



**CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of  
Transportation

# Monthly Project Updates

August 2025

# Purpose, outcomes, process

## *Purpose*

Advisory committee members have asked to be given updates on “Active” projects in the Implementation Plan

## *Outcomes*

Members know what is going on with city and state projects

## *Process*

Every month, city staff will update these slides highlighting in yellow

Members to ask questions:

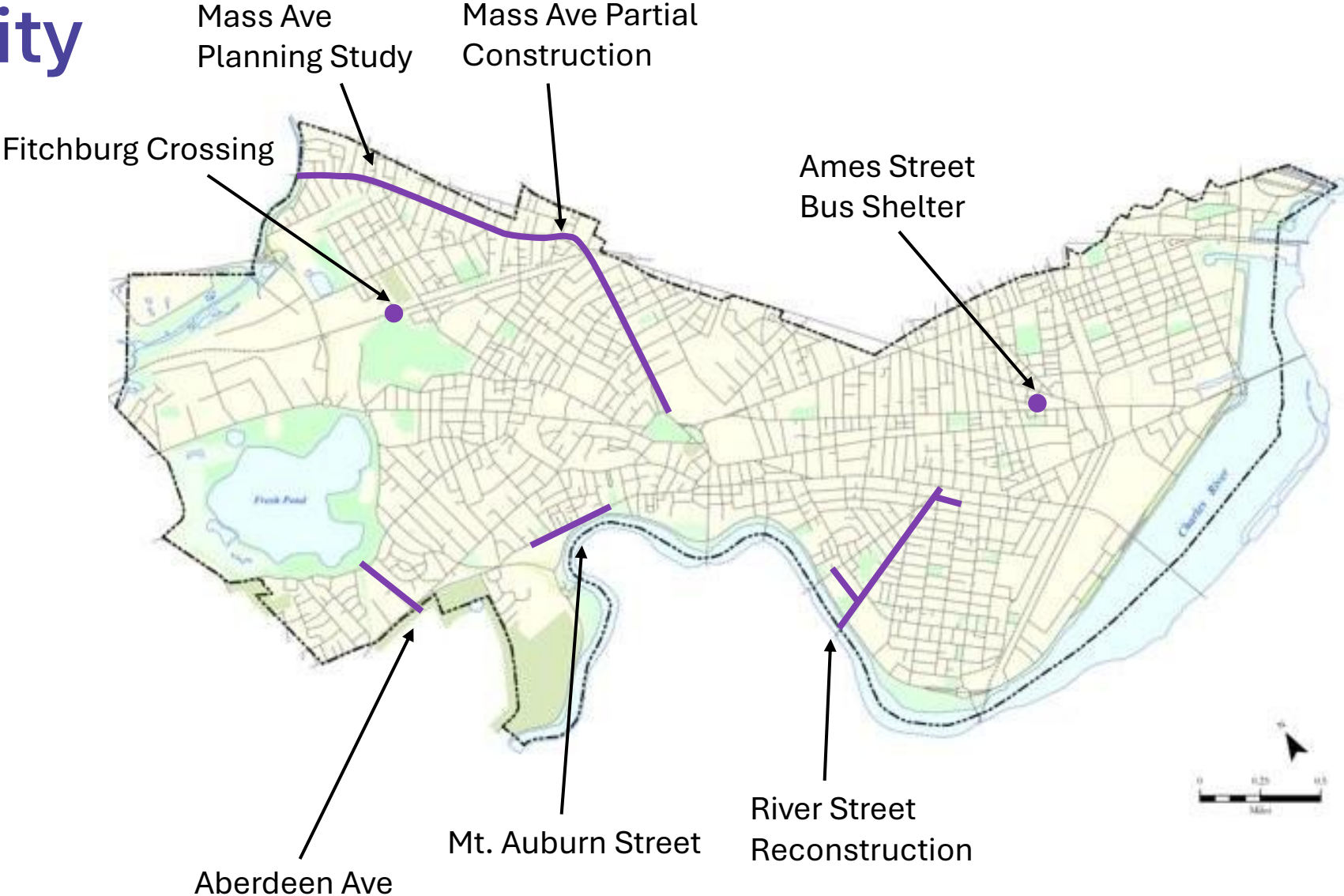
- Before meeting, by sending an e-mail to city staff, Chair, and Vice Chair
- During meeting, speak during “updates” agenda item

# City Project Updates

# Selected City projects

All-city projects:

- Shuttle + Transit Gap Study
- Transit Delay and Reliability Study



Not on TAC Active Projects List

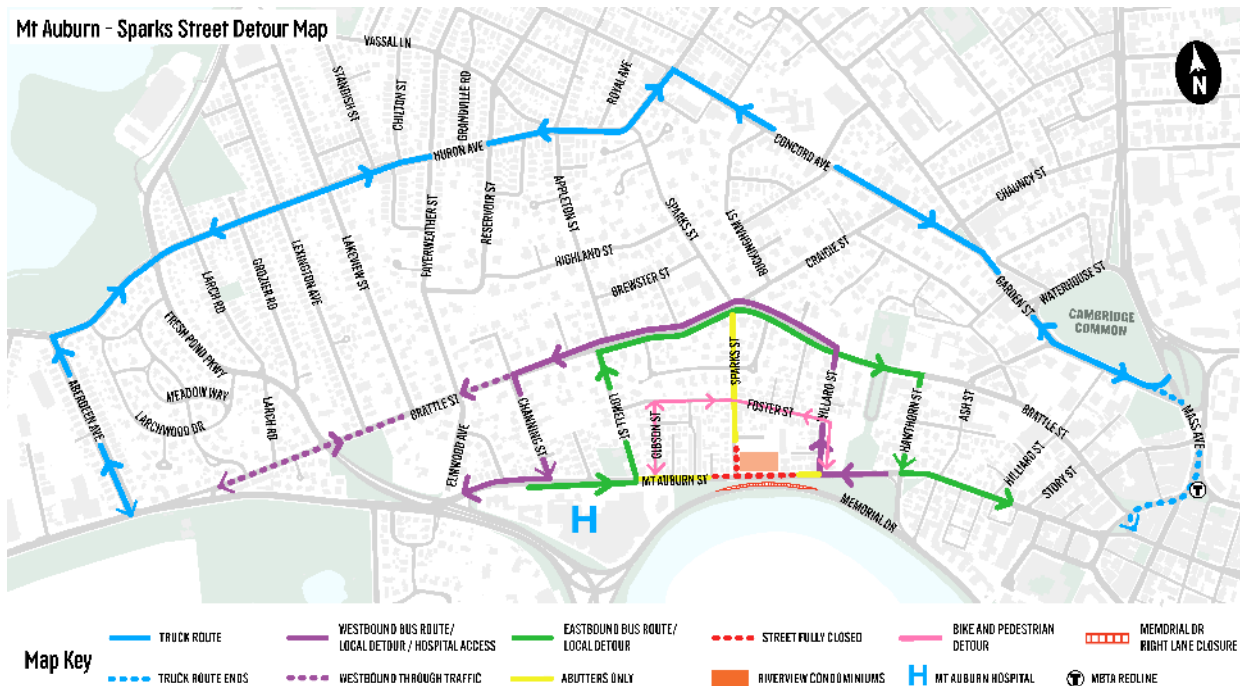
# Mt. Auburn Street Closures and Detours

## Project outcomes and process

- Condo at 221 Mt. Auburn will be safely demolished

## Impacts to community

- MBTA bus routes 71 and 73 rerouted along Brattle Street
- Private shuttles also rerouted
- Temporary relocation of Mt Auburn St @ Mt Auburn Hospital bus stop





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# Grand Junction Path & Transit Conceptual Design

## *Projects' outcomes*

- Path: Build an off-street multi-use path along the Grand Junction corridor railroad tracks
- Conceptual Design Study: Test viability of various concepts for passenger rail along Grand Junction

## Status update

- City is working with the MBTA to sort out design of path along the rail tracks.
- Some construction will follow Eversource's Greater Cambridge Energy project

# EZRide Shuttle Service

## *Project outcomes*

- Expand shuttle service in eastern Cambridge – midday and weekend service

## Status update

- Shuttle became fare-free during stay-at-home public health orders in 2020 related to COVID-19
- New service “soft” launched in April 2025 and celebration held in June 2025

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# Mass Ave Harvard Square Bus Stop

## *Project outcomes*

- Improve bus reliability and bike safety along Mass Ave from Plympton to Dunster

## Status update

- 90% design and community feedback meetings planned for this year



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# Fitchburg Bike Ped Crossing

## *Project outcomes*

- Design a bike and pedestrian crossing over Fitchburg commuter rail line

## Status update

- Federal government awarded a grant, though, with current Federal administration policy positions, they may not honor grant; City is working on backup plans for financing

# Citywide Shuttle + Transit Gap Study

## *Project outcomes*

- Document existing bus/shuttle network and service
- Analyze service gaps and identify gaps where people are using other modes to make short trips

## Status update

- **Update: Presented proposal to Long Term Planning and Transportation and Public Utilities Committees of City Council in June 2025**

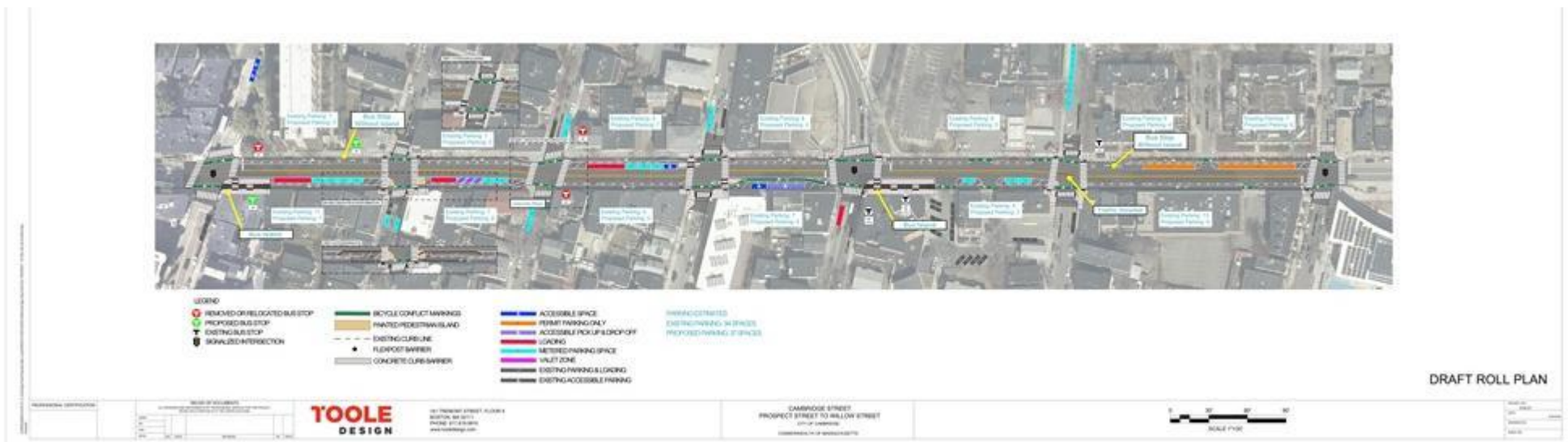
# Cambridge Street Safety Improvements

## Project outcomes

- Install separated bike lanes and better bus waiting areas along Cambridge Street

## Status update

- Project team will be seeking feedback on Section B soon



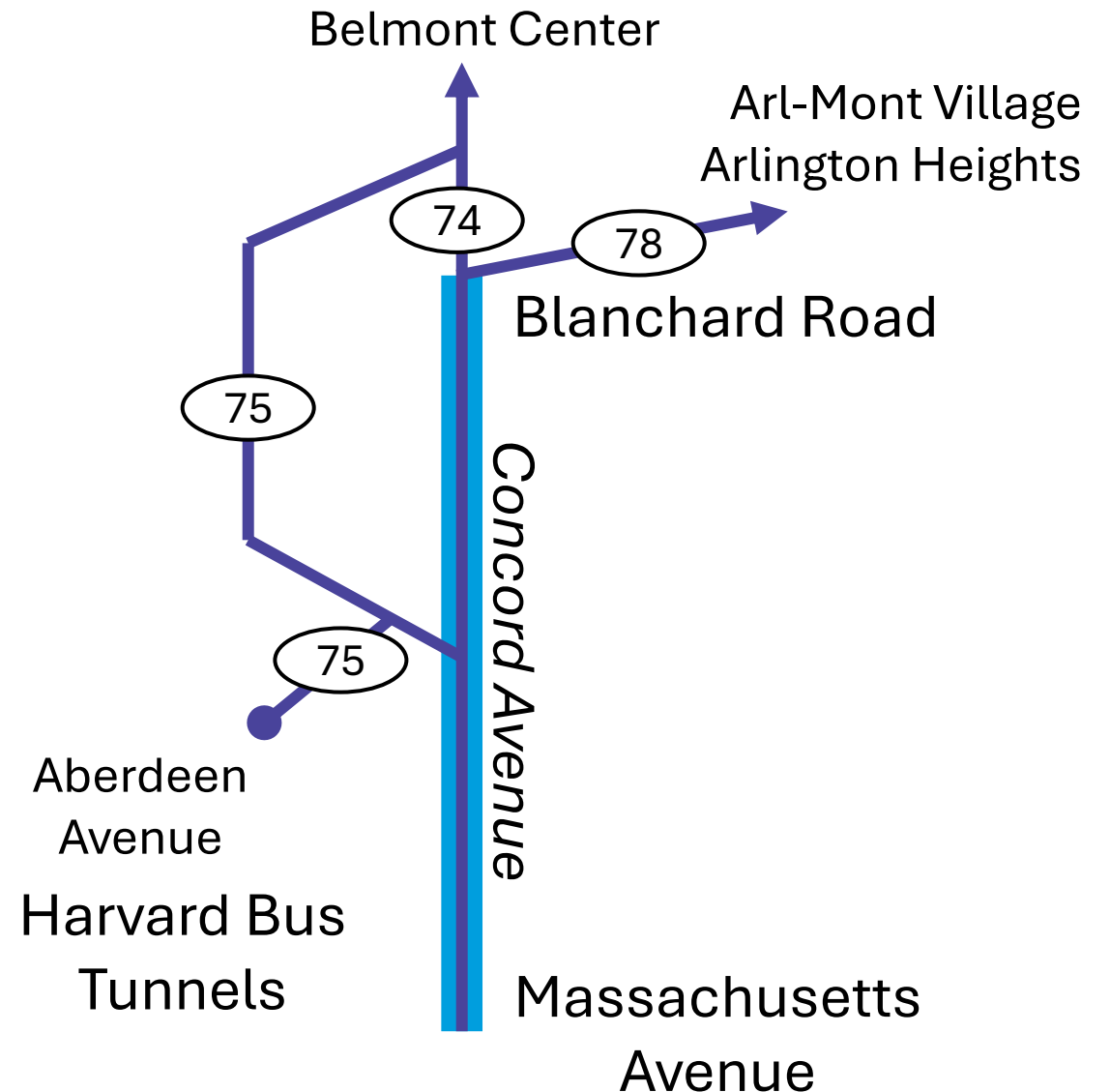
# Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority

## Work is in progress

MBTA and City has mostly completed installation of:

- T.S.P. request generators
- Upgraded signal controllers

Project team is developing programing and signal controller logic



# Aberdeen Ave Cycling Safety Ordinance

## *Project outcomes and process*

- Will create separated bike lanes, in accordance with the requirements of the Cycling Safety Ordinance
- No planned modifications for bus stop locations

Early action items are in construction

- Update: Paving delayed, so flex posts are delayed
- Update: Info session on 8/5 at Story Chapel



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

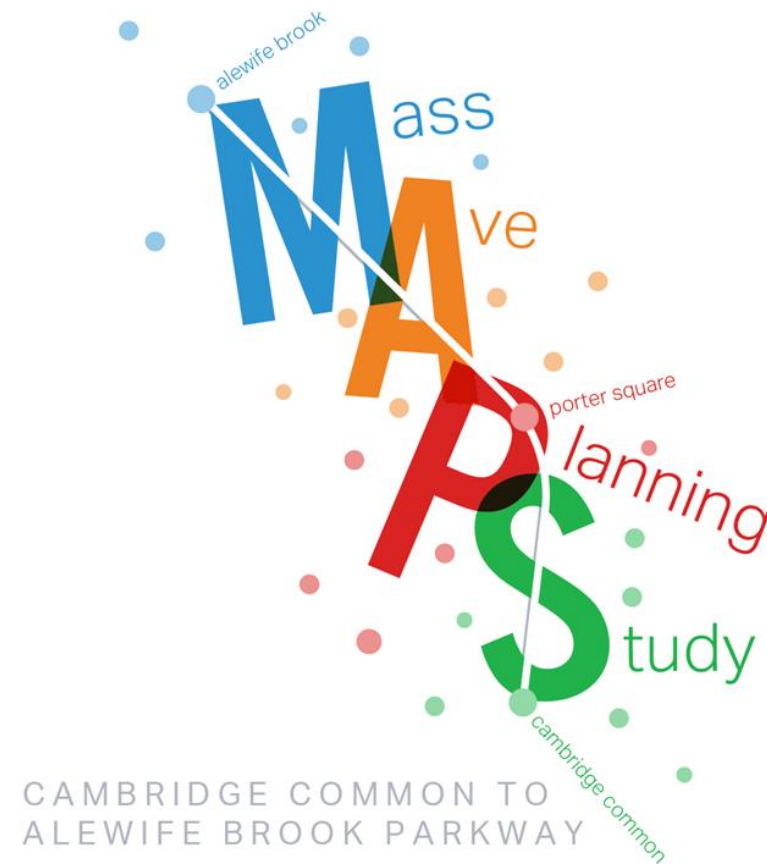
# Massachusetts Avenue Planning Study

## Project outcomes

- This study creates a vision plan for what Massachusetts Avenue will look like in 2040 between Alewife Brook Parkway and Cambridge Common.

## Updates from the project team

- Final report was published in May 2025
- TAC members can review document
- **Update: Presentation planned for joint meeting of committees**



# Real Time Transit Screens in Neighborhoods

## *Project outcomes*

- More information on bus arrivals around the city
- Installation of real-time bus arrival signage at bus stops around Cambridge
- Funded by Participatory Budgeting grant and bus stop improvement capital funds

## Updates from project team

- City staff working out a new procurement strategy

## Installation focus 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 last year

## *Project outcomes*

- Install bus shelter on Ames Street at Main Street

## Status update

- Procurement began last summer, contractor selected
- Update: Installation expected August or early September



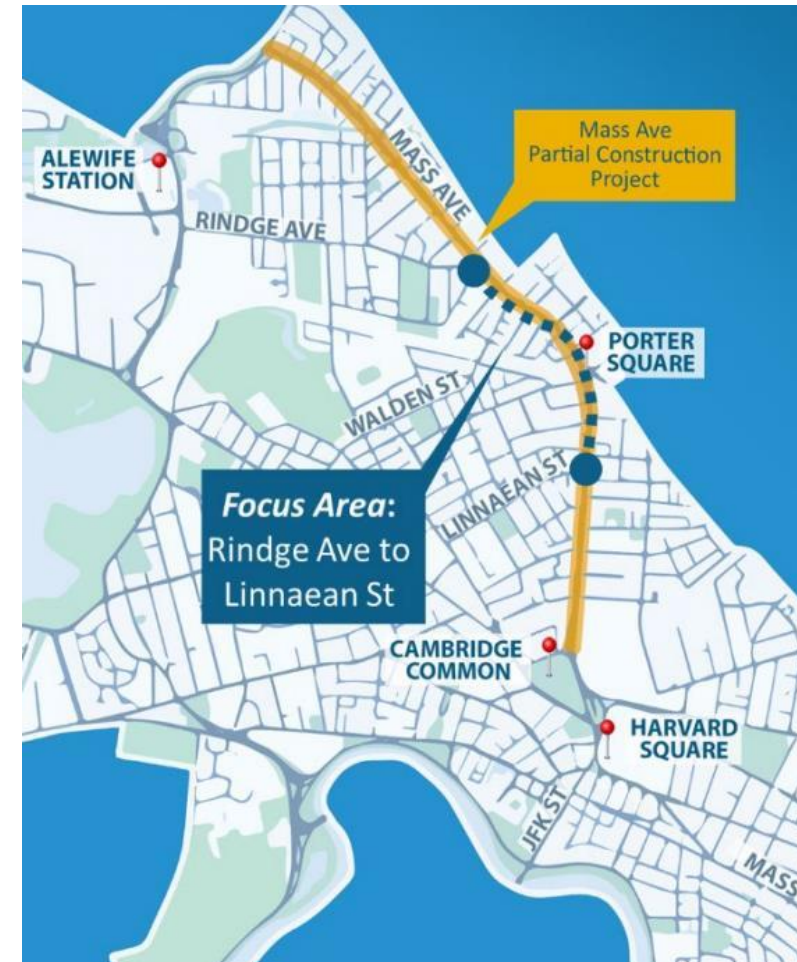
# Massachusetts Avenue Partial Construction

## *Project outcomes and process*

- 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 construction

- Median removal between Linnaean and Waterhouse Street
- **Update: July: water main work**





# River Street Updates

## Project outcomes

- Renewed River Street, Carl Barron Plaza, Tubman Square

## Status update

- Ongoing utility work
- **Update: Full-depth roadway reconstruction early August:**
  - **River St: Franklin to Kinnaird**
  - **Magazine St: Green to Franklin**
- Carl Barron Plaza: beginning surface work including primary sidewalk through plaza



Image: Temporary bus stop on River Street at Franklin



# Carl Barron Plaza + Bus Terminal Construction



Image: Informational board at Carl Barron Plaza



Image: Plywood forms set in Carl Barron Plaza. Forms align with future pathways around plaza toward bus terminal.



# Carl Barron Plaza + Bus Terminal Construction

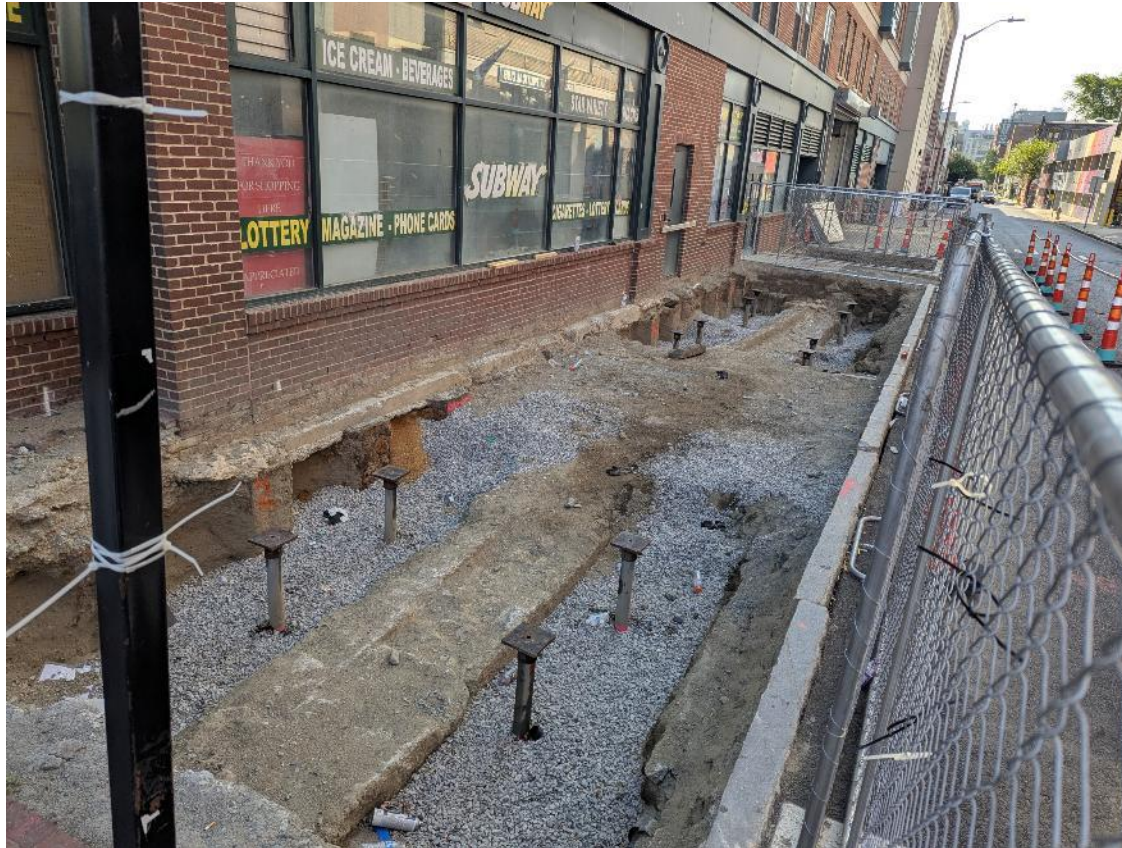


Image: Excavated sidewalk on Green Street at Magazine Street. Underground utility conduit and supports for future foundations visible.



Image: Excavated sidewalk on Green Street. Underground utility conduit and supports for future foundations visible.

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# Charles River Crossings

## *Project outcomes*

- Coordinate with stakeholders on delays on bridges crossing the Charles River
- Goal is to advocate and coordinate with DCR and MassDOT

## Status update

- Advocating for bus priority on Charles River crossings and on streets approaching the river
- Bus Delay + Unreliability Studies identify the river crossings as places where City should take action to advance bus priority



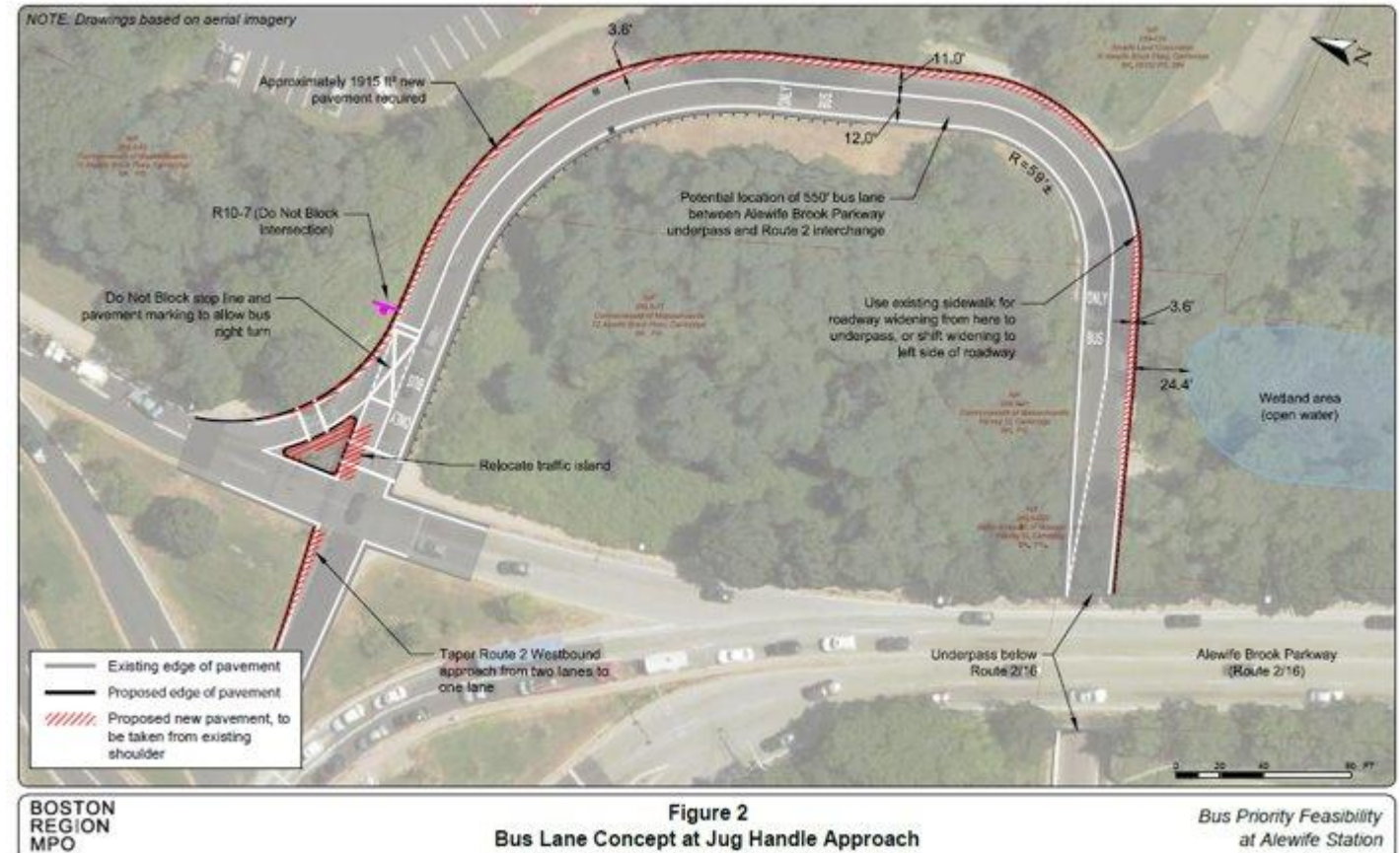
# Alewife Station Access Road

## Project outcomes

- I.Q.H.Q. required to evaluate the feasibility of adding a bus lane to the Alewife Station Access Road

## Status update

- Evaluation is complete and further conversations are going on with MassDOT, D.C.R., and MBTA
- Update on evaluation and potential for design in future meetings



Sketch of Bus Lane Concept at Jug Handle approach.



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# Transit Delay and Unreliability Study Update

## *Project outcomes*

- Update 2017 Transit Service Analysis findings of bus delay/unreliability hotspots

## Status update

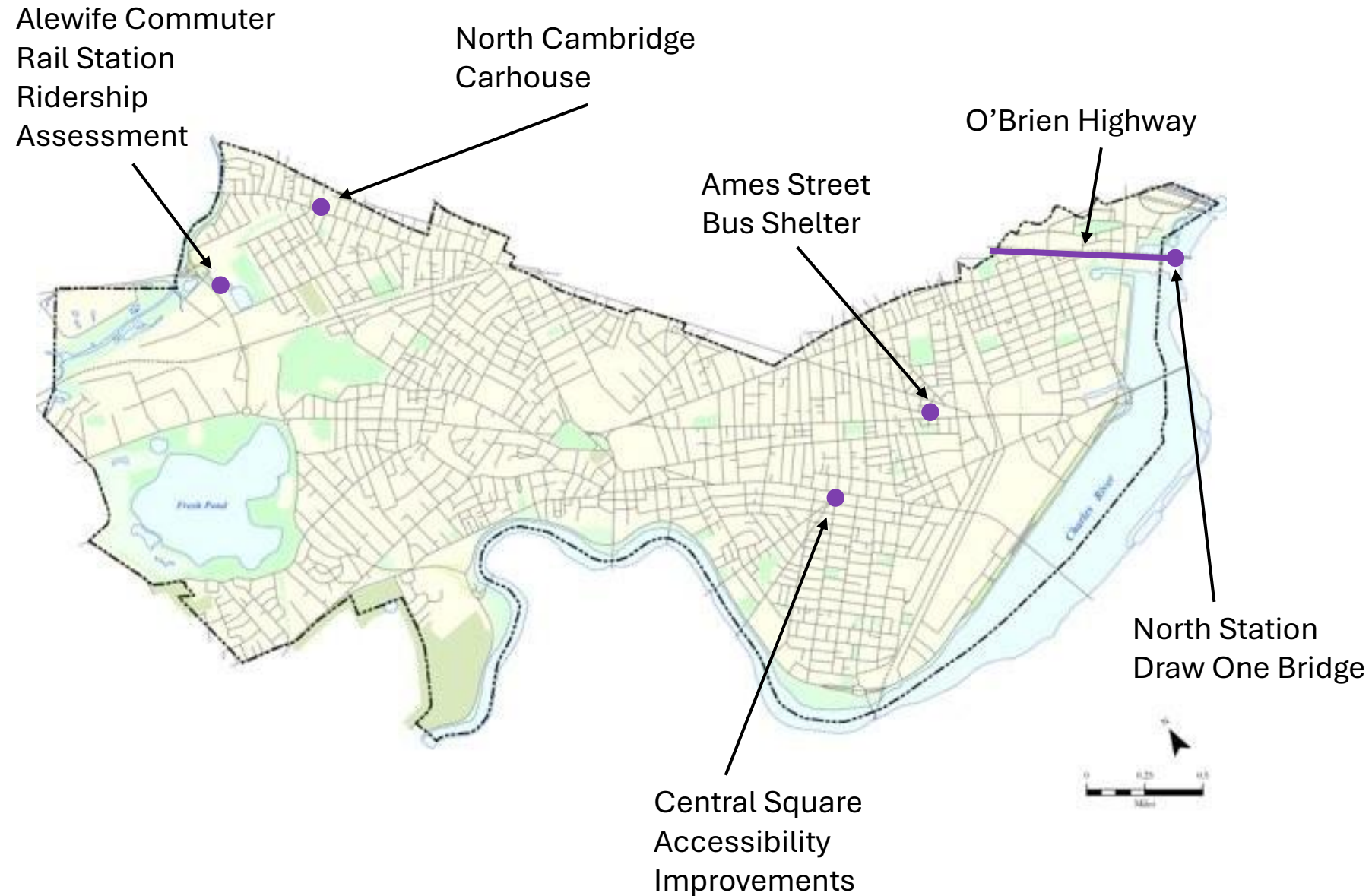
- Planned for later this fiscal year

# State Project Updates

# Selected MBTA/State projects

MBTA System projects:

- Red Line Improvements
- Bus Network Redesign



# 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
- City staff to report out on study once completed

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# Red Line Improvements

## *Project outcomes*

- Replace analog signal system with digital infrastructure
- Replace existing red line cars with modern vehicles

## Status update

- Signal updates are reportedly 70% complete
- **Update: Four new red line trains are in service, on the tracks**

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# Bus Network Redesign Implementation

## *Project outcomes*

- Update MBTA bus network to better serve ridership needs

## Status update

- Phase 2 service changes will happen on a rolling basis over the next two years
  - Some will likely show up in the Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 quarters

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# North Cambridge Carhouse

## *Project outcomes*

- Rebuild the bus facility in North Cambridge to accommodate new fleet of battery electric buses

## Status update

- Construction is ongoing
  - Update from MBTA in May 2025



# North Station Drawbridge

## *Project outcomes*

- Replace and modernize North Station Draw One Bridge

## Status update

- 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
- **Update: MBTA presented Program Update at July 24, 2025 Board Meeting**
  - Request for Proposals for designer and builder issued July 2025 – Expect award in early 2026
  - Construction expected to last until Fall 2032
  - Project & Construction Management Contract awarded to HDR in July 2025

# Central Square Accessibility Improvement

## *Project outcomes*

- Build new accessible elevators and escalators at the Central Square station

## Status update

- Delayed – unsure when construction will begin

# Fitchburg C.I.P. Project

TransitMatters presentation from November 2023 – Fitchburg Line has had some attention in the MBTA’s Capital Improvements Plan (C.I.P.).

## *Project outcomes*

- Installation of fiberoptic cables along Commuter Rail lines (P0612)
- Design and construction of “early action” upgrades to modernize “Commuter Rail” to “Regional Rail” (Project P0940)

## Status update

- Funded in 2026-2030 CIP

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# McGrath Boulevard Reconstruction

## *Project outcomes*

- Remove McGrath Highway viaduct and redesign the highway in alignment with vision zero goals
- Advocate for updates to O'Brien Highway in conjunction with redesign

## Status update

- Community meeting in Winter 2025
- Final design by 2028

# Announcements

# Upcoming committee meetings

- Next scheduled advisory committee meetings
  - Thursday, September 4, 6 p.m.
  - Thursday, October 9, 6 p.m.
- Potential meeting topics
  - Shuttle + Transit Gap Study
  - CRA Grand Junction Transit Study
  - EZ Ride Shuttle Updates
  - O'Brien Highway Reconstruction
- Next scheduled joint meetings
  - Wednesday, August 20, 5:30pm
    - *Planned | Presentation about Mass Ave Planning Study*
  - Thursday, September 17, 5:30 pm
- Potential joint meeting topics
  - HealthPeak Planned Unit Development (PUD)