



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of
Transportation

Monthly Project Updates

March 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

City staff will 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

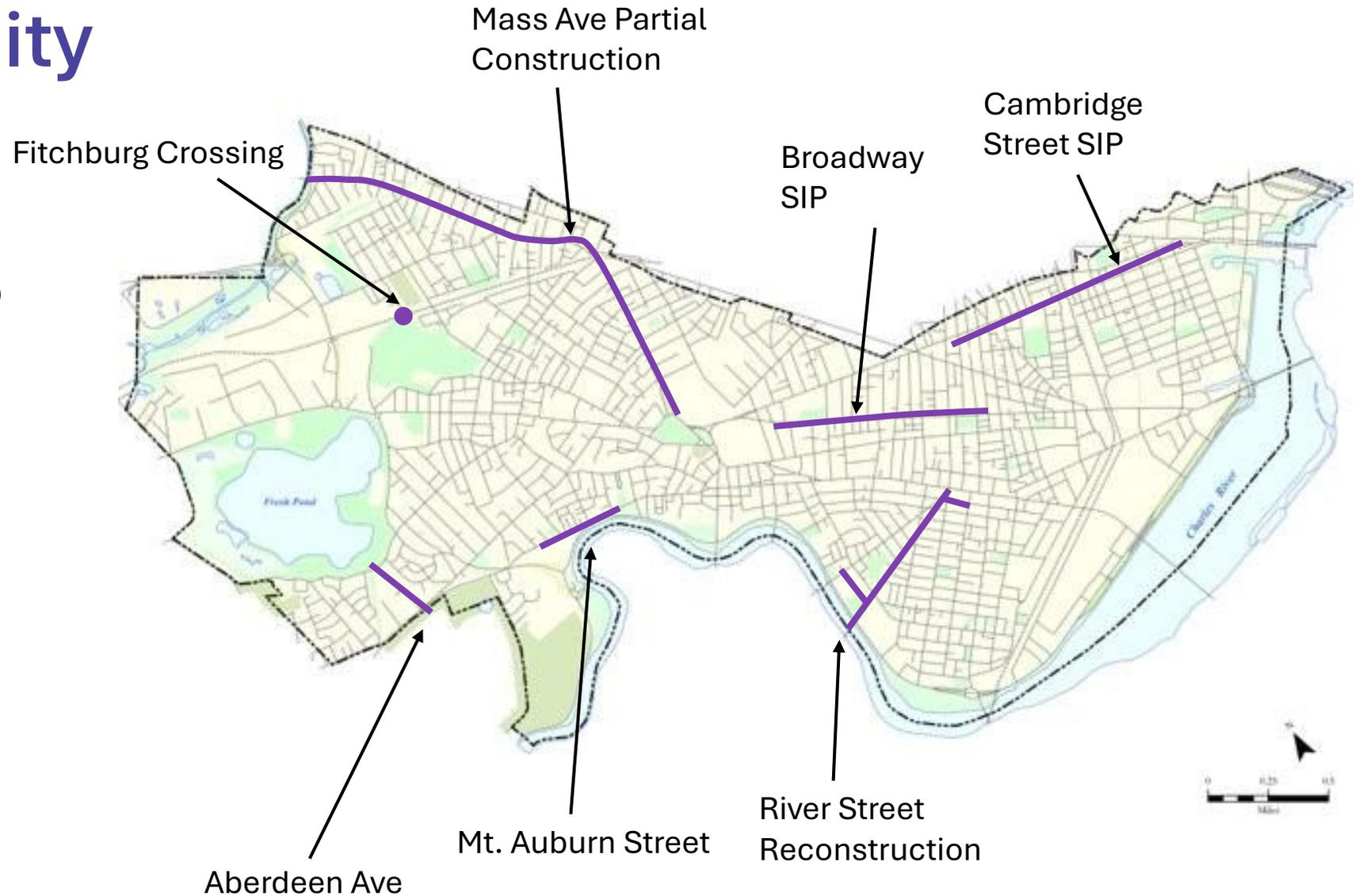
Members of the public with questions – send an e-mail to transit@cambridgema.gov

City Project Updates

Selected City projects

All-city projects:

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



Not on TAC Active Projects List

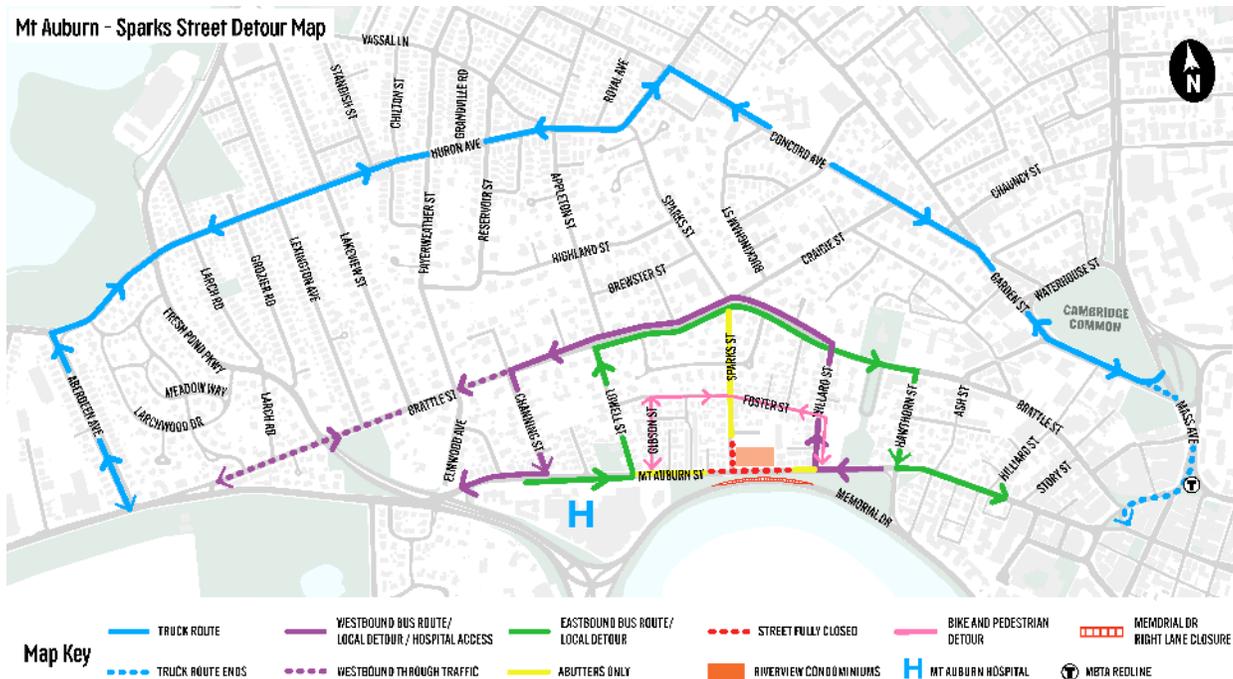
Mt. Auburn Street Closures and Detours

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
- Phases 1-5 of demolition are complete, final phase is in progress



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 was held on February 25

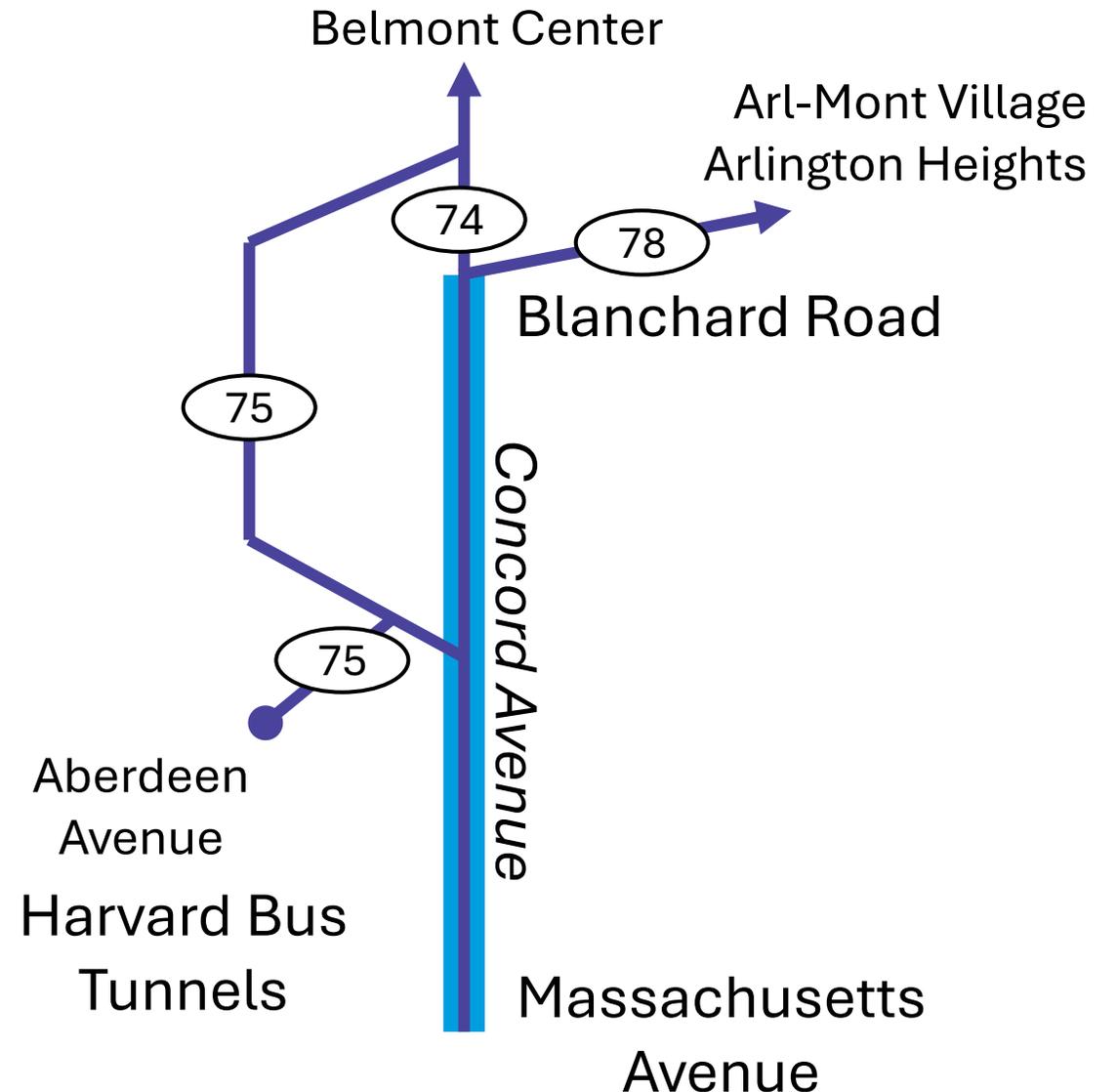
Concord Avenue Transit Signal Priority

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

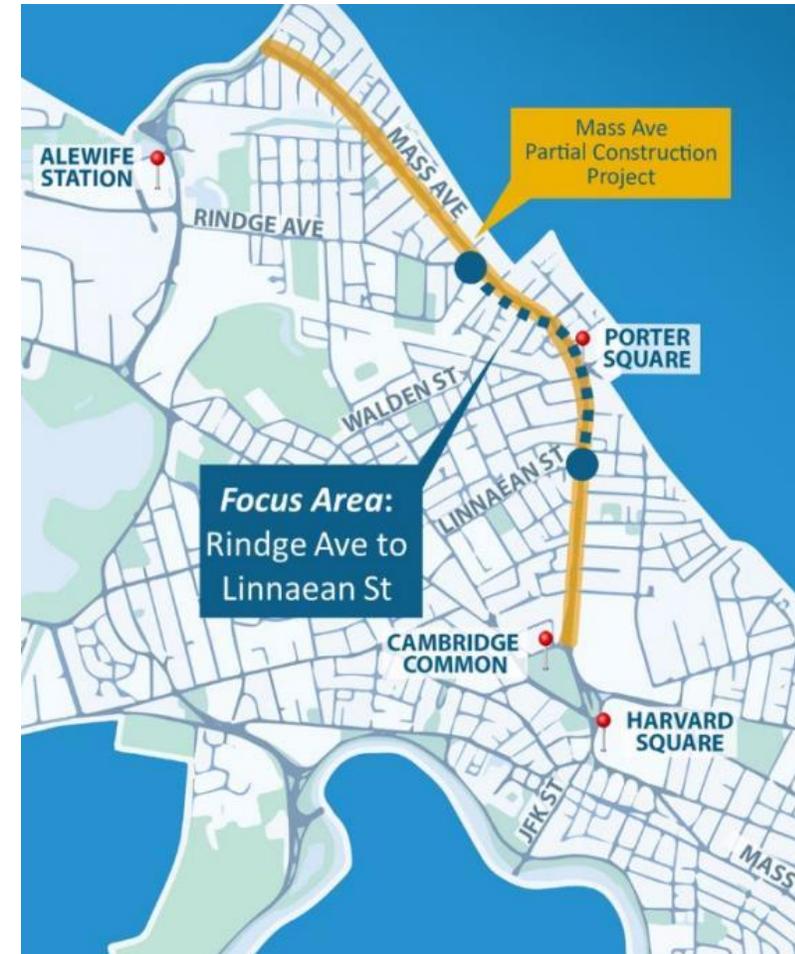
Massachusetts Avenue Partial Construction

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

- **Feb/March: 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
- Carl Barron Plaza pavers will be installed in early March
 - Lighting installations to also continue

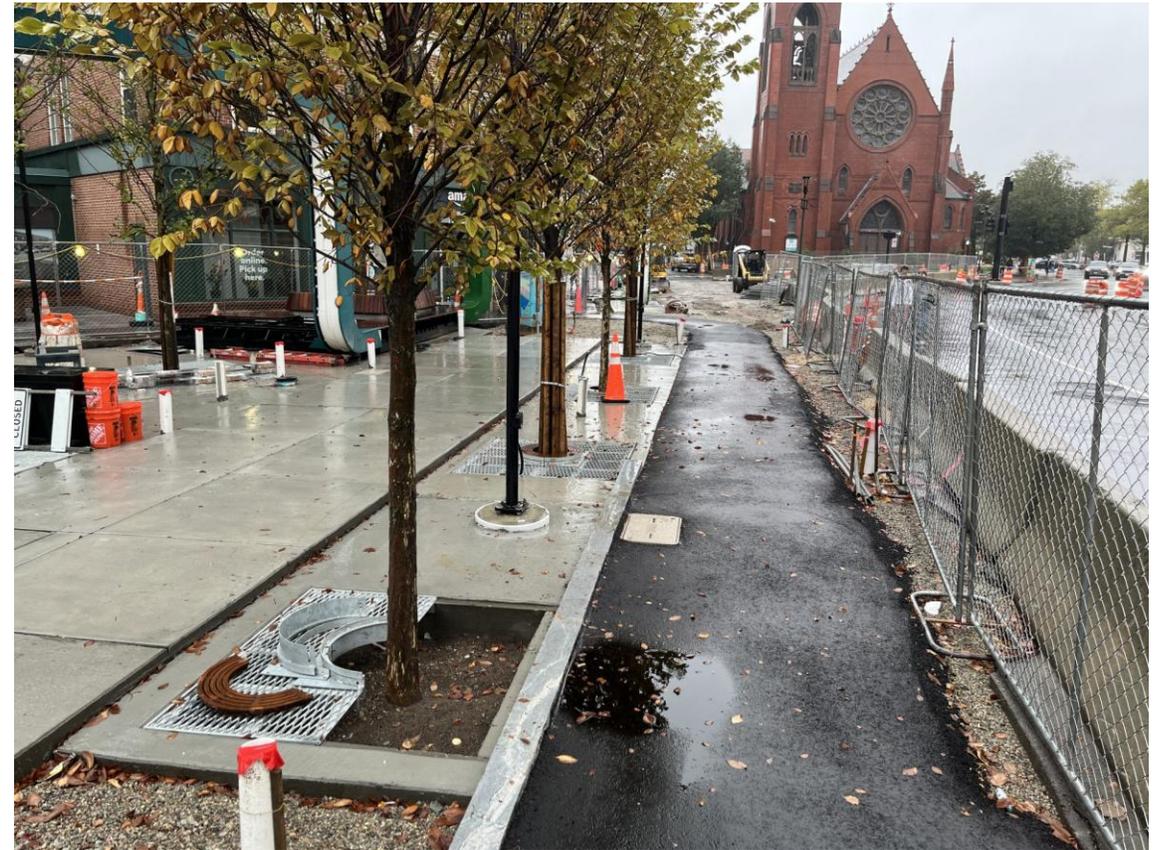


Image: New paving on Carl Barron Plaza along River Street



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
- Subcommittee is working on this

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

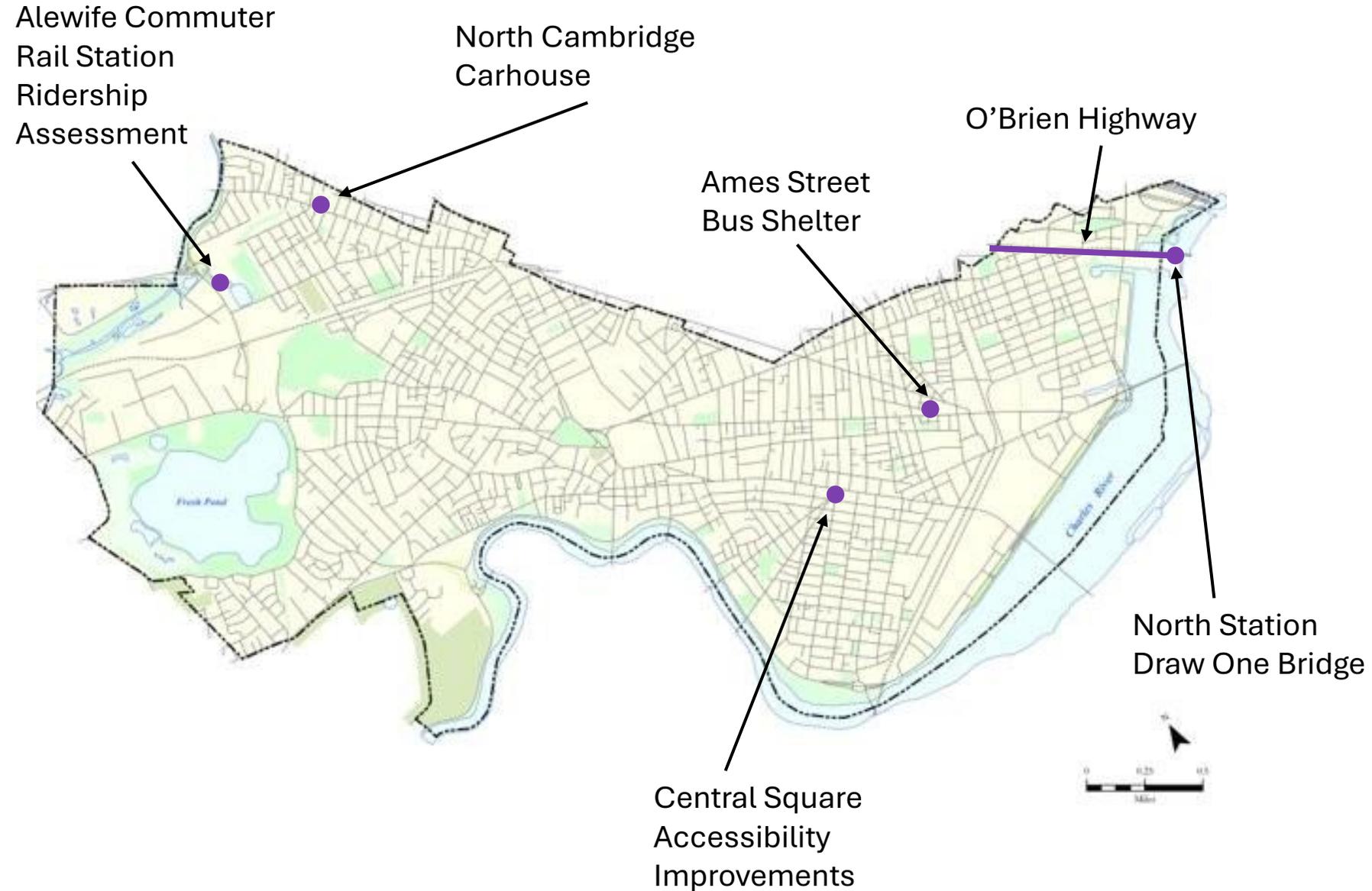
- Update study planned for later this fiscal year
- City presented about methodology and previous study results at January 2026 TAC meeting

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 presented 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

- Signal updates are reportedly 70% complete with projected completion at end of 2026
 - Planned service changes starting February 28 until end of April to finish signal work near JFK/Umass station
- 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 changes on 85/CT2, combined to *new route 85*, and extended service on route 87 on April 5
- Frequency increases for some routes in Cambridge, more changes in other nearby cities

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 presented 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 2025 and .

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

Rail Modernization

Project outcomes

- The MBTA is working to update the trains used for the Commuter Rail

Status update

- The T just issued an RFP to procure battery-electric and fuel-efficient locomotives
- MBTA will be holding a series of events to gather feedback about our Rail Modernization Plan this spring

Announcements

Upcoming committee meetings

- Next scheduled advisory committee meetings
 - Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.
 - Reschedule – One day earlier, one week later, host with alternate facilitator, or cancel
- Potential meeting topics
 - Site Walk Planning
- Next scheduled joint meetings
 - Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 22, 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