
City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

October 2023





Welcome

Purpose

Get feedback from appointed members of the TAC, the City's "community experts"

Outcomes

TAC members know about the feasibility study in North Cambridge and other updates about the MBTA and City projects

Process

TAC to 'raise hand' during presentations and discussions
Public to type in questions in zoom Q&A or speak verbal comments during public comment period



City and MBTA Project Updates

Andy Reker, City of Cambridge



Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday, November 2, 2023
 - Thursday, December 7, 2023
- Committee meetings
 - None scheduled
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
 - Wednesday, October 18, 2023
 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023



Working on the following topics

Based on feedback from last month's meeting, City staff are have confirmed the following presentations:

- Next month
 - MBTA Central Square Accessibility Improvements Project
 - CRA Grand Junction Transit study
- Requesting presentations on:
 - Kendall-MIT Station Alewife Headhouse Design
 - Updates from MBTA Bus Electrification / North Cambridge Carhouse

Selected street projects

Concord Transit Signal Priority

Huron Ave Reconstr.

Belmont Street Reconstr.

Mt Auburn/Aberdeen Improvements

River Street Reconstr.

Mass Ave Partial Const.

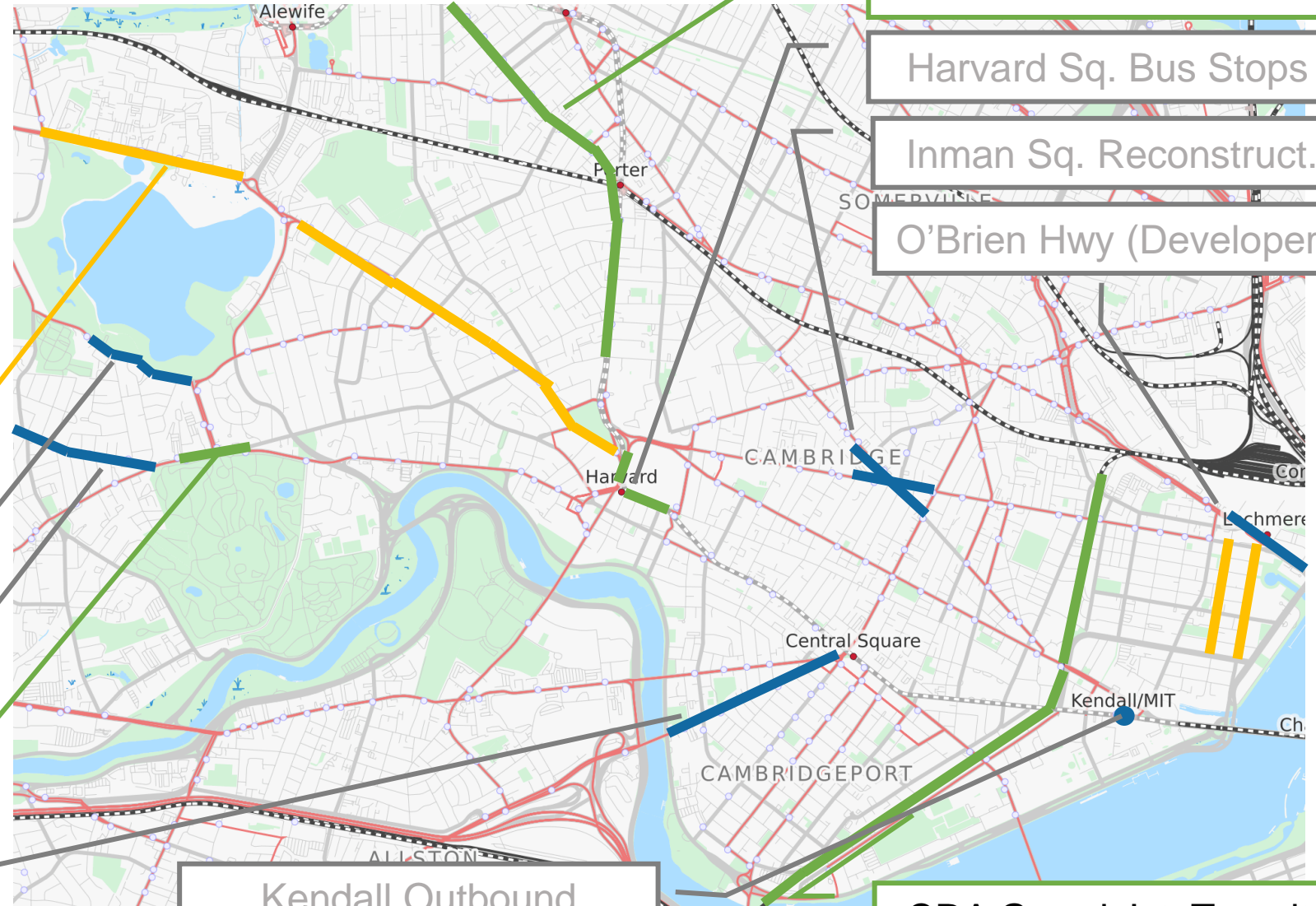
Harvard Sq. Bus Stops

Inman Sq. Reconstruct.

O'Brien Hwy (Developer)

Kendall Outbound Headhouse (Developer)

CRA Grand Jct. Transit.



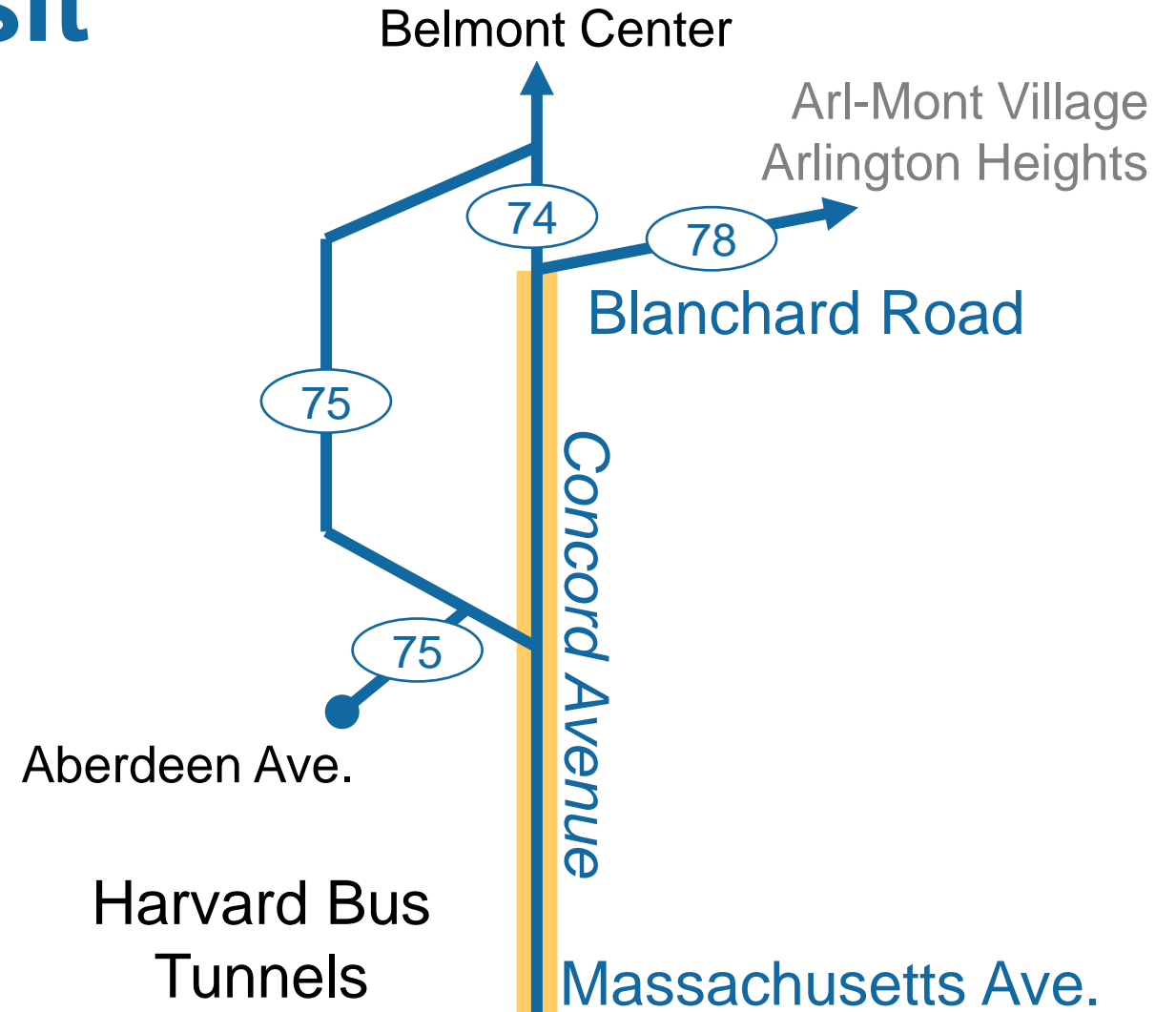
Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

Grant funded with MBTA as implementing agency

MBTA to award contract to:

- Install wirelessly-connected TSP request generator
- Upgrade signal controllers at two locations
- Develop programming and signal controller logic for TSP

Preparatory work beginning in October





Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

City-owned signals are found these intersections

Concord Avenue at

- Blanchard Road
- Moulton St
- Alpine St
- Walden St
- Huron Av
- Craigie St
- Garden Street

Garden Street at

- Mason St
- Appian Way

**MBTA TSP
Coordinator**

Presented in
January 2022

Review that
presentation for
more information
on then newest
TSP systems



Transit Signal Priority

TSP is about giving more “green” time to the buses travelling along a street.

- **Extend a green** so the bus makes it through an intersection
- **Shorten a red on a side street** so we can give the bus a green signal
- **Give a dedicated time only for buses** (more advanced)

Concord Ave TSP

Recommended
in Envision
Alewife District
Plan (2019)



Transit Signal Priority

MBTA has a “new” nextGen TSP system that includes:

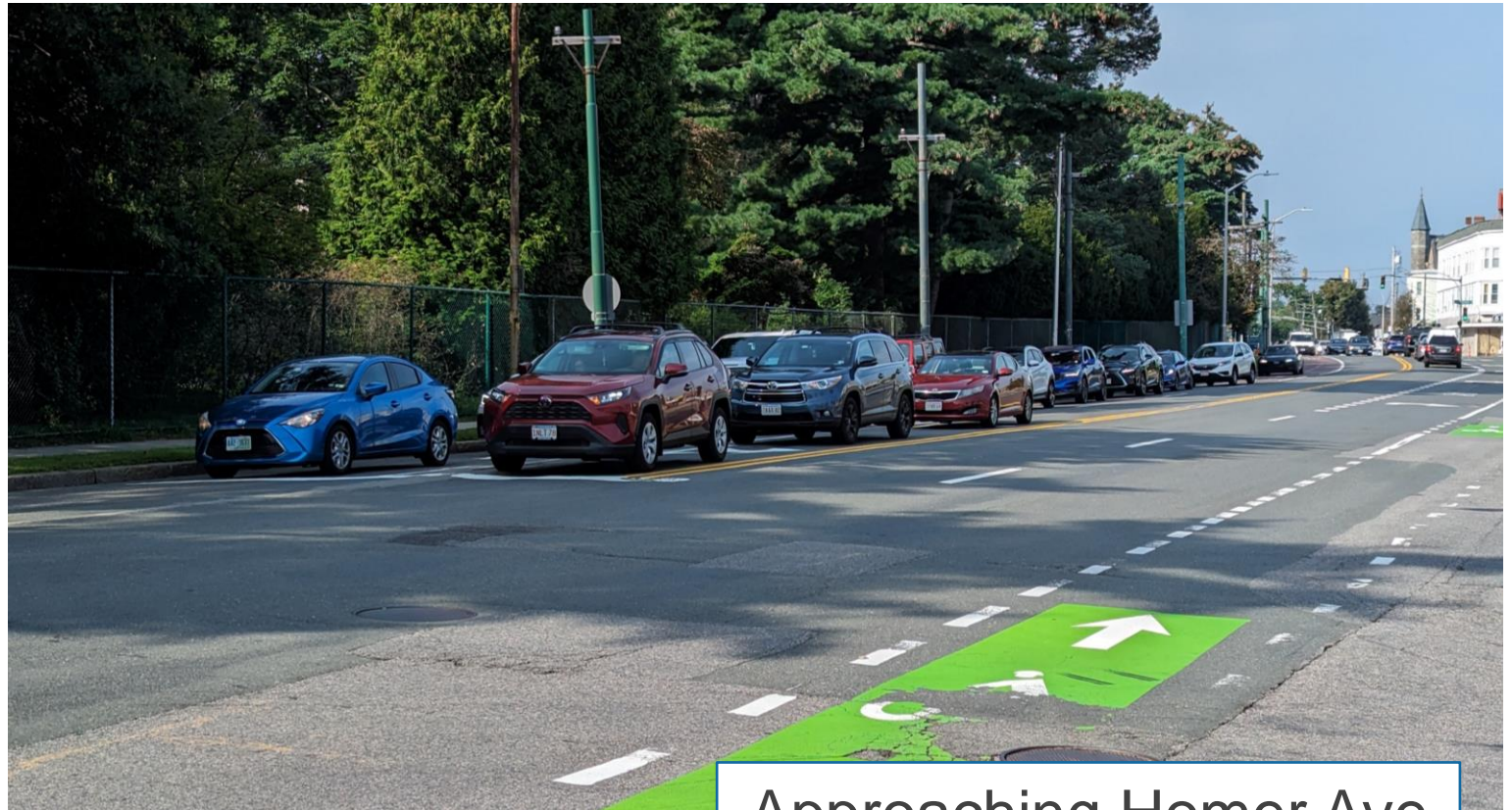
- **Location info from on-board bus systems**
- **Provides an “arrival” prediction** so we can give the bus a green signal at the right time
- **Evaluates bus travel time + signal timing changes** in easy to analyze formats

NextGen TSP means that we can monitor and modify as conditions change

Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

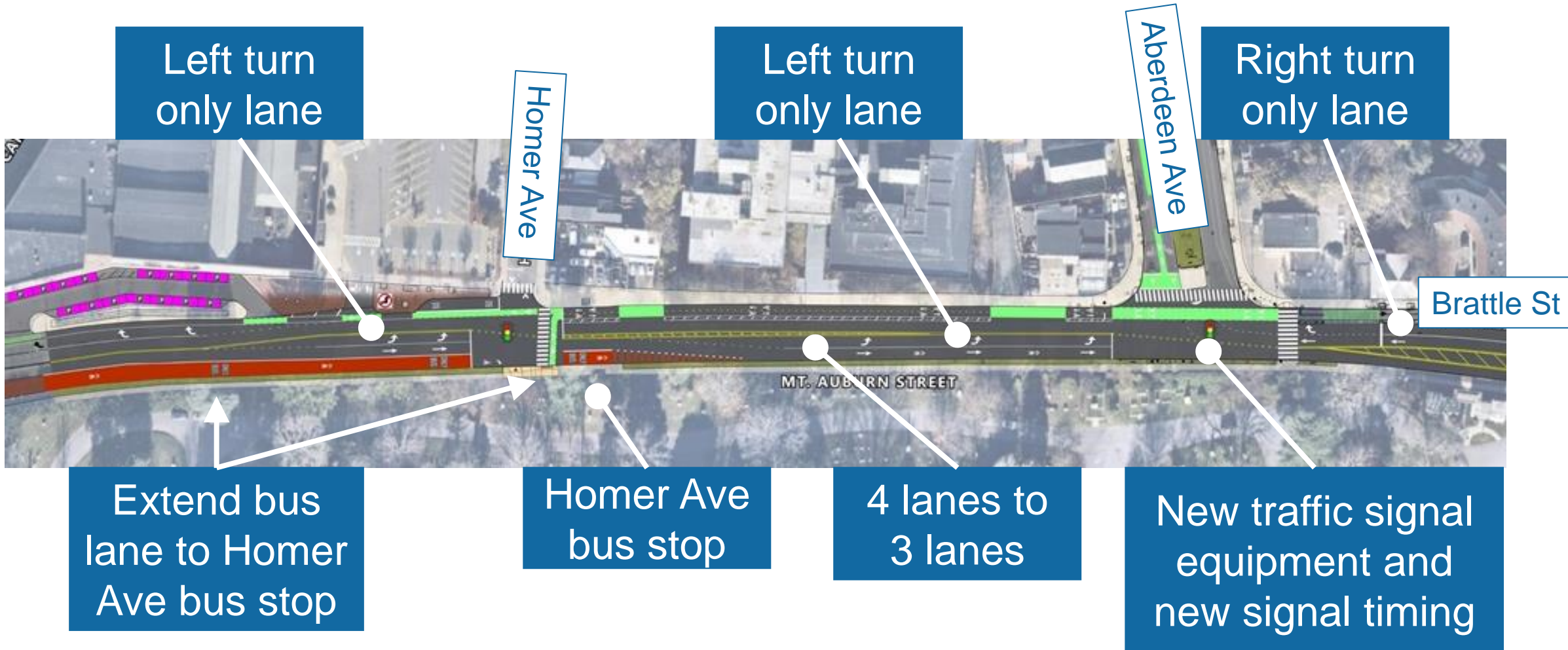
Installing new signal equipment on Mount Auburn Street at Aberdeen Avenue + changing traffic patterns

**Scheduled for late Oct.-early Nov.
(weather dependent)**



Approaching Homer Ave

Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue





Mass Ave Partial Construction

Timeline

- Design for Mass Ave between Linnean and Waterhouse
 - Shown at Working Group meeting
- Developing designs – ongoing
 - Porter Square
 - Northern Section

Working Group

Met on Oct 12

Joint Meeting

Tentative Nov 15



Mass Ave Partial Construction

- TAC may want to observe how the street works – signal operations, curb use, bus stops, boarding/alighting, sidewalks, stop amenities
- City Project Subcommittee – Observations of bus stop blockages

O'Brien Highway (Developer)

Approaching completion –
Vehicle circulation is
complete. Remaining items:

- Traffic islands
- Pollinator garden
- Additional infrastructure for people walking and biking



Huron Avenue Cushing Plaza

Ongoing work – two-way separated bike lane, rebuilt and new bus stops

Rebuilt bus stop locations:

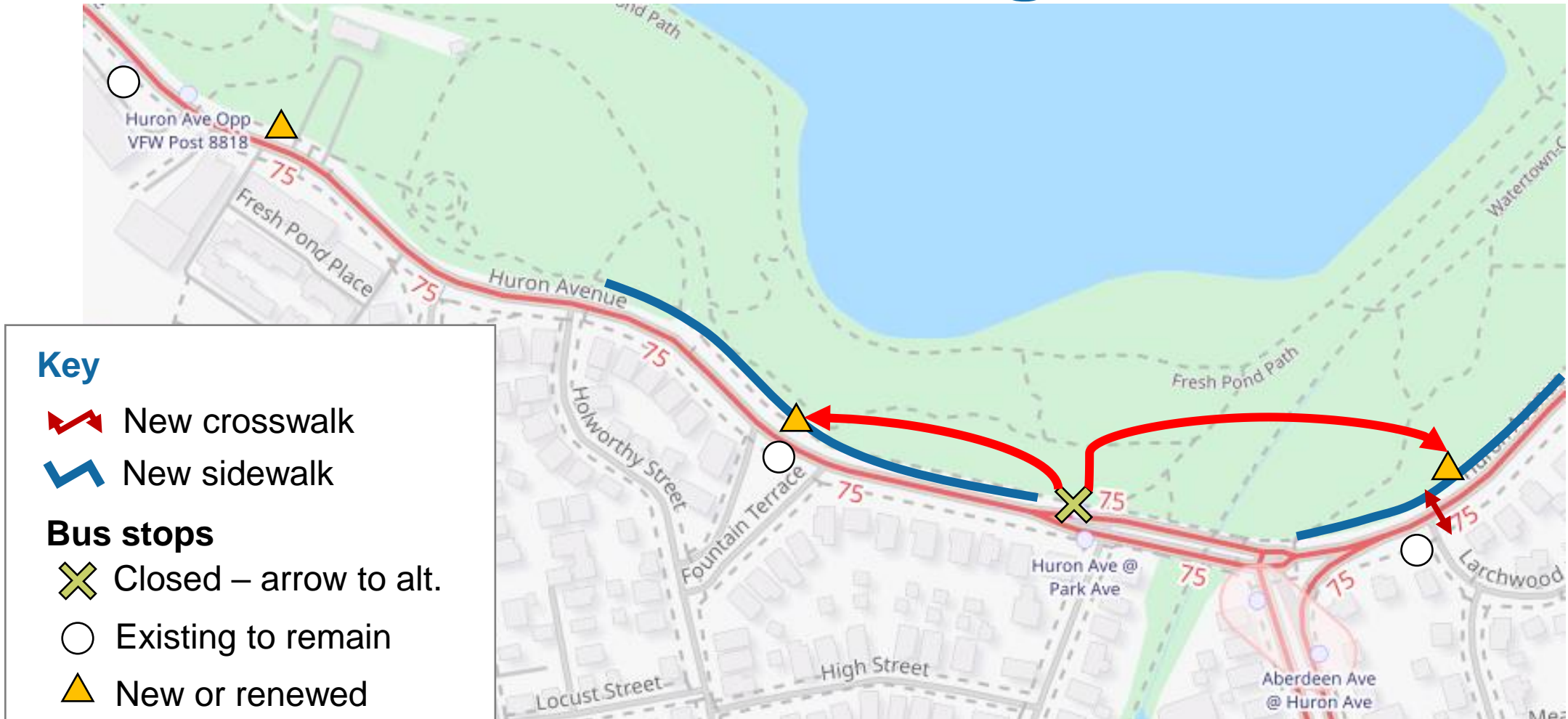
- Golf Course
- Opposite Golf Course
- Fountain Terrace

New bus stop

- Opposite Fountain Terrace



Huron Avenue + Cushing Plaza



Belmont Street Reconstruction

Ongoing work – full reconstruction of Belmont Street

- Utility work underway
- Raised side street crossings underway
- Added buffered bike lanes – to separate cyclists from buses
- New bus stop – shared cycle track and bus boarding





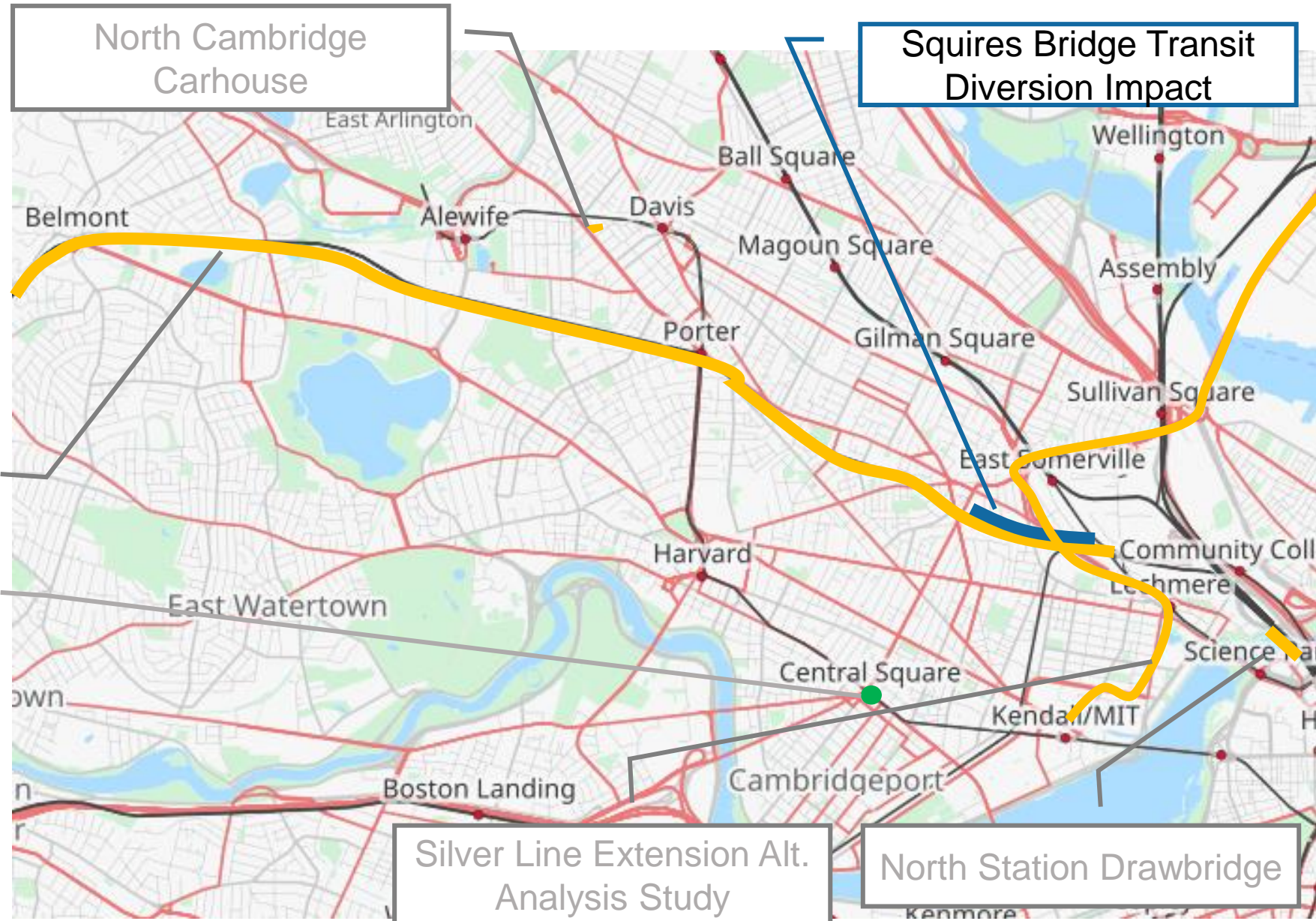
Real Time Transit Screens

- City staff requested proposals for up to 10 locations
 - Existing city owned bus shelters with no advertising panels
- City staff are reviewing proposals in order to sign an agreement with winning bidder
- Funded by Participatory Budgeting grant and bus stop improvement capital funds

Target locations

Focused on neighborhood centers: Inman Square, Porter Square, Riverside/Cambridgeport Neighborhoods

Selected MBTA projects



Squires Bridge Transit Diversion

Because of a MassDOT Highway and Bridge project, the Green Line to Union Square will terminate at Lechmere

Neither the MBTA or MassDOT will provide additional shuttles. They have asked riders to use alternate routes:

- Green Line to East Somerville – connect with 86/91/CT2 buses
- Green Line to Lechmere – connect with 87 bus to Union Square
- Green Line to Lechmere – connect with 69 bus to Inman Square

**Expected to
continue to
October 12**

One week from
today

Upcoming subway diversions

Because of MBTA maintenance work and developer construction, the MBTA will have alternate service on:

- Red Line - Bus Shuttles
 - Broadway to Ashmont and Broadway to North Quincy (Sat 10/7 and Sun 10/8)
 - JFK/Umass to Mattapan (Sat 10/14 to Sun Oct 29)
- Green Line – Divided until 10/12
 - Medford-North Station
 - Government Center-West or Park-West
- Orange Line – Skipping Haymarket until 10/12
- Haverhill Commuter Rail line until 11/5

“Surge” Closures

Green
Line/Orange
Line at
Haymarket until
10/12

RL from JFK to
Mattapan 10/15
to 10/29

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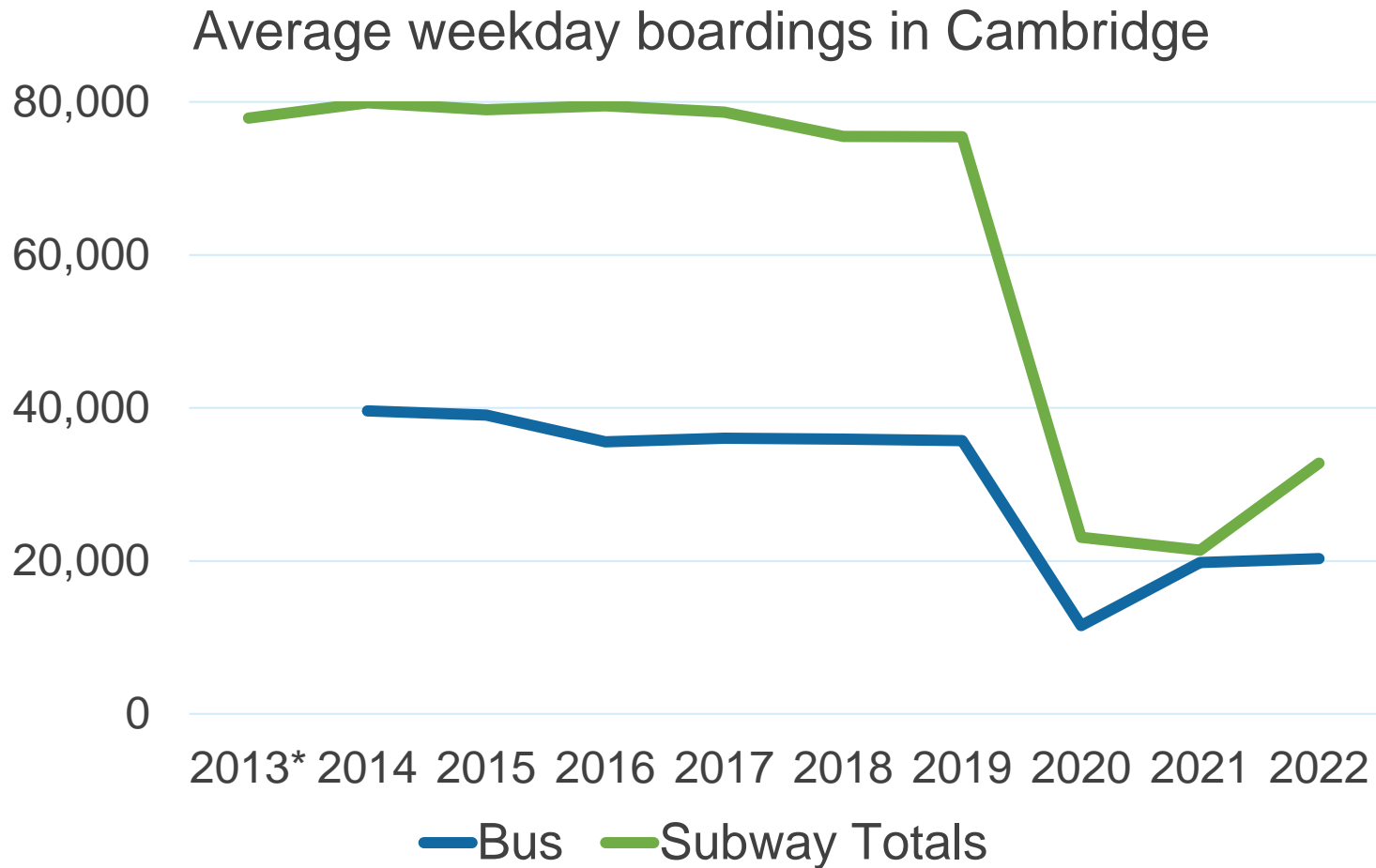
State of transit in Cambridge

Information on

- Ridership historically (10 years)
- Red Line travel times from Transit Matters
- Service offered on buses

**Other
questions you
may have?**

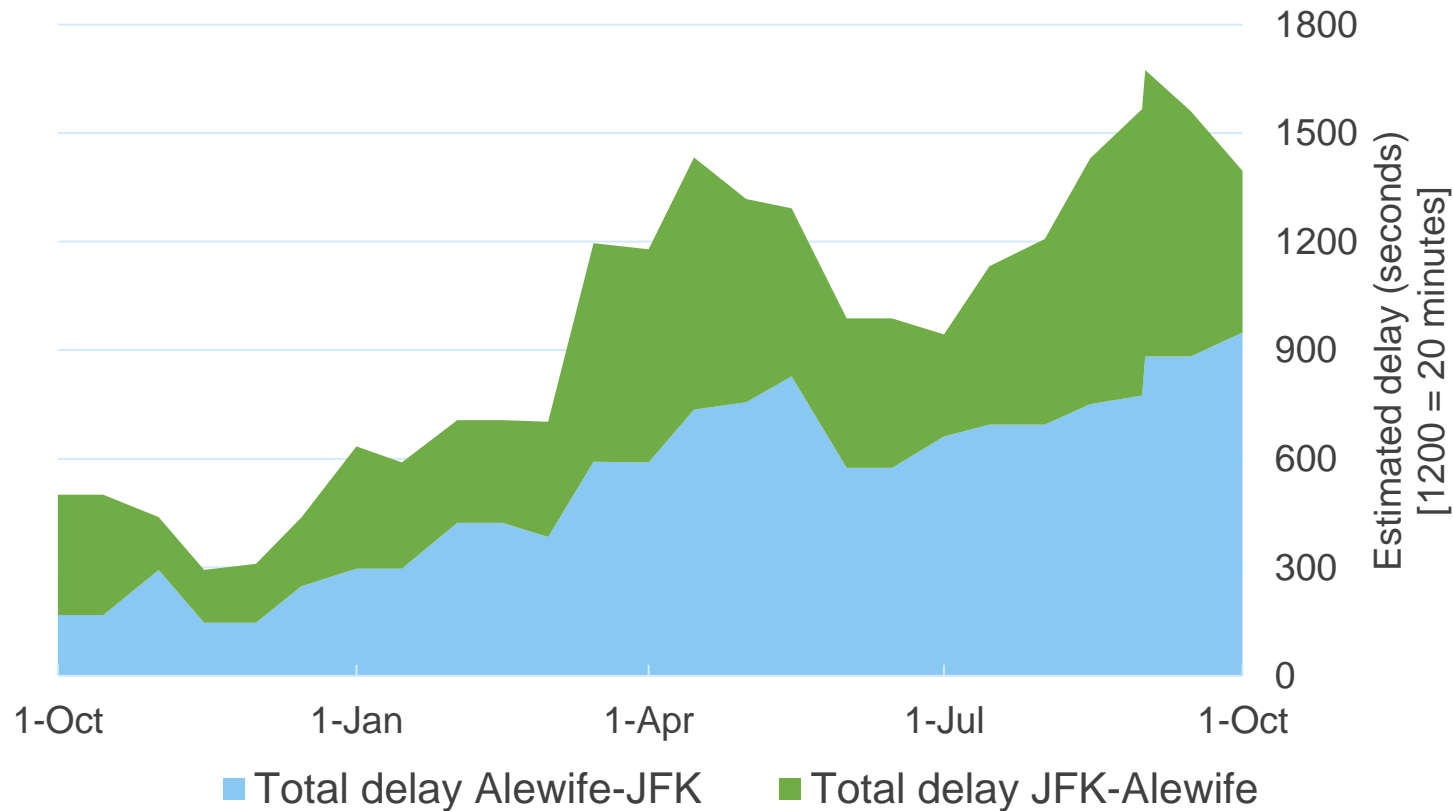
Historical ridership patterns



In 2022, weekday boardings “recovered” by 56% at bus stops and 43% at subway stations

Travel times are starting to improve from August-September

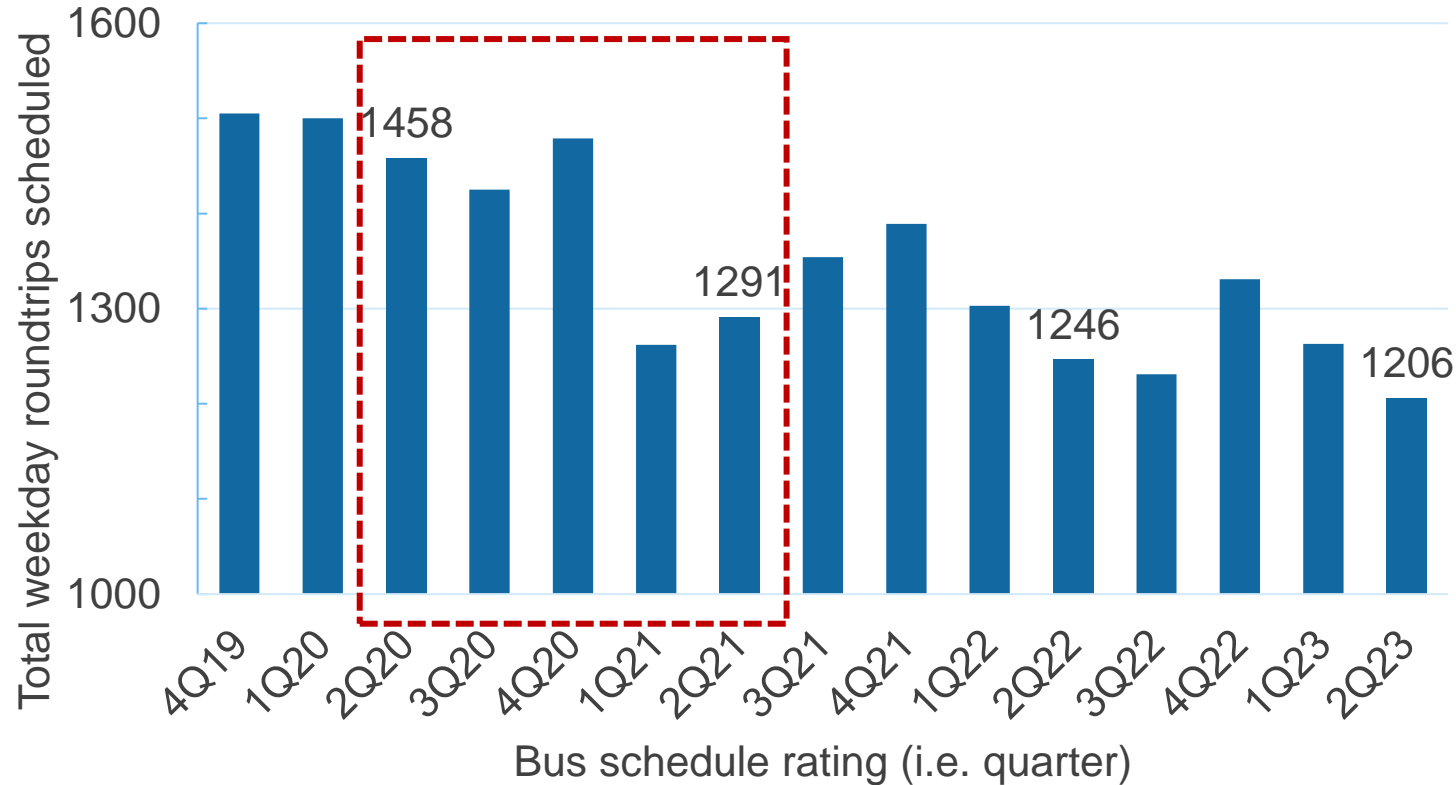
The Red Line between Alewife and JFK/UMass station requires ~23 minutes extra for a round trip.



A trip from Alewife to JFK/Umass is about 16 minutes extra time; the return is about 7.5 minutes extra

Scheduled bus trips

Total weekday bus roundtrips in Cambridge have significantly decreased



Total scheduled roundtrips in Cambridge have decreased by ~250 on a weekday



Will be looking at additional analyses

Bus ridership by route compared with service offered

Dropped trips by route

Ridership and service operated on Red Line and Green Line

**Other
questions you
may have?**

Thank you for participating in this Transit
Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and cool tonight.

Thank You