



THE CAMBRIDGE
TRANSPORTATION
FORUM

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TRANSPORT '77

newsletter of the cambridge transportation forum

August 31, 1976

FORUM MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
7:45 sharp, at City Hall Annex
(see Agenda on Page 4)
*GUEST SPEAKER: LT. JOSEPH BORELLI

U P D A T E

----->Red Line Extension: Preliminary engineering has begun on the line between Harvard Square and Alewife along with design work on the stations. The draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available at Cambridge, Arlington and Somerville planning departments in early September . . .

----->Alewife Planning: The "Minimum Build" road plan has been selected by Secretary Salvucci, and design work will start when and if a negative declaration or other environmental clearance can be obtained . . . A consulting firm is being selected to work with Cambridge and the other municipalities on land use and urban design questions. It will work with the T's consultants.

----->Existing Red Line: Two "Redbirds" (repainted "Bluebird" cars) made their debut on the line on Monday, August 22. More will likely follow if the new paint is a success . . .

----->Commuter Rail: MBTA is testing a Fiat rail diesel car, possibly the future for the dilapidated B&M and PC lines. Purchase of the B&M, hopefully this year, may use interstate transfer funds, which may also be used for improvements if the Secretary of Transportation has his way. Cambridge has revived the question of Porter Square to/from North Station boarding.

----->Rail Line Classification Hearing: The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Interstate Commerce Commission are holding a public hearing on the proposed classification of all major rail lines in the Northeast. The final decisions will be critical to the economy of New England. The hearing is Tuesday, September 13 at the Hurley Building, Government Center. Contact Elaine Spencer, 150 Causeway St., Room 501, Boston 02114. Phone 223-2372.

----->Bus Operation Improvements: MBTA has made noteworthy improvements to bus stop organization and signing in Harvard and Central Squares. For the fall, several service improvements are on tap. Bus #47, Central Square-Boston City Hospital via Cambridgeport, will expand to cover Saturdays. At the same time, the Magazine Street rerouting of Bus #64 to Central Square will also be expanded. Summer cuts on #69, #83 and others will, of course, be restored.

----->Harvard-Lechmere Bus Study: The Forum study is moving ahead, with the support of the City Council and City Manager, after the summer vacation period. This will be the major subject of the October meeting . . .

(continued)

---->Special Needs Van Transportation Study: Under the auspices of a consortium of Cambridge agencies and with Block Grant funding, the CIVETS (Cambridge Intra-city Van Elderly Transportation Study) team is studying the feasibility of such a program for Cambridge.

---->New Rules and Regs from the Architectural Barriers Board: Following hearings in late August, the Massachusetts agency is reportedly preparing to revise its code for the construction and reconstruction of public places.

---->Boston Area Bicycle Project: This long-awaited and very comprehensive document is the Boston-Cambridge-Brookline-Somerville-Arlington-MDC entry in the great federal bikeway funds contest now in the judging stages. It includes route and parking plans as well as publicity and education planks. Copies can be viewed at libraries as well as planning offices of the participating municipalities, and letters of support to the Federal Highway Administration are welcome.

---->Transit Fare Increase: Expected early next year is an increase in the MBTA fare of at least a nickel, with the additional possibility that additional zone fares will also be charged beyond 5 and 10-mile limits.

THE CAMBRIDGE TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Chairman: Dean Johnson, 8 Foster Place, Cambridge, 02138

Vice-Chairman: Bradley Clarke, 15A Orchard St., Cambridge, 02140

Secretary: Steve Zecher, 42 Fayette St., Cambridge, 02139

Bus Operation Study Chairman: John Pitkin, 18 Fayette St., Camb. 02139

Administrator: John Hixson Office: City Hall Annex Transportation Office

This newsletter will appear twice each month, before and after each meeting, that being held the second Thursday of the month. Members are welcome to submit items for inclusion that are topical and concise. Meetings are open to all members of the Cambridge community. Rides and information can be obtained for meetings by calling John Hixson at 876-6800 ext. 359. Persons wishing to be on the mailing list must either participate in the Forum or represent a recognized constituency. The Forum tries to represent every neighborhood and significant interest group in the City. In its role as an advisory board to the City Council Committee on Transportation and Parking, the Forum has been serving the City for three years.

Important Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

EOTC=Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, the umbrella state agency for transportation encompassing the following modal agencies:

MDPW=Mass. Department of Public Works, the highway-(bikeway) state agency

MBTA=Mass. Bay Transportation Authority, the regional transit agency

MBTA A.B.=The Advisory Board to the MBTA

MASSPORT=Mass. Port Authority, the aviation and aquatic agency

(MTA=Mass. Turnpike Authority, which is not directly tied in)

MAPC=Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the regional planning agency

JRTC=Joint Regional Transportation Committee, the citizen participation and agency cooperation organization, staffed by the CTPS

CTPS=Central Transportation Planning Staff, the regional transportation planning agency

MPO=Metropolitan Planning Organization }
SSC=Sub-Signatories Committee } Some of the above.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE
CAMBRIDGE TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Summer is nearly over and the September meeting of the Forum will soon be here. Now, before the pressures of a busy fall schedule inundate us, is an appropriate time to pause and assess the future role of the Transportation Forum.

Since its inception the Forum has been reasonably successful in fulfilling its purpose as a conduit for citizen and community input to the City Council on transportation issues. Under the able leadership of John Pitkin, and with the invaluable staff support of John Hixson, the Forum has addressed a wide range of transportation and participatory issues, from the limited truck ban in the Prospect Street corridor to the preparation of the E.P.A. Clean Air Transportation Control Plan and arranging of public hearings on the Red Line Extension.

In recent months, a Task Force of the Forum has been examining MBTA service on selected bus routes in the City, particularly the route between Harvard and Lechmere Squares. Backed by a resolution from the City Council and with the support of the City Manager, the Forum is exploring the feasibility of a City-run contract bus service for this heavily-patronized intra-City route. Present indications are that better service could be provided at less cost to the City, but many administrative and legal details remain to be explored. This issue should be ready for a major presentation at the October Forum meeting.

The professional quality of the CTF work on the bus service study is remarkable and should by itself provide ample reason for the continuation of the Forum. There exists, nonetheless, a range of transportation-related issues affecting the citizenry of Cambridge which the Forum has not been able to address adequately. Some of these issues, such as truck movements throughout the City, require regional study and solutions which are beyond the capability of the Forum or even the City by itself. On such matters the Forum should be more active in bringing pressure to bear on the appropriate state or regional agencies in order to get action. We hope to have speakers from two of these agencies at our November meeting.

The other issues which the Forum has been unable to address are the ones about which we never hear-- a dangerous crosswalk somewhere in the City, a bus which repeatedly fails to meet its published schedule, speeding trucks on quiet residential streets, etc. Many of these issues center around questions of enforcement of traffic regulations, and here Cambridge has received the benefits of the excellent work of Lieutenant Joseph Borelli and the Police Traffic Bureau. A marked decrease in traffic fatalities and a corresponding increase in respect for laws can be credited to the Lieutenant and his force, and we are very pleased that he has agreed to be our inaugural speaker for this Forum session. I'm sure all of you will want to attend to hear his ideas and plans for the future. Please bring a friend with an idea or an issue as well. We need your support.

When all of the City's transportation problems are solved, then maybe it would be time for the Forum, like certain fabled states, to wither away. During the interregnum, however, our goal might be just to make our transportation system more responsive to our needs and desires. To that end I hope to see a good turnout for this meeting.

Sam Johnson

THE CAMBRIDGE TRANSPORTATION FORUM
AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1976-7:45
CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

Chairman: Dean Johnson

- I. Refreshments and Conversation
- II. Call to Order, Introductions, and Minutes of the July Meeting
- III. Communications and Announcements
- IV. Organizational Business and Old Business
- V. GUEST SPEAKER: LIEUTENANT JOSEPH BORELLI, CAMBRIDGE POLICE
Lieutenant Borelli has directed the Police Department's Traffic Bureau since it was reinstituted in April, 1975, and has done an excellent job. New equipment and methods of operation have led to a dramatic drop in fatal accidents and a general increase in respect for traffic regulations. The Lieutenant is very interested in working with citizens to bring about further improvements. The Department's Safety Officer will hopefully also be present to discuss the excellent crossing guard program that resulted in no injuries to children at school crossings last year. Expanded bicycle education programs are one key area of interest for the Traffic Bureau.
- VI. New Business and Future Meetings
- VII. Adjournment at about 10:00

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT. - TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
Principle Recent Transportation Office Communications
- A. Preliminary Standards, Classification, and Designation of Lines of Class I Railroads in the United States, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, 3 volumes, August, 1976
 - B. Boston Area Bicycle Project, a cooperative study directed by CTPS
 - C. JRTC Notebook for the new JRTC Year that began in August
 - D. Summary of Staff Reports for the Program for Mass Transit

Also received: Large quantities of the MBTA system map. Available at the Transportation Office.

New Staff Member: Christofer Dane, working on urban design and land use related to the Red Line Extension.

City of Cambridge

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Comm. from the Cambridge Transportation Forum
re: to the Forum Meeting to be held on Thurs-
day, September 9th at 7:45 at City Hall Annex.

In City Council,
September 13, 1976

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