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# City of Cambridge

**TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

In City Council May 14, 2001

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS***Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair**Councillor Jim Braude**Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.*

The Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee conducted a public meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 4:50 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive a presentation from the Community Development Department (CDD) on the Parking Transportation Demand Management Ordinance (PTDM) and discuss the recertification of the ordinance and to receive public comment on the ordinance and any and all business which may come before the Committee.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Davis, Chair; Councillor Born; Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department; Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environment and Transportation Planning, CDD; Catherine Preston, Parking Transportation Demand Management Planner, CDD; Joseph Barr, Parking Transportation Demand Management Planner, CDD; and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis opened the meeting and stated the purpose. She stated that a report will be given by the Community Development Department.

Ms. Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environment and Transportation Planning, CDD, stated that the Parking Transportation Demand Management Ordinance (PTDM) has been enacted since 1998. She stated that much has been done in the past ten years to reduce vehicle use. The Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance provided for the creation of bicycle paths, alternative modes of travel, T pass programs for employees and an institutional infrastructure. Air quality has improved. The efforts of the city were insufficient due to all the new development. The PTDM was cited as a national model. In 1999, the PTDM was awarded the 1999 Outstanding Planning Project Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association. PTDM was cited in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut Transportation Campaign's book entitled "Parking Management" and in Canada's Transport Policy Institute's "Encyclopedia of Transportation Demand Management." Ms. Rasmussen further stated that the PTDM was an important tool to reduce traffic impacts. Traffic calming, bicycle use and working with the MBTA will continue, she said.

Ms. Catherine Preston, Parking Transportation Demand Management Planner, CDD, stated that this is the first effort for recertification. There is a sunset clause in the ordinance that will occur this fall. The presentation included an outline of how PTDM

works. **(ATTACHMENT A)** The cap, she stated, is generally 10% of the existing baseline. The recertification process is a way to hear from the public regarding how the PTDM is working.

Ms. Preston stated that there have been 24 plans approved. **(ATTACHMENT B)** Typical plans, she said, include:

- Subsidies for transit;
- Bicycle parking, showers and lockers for cyclists;
- Shuttles to MBTA stations;
- Preferential parking spaces for high occupancy vehicles; and
- Marketing and outreach to employees.

Ms. Preston also presented an overview of PTDM projects and their proximity to transit. **(ATTACHMENT C)**

The next steps in the recertification were outlined by Ms. Preston. **(ATTACHMENT D)**

Ms. Rasmussen stated that the cap on trips drives the ordinance. There is flexibility, but the trips need to stay within the cap. Employees like the ordinance because of the innovative measures used, such as carsharing, electric vehicle charging stations and bus shelters. Go Green Awards are given to small and large businesses. Councillor Davis asked when the Go Green Awards will take place. Ms. Rasmussen stated possibly on May 14, May 21 or the first Monday in June.

Councillor Davis stated that the Ordinance is using 1990 census data. Will the use of 2000 census data change this approach. Ms. Preston stated that this has been done administratively; it is not in the ordinance.

Councillor Davis praised the work done to date. She stated that the School Department employees have problems parking. There needs to be a multi model approach. She asked what could be done for the School Department. Ms. Preston stated that School Department employees are eligible for T passes. A mode split was done, she said, and can be looked at in the future. Ms. Rasmussen stated that CDD can provide help. There is data about the behavior of School Department employees.

Councillor Davis asked if electric charging stations are available for other than the people on whose property they are located. Ms. Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, stated that the city has electric charging station for city vehicles. The charge for the installation of electric charging stations is under \$2,000. Councillor Davis asked if the electric vehicles are liked. Ms. Clippinger stated that the electric vehicles are not liked. The lessons learned are not all positive, she said. The daily miles driven was more than the battery could carry. The electric vehicles have been loaned to the Electrical Department to use and review their use.

Councillor Born stated that the ordinance needs to be recertified because it has a sunset clause. When does the recertification occur. Ms. Rasmussen responded in November and this needs to go to the Ordinance Committee for enactment.

Councillor Born outlined to the Community Development Department that there are three zoning ordinances that have been targeted for enactment in October.

At 5:20 Councillor Davis opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Sarah Klepfel, Manager of Government Affairs, Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber will provide feedback on this ordinance.

Councillor Davis asked if there is a better time to have comments from the public on the ordinance. Ms. Rasmussen stated that comments are needed as soon as possible.

Councillor Born inquired about the changes to the Ordinance. Ms. Rasmussen stated that there are small changes.

Councillor Born asked how will this work with large project review. Ms. Preston stated that CDD has worked with IPOP projects. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the Planning Board has been positive about the PTDM. The burden is taken off the Planning Board, she said. Ms. Preston stated that the PTDM allows for monitoring and review of the projects.

Mr. Stash Horowitz, 12 Florence Street, stated that he was one of three supporters of the ordinance. He hopes to support the ordinance when the data is available. He asked if the ordinance can be achieved. Projects, such as Tech Square, he said, need to be monitored. Data needs to be collected from the corporations. He stated that he was skeptical that large corporations can achieve a 40% mode split. He further stated that survey data is needed as to where employees come from and the number of vehicle trip miles travelled.

Mr. Steve Kaiser, 191 Hamilton Street, stated that four citizens spoke in favor of the original PTDM. He was originally opposed because he thought it was fluff. He would like to see good evidence of trip reduction numbers. He would like to see if there was any improvement in University Park. Ms. Rasmussen stated that University Park has made mode splits at 60% to 80%. Mr. Kaiser stated that the PTDM has no mention of pedestrians. Transit needs to be made to work better, he said. Is there a status process where tracking can be done by the city of the number, use and location of off-street parking spaces in the city.

Ms. Clippinger stated that all projects are coming to the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department before going for a building permit. Mr. Kaiser asked if this information can be made public. Ms. Clippinger responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jim Gascoigne, Charles River TMA, stated that he had comments about the ordinance. He stated that he wanted the city to join the TMA. The ordinance, he said, has played a role to have the businesses work together. He stated that he anticipated comments about making the ordinance more effective. The mode split in Cambridge is 68% versus other areas with 14%.

Councillor Davis submitted the following motion:

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to explore the possibility of joining the Charles River TMA and report back to the City Council on this matter.

The motion carried.

Mr. Kaiser asked Mr. Gascoigne about the TMA at Alewife. Mr. Gascoigne stated that the TMA at Alewife has not been formed yet.

Councillor Davis asked about the status of the North Station shuttle. Mr. Gascoigne stated that when the issue of the federal contracting money is settled, bids will go out.

Mr. Barr stated that the bids will go out in the middle to end of May. The vehicles will be on the road in June.

Ms. Rasmussen stated that the federal government is required to provide protection for transit employees. Mr. Gascoigne stated that he was less optimistic that the shuttle will begin in the summer.

Councillor Born asked where will this shuttle travel. Mr. Gascoigne responded from North Station to Lechmere Square to First Street to Kendall Square to Tech Square to University Park to Fort Washington. Councillor Born asked how often will the shuttle run. Mr. Gascoigne stated that round trip will take one hour. Councillor Davis asked how many vehicles will be used. Mr. Gascoigne responded five vehicles - one vehicle every fifteen minutes.

Councillor Born asked about the publicity of the shuttle. Mr. Barr stated that the city will do publicity. Mr. Gascoigne stated that anyone can ride this shuttle. Fees to be charged are still being worked on.

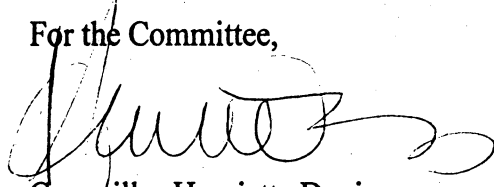
Councillor Davis recommended that the ordinance be referred to the Ordinance Committee with the charges.

The recommendation carried.

Councillor Davis thanked all attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henrietta Davis', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Henrietta Davis  
Chair

010426.TransTraffandParkingCommReport

# PTDM: How it works

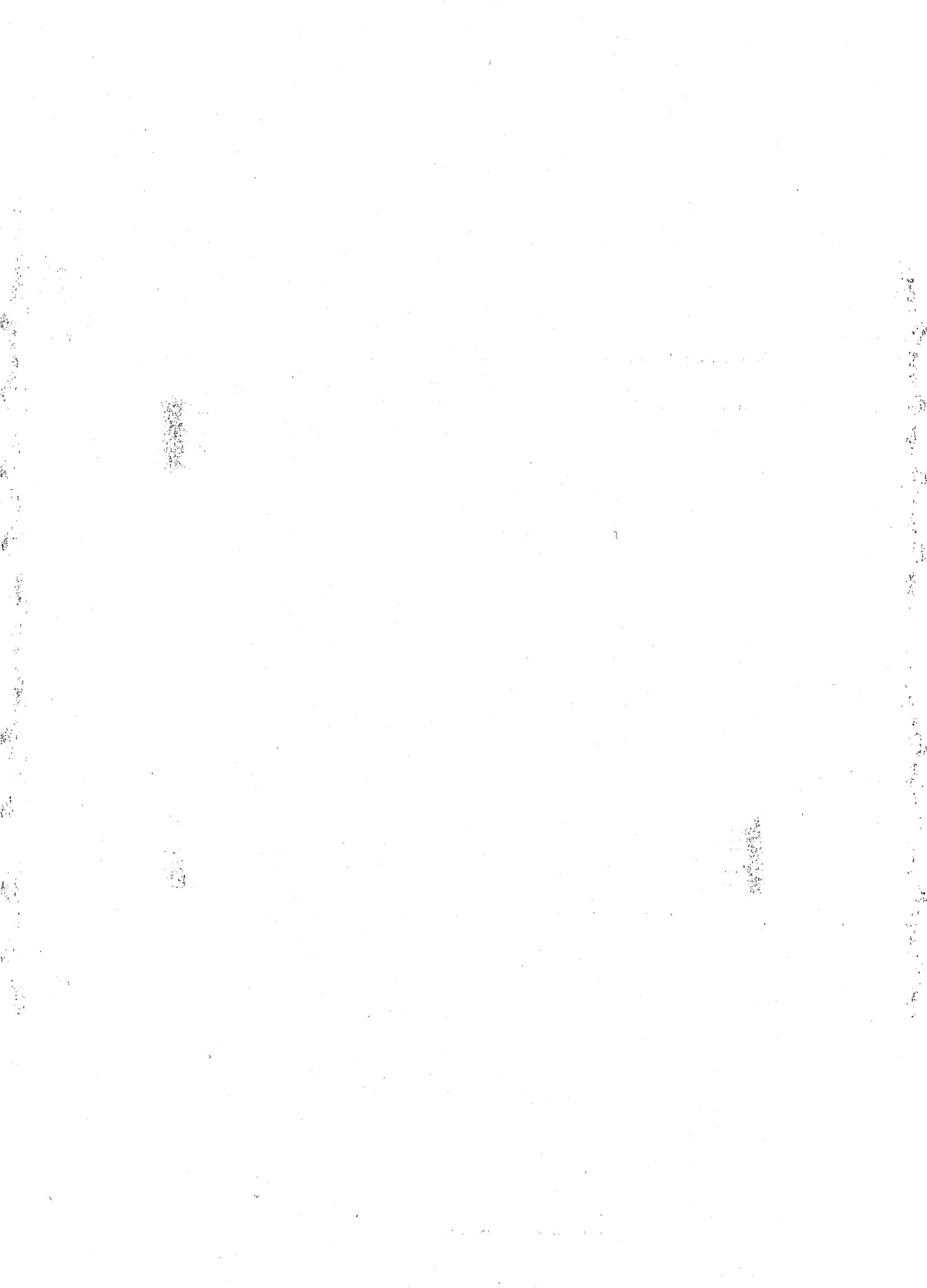
- **Non-residential projects seeking new parking must have plan approved prior to special permit or building permit**
- **Plans must include**
  - ⇒ **A commitment to cap the percentage of trips made to the site by single occupant vehicles**
  - ⇒ **A plan to ensure that cap is not exceeded**
  - ⇒ **On-going monitoring and reporting**






# Typical plan elements include....


- **Subsidies for transit**
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- **Shuttles to MBTA stations**
- **Preferential spaces for high occupancy vehicles**
- **Extensive marketing and outreach to employees**

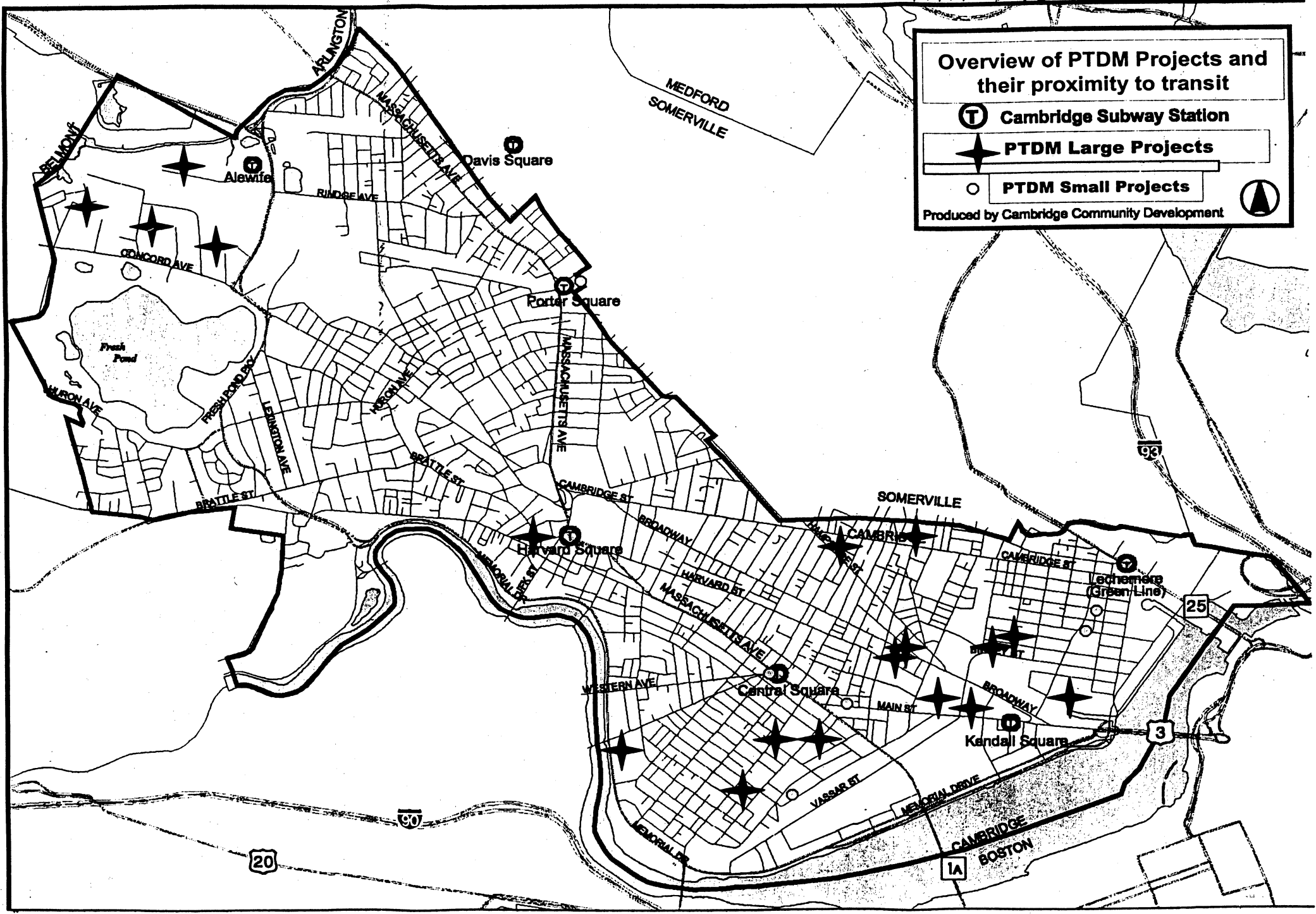




**Overview of PTDM Projects and their proximity to transit**

-  Cambridge Subway Station
-  PTDM Large Projects
-  PTDM Small Projects

Produced by Cambridge Community Development 



# Next steps in Recertification

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- **Language will be submitted to City Council**
- **Report on monitoring results will be produced**
- **Ordinance Committee will hold hearing and forward recommendations to full Council**
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# City of Cambridge

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**IN CITY COUNCIL**

May 14, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

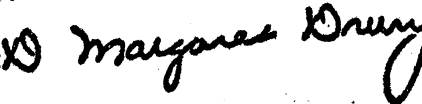
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to explore the possibility of joining the Charles River TMA and report back to the City Council on this matter.

In City Council May 14, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST: 

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

**SEE COMMITTEE REPORT #4.**

4

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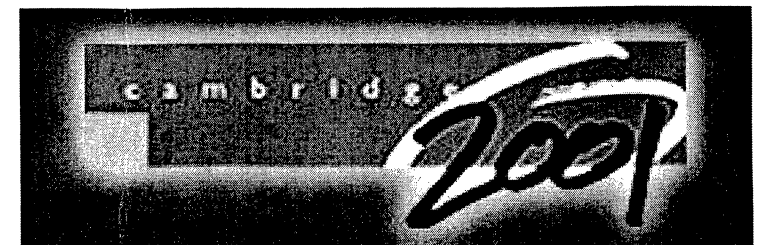
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Councillor Henrietta Davis  
Chair

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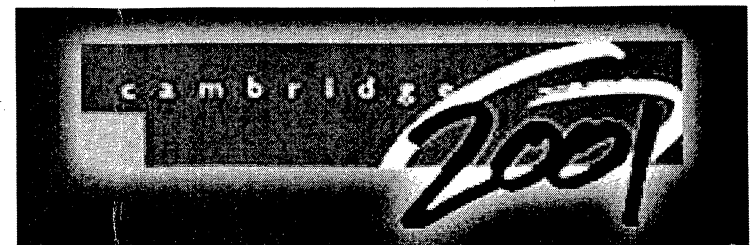
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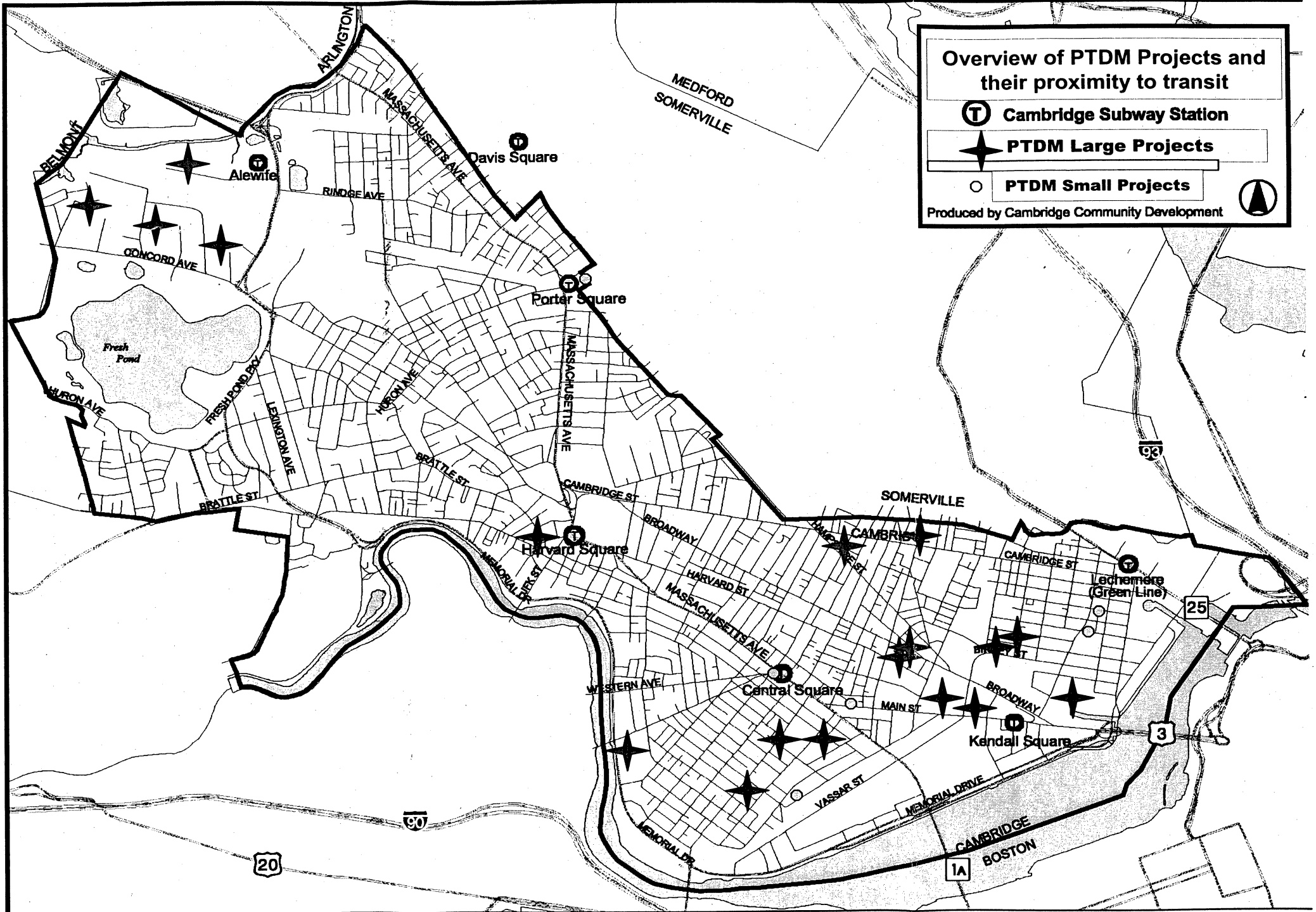
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2125

**Committee Report #4**

Committee Report from Councillor  
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Transportation, Traffic and Parking  
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**In City Council May 14, 2001**

*Report accepted*

**PLACED ON FILE**

**ORDER ADOPTED**