



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of
Transportation

Monthly Project Updates

October 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:

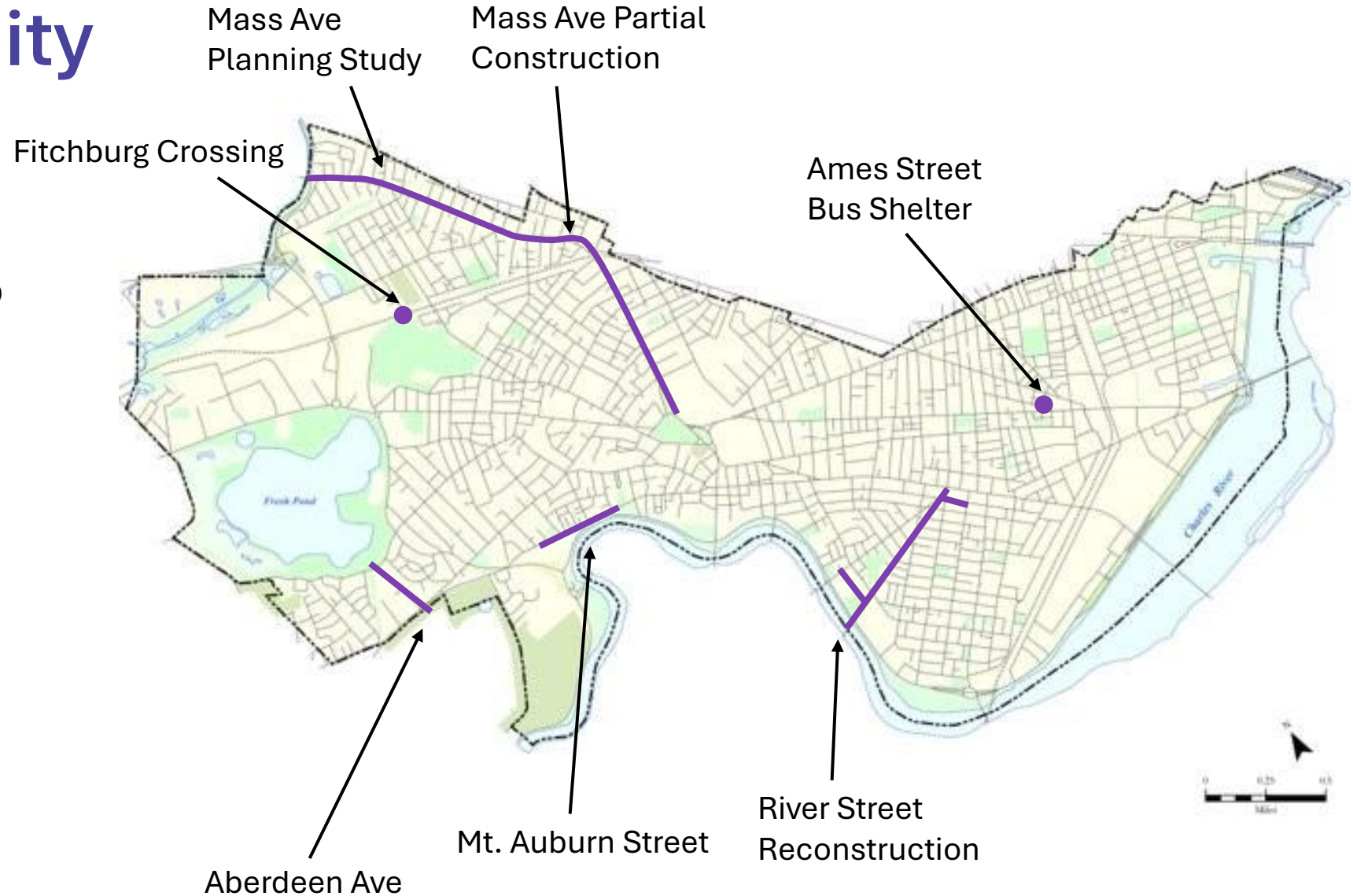
- Before meeting, by sending an e-mail to city staff, Chair, and Vice Chair
- During meeting, speak during “updates” agenda item

City Project Updates

Selected City projects

All-city projects:

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



Not on TAC Active Projects List

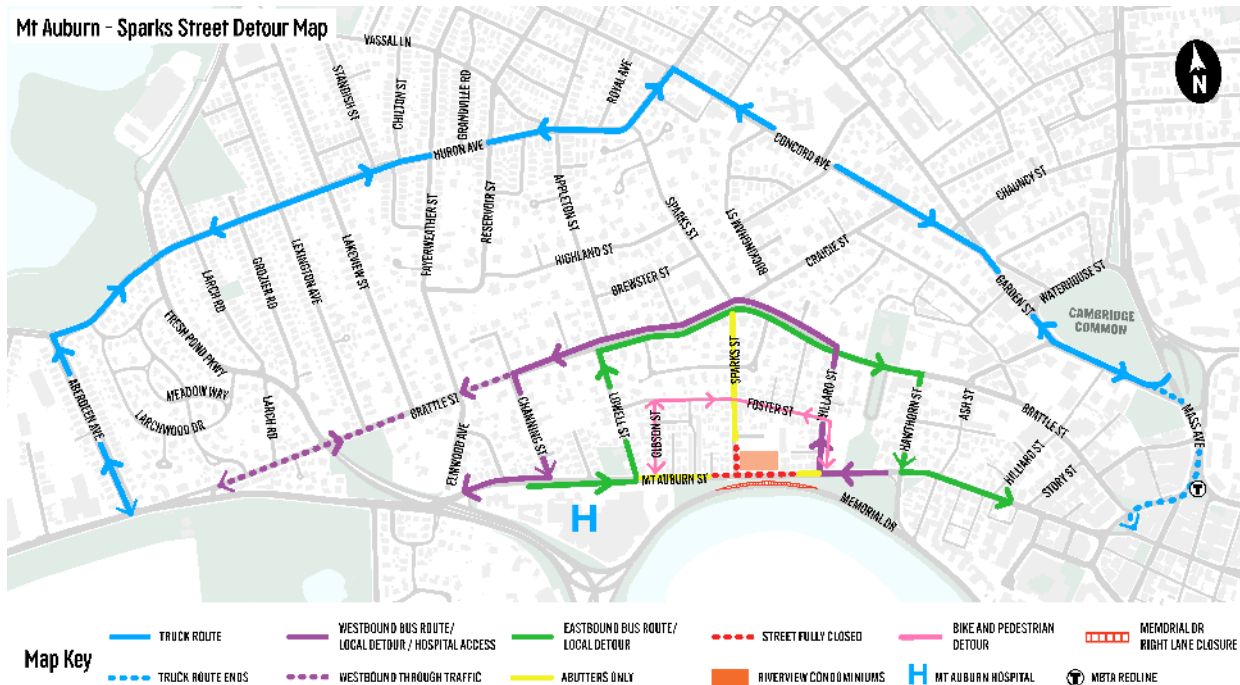
Mt. Auburn Street Closures and Detours

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
- Demolition scheduled tentatively for November



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
- Jim Gascoigne will present on updates to EZRide at October TAC meeting

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

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
- Meeting in August 2025: reviewed near-final section A (Prospect St to Willow St) plans
- Section C (Fulkerson St to Second St) is the topic for next joint meeting of transportation committees

Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority

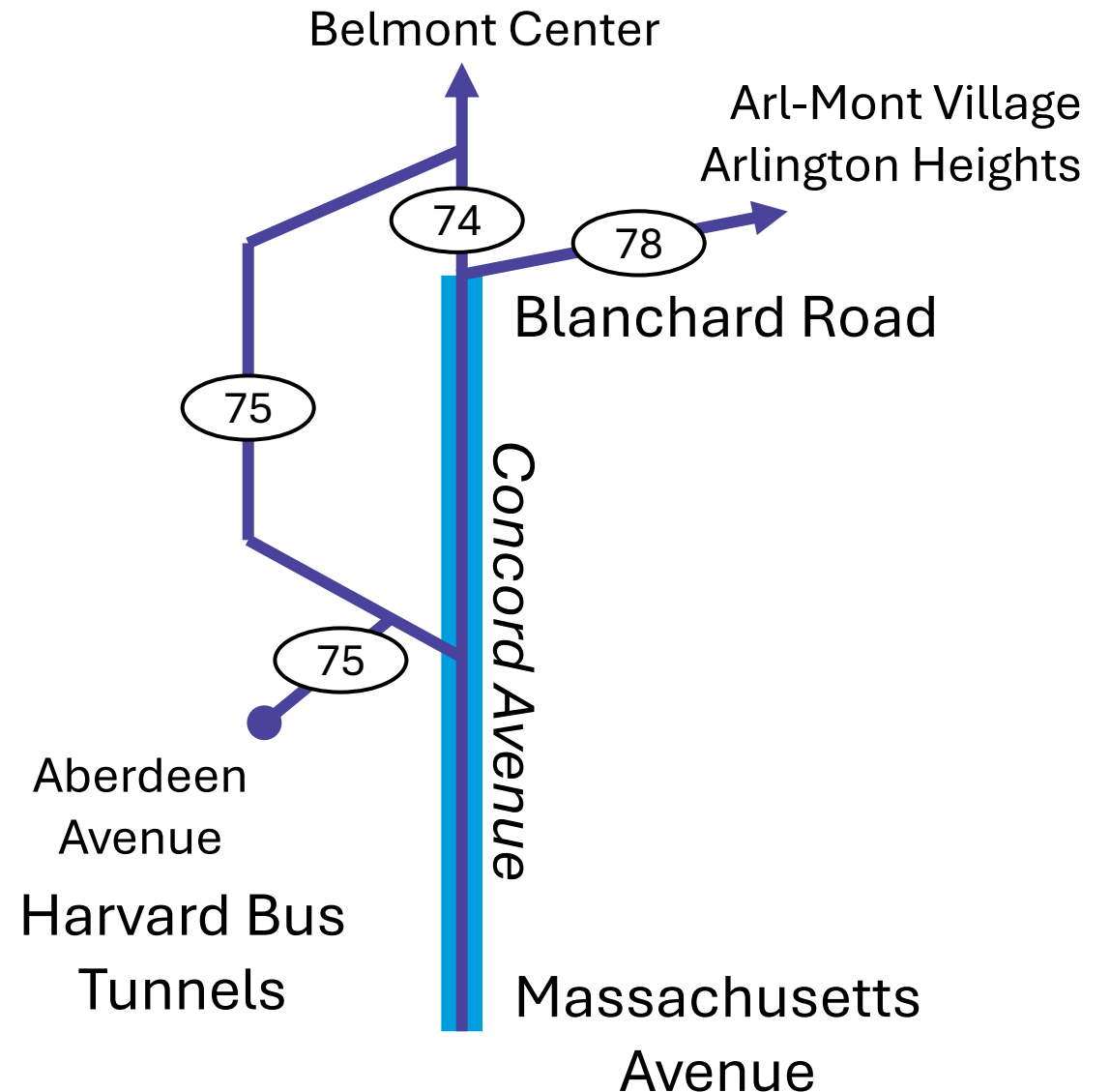
Work is in progress

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

City staff will present on new reliability data from the T during the October meeting



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

- Repaving is complete
- Major pavement markings are in place
- Traffic signal work is ongoing



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

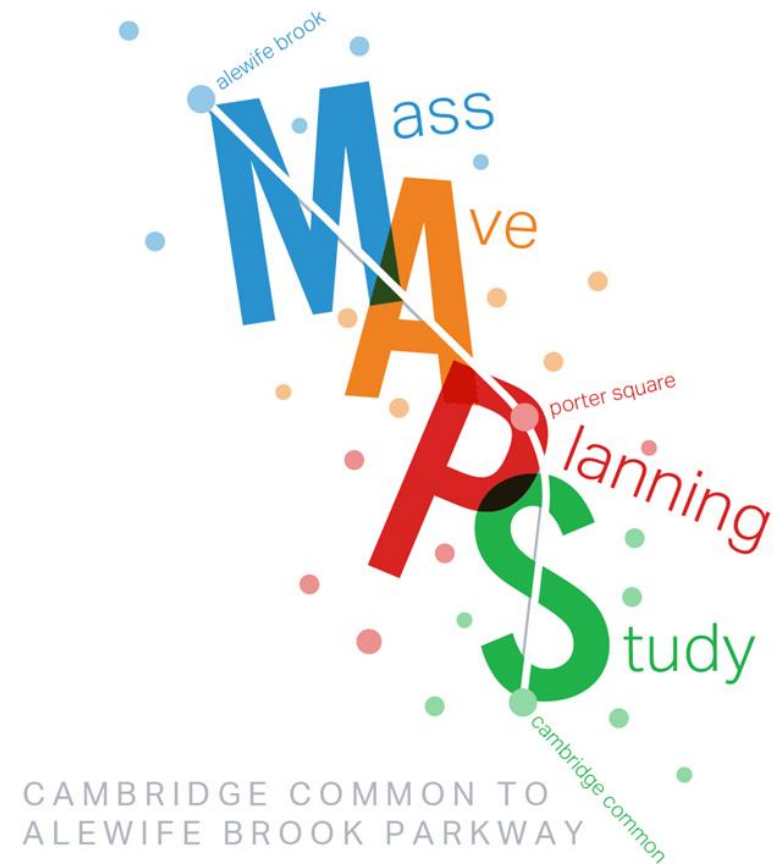
Massachusetts Avenue Planning Study

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

- **Next steps are possible zoning changes**
 - Proposed changes were presented to City Council in September
 - Planning board will review on October 21st
 - Will need to go to City Council Ordinance Committee before it's finalized



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

- **Installation complete!**



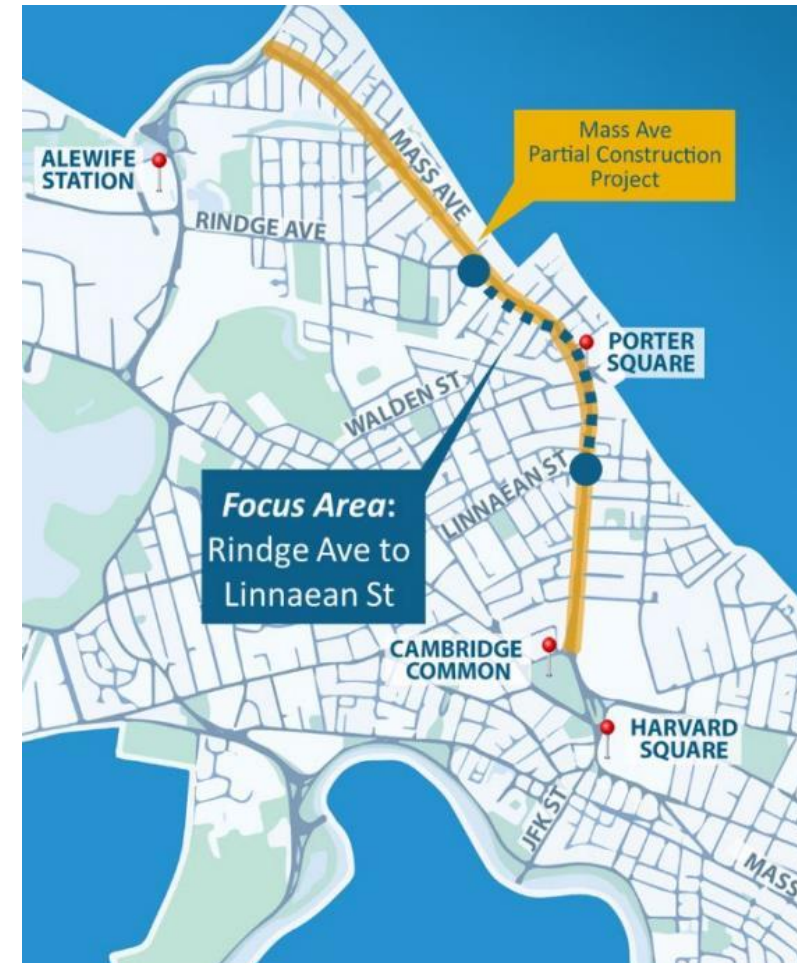
Massachusetts Avenue Partial Construction

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: October: water main work**



River Street Updates

Project outcomes

- Renewed River Street, Carl Barron Plaza, Tubman Square

Status update

- Ongoing utility work
 - Putnam Ave to Fairmont Ave: Drain and Sewer Installation
 - Green St: Curb and Sidewalk work
- Carl Barron Plaza: complete slab installation planned for October



Image: New paving on Carl Barron Plaza along River Street



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

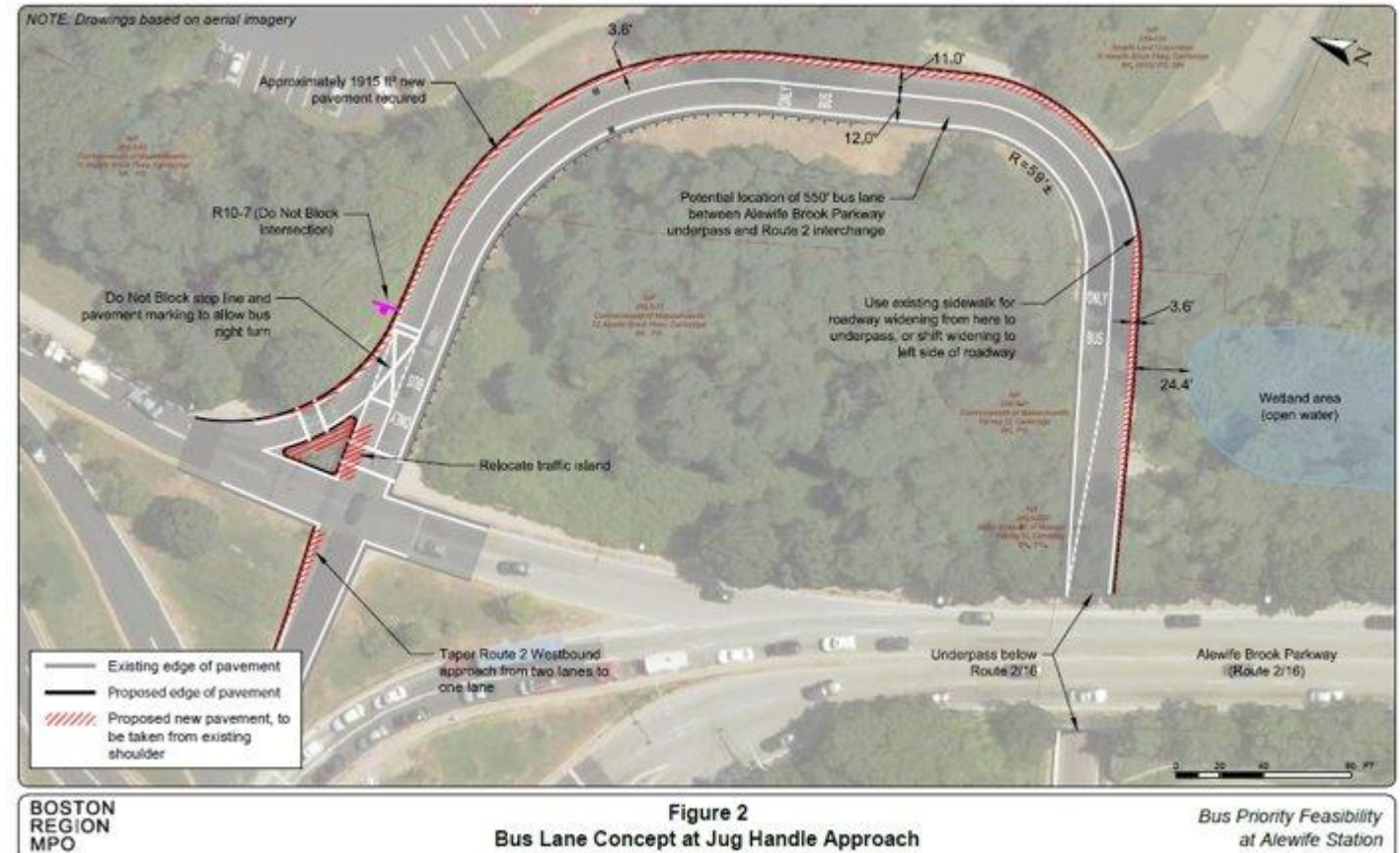
Alewife Station Access Road

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.

Transit Delay and Unreliability Study Update

Project outcomes

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

Status update

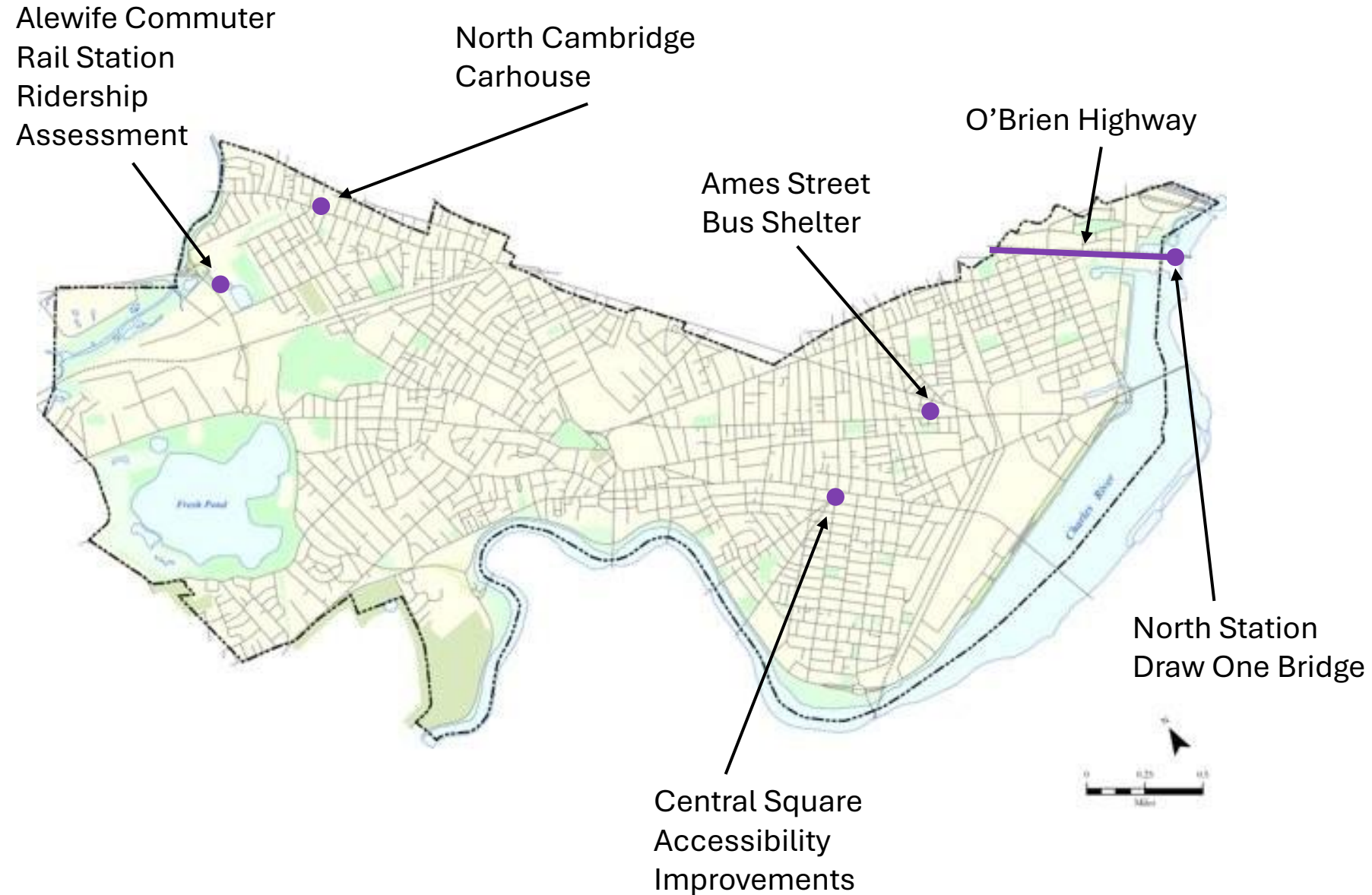
- Planned for later this fiscal year

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

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: Six new red line trains are in service, on the tracks**

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

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
- **Project completion anticipated early 2026**

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
- 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

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, October 9, 6 p.m.
 - Thursday, November 6, 6 p.m.
 - Thursday, December 4, 6 p.m.
- Potential meeting topics
 - Shuttle + Transit Gap Study
 - CRA Grand Junction Transit Study
 - O'Brien Highway Reconstruction
- Next scheduled joint meetings
 - Wednesday, October 22, 5:30pm
 - *Planned* | Presentation about Broadway Safety Improvements – Section C
 - November and December TBD
- Potential joint meeting topics
 - HealthPeak Planned Unit Development (PUD)