

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 28, 2019
Meeting Date: March 27, 2019 6:00 PM
Location: School Committee Room, Brookline Town Hall
Re: Brookline High School Expansion Project – MBTA Platform

Summary of Meeting Held Tuesday March 26, 2019 sponsored by Livable Streets / Rep. Tommy Vitolo

The purpose of this meeting was to communicate ideas and concerns to improve the Brookline Hills MBTA platform area.

Summary provided by Deborah Rivers and Scott Englander

1. Improvements presented by Livable Streets – Comments from attendees on present design

- Path from Cypress Field is not straight
- Larger plaza at base of the stairs is desired
- Tappan access restricted by fence that funnels users through opening entrance (“cattle chute”)
- Platform has crossings @ two ends and not middle (new MBTA standard)
- Brington Road Egress – Some Brington Road neighbors want access, some want emergency egress only, (many opinions)
- Most people walk to T-Station
- 3200 T riders

2. Poor Existing Conditions identified but not addressed in new designs

- Lack of shelter from elements
- Lack of convening space
- Circuitous/dangerous access from Tappan
 - a. Misaligned crosswalk across field
 - b. High vehicle speed on Tappan
- Dangerous environment for students (cars)
- Lack of ADA routes from Route 9
- Too narrow inbound platform
- Irregular train stop position/block access points
- No covered bike parking
- Access to station is from Tappan Street only.

3. Additional Concerns - above not solved plus

- Prioritize commuters
- Stressful experience/barriers
- Tappan Street sidewalks too narrow
- Egress only path to Brington restricts access
- People will walk in driveway instead of sidewalk to Brington
- Move the building to better suit commuters?
- No need for parking?

4. Strawman design suggestions:

- Replace 14 parking spots with plaza
- Reduce fencing, seating or landscaping
- Avoid fencing, seating or landscaping in desire lines on plaza or path to park
- Widen sidewalk around Cypress/Tappan corner
- Brington path access
- Narrow Tappan to slow traffic? Elevated crosswalks?
 - Cars were racing to catch green light
 - Can park design respond to this need? (yes, design is in early stage)
- Concern from abutters of too much lighting if it's a full entrance at south side exit.
 - This can cause light pollution
- Bike lanes re: neckdown / plus contraflow lane?
 - Move drop off lane?
- Don't need fencing at other stations?

5. Questions

- Clint - Can there be an entrance from the High School? Or can it be accessed along its length?
- Kim - What is a Brookline path (as opposed to an MBTA path)?
 - Beaconsfield path (maintained by Town of Brookline)
 - Davis path (puts light down low)
- Hugh – Please make the fence behind Brington homes attractive (not chain link type)
- Recharging station for scooters?
- Scott E – heard the (MBTA) does not care about parking, but they care about access/heavy machinery. Currently two spaces are handicapped, perhaps increase that quantity?
- Is there handicapped access to building? (Yes, the building is fully accessible)
- John Eli – Is there Emergency egress/restriction on path?
- Fences – unsafe if there is an emergency (fire, shooter) and people cannot get away
- Valerie - Tunnel artwork? Mosaic / discourage graffiti
 - Where else is there a raised platform? (Fenway) (raised platform is new MBTA standard)
- Neil – Don't eliminate parking because you think there is nearby parking (there is no nearby parking!)
- Nancy – Handicapped parking is needed and should not be eliminated.
- Restrict hours on the path 8pm?
- Where is accessible entry from Route 9?
- Will shelter and heat be available?
 - Now there is shelter and canopy at existing platform
 - New design has canopies with ticketing booth (not closed)
 - 1/3 of platform is under the building
- How will riders access for 2 years of construction? (via Tappan Street, same as now)
- Scott – Is there an enclosed shelter? (not currently in plan)
- Randolph – Will the stairs be covered? Is there an overhang? (yes, however the overhang is high)
 - No access for wheelchairs from Cypress Street to station due to steep sidewalk grade.

The project team will bring the items that the MBTA has jurisdiction to their attention, particularly barriers to the platform area such as fencing. The Expansion to Brookline High School team will work with the Cypress Field team on elements of the design not within MBTA jurisdiction.