



**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 new items or updates in yellow

Members to ask questions:

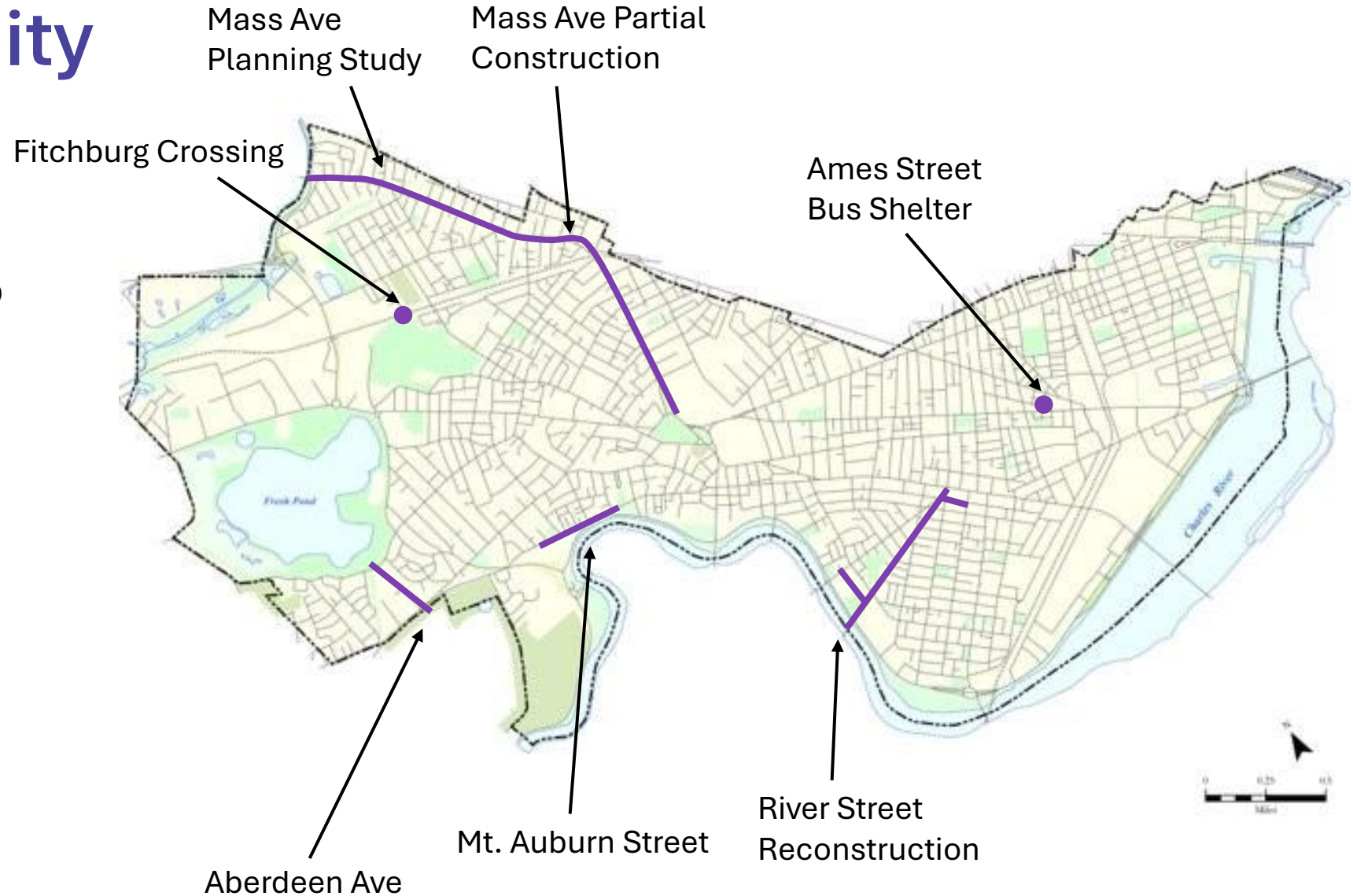
- Before meeting, by sending an e-mail to city staff, Chair, and Vice Chair
- During meeting, speak during “updates” agenda item

# City Project Updates

# Selected City projects

## All-city projects:

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



Not on TAC Active Projects List

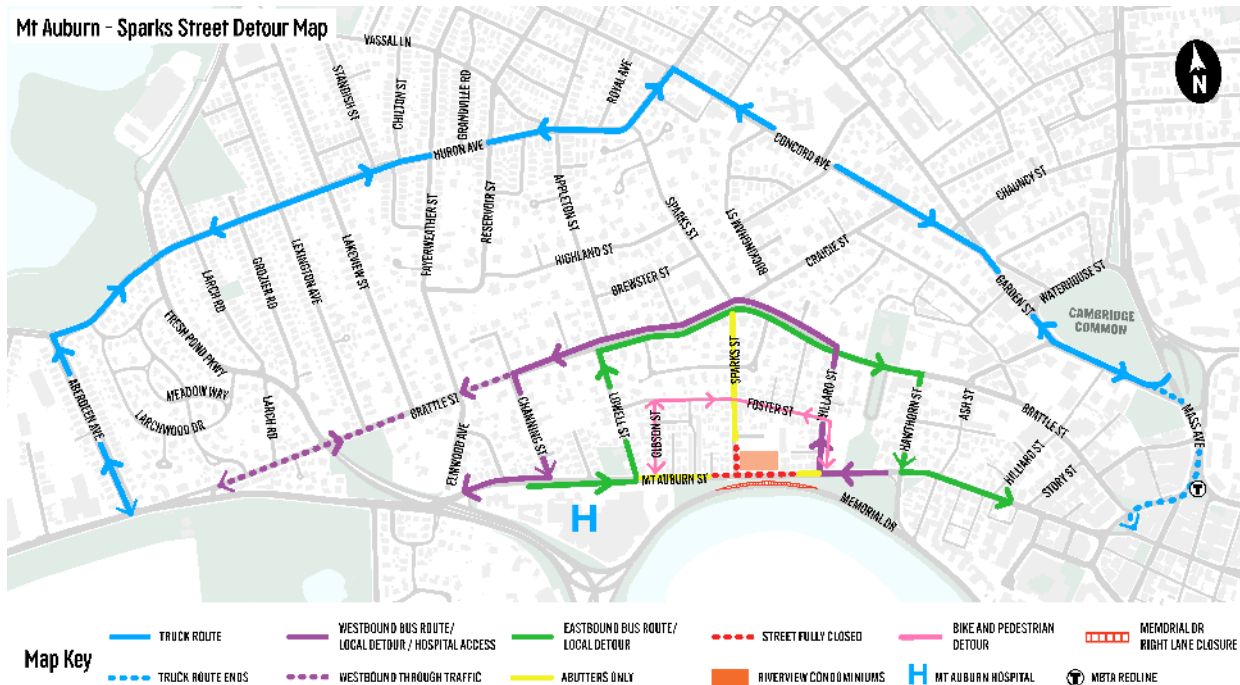
# Mt. Auburn Street Closures and Detours

## 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 public meeting was held in October
- Demolition expected to begin in earnest around December 1 and extend through end of March





# 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
- Cambridge Redevelopment Authority to Present at November TAC Meeting

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# 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 presented at October TAC meeting

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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
- City is working on final details to sign a contract with designers

# 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 staff need to investigate utility and pavement conditions before continuing design work
- Section A (Prospect St to Willow St) to begin installation in 2026 with open houses expected this winter 2025-2026
- Project Working Group Meeting held August 27, materials are on project webpage

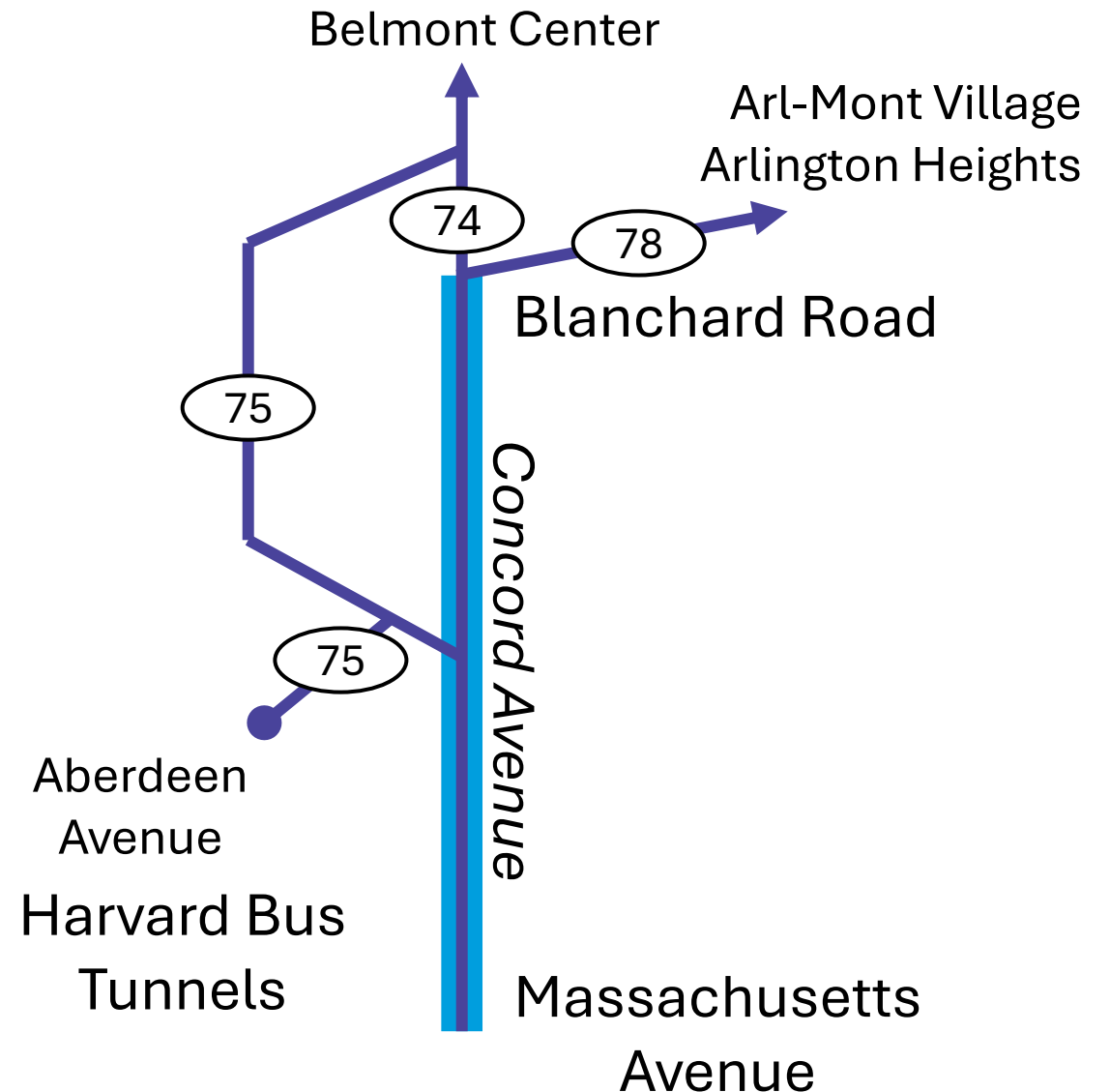
# Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority

## Work is in progress

MBTA and City has mostly completed installation of:

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

Project team is developing programming 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

- Flex posts and major pavement markings have been installed
- Bike symbols are coming soon



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

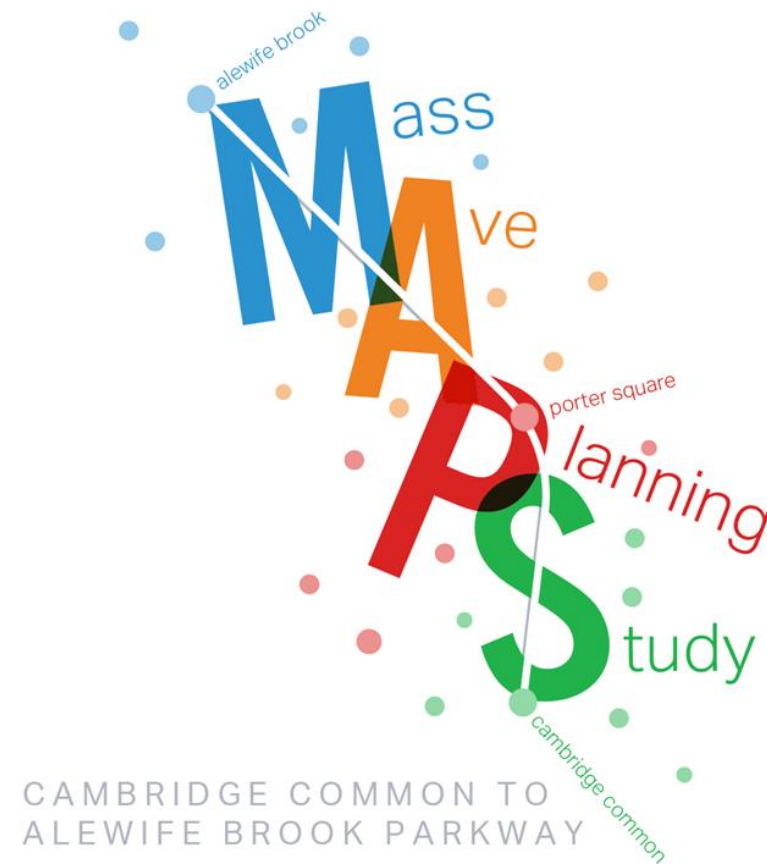
# Massachusetts Avenue Planning Study

## 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 reviewed on October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - City Council Ordinance Committee reviewed October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Next step is City Council approval to finalize new zoning





# 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!



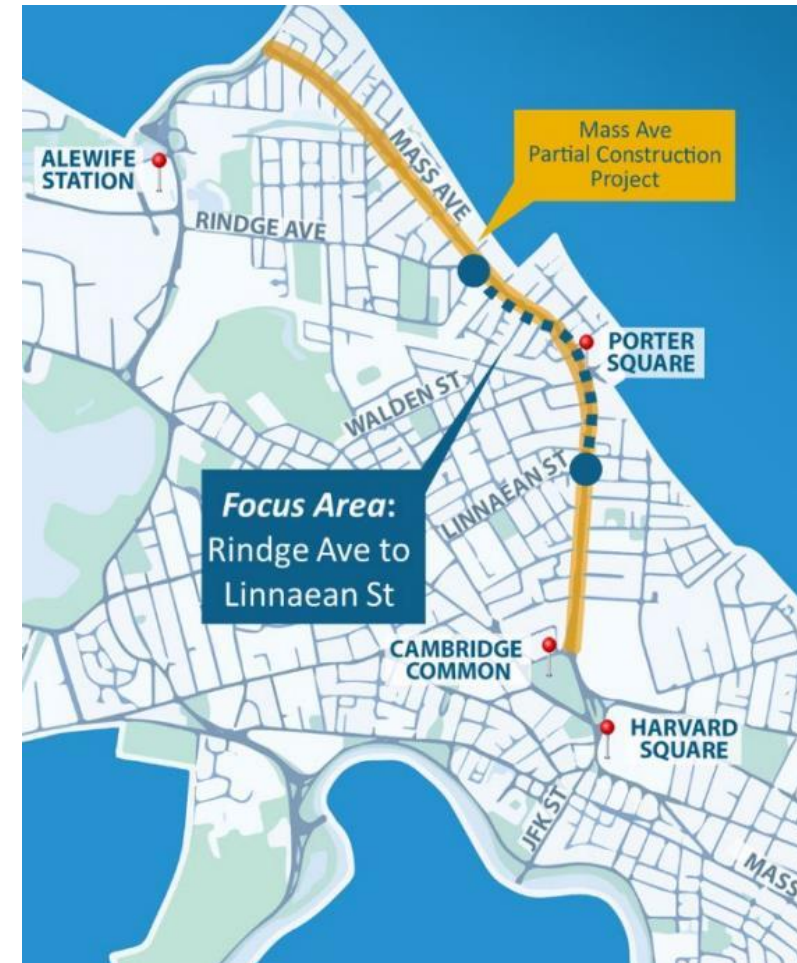
# Massachusetts Avenue Partial Construction

## *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
- **November: more water main work**





# River Street Updates

## Project outcomes

- Renewed River Street, Carl Barron Plaza, Tubman Square

## Status update

- Ongoing utility work
  - Fairmont Ave to Kinnaird Street: Drain and Sewer Installation
  - Green St to Mass Ave: Curb installation
  - Kelly Road: Sidewalk work
- Carl Barron Plaza: slab installation complete



Image: New paving on Carl Barron Plaza along River Street



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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

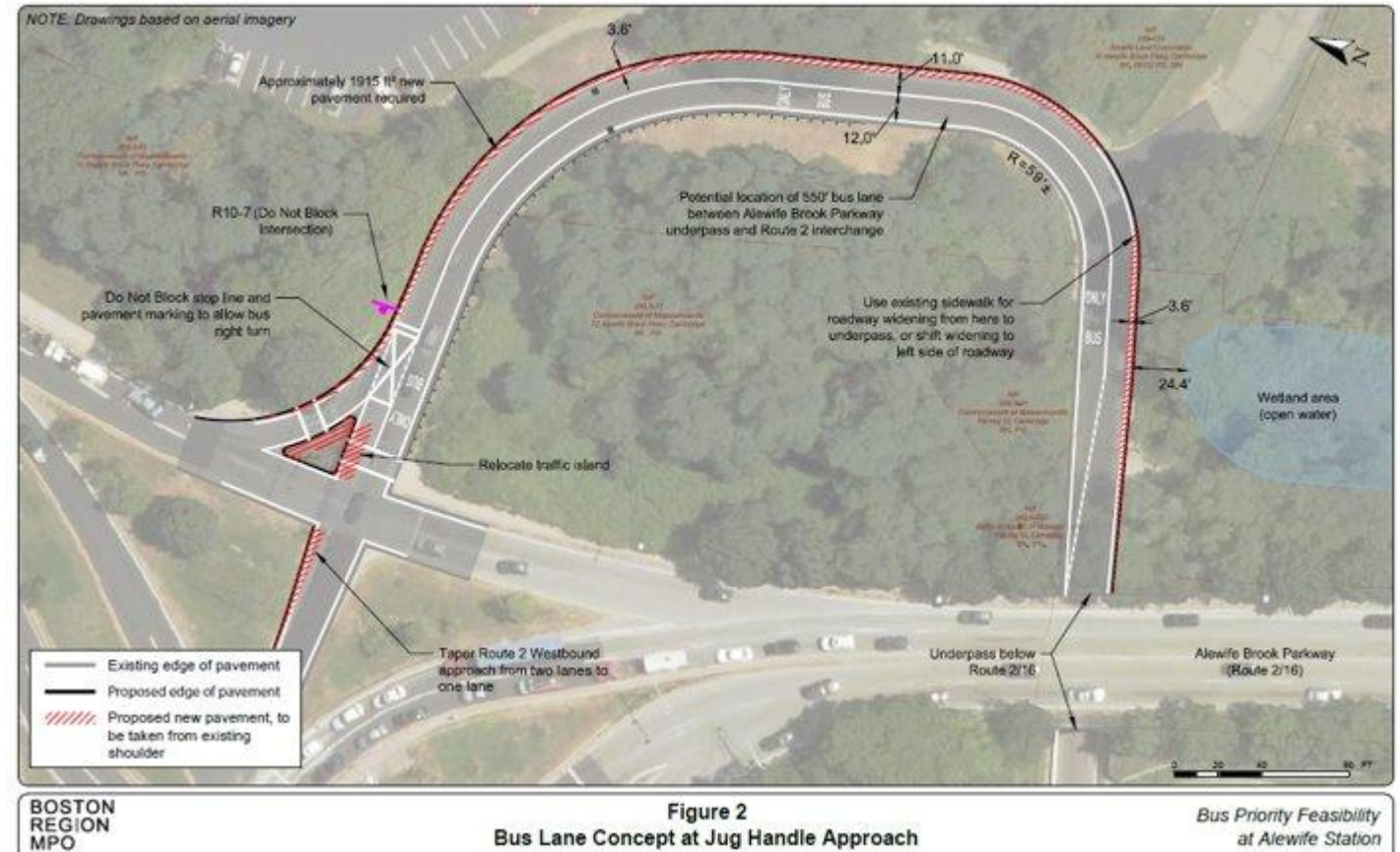
# Alewife Station Access Road

## 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.



# Transit Delay and Unreliability Study Update

## *Project outcomes*

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

## Status update

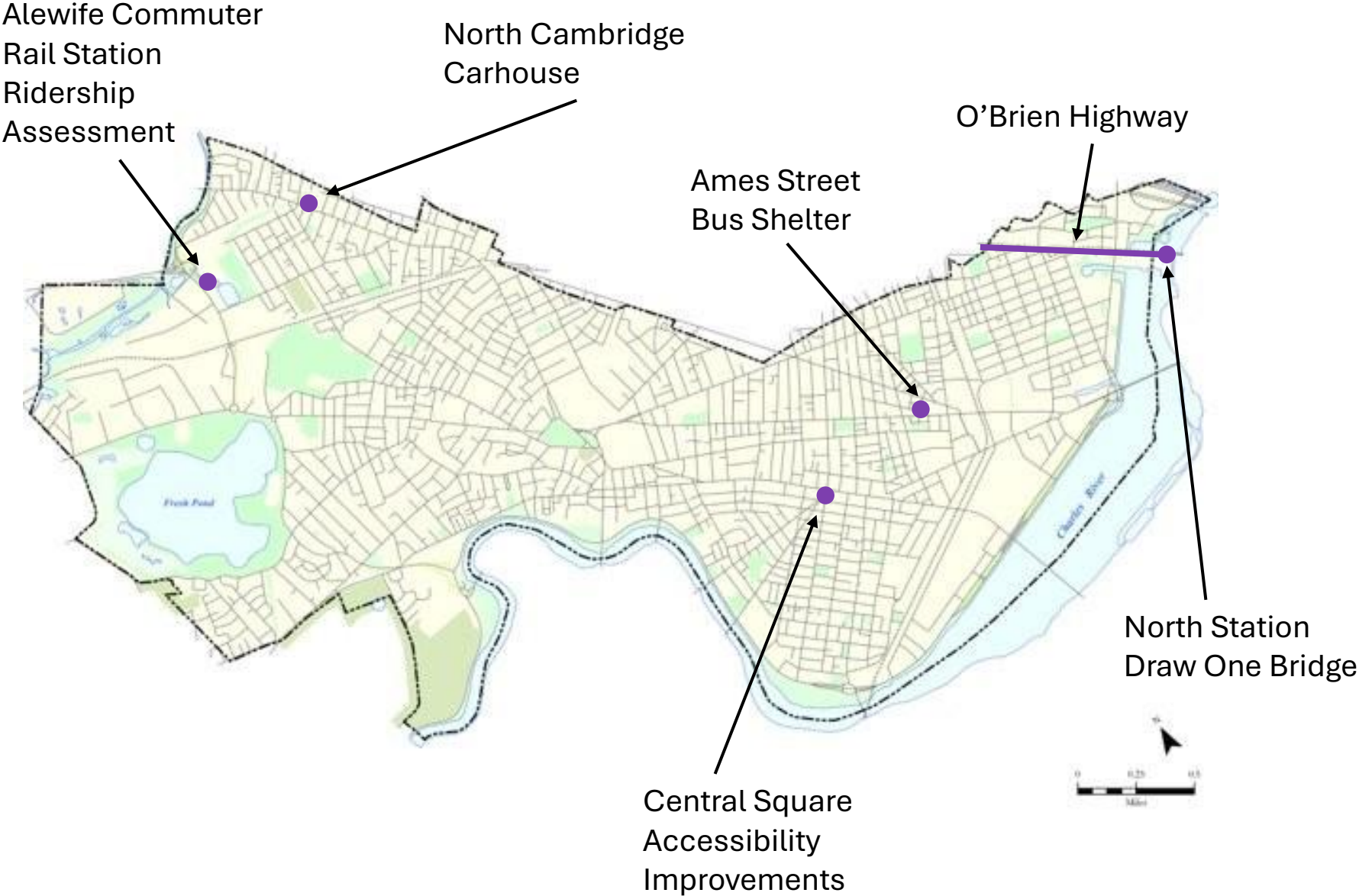
- Planned for later this fiscal year

# 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: Signal upgrades projected to be complete end of 2026**

# Bus Network Redesign Implementation

## Project outcomes

- Update MBTA bus network to better serve ridership needs

## Status update

- BNR changes will be implemented in the Winter 2025-2026 quarterly rating change
- Expected frequency increases to Local Bus Routes
  - 64 | 7-day service on Route 64 to Kendall/MIT station with some frequency increases
  - 69 | Lechmere to Harvard
  - 83 | Central to Rindge Ave
- Frequency increases to Frequent Bus Route
  - 66 | Harvard to Nubian via Allston
  - 71 | Harvard to Belmont-Waverley
  - 73 | Harvard to Watertown Square
  - 77 | Harvard to Arlington-Heights



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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
- Project completion anticipated early 2026
- MBTA to present to TAC in December or January

# 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

- Final design by 2028
- Project open house scheduled December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Somerville High School
- Virtual design public hearing scheduled December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm
- Project team offered to present to TAC if there are still questions after these events

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# MBTA Mobility Integration Plan

## *Project outcomes*

- Increase connectivity between MBTA services

## Status update

- Mobility Integration Plan published in October

# Announcements

# Upcoming committee meetings

- Next scheduled advisory committee meetings
  - Thursday, December 4, 6 p.m.
  - Will review 2026 schedule during November meeting
- Potential meeting topics
  - CRA Grand Junction Transit Study
  - Shuttle + Transit Gap Study
  - O'Brien Highway Reconstruction
- Next scheduled joint meetings
  - November and December TBD
- Potential joint meeting topics
  - Health Peak Planned Unit Development (PUD) in Alewife Quadrangle
  - Mass Ave Partial Construction
  - Cycling Safety Ordinance projects