



October 2021 PTAC Meeting: City Update

Agenda

- Vision Zero
- GLX Update
- Somerville Transit Planning update
- New member update
- Other projects update

Vision Zero Update

New Logo and Citywide Mailer

Current logo



Options for new logo



Citywide Vision Zero Mailer

- Introduction and initial call to action for residents
- **What is VZ and why is it important?** Present local and regional data on traffic crashes
- **What does VZ look like on our streets?** Focus in on City's work to lower driver speeds, create more bus and bike infrastructure, and implement Neighborways
- **What can you do?** Include information and tips on how to stay safe is you're driving, biking, walking, or rolling and ways to get involved or learn more (including link to PTAC's website)

GLX Station Area Improvements Update

Union Square

- Widening sidewalk on Prospect at Webster – aiming to implement this year
- Larger Union Square Plaza and Streetscape project – in progress – concept next summer, first phase implementation in 2024

East Somerville

- Adding traffic signal at Tufts and Washington
- Coordinating with MBTA
- Floating bus stop and crosswalk across Washington – to be implemented next year

Gilman Square

- Gilman Square design project
- Will share designs next week for Medford and Pearl; feedback by 11/11

Magoun Square

- Working on traffic improvements on Lowell – speed humps; to be completed this year
- Coordinating with engineering on improving pedestrian access and ADA concerns at Princeton crossing

Ball Square

- Adding crosswalk at Boston Ave. This is a requirement from MEPA
- Crosswalk at Winchester, with pedestrian refuge island
- Will do entire redesign of Broadway to implement neighborhood plan and at that point will be public input

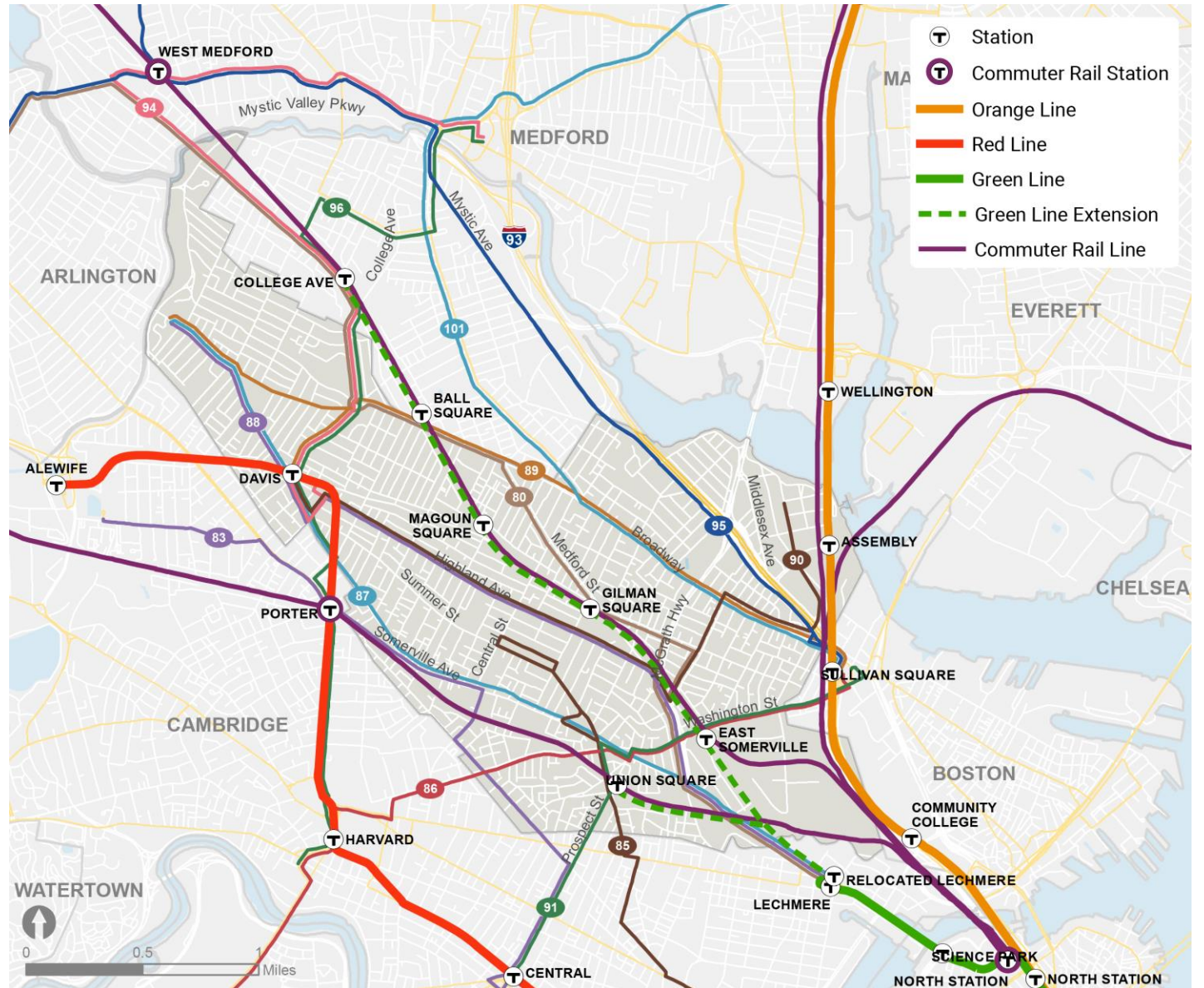
Detailed slides from February 2021 Traffic and Parking Committee meeting: [2021-2-8 TP Committee - GLX visuals \(with 211135, 210968\) - City of Somerville, Massachusetts \(iqm2.com\)](#)



Somerville Transit Plan Update

Phase 1 of the City's Transit Plan

- Took place from April – July 2021
- Examined existing conditions
- Reviewed existing City and MBTA/MassDOT plans
- Identified initial priorities and next steps for our transit plan



Somerville Transit Plan Update

Examined existing conditions

- 14 bus routes
- 236 bus stops; 15,200 daily boardings
- 2 rail transit stations; 16,530 daily rail transit boardings

What we know: Transit Service



14 Bus Routes

80 86 89 94 101
83 87 90 95 CT2
85 88 91 96



236 Bus Stops

15,200 Daily Bus Boardings



2 Rail Transit Stations

Davis Square Station (Red Line)
Assembly Station (Orange Line)



16,530 Daily Rail Transit Boardings

What we know: Demographics



Total Population **81,358**
Somerville residents taking transit to work **31%**

Total Households **32,802**
Median Household Income **\$97,328**



Total Employment **33,160**
Somerville workers taking transit to work **17%**

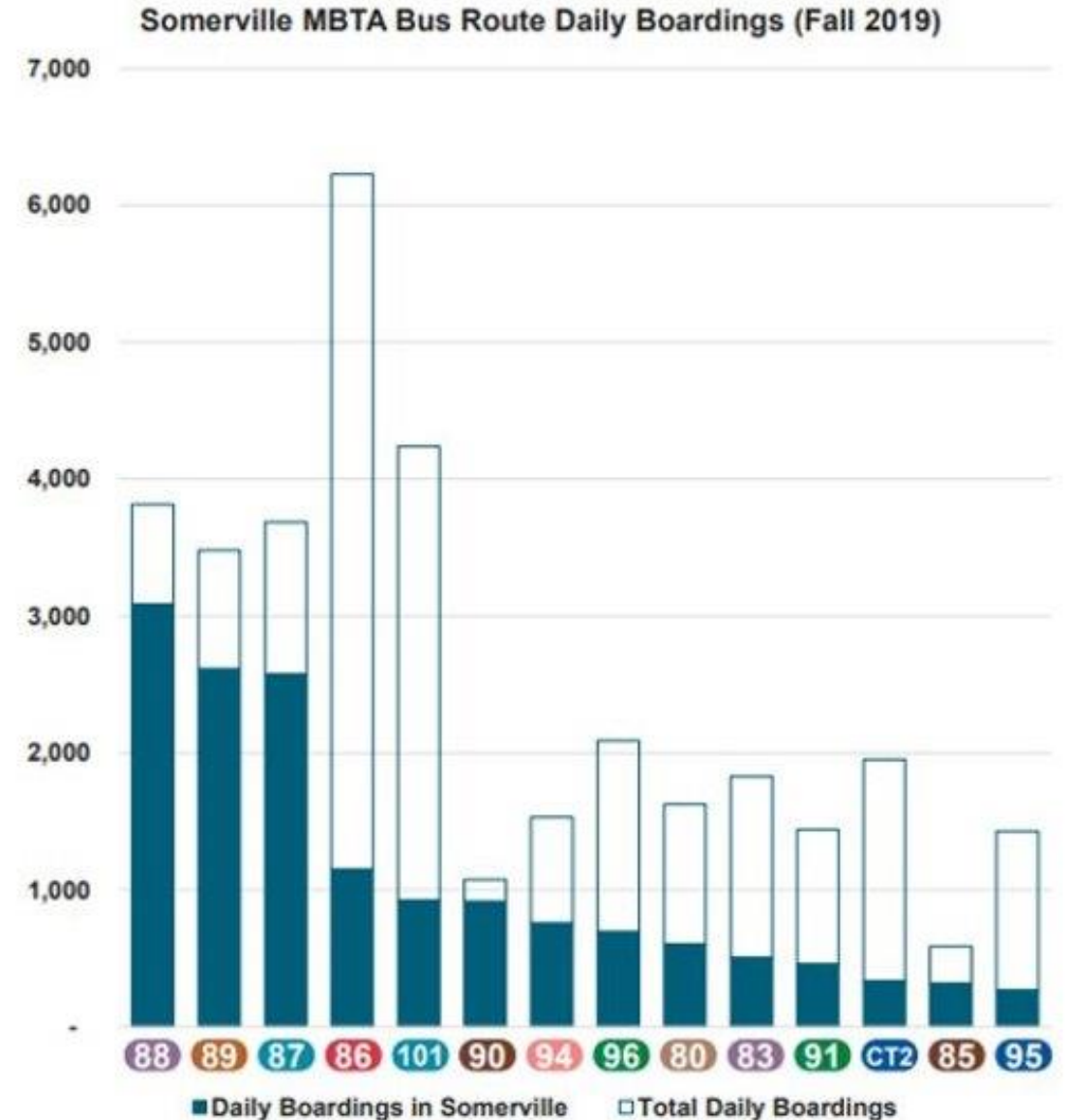
Data Source: United States Census Bureau, ACS 2019, 5-year estimates; LEHD 2018

Data Source: Fall 2019 ridership data from "MBTA Bus Ridership by Time Period, Season, Route/Line, and Stop"

Somerville Transit Plan Update

Bus Ridership

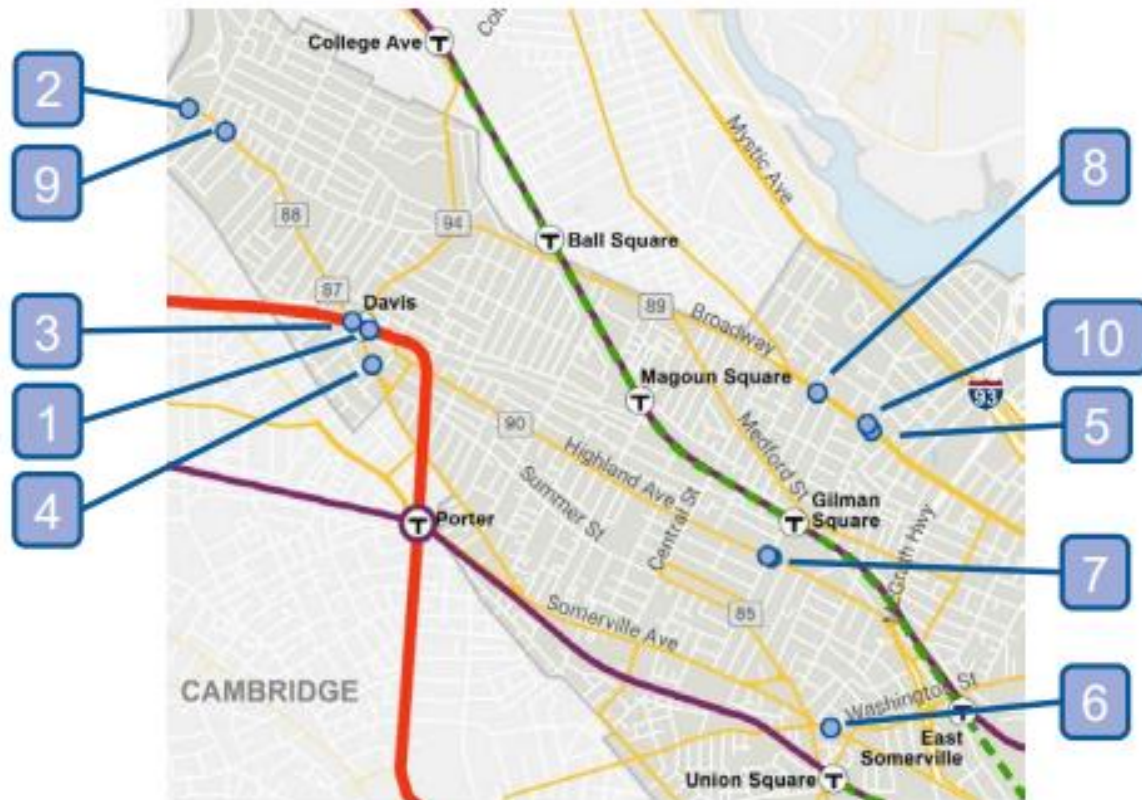
By Daily Boardings in Somerville
and
by Total Daily Boardings



Somerville Transit Plan Update

Top 10 Bus Stops

by Daily Boardings
percent of all Somerville Boardings



1. Davis Busway, 2,549 (17%)
2. Clarendon Hill Busway, 758 (5%)
3. Holland St. @ Dover St., 525 (3%)
4. Elm St. @ Chester St., 513 (3%)
5. Broadway @ Marshall St., 344 (2%)
6. Somerville Ave. @ Stone Ave., 303 (2%)
7. Highland Ave. @ School St., 211 (1%)
8. Broadway @ Thurston St., 200 (1%)
9. Broadway @ Garrison Ave., 200 (1%)
10. Broadway @ Temple St., 187 (1%)

Data Source: Fall 2019 ridership data from "MBTA Bus Ridership by Time Period, Season, Route/Line, and Stop"

Somerville Transit Plan Update

Plan Review

Somerville

- SomerVision 2040
- Vision Zero

MBTA/MassDOT

- Better Bus Project: <https://www.mbta.com/projects/better-bus-project>
- Bus Network Redesign: <https://www.mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign>
- Focus 40: <https://www.mbtafocus40.com/>

According to these plans, what motivates transit investment decisions?

Do these plans propose any specific changes to transit service related to Somerville?

Somerville Transit Plan Update

SomerVision 2040 Prioritizes Transit

Focus Areas:

- Advancing Equity
- Preventing Displacement
- Community Collaboration

Transportation Equity Goals:

- Increase transportation equity across the city
- Prioritize vulnerable road users
- Prioritize walking, biking, and transit access

Transit Tasks:

- Increase north/south bus connections
- Improve bus stops
- Implement best practices for bus stop spacing
- Add wayfinding information at bus and train stops
- Require dense housing, especially affordable housing, around rapid transit
- Work with the Commonwealth and regional partners to connect outlying transit centers and regional attractions
- Prioritize public transit by investing in bus lanes and transit signal priority

Vision Zero Prioritizes Transit

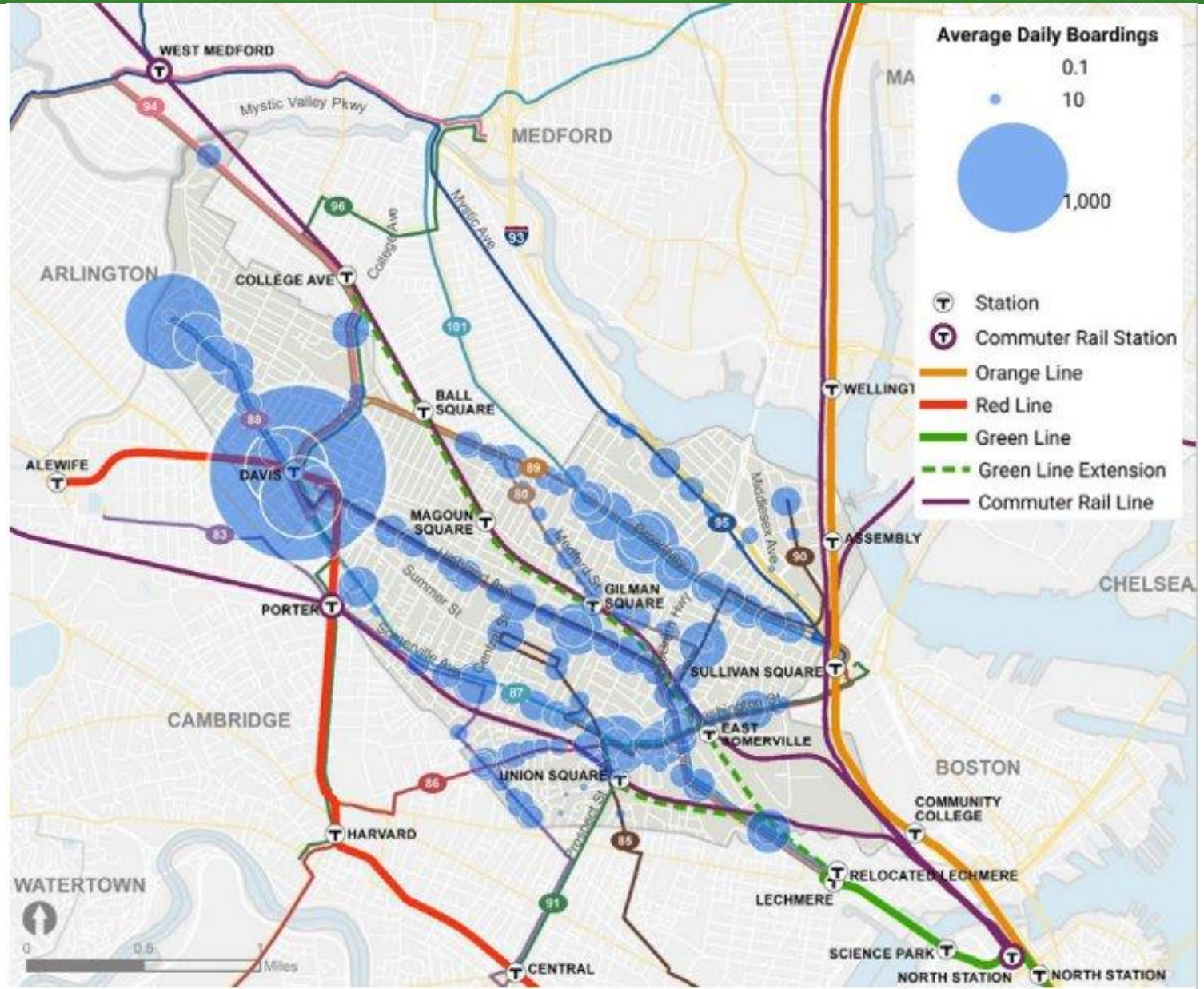
Safe Street Design: Build Safe Pedestrian Routes

- Incorporate proximity to transit into the City's prioritization for sidewalk reconstruction
- Evaluate the safety and accessibility of bus and rapid transit stops and prioritize improvements
- Annually implement safety and accessibility improvements within ¼ mile of a rapid transit station

Somerville Transit Plan Update

Phase 1 Priorities

- Respond to growth
- Work for quality transit service levels for all residents
- Plan for more transit priority infrastructure
- Prioritize equity in our planning



Somerville Transit Plan Update

Next Steps: Phase 2 of Transit Planning

- Build upon what we learned in phase 1 and refine our priorities
- Develop a proposed transit network
- Identify planning level assessment of where and how to provide more transit priority accommodations in the City

Somerville Transit Plan Update

MBTA Bus Network Redesign Update

- Upcoming Public Meeting: October 27; 6 – 7:30 PM (<https://www.mbta.com/events/2021-10-27/public-meeting-bus-network-redesign-virtual>)
- Opportunity to get involved in public outreach:

MBTA Street Ambassador Outreach: <https://www.mbta.com/events>. The focus of these street teams is to build awareness of the project and answer questions. The MBTA is planning to do another round of outreach in partnership with community-based organizations where they will seek input on the draft network map. This will take place in the winter/spring 2022.

If you are interested in joining the Bus Network Redesign Ambassador Program, which is focused on providing materials so that you and your organization can talk about the project more thoroughly, please sign up at the link here: <https://forms.gle/KFeC3pepjk2K7UFf9>

Call for New PTAC Members

- 11 applicants were interviewed over the past few weeks
 - Two mobility staff and one PTAC officer were present for each interview
- Questions asked:
 - How did you hear about PTAC?
 - How do you travel around Somerville?
 - Previous volunteer advocacy experience
 - Can you dedicate 4-6 hours per month to PTAC?
 - Preferences for committee/subcommittee priorities
 - Feedback on current transit/ped projects
- Next Steps
 - Consolidate feedback and notes, formulate recommendation to the Mayor
 - At least five new members will be recommended by Mobility for appointment
 - New members likely for November or December meeting – how to onboard?

Project/Planning Updates

- Somerville Ave (SAUSI)
 - Two-way traffic has resumed from Prospect St to Medford St
 - 87 bus detour onto Washington St has ended
 - Daytime ped/bike detours in front of US2 building site for the next month
- Neighborhood Traffic Calming
 - Speed humps will be installed starting next week on Kidder Ave, Lowell St, and Morrison Ave
 - Building on previous flex post experiments in 2019 and 2020 on these streets
- College Ave Resurfacing
 - Sidewalk reconstruction continues and is nearing completion
 - Repaving and restriping will take place in Spring 2022
 - Traffic Commission decision has been appealed – public hearing expected this fall
- Gilman Square Design
 - Conceptual options for bike lane and ADA path to be sent Monday for review
 - **Feedback needed no later than 11/11**
 - Public meetings to be held at conceptual and 60% design levels
 - 60% design planned to be completed by next Summer
- Powder House Circle Safety Improvements
 - Tan, green, and line work are complete.
 - Flex post installation has begun, working with contractor to schedule installation of remaining posts as soon as possible.
 - Remaining traffic signs and bagging of signals will follow.



Powder House Circle

Upcoming Meetings

- Bus Network Redesign public meeting
 - Wednesday October 27th at 6:00 PM
 - Register here: <https://www.mbta.com/events/2021-10-27/public-meeting-bus-network-redesign-virtual>)
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Forum
 - Wednesday October 27th at 7:00 PM
 - Register here: www.somervillema.gov/virtual, learn more at www.somervillema.gov/ARPA
- Brickbottom Vision Plan – Virtual Open House
 - Wednesday October 27th at 6:00PM
 - Register here: www.voice.somervillema.gov/brick
- **Citywide Parking & Curb Use Study Community Meeting**
 - Tuesday November 9th @ 12:30 PM OR Wednesday November 10th @ 6:00 PM
 - Register here: www.somervillema.gov/parkingstudy
- Public Safety Building Project Community Meeting
 - Wednesday November 10th @ 6:00PM
 - Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/kunk4xck>
- **Highland Avenue Redesign Project Community Meeting**
 - Wednesday November 17th @ 6:30 PM
 - Register here: somervillema.gov/highlandave