



Future of (How We) Work Task Force Meeting #1: Transportation 5/19/2020 Notes

How Kendall Commuted Before COVID-19

Before COVID-19 Kendall was extremely reliant on the MBTA, 36% of commuters relied on transit while 39% drove alone and the rest relied on an alternative form of transportation (like biking or walking).

This data comes from a report that was recently prepared by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority and they will be sharing it in detail at their board meeting on Wednesday and our next Transportation Learning Community Meeting on Thursday.

Updates

Governor Reopening Plan

Yesterday the Governor released his reopening Massachusetts plan and safety guidelines. Governor has released new service schedules for the MBTA based on his four phases. In this initial phase the MBTA will continue to run on a Saturday schedule.

MBTA

The most important thing to the MBTA is the safety of the riders and operators. The MBTA has maintained very reduced service during this first crisis phase to make sure that essential workers who rely on the MBTA can get to work.

Moving forward there is a major focus on cleaning high touch areas. The MBTA has budgeted more than \$1 Million a month to support their cleaning efforts. They are cleaning high touch areas in stations every four hours and trains and buses are being fully cleaned twice a day. They are also beginning to open windows when possible to promote open air ventilation and will be deploying hand sanitizer dispensers at stations per availability.

The MBTA has also introduced New Policies like rear door boarding for buses and requiring everyone to wear masks.

We also talked to our partners at the MBTA about their employer Benefits programs. The MBTA is focused on meeting your needs right now through open communication and creating new fare products that support flexibility.

City of Cambridge

We have also connected with our partners at the City of Cambridge and their Priorities are partnering with all of you to maximize sustainable modes of commuting like biking and walking,

and continued implementation of services that promote flexibility.

The city is also focused on partnering with the MBTA to think about safe operations, like how people can queue in public spaces to promote physical distancing practices

KSA MassINC Survey Opportunity

KSA partnered with MassINC Polling Group to develop a survey to help all of us understand how your employees are thinking about their commutes and all of you are invited to participate.

To participate all you have to do is share the link to the survey with your employees. The survey will close on June 5th and MassINC will analyze the results. If enough of your employees respond we can give you company specific data in mid June.

Small Group Discussion Takeaways:

Below are some highlights from the small group discussions.

- Employers are very hesitant about encouraging employees to use public transportation, some are even forbidding it. If employees do need to use public transportation they are either allowing those employees to work from home, providing subsidies for transportation network companies. However, employers are also hesitant about using transportation network companies like Lyft or Uber, and many are still hearing from employees about their level of comfort with those services.
- Employers are also being flexible about new work schedules. Transitioning to a seven day work of staggering start times so employees can commute “off peak.”
- Employers are currently looking to maximize parking use. One idea is to use an app or platform to manage parking reservations so employees can alternate parking space use based on when they are in the office.
- Employers are rethinking their current private shuttle programs. They are all working with shuttle providers to build new safety plans for social distancing including removing the aisle seating options.
- Communicating new standards for behavior in the office helps create comfort and establishes trust.
- Many companies are mindful of short-term decisions that could have longer term implications (e.g. messaging on use of transit).
- There are still questions about how people feel about commuting options and working from home.