



# Monthly Project Updates

**CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of  
Transportation

February 2026

# 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:

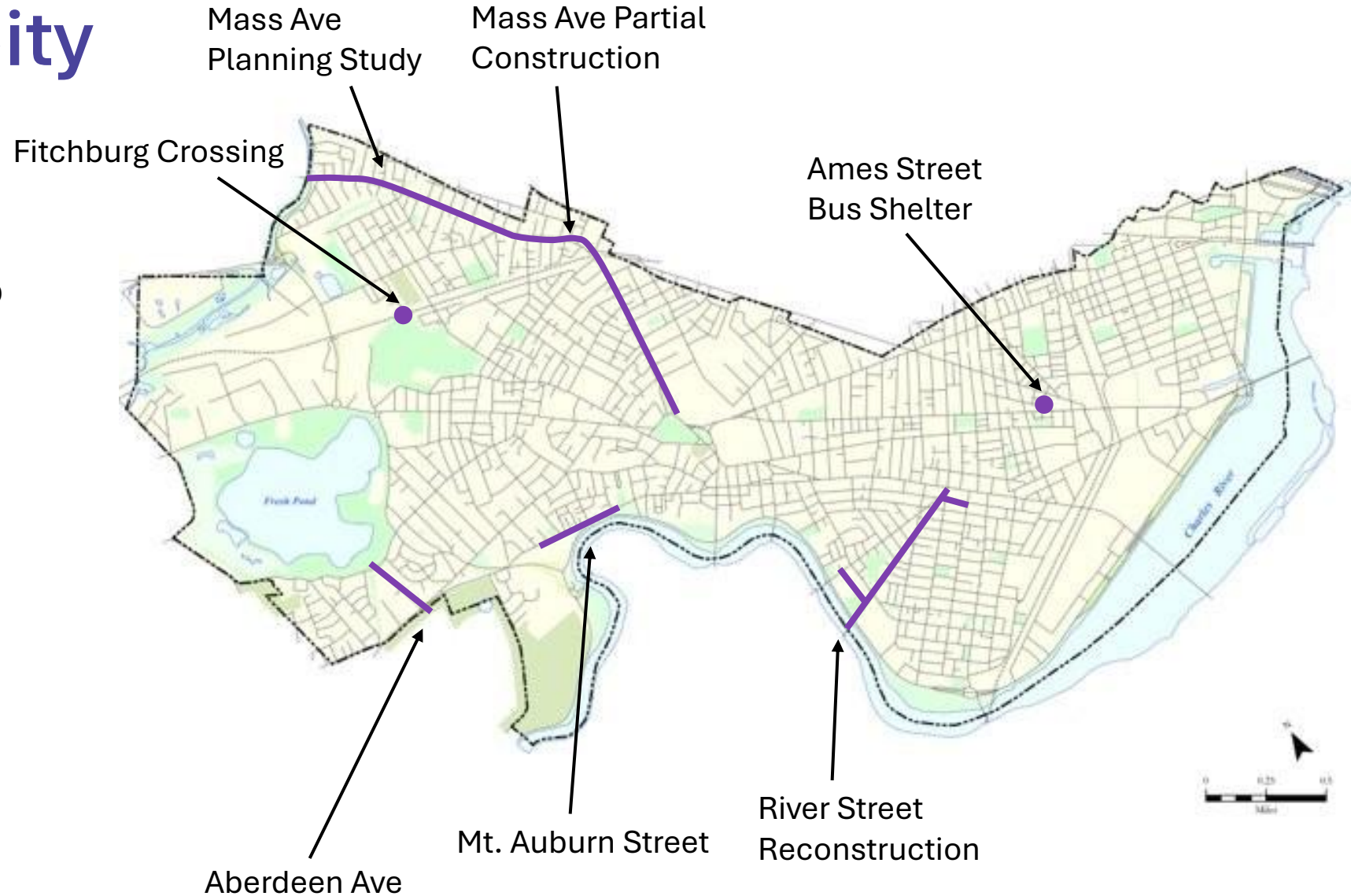
- Before meeting, by sending an e-mail to city staff, Chair, and Vice Chair
- During meeting, speak during “updates” agenda item

# City Project Updates

# Selected City projects

## All-city projects:

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



Not on TAC Active Projects List

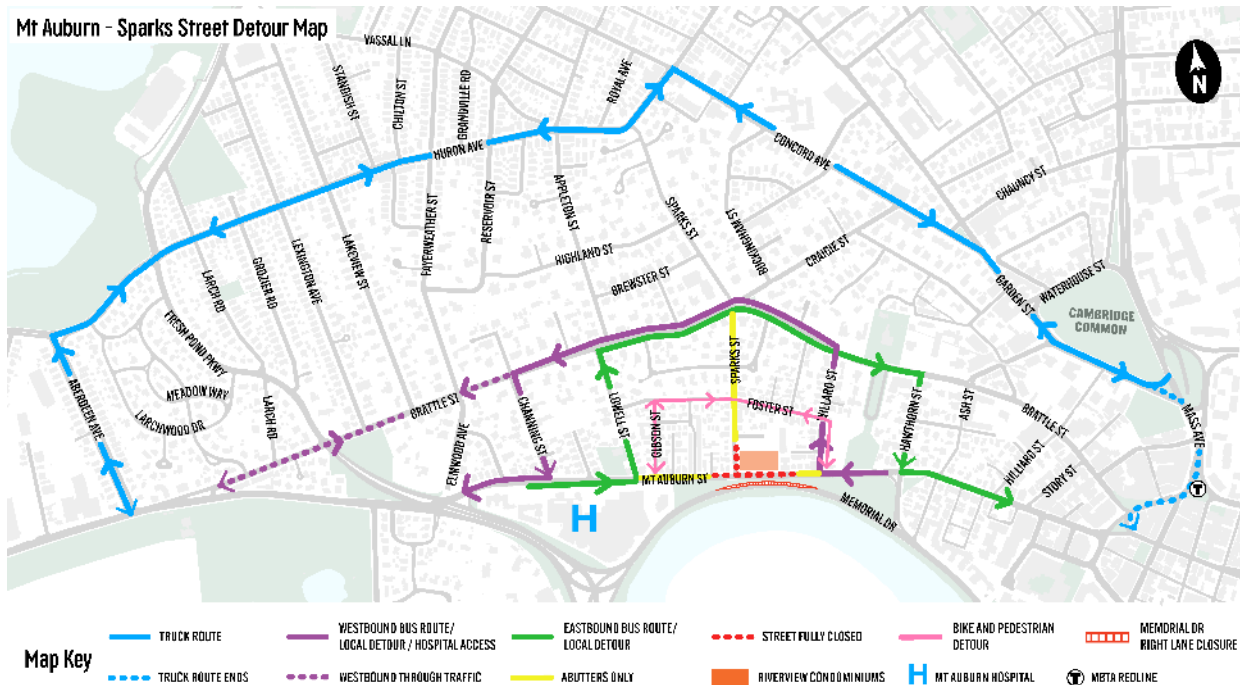
# Mt. Auburn Street Closures and Detours

## 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 is in progress, plan to start next phase in February





# 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

# 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
- Final stages of design team contract signing, goal is to kick off formally in first few months of 2026
- Expect updates and potential joint meeting in first half of 2026

# 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

- Prospect Street to Willow Street (Section A) open house will be held in spring 2026
  - Construction will start in 2026
- Fulkerson St to Second St (Section C) Working Group will meet in spring 2026

# Broadway Safety Improvements

## *Project outcomes*

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

## Status update

- Ellery Street to Columbia Street (Section B) Working Group meeting on February 25
- Tentatively scheduled for presentation to Joint Meeting in April
- Quincy St to Ellery St (Section C) [design feedback survey](#) open through March 2

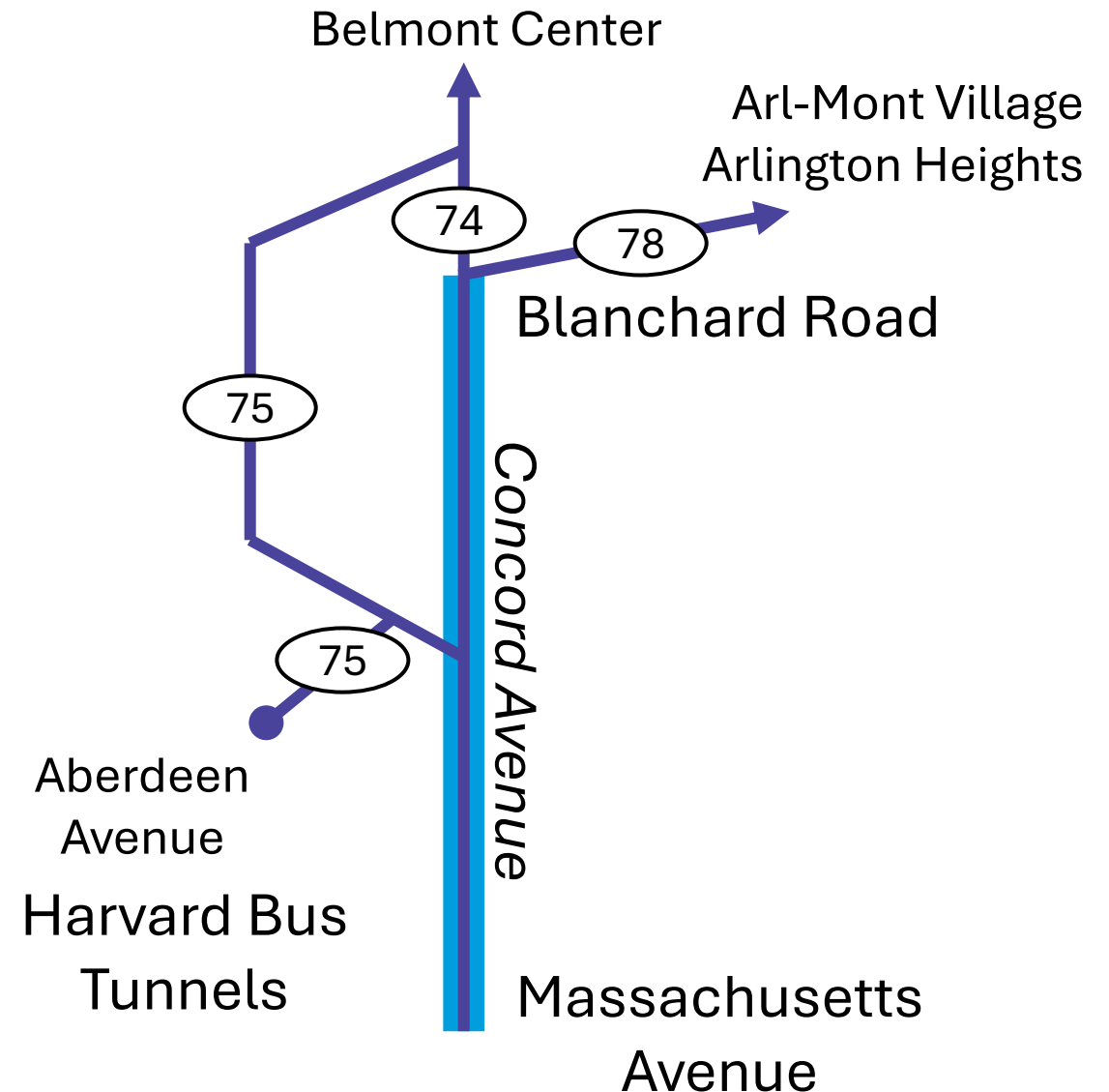
# Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority

## 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



# 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

- Procurement concluded on 1/22 – Reviewing proposals

## Installation focus on neighborhood centers:

- Inman Square
- Porter Square
- Riverside/Cambridgeport Neighborhoods

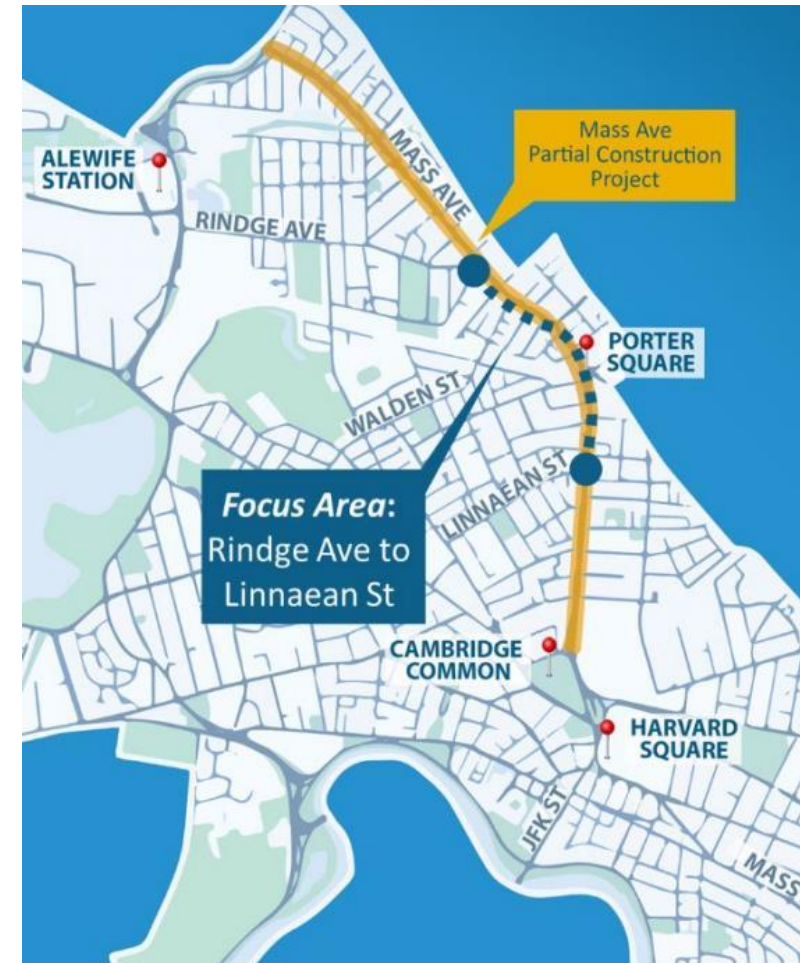
# Massachusetts Avenue Partial Construction

## *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

- January: water main work
- Public meeting was held in early December





# River Street Updates

## *Project outcomes*

- Renewed River Street, Carl Barron Plaza, Tubman Square

## Status update

- Ongoing utility work
  - Drainage installation between Auburn and Franklin
  - Traffic signal installation at Howard St and Putnam Ave
- Carl Barron Plaza paver slab will be installed in early February



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

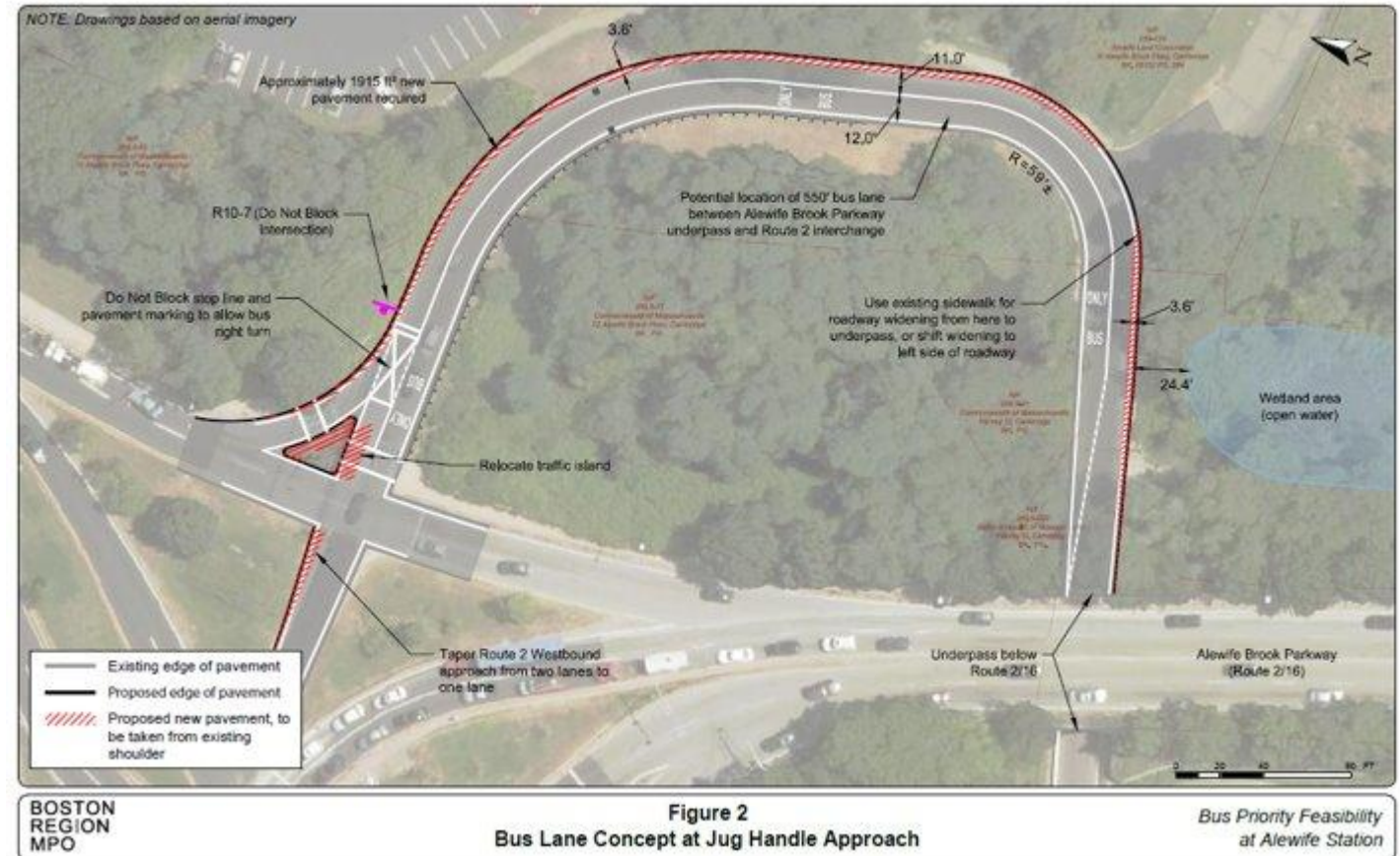
# Alewife Station Access Road

## 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

- Update study planned for later this fiscal year
- City presented about methodology and previous study results at January 2026 TAC meeting

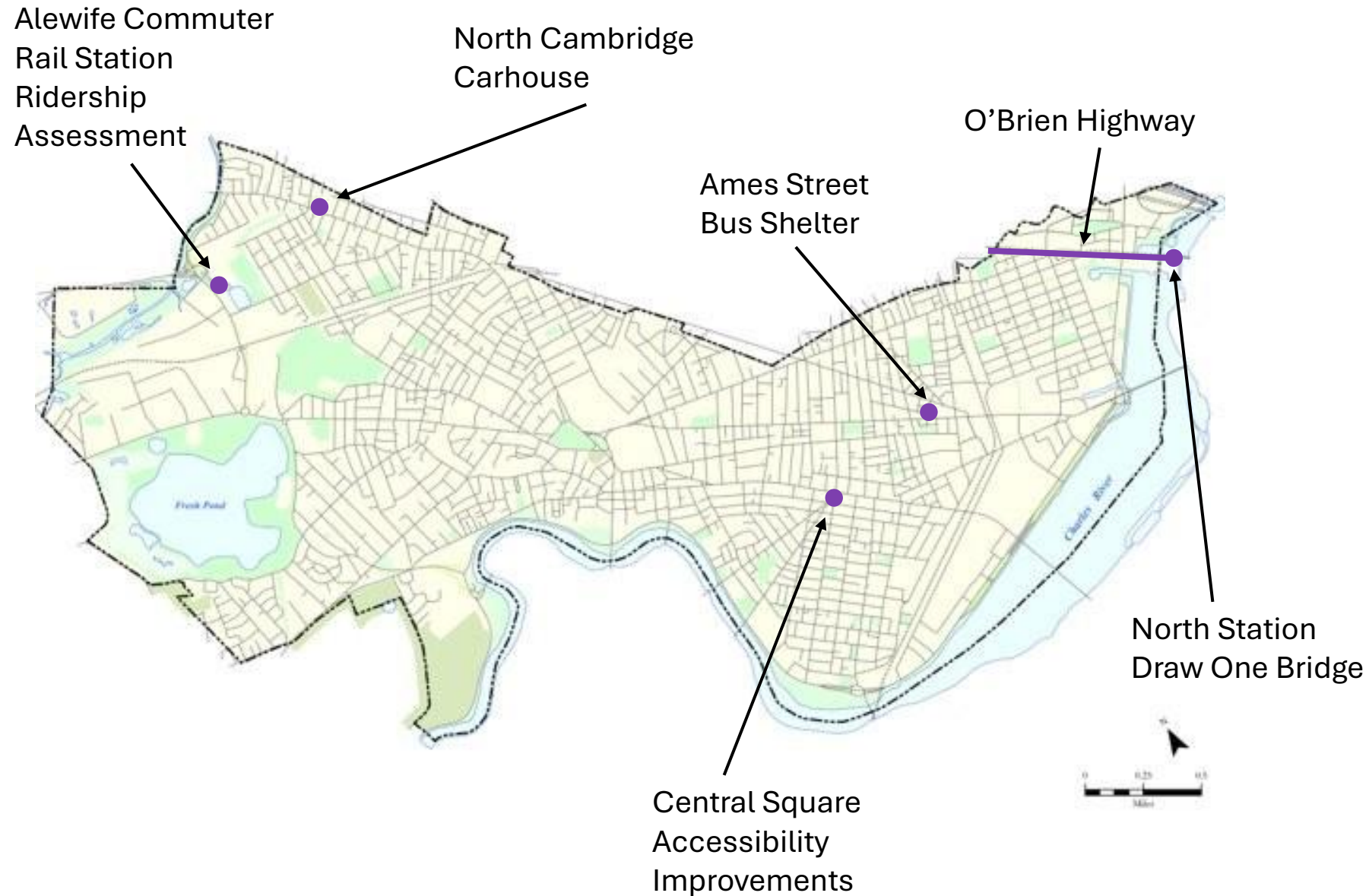


# State Project Updates

# 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
- MBTA staff to present report on completed study in February 2026



# Red Line Improvements

## *Project outcomes*

- Red Line to have the ability to run trains as frequently as every 3 minutes in trunk
- Replace analog signal system with digital infrastructure
- Replace existing red line cars with modern vehicles

## Status update

- Alewife crossover replaced in fall 2024
- Signal updates are reportedly 70% complete with projected completion at end of 2026
- New red line cars: 52 of 252 are active (equivalent to 8 sets of 6-car trains and 1 set of 4-car trains)

# Bus Network Redesign Implementation

## *Project outcomes*

- Update MBTA bus network to better serve ridership needs

## Status update

- Route and schedules changes went into effect on December 14
- Frequency increases for local and frequent routes in Cambridge

# 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 at February meeting

# 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*

- Improve accessibility at Central Square Red Line station by building 2 new elevators, replacing 1 elevator with a new larger elevator, and build areas of rescue assistance

## Status update

- This project has been bundled with two other elevator projects (Park Street and Downtown Crossing) and awarded to a Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) project delivery team.
- The MBTA gave the contracted team a notice to proceed in September 2025 and are updating design and specifications to meet project delivery requirements.

# 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 approved July 2025

# McGrath Boulevard Reconstruction

## *Project outcomes*

- Remove McGrath Highway McCarthy Overpass in Somerville and redesign the highway to better serve people walking, biking, and taking transit
- Change the design of O'Brien Highway in conjunction with McGrath Highway in Somerville

## Status update

- Final design by 2028
- MassDOT held two open houses in December



# MBTA Mobility Integration Plan

## *Project outcomes*

- Increase connectivity between MBTA services

## Status update

- Mobility Integration Plan published in October

# Bus Stop Amenities Program

## *Project outcomes*

- Enhanced accessibility
- Improved safety at bus stops and street crossings
- Better protection from weather events
- A more comfortable waiting experience

## Status update

- Currently in the process of evaluating & selecting bus stops

# Announcements

# Upcoming committee meetings

- Next scheduled advisory committee meetings
  - Thursday, March 5, 6 p.m.
  - Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.
- Potential meeting topics
  - Site Walk Planning
  - Letter to MassDOT on Reid Overpass/BU Bridge
- Next scheduled joint meetings
  - Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.
- Potential joint meeting topics
  - Health Peak Planned Unit Development (PUD) in Alewife Quadrangle
  - Mass Ave Partial Construction
  - Cycling Safety Ordinance projects