ALEWIFE WORKING GROUP MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2016

ENVISION CAMBRIDGE
Agenda

Framing the need

Takeaways

Challenges

Opportunities to discuss
City-Wide Population and Commute Trends

- Significant increases in population growth are off-set by the drop in vehicle mode share
- City-wide non-auto mode shares continue to increase while SOV trends are in decline

The Boston Area is defined as Norfolk, Suffolk, and Middlesex County

ACS 1-year Data
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Population and Commute Trends

- Majority of **Cambridge residents** commute to work/within the city by non-auto modes

- **Adjacent community employees** have an even split between SOV and public transit modes

- Approximately 65% of trips to Cambridge from **other communities** are auto (carpool and SOV)

CTPP 2008
Adjacent communities include Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Somerville and Watertown
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Regional Trends

Average commute times in Cambridge are below the regional average.

Cambridge has the highest walk share compared to neighboring metro Boston communities.
Framing the Need

Alewife

Population and Commuting Trends

- Alewife has similar trends to the rest of Cambridge
- Decrease in auto mode share and increases in non-auto modes
- Growth in population but little growth in drive alone rates
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Alewife

Traffic Trends

• Regional traffic still exists in and around Alewife

• Overall a decline / flat line in volume trends since around 2002/2003

Provided by City of Cambridge, Various Sources
Regional Trends

Average Daily Traffic

- Thousands commute on Route 2 to Boston across/around Cambridge every day

* Represents the number of trips taken between TAZs within a mile of Route 2 (between Fitchburg and Cambridge) and Boston’s Main Employment District

12,900 Daily Trips*
Regional Trends

Alewife Through Traffic

- Route 2 to/from Boston is 21% of through traffic in Alewife
- Only 18% of estimated Alewife traffic goes to/from Cambridge itself
- Over 60% is other cross-region traffic

* Based on interpretation of 2010 CTPS regional travel demand model data
Takeaways

• Cambridge policies and programs have helped tame traffic growth
• Population growth will continue to demand improvements
• Alewife is a regional gateway; regional traffic will remain
Policy Initiatives

- Responsible growth
  - Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance, Growth Policy
  - PTDM Program
  - Climate Action Plan
- Multi-modal approach
  - Ped/Bike Plan
  - Public Transportation/EZ Ride

Policy # 22, Growth Policy Document
Undertake reasonable measures to improve the functioning of the city’s street network, without increasing through capacity, to reduce congestion and noise and facilitate bus and other non-automobile circulation.

Policy # 23, Growth Policy Document
Encourage all reasonable forms of nonautomotive travel including, for example, making improvements to the city’s infrastructure to support bicycling and walking.
Takeaways

Benefiting Factors
Regional Initiatives

- Alewife TMA
- Transit connections beyond Alewife
- Incentives to reduce driving into Cambridge
Challenges We Must Overcome
Regional Impacts

- Cambridge can influence but not control regional decisions

Challenges We Must Overcome

61% N-S Cross Region Traffic*

18% Cambridge

21% Downtown Boston & Boston Neighborhoods

12,900 Daily Trips*

*represents the number of trips taken between TAZs within a mile of Route 2 (between Fitchburg and Cambridge) and
Challenges We Must Overcome

Red Line Overloading

• MBTA improvements are coming
Encouraging the Right Kind of Development

- Recent development has not added regional traffic
Opportunities to Discuss
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New Connections

- Walking connections to Alewife
- Belmont path extension
- Finding/requiring live-work opportunities

Alewife Walk/ Bike Path Improvements

Alewife Live-work Opportunities
Opportunities to Discuss

Transit enhancements

- Route 74 improvements
- 128 Business Council shuttle improvements
- New transit services (out Rt. 2 [and red line extension!], cross-town to north/south, commuter rail ROW)
- Alewife queue jumps
- Transit priority lane at Alewife
- Bus lanes on parkway
Concord-Alewife Planning Study (2005)

Vision:

- Create a people-oriented sense of place and developing a neighborhood “heart” for people who live, work, play, and shop in Alewife.
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