

Public Works and Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk Kara Wilson called the roll.

Present: Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Katz, LaFauci and LeBlanc.

Absent: None.

James Kriaeles, 19 Gorham Street, Waltham was noted as recording the meeting.

Councillor Dunn moved approval of the 3/21/2022 meeting minutes. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

First agenda item: Resolution Concerning extension of MBTA 73 Bus Service to North Waltham
Councillor Darcy, creator of the Resolution, spoke on the Resolution. This is a Ward 1, 2, 3 and Ward 4 issue. There is no bus service that runs east/west in North Waltham. With the MBTA now using diesel-hybrid buses (no catenary wire systems) there is no reason the Route 73 cannot come into Waltham.

Since the 1980's we have spent over fifty-million dollars supporting the MBTA. Councillor Darcy believes we need to get support from Watertown and Belmont and their Council, State Reps, etc. and then target the MBTA. Councillor Darcy submitted a letter he would like to send to the full Council for support and approval and send to Watertown and Belmont's local government officials to ask to get on board with the additional bus route. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur made a motion to forward the letter to the full Council for approval. On the motion Councillor LaFauci asked what kind of weight will the letter have with the MBTA and would these said cities think that this could potentially hinder their residents. Councillor Darcy stated overall goal for these cities along this route/streets is to reduce traffic. Councillor Darcy does not think it will be a deterrence to their residence. Councillor LaFauci asked what the hard numbers are from the MBTA for usage in this area and Lake Street route. He also asked what about traffic turn-around locations and times. How does interact with the 61 Bus. Councillor Darcy mentioned we could we possibly get support from the local entities along the routes; Gann, Bentley, Wellington Crossing, Star Market, etc. We spend \$1.5mm annually to the MBTA and its allocated for public transportation we have 2 commuter rail lines and T-line. It cost around \$10,000-\$20,000 to extend a route. Councillor LeBlanc asked from some clarification and documentation from the MBTA. Councillor Darcy can get it for him. Councillor Dunn asked if we needed to specify a bus line or we could ask for an area of service. Councillor Darcy stated most people in North Waltham would like to go east/west and not necessarily to downtown Waltham. We could also maybe ask for a pilot program for a short amount of time to see interest. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur made a motion to request that representatives from the MBTA come in to speak with the committee for clarification on the Better Bus Program and other questions we have about this Resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was approved. Councillor LaFauci moved to place the Resolution on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was approved.

With no further matters Councillor LaFauci moved to adjourn.

Chairman LeBlanc declared the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Wilson, Assistant City Clerk
April 8, 2022