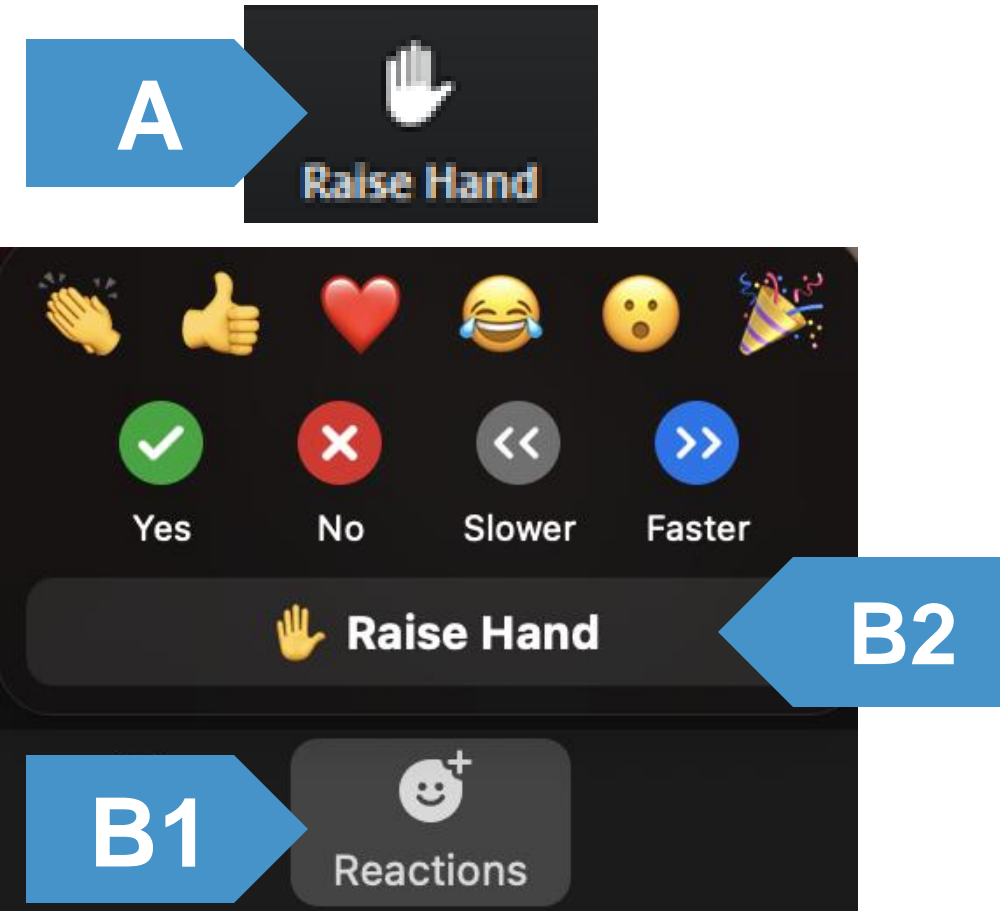


Before we start our meeting

Remote Participants

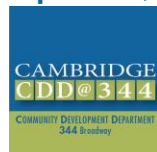
- You will join the meeting **muted** and with **video off**
- We will ask you to turn on video and to unmute
- Please use the “**Raise Hand**” button during the meeting, we will call on you in order of raised hands
- **To raise your hand** either click on Raise Hand (A) or click “Reactions”(B1) then Raise Hand (B2)





City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee Meeting

April 3, 2025





Welcome

Purpose

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

Outcomes

TAC members to review Implementation Plan and elect officers

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

Instructions for the public



You will join the meeting with video and microphone off



Public comment period will use the “**raise hand**” feature. We will provide more instruction then.

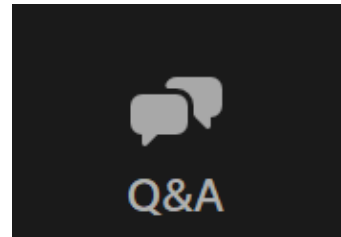


You can type written questions or comments in the Zoom Q&A Panel



Please speak only for the amount of time available.

**Bottom Panel
of Zoom
Screen**



**Ask a
Question**

**Sometimes you may
find this in the
“More” or “...” menu**



Tonight's agenda

- Roll call + Meeting Summary
- TAC Implementation Plan
- TAC Officer Election
- Presentation: City and State Project Updates
- Public comment



Roll Call

Nika Lea Tomicic, Community Development Department



Attendance

The TAC secretary must take a roll-call to confirm attendance by Transit Advisory Committee members when the meeting is held with remote participation.

TAC secretary will call roll.



Meeting summaries

City staff posted the March 2025 meeting summary online.

Propose a vote to approve meeting summaries.



Discussion: TAC work plan



TAC to update work plan each year

Purpose: TAC-endorsed implementation directs city staff and TAC work every year

Outcome: Finalize work plan

Process: Review summary of feedback, discussion on major modifications, discussion on new ideas and prioritization, roll call vote to conclude and finalize work plan



Overall suggestions

- **Questions from members**
- **Proposal to change structure**



Members of the TAC can suggest that the implementation plan be modified

- **Remove** – This item is now complete, may be “stale” or “old”, and not a priority
- **Add** – This is a new item for the TAC
- **Modify** – This item has changed or the TAC is interested in a different aspect of this item



Officer Elections

Andy Reker, Transportation Department



Responsibilities of officers

Chair

- The Chair will be responsible for setting the agenda in coordination with City staff, for facilitating meetings, for organizing the Committee work program and subcommittees in coordination with City staff, and for signing Committee correspondence.

Vice-chair

- The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in his/her duties and fill in for the Chair in his/her absence.

Secretary

- The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that meeting minutes and attendance records are kept.



Electing officers

Nominee

- Nominees will each have one minute to share a brief statement.

Voting

- To take place with physical ballots in-person and electronic ballots for remote attendees.
- A quorum is necessary for Committee votes. A simple majority of members constitute a quorum.



Presentation: City and State Project Updates

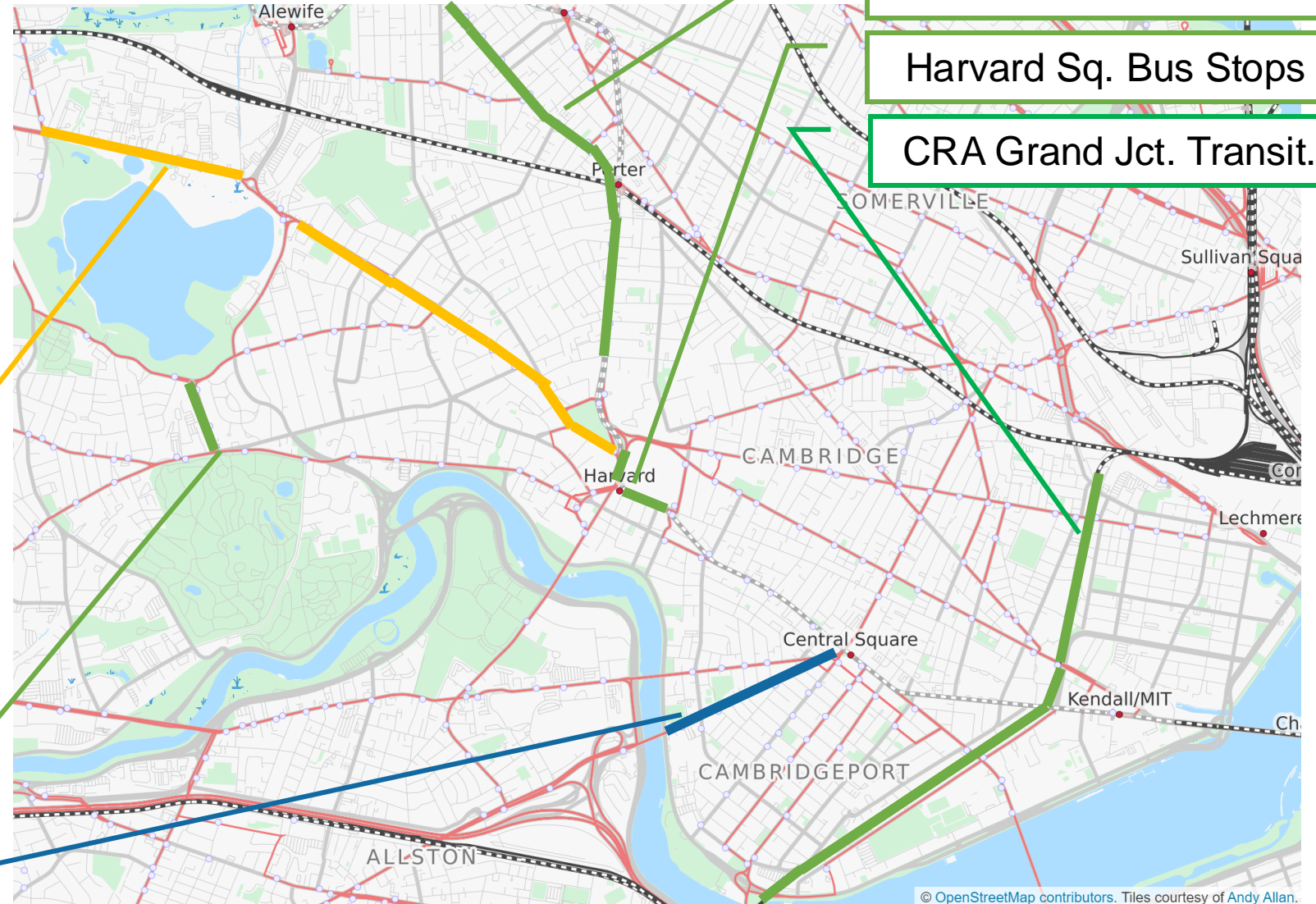
Nika Lea Tomicic, Transportation Department

Selected City projects

Concord Transit Signal Priority

Aberdeen Improvements

River Street Reconstr.



Mass Ave Partial Const.

Harvard Sq. Bus Stops

CRA Grand Jct. Transit.

Sullivan Squa

CAMBRIDGE

Central Square

CAMBRIDGEPORT

ALLSTON

Kendall/MIT

Lechmere

© OpenStreetMap contributors. Tiles courtesy of Andy Allan.

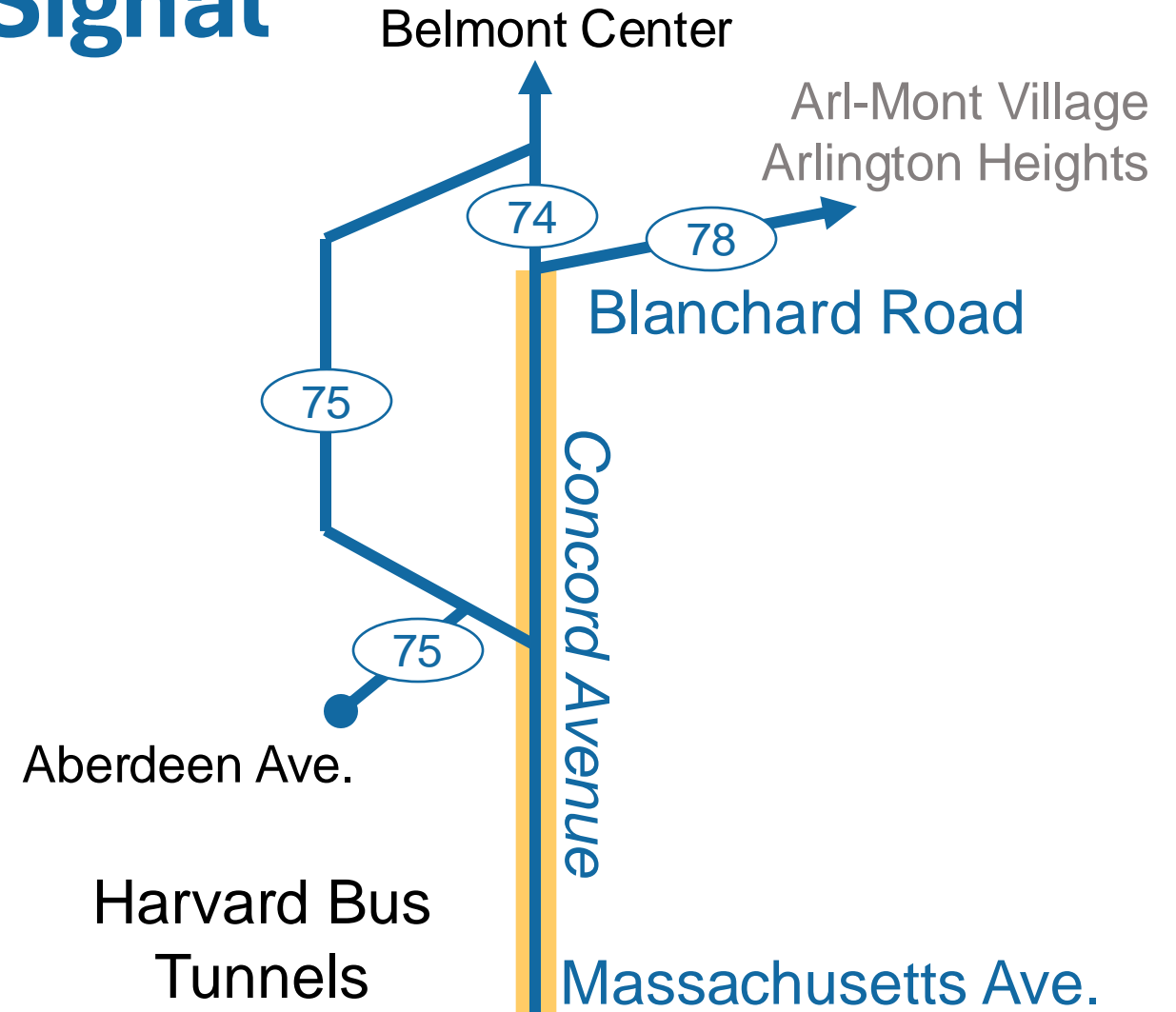
Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

Work is in progress

MBTA and City has mostly completed installation of:

- TSP request generators
- Upgraded signal controllers

Project is developing programming and signal controller logic

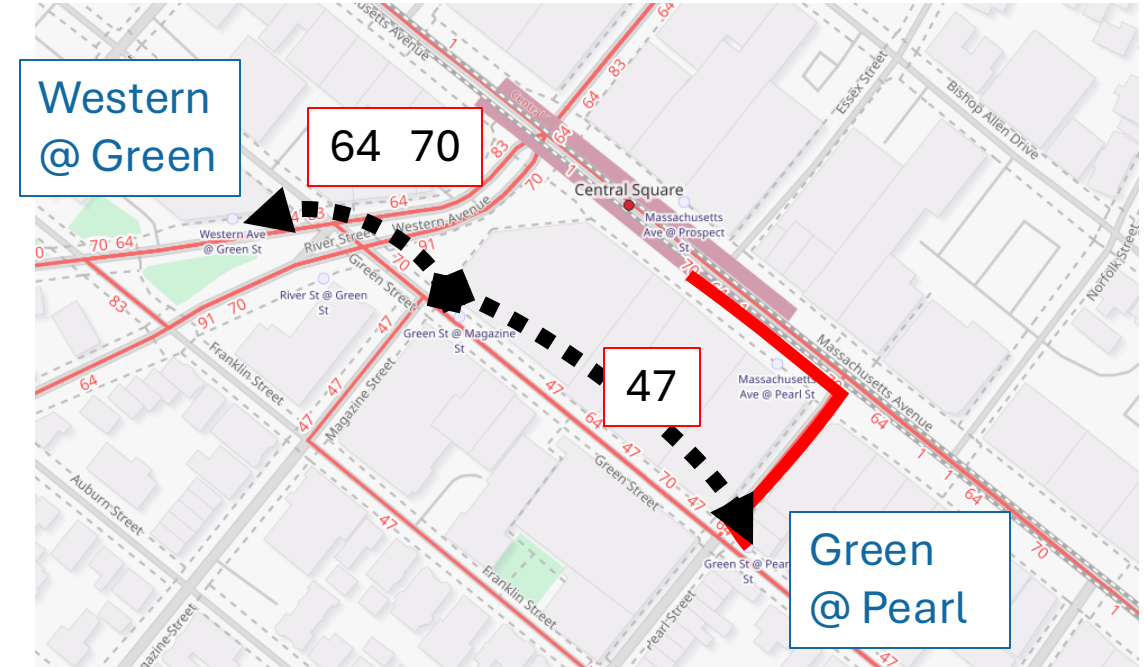


Bus stops moving at Central Sq. Bus Terminal

Work is in progress at Carl Barron Plaza

Bus stop at Green St at Magazine St will be closed beginning Monday, March 10 and last approx 2 months.

Construction work will include sidewalk repairs, replacement of bus shelters, and new rider amenities.



Riders on Routes 64 and 70 should board at Western Ave at Green St. Riders for Route 47 should board on Green St at Pearl St.

Aberdeen Avenue

Addition of separated bike lanes on road next to median (i.e. left side)

Flexposts and markings to be installed in spring

No planned modifications to bus stops locations



Photo rendering of changes to intersection of Aberdeen Avenue at Mount Auburn Street

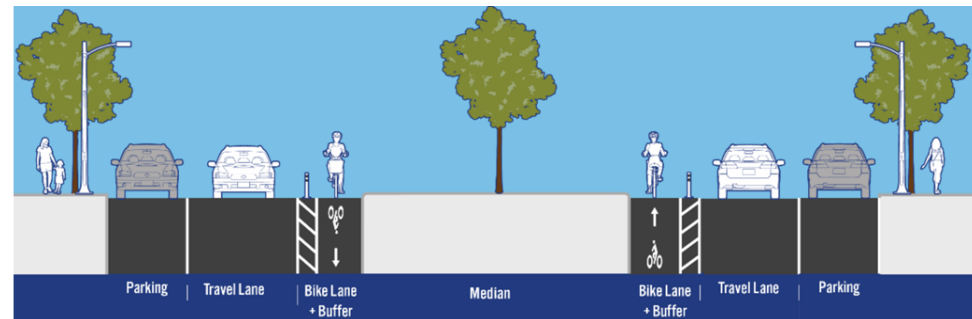
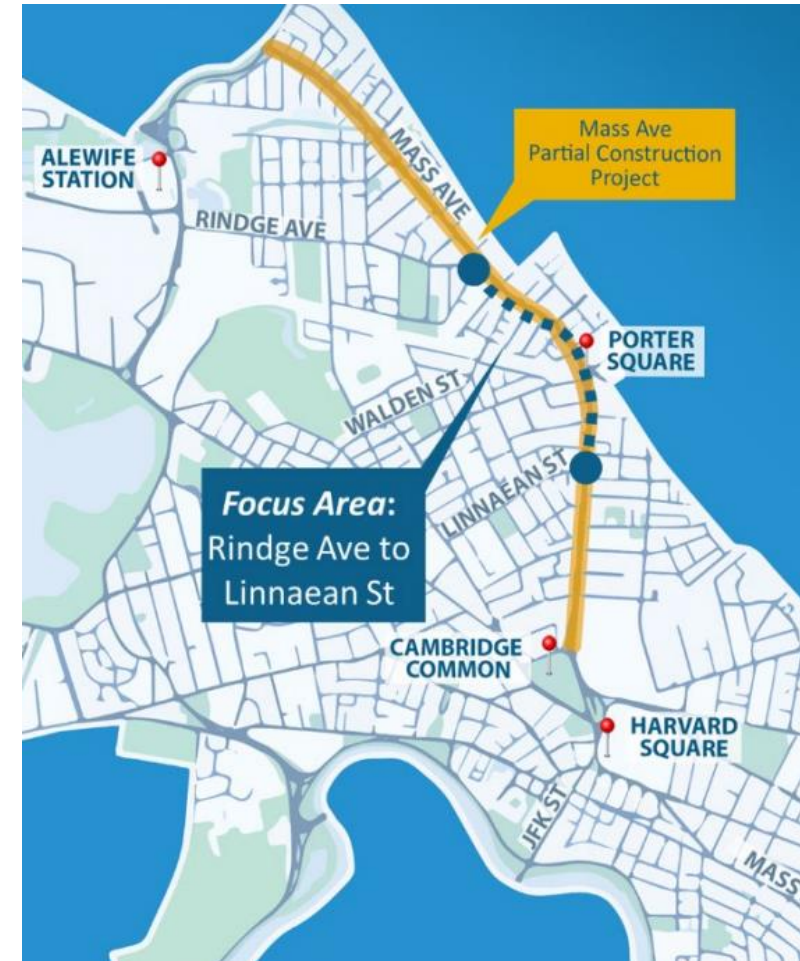


Illustration of separated bike lanes on Aberdeen Ave, planned for Spring of 2025

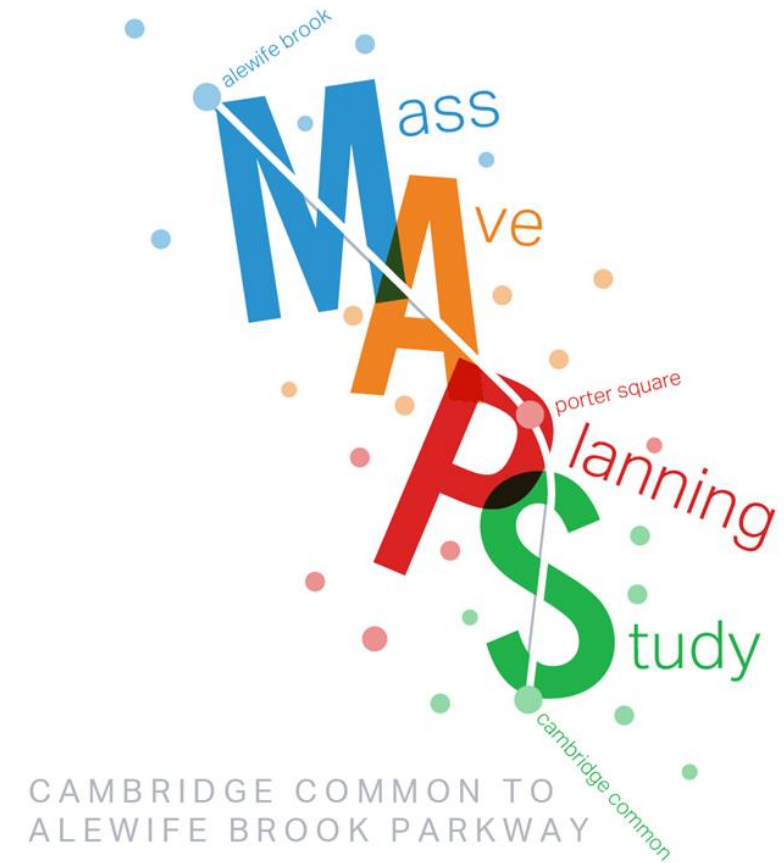
Mass Ave Partial Construction

- Will create separated bike lanes, in accordance with the requirements of the Cycling Safety Ordinance and make modifications to street design
- Using a mix of quick-build and “full” construction process
- Early action items are in Phase 1 and include median removal and some utility work
- Working Group 4 Meeting: April 25, 3:00pm virtual



Mass Ave Planning Study

- MAPS creates a vision plan for what Massachusetts Avenue will look like in 2040 between Alewife Brook Parkway and Cambridge Common.
- Status: Ready to share final recommendations
- Upcoming Meeting
 - MAPS Community Meeting - Final Planning Study Recommendations - April 10, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.





Real Time Transit Screens

- City staff requested proposals for up to 10 locations
 - Existing city owned bus shelters with no advertising panels
- City staff working out a new strategy
- Funded by Participatory Budgeting grant and bus stop improvement capital funds

Target locations

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

New bus shelter installation

- Kendall Square Transit Enhancement Program approved a bus stop improvement project in June
- Install bus shelter on Ames Street at Main Street
- Work began this summer and expect installation in Spring





River St Updates

- Utility work to continue along River St towards Memorial Drive
- Significant construction continues in and around Carl Barron Plaza. There will be pedestrian detours and MBTA bus stop relocations ongoing for several months. Contractor to pay special attention to accessibility features.



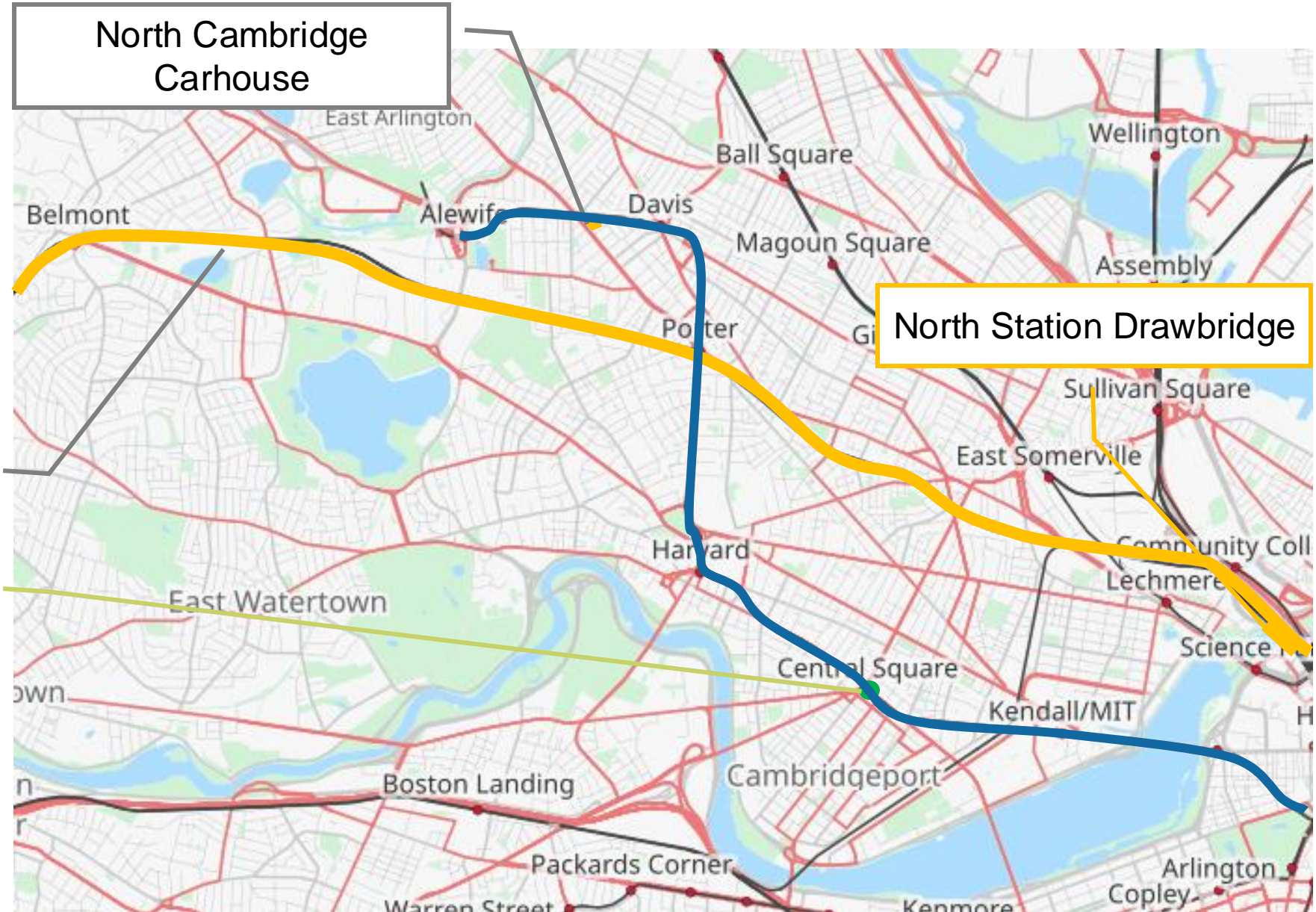
Alewife Station Access Road

- IQHQ was required to evaluate the feasibility of adding a bus lane to the Alewife Station Access Road
- Evaluation is complete and further conversations are going on with MassDOT, DCR, and MBTA
- Update on evaluation and potential for design in future meetings

Selected MBTA projects

Fitchburg Line CIP project

Central Square Accessibility Improvements





North Station Draw One project

- MBTA published a draft environmental analysis in December 2024
- City Manager commented on the draft EA the long-standing state commitments for a bike-ped crossing



Alewife Commuter Rail Station Ridership Assessment

- MBTA has begun a study to evaluate the potential for ridership at a proposed infill station on the Fitchburg Line
- Study will provide information that will give decision-making support for Railroad Operations, Planning, Strategy
 - Balancing between new riders and delay for current riders



Spring Service Changes

Effective April 6, 2025

- 77 Bus Changes
 - Weekday frequency increases in the midday to reduce crowding during the early afternoon.
 - Weekend frequency increases throughout the day, which will be every 15 minutes or better for most of the weekend
- 109 Bus Changes
 - Weekday outbound trip added at 5:05 AM.

Bus Network Redesign Vision for High-Frequency Bus Network

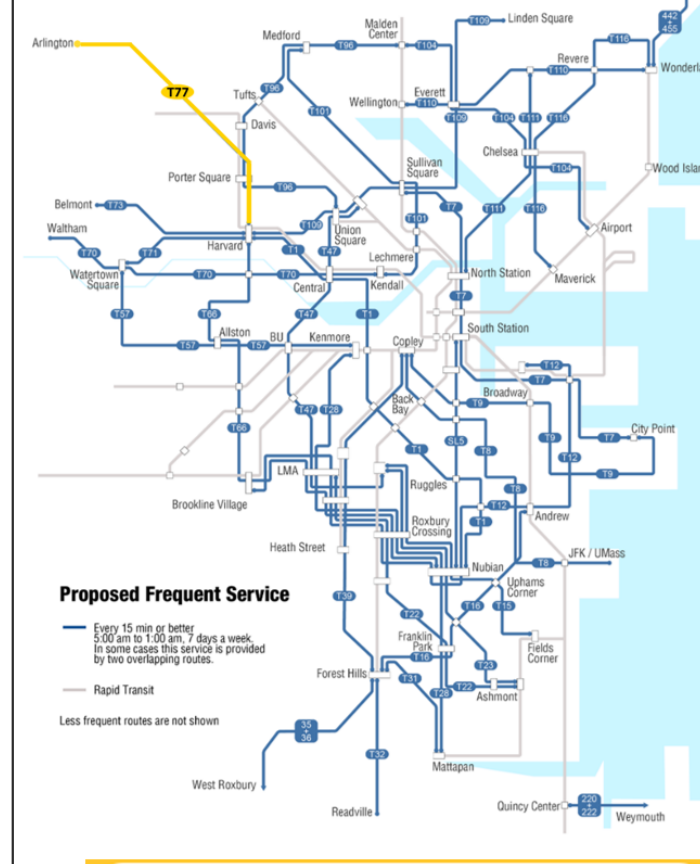
Current Network



20 Service every 20 minutes or better

Promote to high frequency

Bus Network Redesign End State



15 Service every 15 minutes or better

Bus Network Redesign changes are planned over the next five years

What this means For Route 77:

- Same route structure: Arlington to Harvard via Porter
- Every 15 minutes or better, seven days a week for full service span.
- Approximately every 9 minutes during rush hours, to meet ridership need

Upcoming Spring 2025 Changes to Route 77—effective April 6, 2025

Weekday

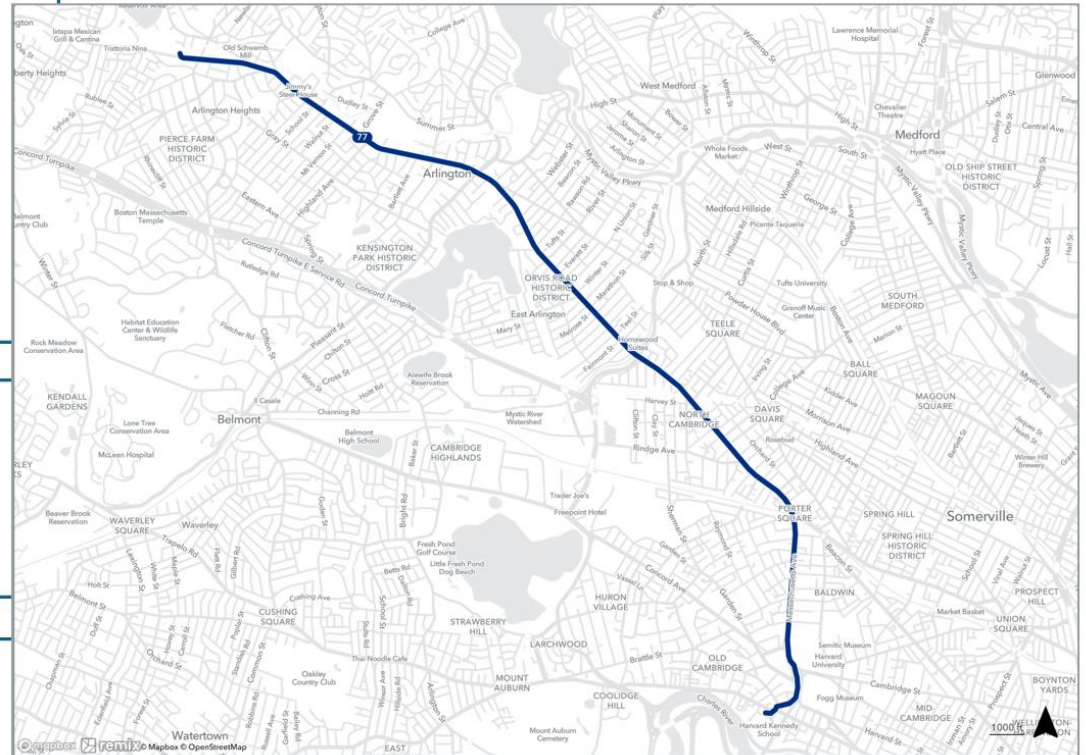
- Frequency improved:
 - During midday (between 10 am – 2 pm) from every 16 minutes to every 15 minutes
 - During midday (between 2 pm – 3 pm) from every 13 minutes to every 11-12 minutes
- More trips: 182 Trips → 185 Trips
- More in-service hours: 102 hours 13 minutes → 109 hours 13 minutes

Saturday

- Frequency improved: Saturday between 7 am – 7:30 pm from every 17-20 minutes to every 15 minutes
- More trips: 134 Trips → 150 Trips
- More in-service hours: 67 hours 13 minutes → 77 hours 57 minutes

Sunday

- Frequency improved: Sunday between 7:45 am – 9 pm from every 19-20 minutes to every 15 minutes
- More trips: 118 trips → 142 trips
- More in-service hours: 55 hours 11 minutes → 69 hours 33 minutes

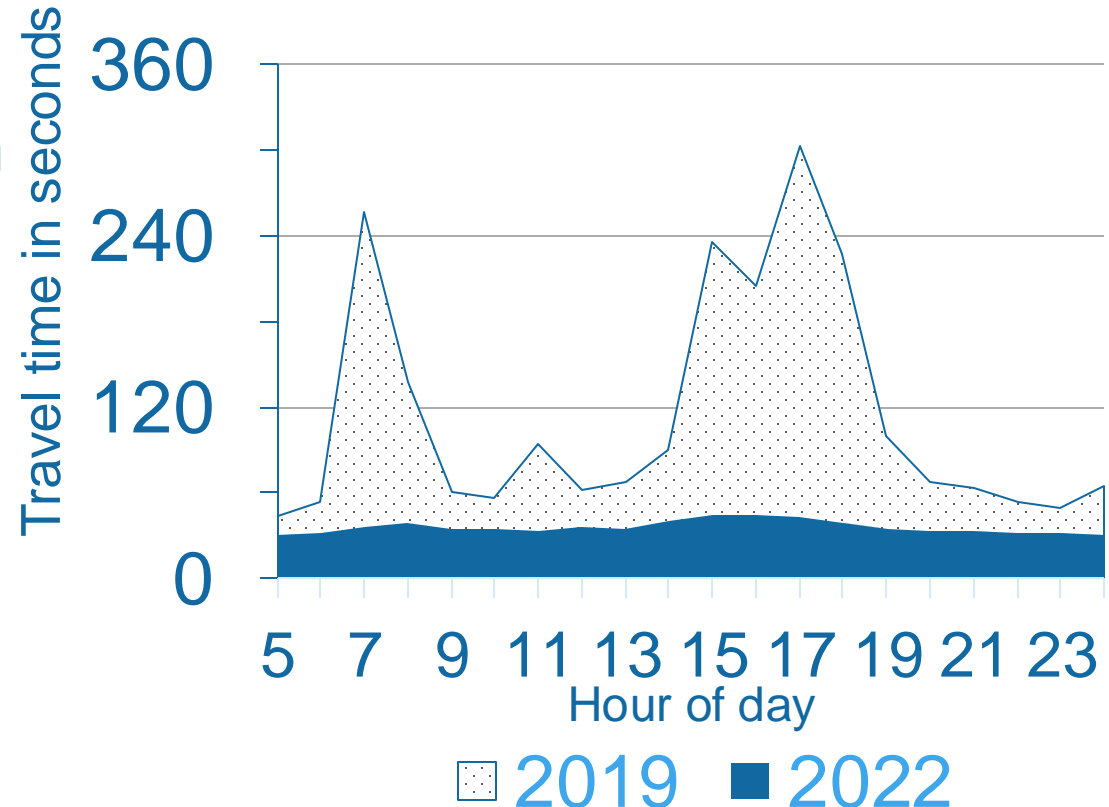


Bus riders had faster, more reliable trips in bus lanes

Travel times

- Harvard-bound 31% faster on average
- Arlington-bound 40% faster on average
- Cameron to Churchill dramatically improved
 - During PM rush hour, typical trip took 4 to 5 minutes in 2019
 - During PM rush hour, typical trip took 45 seconds in 2022

Typical travel times from
Cameron to Churchill improved

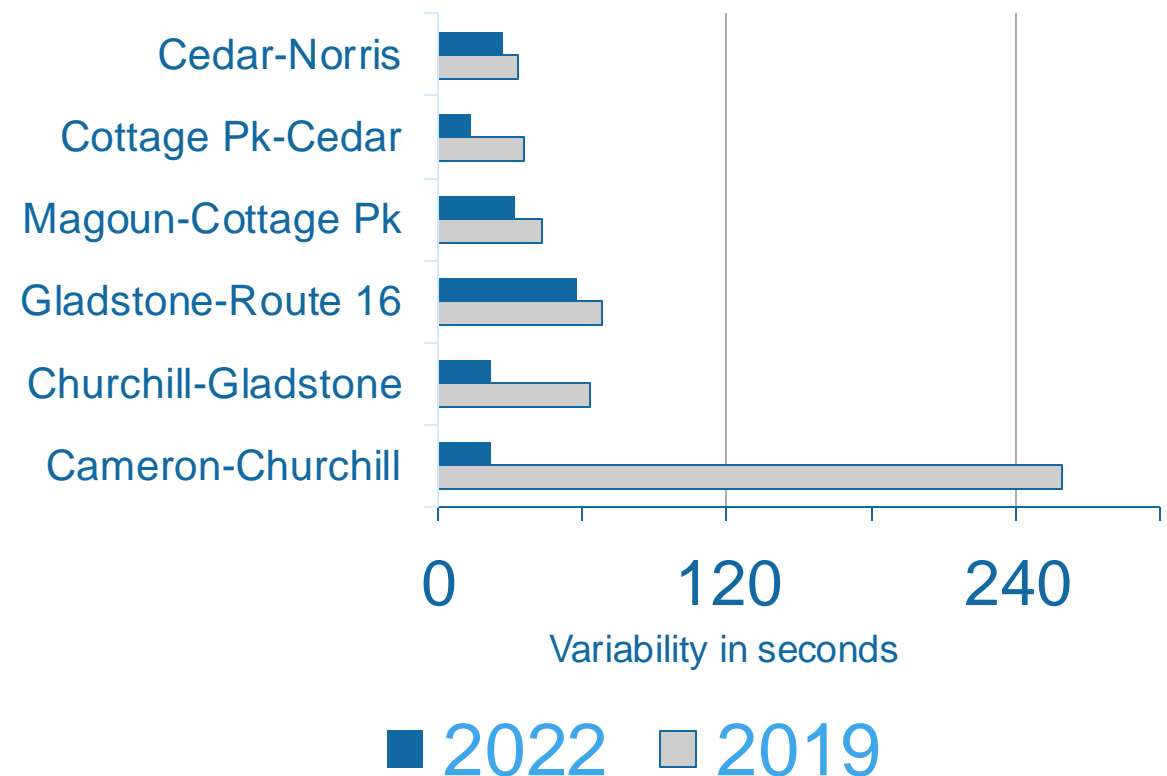


Bus riders had faster, more reliable trips in bus lanes

Travel time variability

- Calculated from worst and best typical travel times
 - How many seconds difference between best typical and worst typical travel time
- Variability reduced in every stop-to-stop segment
- Most noticeable outbound from Cameron to Churchill with variability decreasing to 22 seconds

Variability of bus travel time improved





Motorists experienced some, but minimal negative travel time impacts

Travel time for vehicles

- Installation in November to December 2021
- Travel times for motorists were longer by less than a minute, often less than 30 seconds comparing November with December
- Travel time for motorists were generally lower than compared with 2019 except p.m. rush hours where travel times were longer by 6 to 12 seconds, on average
- Permanent count station is helping city staff monitor after this analysis



Red Line Changes

- Travel times are updated every day for better reliability.
- Shorter four-car trains are added to the schedule during weekday rush hour.
- Weekday frequency improves to reduce crowding and wait time.
- Weekend trips shift for better schedule reliability.



Green Line B Branch Update

- Service will originate / terminate at the Lake Street platform, just outside of Boston College Station, from 8:45 PM on Friday, April 11 through the end of service on Sunday, April 13. This to allow for maintenance work in the BC yard



Spring Service Changes

- MBTA has begun a study to evaluate the potential for ridership at a proposed infill station on the Fitchburg Line
- Study will provide information that will give decision-making support for Railroad Operations, Planning, Strategy
 - Balancing between new riders and delay for current riders



Red Line Shutdown

- Red Line Ashmont Branch service will operate with shuttle trains between Ashmont and JFK/UMass for 21 days April 10 – 30.
 - Note the shuttle trains not buses running during this shutdown, so expect longer wait times.
 - Shutdown required for performing critical special track work at the crossover near Ashmont.

CIP Public Comment Period

- Proposed FY 2026 – 2030 Capital Investment Plan (CIP) is open for public comment
- Public Meetings
 - Thursday, April 3, at 6:30 PM
 - Virtual meeting on Zoom
 - Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 PM
 - Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)
 - 178 Tremont St, Boston, MA





Announcements



TAC Meetings

- Next meeting
 - Thursday, May 1 - 6 p.m. – TAC Meeting
- Joint meeting
 - Wednesday, April 16 – Joint meeting
 - IQHQ / Jerry's Pond
 - Zoning 101 Presentation



Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment

Zoom Webinar Instructions

- **Computer & Mobile devices:** Use the "Raise Hand" button to signal you have a question/comment.
- **Phone-only** enter * 9 to Raise Hand
- A staff member will then enable you to speak and you will have to unmute before speaking.

Bottom Panel
of Zoom
Screen



Comments from the public

Members of the public may make a comment on the Transit Advisory Committee.



Use the “Raise Hand” feature in the Zoom application. By phone, use * 9 on the dial-pad to “raise hand”.



This agenda item is planned to end at 7:30 PM.



Each member of the public will have up to **3 minutes** to make a comment or ask a question.

Thank you for coming to tonight's meeting.

Stay healthy and well.

Thank You