, may require new resources, focus, or energy
- e) Ongoing advocacy and coordination – item is an ongoing effort that are primarily outside of the City's direct influence

Below, you will read a list of proposed additions, modifications, and removals from the implementation plan.

Additions

- Bridge from Alewife Triangle to Quadrangle – Advocate for the bridge's design and construction
 - Specified information in item D6 - City staff can prepare a review for presentation
- Fitchburg Line – modifications, modernizations, new stations (Alewife infill)
 - Modified bridge (D6) to include reference to station
- Integrated planning (Commuter rail + bus + subway) – Briefing from Rail Transformation office
 - New item D10
- Alewife area bus priority-bus lanes/signal priority
 - Item C2
- "Surge" Diversions – Being informed about the status of the track improvement project (Red Line, Green Line)
 - New item A19
- Cambridge Street – Cycling safety ordinance project – Being informed/monitor the design development / floating bus stops (ped/rider – bike conflicts)

- New Item A20
- McGrath Highway – MassDOT design development – Being informed
 - New Item E13

Modifications

- Fare-free pilot – Request presentation from MBTA on their positions re: fare-free routes, general fare structure presentation, interaction between proposed fare-free routes/BNR/low-income fare program
 - Recategorized to become item #14
- AFC 2.0/New Fare System – Request presentation from MBTA on the MyCharlie/back-of-house technology changes
 - Item E8
- Consider modifying PTDM or development items to consolidate
 - Removed former C3
- Consider consolidating the bus signal priority items
 - Consolidated signal priority items into one line, except for separate active project (Concord Avenue)
 - Consolidated multiple bus priority/lane items into individual lines for Mass Ave, Central Square, Harvard Square
- Participatory Budgeting – report
 - Updated item A1
- Bus Network Redesign – Request presentation from MBTA (A12)
 - Moved to D11

Removals

- Bus priority – Inman Square (A9), River Street (A8), Huron Avenue (A11)
 - Part of consolidation
- Consolidate/remove for RL – into one category (E3, E4)
 - Consolidated into E3
- Ask for an update – Climate vulnerability assessment (E5)
 - Added new item (now called E4)
- Verify that parking minimums was removed
 - Verified