
City of Cambridge
Community Development Department

Transit Advisory Committee

February 2023





Welcome

Purpose

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

Outcomes

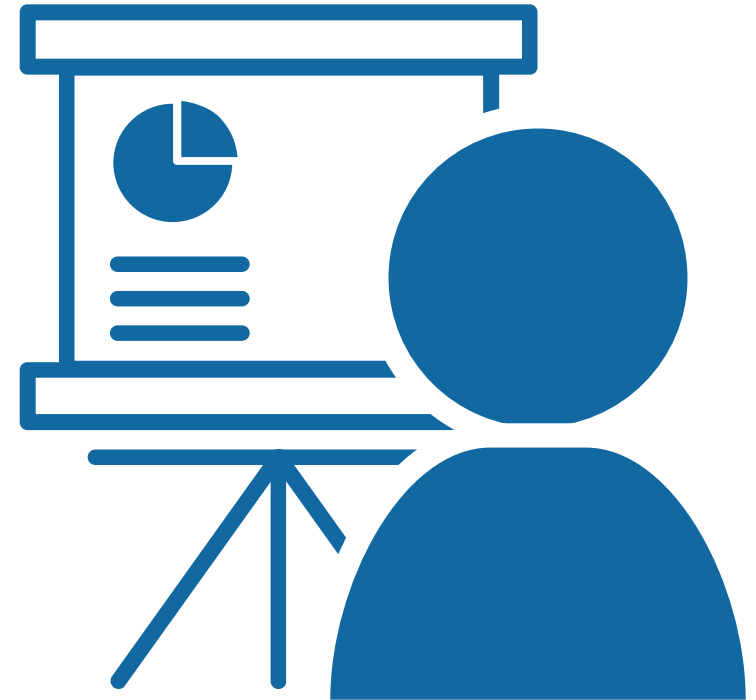
TAC members have identified projects that they will work on in 2023

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

Meeting agenda

1. Roll call + Meeting Summary
2. Presentation: City and MBTA Updates
3. Public comment
4. Discussion: Breakout groups by subcommittee





Roll Call

Transit Advisory Committee Secretary



Attendance

The TAC secretary must take a roll-call to confirm attendance by Transit Advisory Committee members when the meeting is held with remote participation.

TAC secretary will call roll.



Meeting summaries

The January 2023 meeting summaries were posted online for review.

Propose a vote to approve meeting summaries.



TAC and City Updates

Andy Reker, City of Cambridge



Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



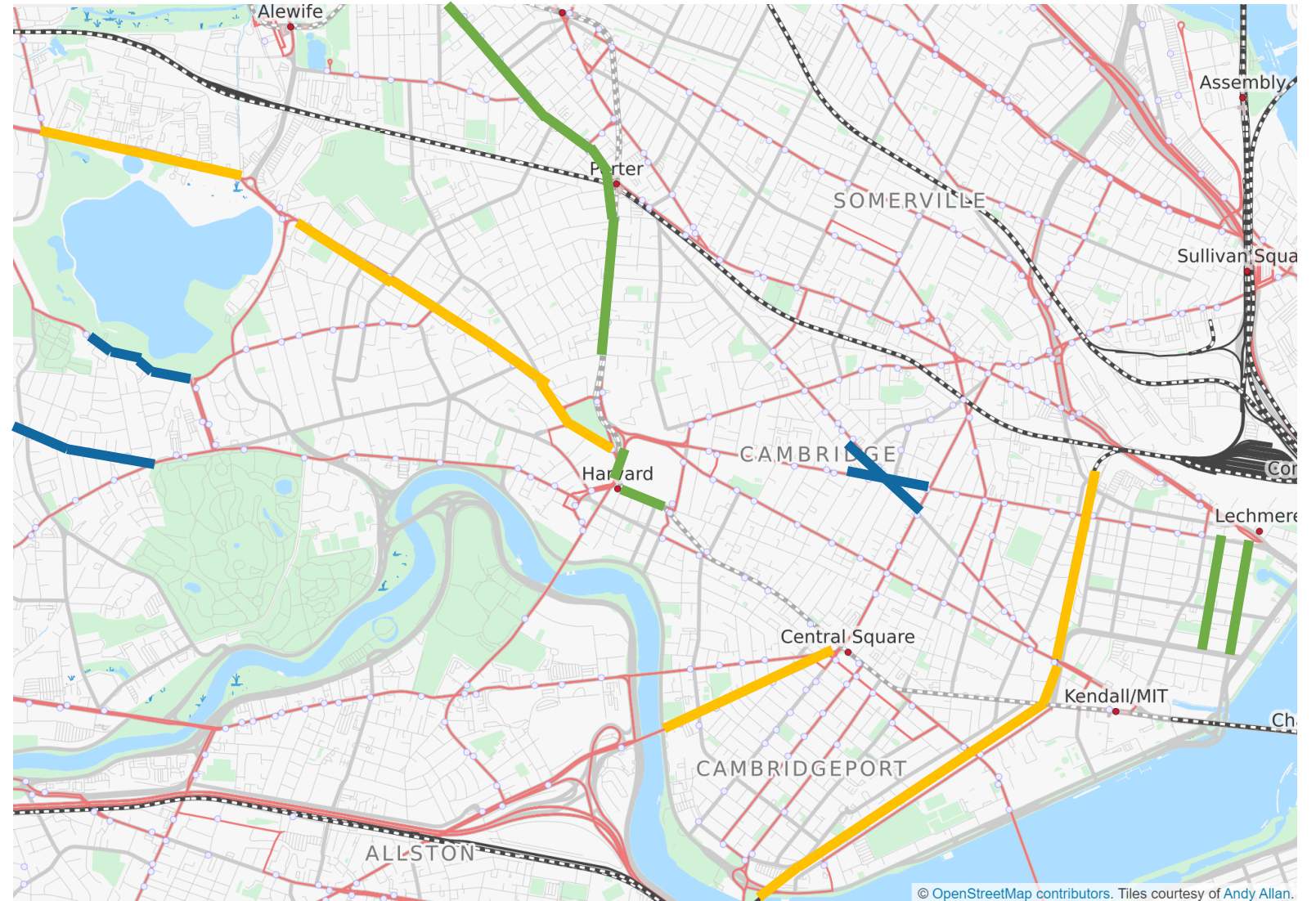
Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday, March 2, 2023
 - Propose: Schedule subcommittee meetings to host or finish planning for event in March-April
 - Thursday, April 13, 2023 (Shifted)
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
 - Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - Tentative
 - Wednesday, March 15, 2023

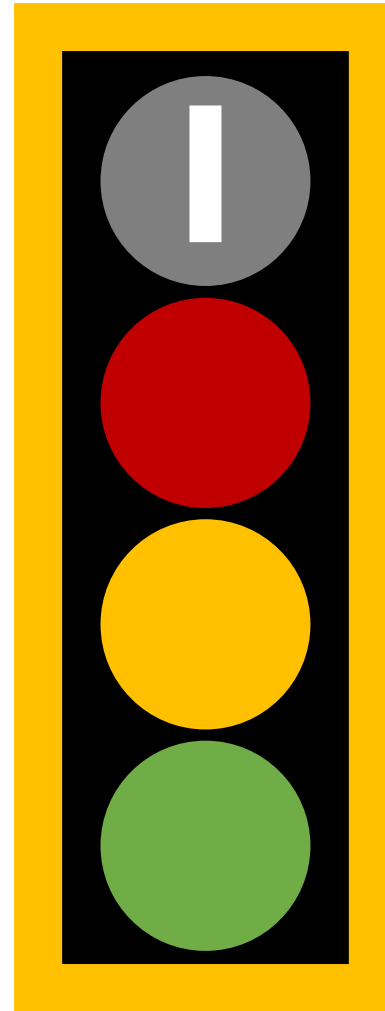


City Updates

Selected street projects



Transit signal on Cambridge Street



**Transit-only
signal**

Provides a bus
“head start”
from 7 to 10
a.m. when
buses enter the
intersection on
red



Inman Square

Intersection of Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street, Inman Street, Springfield Street, and Antrim Street

Street design changes

- Separated bike lanes through intersection
- “Floating” bus stops
- Peak-hour queue jump on eastbound Cambridge Street – working on implementation with MBTA and remaining construction work

Bus stops and shelters



Hampshire Street

Route 83 | Rindge Ave – Central Square



Cambridge Street

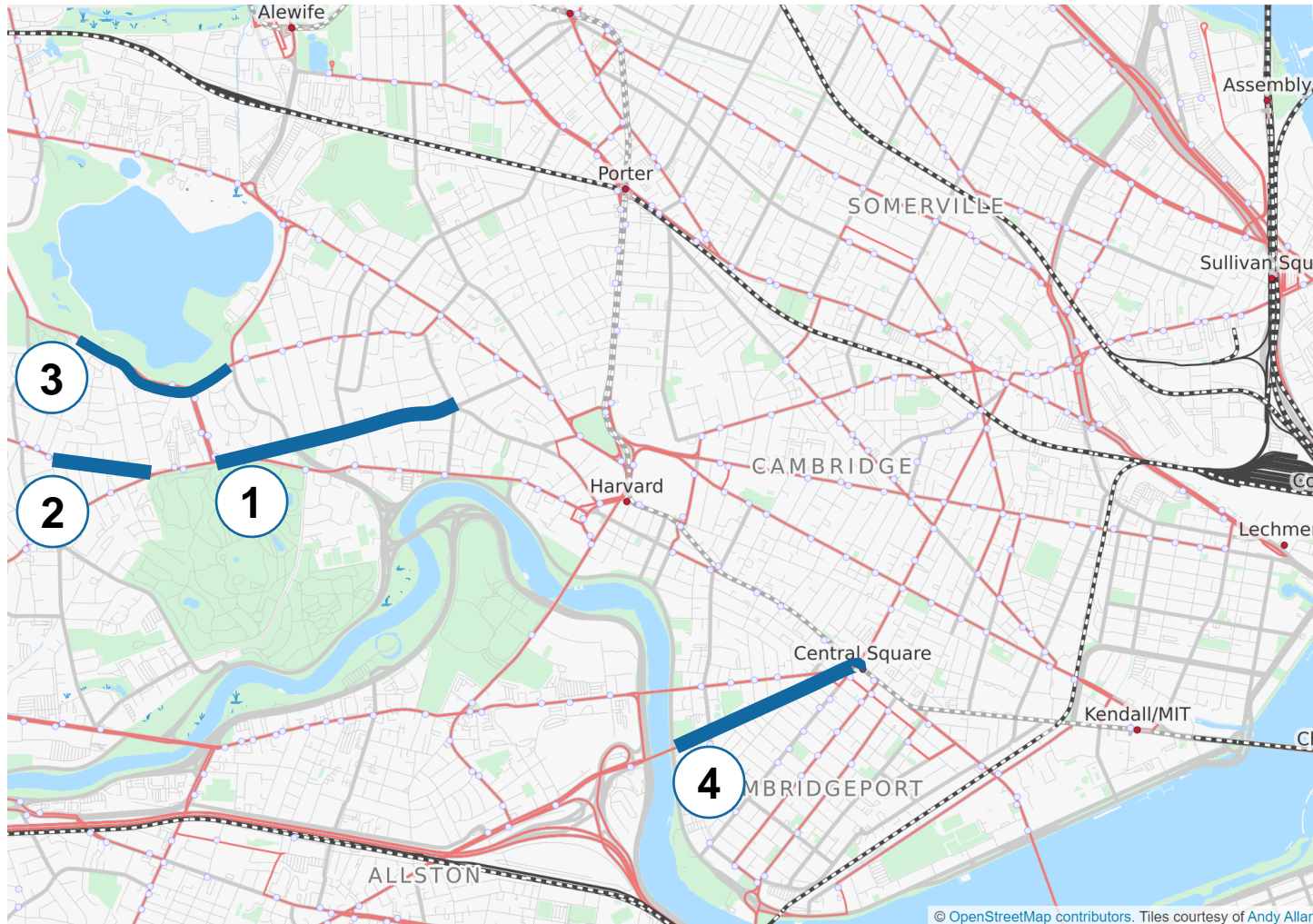
Route 69 | Lechmere - Harvard



Implementation soon

Project	Update	Next public event
Brattle Street CSO	Phase 2 meeting held on 1/31/2022	TBA
Belmont Street Project	Builders beginning work	
Huron Avenue – Glacken Field Project	Builders beginning work	
River Street Reconstruction Project	Builders beginning work	

Locations with projects in implementation



Number – Project name

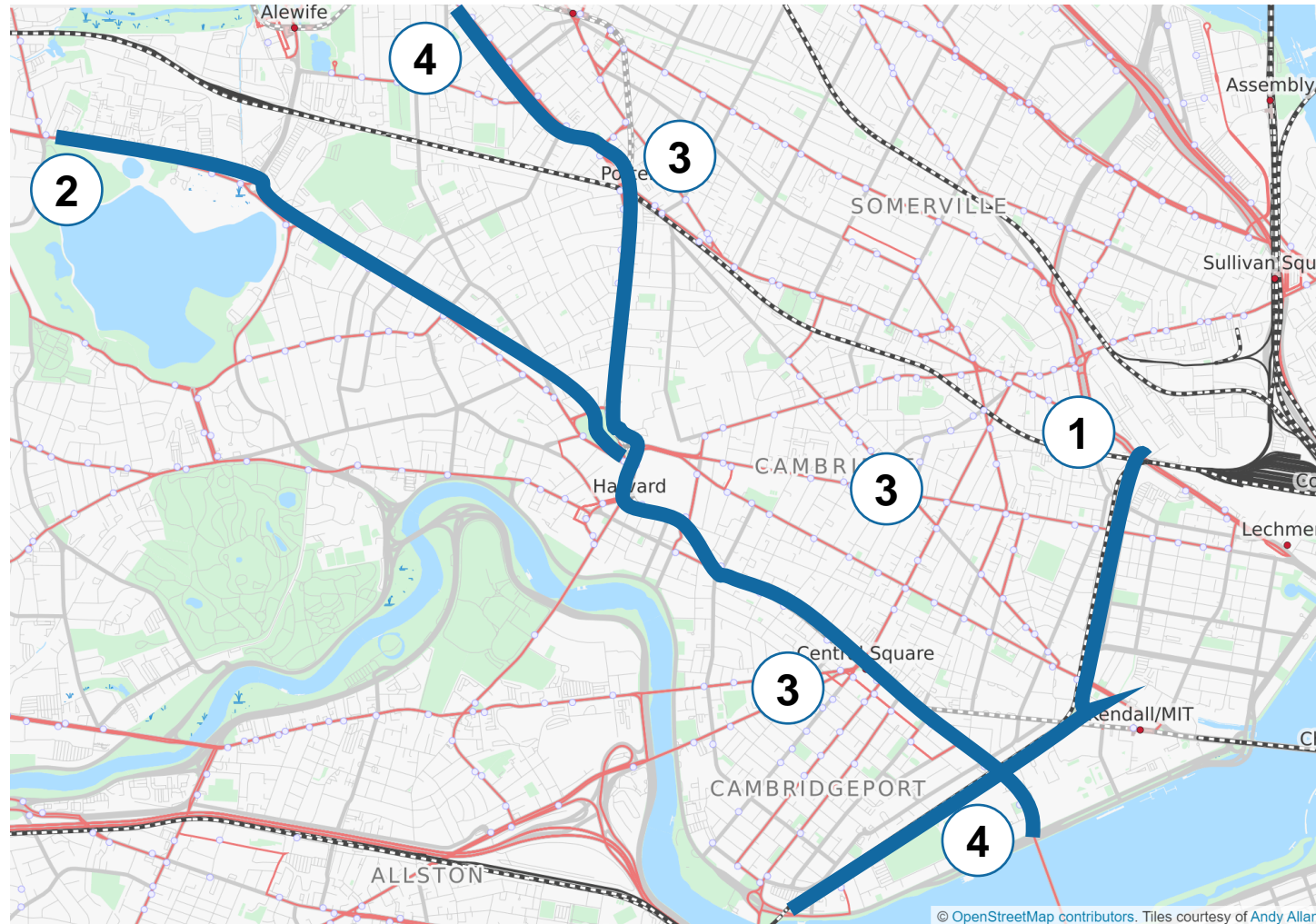
- ① Brattle Street Safety Improvements
- ② Belmont Street Reconstruction
- ③ Huron Avenue Glacken Field Connectivity
- ④ River Street Reconstruction



In planning and design

Project	Update	Next public event
Grand Junction MUP Project	Continuing to work on final design plans	Public meeting expected now to spring - TBA
Concord Ave – Transit Signal Priority Project	Working with MBTA on procurement	
Real-time Transit Signage (PB 2017)	Evaluating procurement with city-selected vendor	
Transit signal priority (PB 2016)	Working with MBTA on procurement for Mass Ave signal priority upgrades	TBA

Locations with projects in design



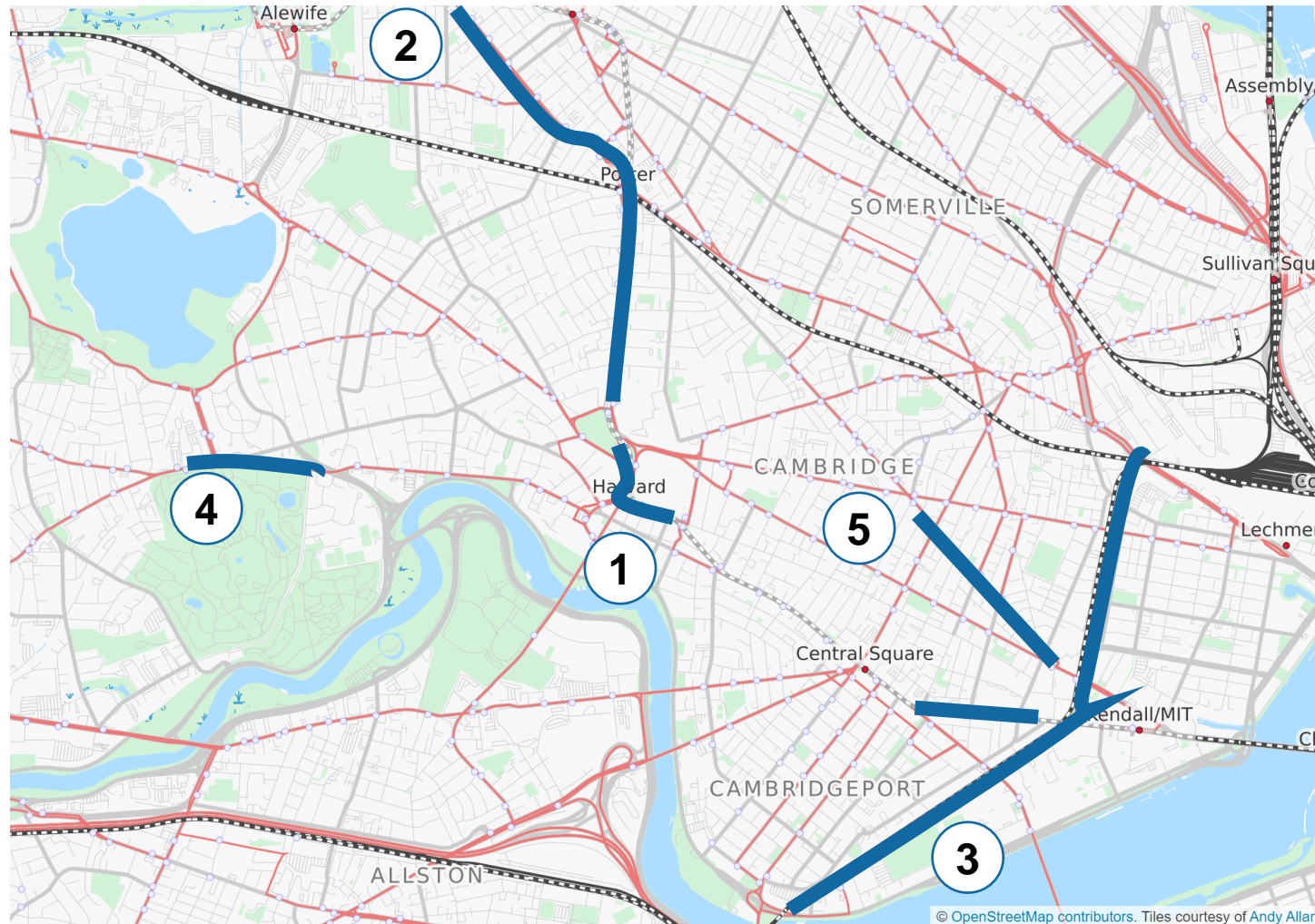
Number – Project name

- ① Grand Junction MUP
- ② Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority
- ③ Bus Realtime Signage
- ④ Transit Signal Priority

Under study

Project	Update	Next public event
Harvard Square Area (MassAve4 Harvard Bus Stops)	50% design completion; planning for outreach	TBA – Joint meeting
MassAve4 (Harvard to Alewife Brook)	City staff to begin data collection, survey	None scheduled
Grand Junction Transit	CRA board to study transit on GJ	None scheduled
Mt Auburn/Aberdeen	City to build new signal at Aberdeen/Bus lanes?	None scheduled
Hampshire St CSO	City to build SBLs + relocate bus stops	TBA – Maybe early March?

Locations with projects in study



Number – Project name

- ① MassAve4 Harvard Square Bus Stops
- ② MassAve4 Harvard to Alewife Brook Parkway
- ③ Grand Junction Transit
- ④ Mt. Auburn/Aberdeen
- ⑤ Hampshire St CSO



MBTA and State Updates

Harvard Bridge/Massachusetts Ave

New bus lanes: short approach lanes

Dedicated transit signals with no active signal priority

Invite DOT/DCR/MBTA project team to site visit?



Green Line Extension Open

The Green Line now has two branches which serve Lechmere station:

D branch – Union Square to Riverside

E branch – Medford-Tufts to Heath St/VA

Trains arrive every 6 to 12 minutes all week.

“Punch list” work remains, including:

- Somerville Community Path extension
- Slow travel times on East Cambridge viaduct

Consider a riding to new GL station/s from Cambridge

Upcoming subway diversions

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

- Sun February 5 and February 18 - 19
 - Green Line | Closed Government Center-North Station
 - Orange Line | Closed North Station - Ruggles
- February 25 – 26 on:
 - Red Line | Closed Alewife and Kendall/MIT

**Subway-
replacement
shuttles**

**Weekends in
February**



Subway service reductions

Since June 2022, the MBTA has increased the time between trains on all subway lines because of insufficient staffing at the operations center. Operations center staff are critical to safe and smooth subway operations. The MBTA has not announced how long this schedule will last.

Previous regular weekday schedules were:

- Red Line – Every 5 to 6 minutes
- Green Line – Every 6 to 9 minutes

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

**Every 8 to 9
minutes**



Red Line modernization

The MBTA has been modernizing several parts of the Red Line. In Cambridge, this includes:

- New crossover at Alewife
- Modernized signal system
- New Red Line trains

Modernization work will require weekend and evening shuttles and some weekday interruptions.

**Consider
other parts of
the rider
experience**

Comfort,
amenities,
infrastructure
conditions



Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 2 minutes to make a comment

Zoom Webinar Instructions

- **Computer & mobile devices:** Use the "Raise Hand" button to signal you have a question/comment. On a keyboard, tap Alt + Y or Option + Y
- **Phone-only** enter * 9 to Raise Hand
- A staff member will then enable you to speak and you will have to unmute before speaking.

Bottom Panel
of Zoom
Screen



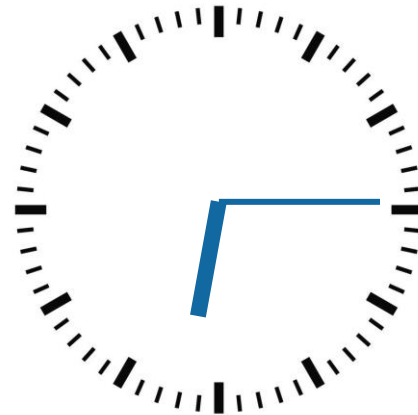
Comments from the public

Members of the public may make a comment or ask a question.



Use the “Raise Hand” feature in the Zoom application. Using a keyboard, tap Alt + Y or Option + Y.

By phone, use * 9 on the dial-pad to “raise hand”.



This agenda item is planned to end at 6:15 PM.



Each member of the public will have up to **2 minutes** to make a comment or ask a question.



Discussion: Breakout groups

City project subcommittee
MBTA project subcommittee



Today's discussion

Purpose

Develop ideas in the recently updated TAC-endorsed implementation plan

Outcome

Each subcommittee has an annual work plan, that is, 1 to 3 projects with project completion dates

Process

Brief introduction, discussion in breakout groups, report back



Subcommittee members

City projects

Casey Berg

Makayla Comas

Maha Aslam

Matthew Coogan

Bill McAvinney

Katherine Rafferty

MBTA projects

Devin Chausse

Jackson Moore-Otto

Carl Rothenhaus

Peter Septoff

Arthur Strang

Others

Sylvia Parsons

Jim Gascoigne

Melissa Zampitella



Project ideas

Site visit

- Somewhere in Cambridge where a project will be happening soon
- Evaluate conditions of stations or stop to report to the MBTA or City

Plan for a tabling or “canvassing” event

- Talk to people about what they are experiencing while taking transit

Prepare a short report or memo

- Report on bus stop designs
- “Book report” on an MBTA or MassDOT project
- Proposal for how the city should evaluate transit in community plans

Plan a ride on a transit route



Discussion

Some next steps could be:

MBTA project subcommittee

- Grand Junction transit service
- Review of bus network redesign map
- North Cambridge carhouse conversion
- Review of existing bus lanes, Harvard Bridge bus lanes, Alewife area bus lane concepts
- Trip to Columbus Ave. Boston bus lanes
- State of the system
- Reductions in service

City project subcommittee

- MassAve4 Harvard Square
- MassAve4
- Central Square
- Transit analysis in neighborhood plans
- Bus stop design review

Other

- “Equity” bridge – Fitchburg Main Line



Report

What projects did you choose to work on?

When do you want to complete them?

Will you need to schedule a meeting in March?

City project subcommittee

- MassAve4 Project participation
- Development impact and where there may be new riders
- Ride-hail Food-delivery impacts

MBTA project subcommittee

- Station conditions in Cambridge
- Letter to the T – transparency on the slow-zones

Thank you for participating in this Transit
Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and well.

Thank You