



**CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of  
Transportation

# Welcome to the March 2026 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting

March 5, 2026 | 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

# 03. Presentation: Transit Long Range Planning

# Overview of Transportation Planning

- Goal setting
  - Guides the rest of the process
- Data collection
  - Existing conditions; creating a baseline
- Analysis and modeling
- Plan development
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation

# Long-range plans

	MBTA: Focus40	MassDOT: Beyond Mobility	Boston Region MPO: Destination 2050
Interaction Points/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtual &amp; in person meetings</li> <li>TAC could review + submit comment letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60-day comment period</li> <li>TAC could have submitted comment letter/s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently in strategizing phase</li> <li>TAC could request presentation and send comment letter</li> </ul>
Time Horizon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25-year plan</li> <li>Updated every 5 years</li> <li>Next one is in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25-year plan – Through 2050</li> <li>Updated every 5 years</li> <li>Completed 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25-year plan</li> <li>Updated every 5 years</li> <li>Next one will go into effect 2027</li> </ul>
Value per year	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$200 million</li> <li>~6% for transit</li> </ul>
Transit-specific Programs & Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernized Red Line with peak trains every 3 minutes</li> <li>All-door boarding and exclusive busways</li> <li>Better aligned bus system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on reliability for transit users</li> <li>Transit electrification</li> <li>Transit priority investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multimodal access improvements at or near transit stations</li> <li>System electrification</li> <li>Customer amenities</li> <li>First/last mile shuttles</li> <li>Updates to transit tech</li> </ul>

# MassDOT: Beyond Mobility

- Six priority areas identified through community engagement
  - Safety
  - Reliability
  - Supporting Clean Transportation
  - Destination Connectivity
  - Resiliency
  - Travel Experience
- Action items identified for each priority area

# Beyond Mobility Transit Actions

- Signage and customer information (TEAI3.2)
  - Expanding real-time signage
  - Translating communications materials
- Identify areas for high-impact transit-oriented investments, both in the MBTA service area and elsewhere in the state (DCAI5.1)
- Bus and other transit electrification (SCTAI1.2)
  - Includes electrification of paratransit
- Funding program for transit priority projects (RAI2.3)
  - Goal is to reduce delays from congestion

# Beyond Mobility Transit Actions

- Commute time disparities (DCAI1.1)
  - Transit priority as a method to reduce commute disparities
- Enforcement of traffic violations (RAI2.2)
  - Stricter enforcement of traffic violations involving transit-priority infrastructure
- Roadway investments for transit reliability (RAI2.1)
  - MassDOT funding for transit reliability investments

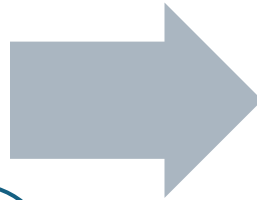
# Short-range Capital plans

	<b>MBTA: Capital Investment Plan</b>	<b>MassDOT: State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)</b>	<b>Boston Region MPO: Transportation Improvement Program</b>
Interaction Points/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public comment</li> <li>Board and advisory board presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21-day comment period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided by long range plan</li> <li>Communication happens through municipalities</li> </ul>
Time Horizon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-year investment plan</li> <li>Updated every year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-year investment plan</li> <li>Updated every year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-year investment plan</li> <li>Updated every year</li> </ul>
Value per year (Recent plans)	\$1.1 billion	\$800 million	\$2 billion
Transit-specific Programs & Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Line vehicle and signal upgrades</li> <li>Bus priority</li> <li>Bus facility modernization</li> <li>Shelter accessibility improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No transit projects in Cambridge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds programs/projects for MBTA, CATA and MWRTA</li> <li>Aimed at achieving and maintaining state of good repair</li> <li>Fitchburg crossing funded</li> </ul>

# How the plans interact

## Long-term plan (Beyond Mobility, Focus40, LRTP)

- Defines priority areas or programs
- Makes broad recommendations
- May make determinations on funding levels or percentages
- May include specific projects (at a conceptual level)



## Short-term plan (STIP, CIP, TIP)

- Identifies projects and timelines
- Advances specific projects
- Generally designed to not have more projects than available funds and budget forecasts
- Includes specific projects based on cost estimates from engineers
- MBTA-specifically, CIP cannot have a project that isn't defined in the PMT

# Larger amounts of transportation funds come from the Federal and State governments to maintain or improve transportation infrastructure

- Federal transportation funds are distributed, in Massachusetts, primarily to the following direct recipients:
  - MassDOT Highway Division including Bridges, Highway Division Districts, etc.
  - Transit agencies like the MBTA and RTAs
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), for us, the Boston Region MPO (mostly cities and towns within Route 495)
- State transportation funds are distributed to:
  - MassDOT Highway Division – Bridges and Highway Division districts, etc.
  - Transit agencies, MBTA
- Localities can access these funds:
  - Through regular disbursement (MA Chapter 90 program)
  - Competitive grant programs (MassDOT, Boston Region MPO)
  - Working with state agencies (MBTA)

# Upcoming timeframes

- MBTA

- Capital Investment Plan → <https://www.mbta.com/financials/the-current-capital-investment-plan-cip>
  - March-April 2025 / Expecting announcements soon.
- Program for Mass Transportation → <https://www.mbta.com/projects/planning-the-future-the-mbta>
  - March 18 First event
  - PMT to be developed over ~18 months

- MassDOT

- State Transportation Improvement Plan (S/TIP) → <https://www.mass.gov/lists/developing-the-capital-investment-plan>
  - Typically May to June, approval in late June

- Boston Region MPO

- Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) → <https://ctps.org/tip>
  - Apply through intake forms for the six investment programs
- Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) → <https://ctps.org/lrtp>
  - In-development currently

# Transit Advisory Committee

- Evaluate anything that should have TAC review/support
- They can modify their TAC-endorsed implementation plan