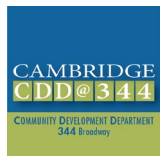


City of Cambridge  
Community Development Department

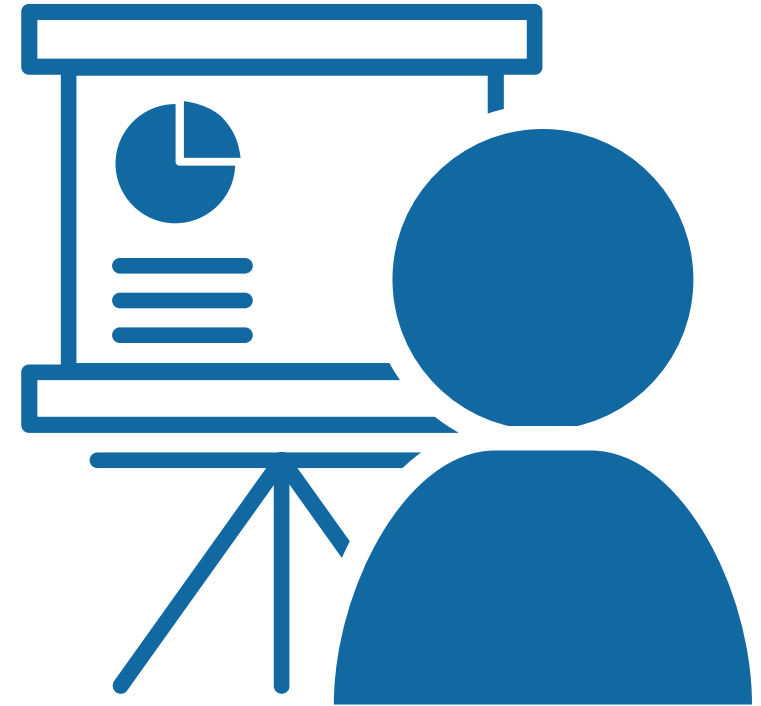
# Transit Advisory Committee

November 2020



# Meeting agenda

1. Welcome
2. Meeting note approval – February, March, July, October
3. Presentation: Central Square bus route and stop change proposals
4. Cambridge transportation updates
  - City street project updates
  - Development project updates
5. Public comment





# Meeting notes for approval

TAC notes



# To be approved

- **February** – River Street
- **March** – PTDM Program
- **July** – MBTA COVID-19 Response; Cycling Safety Ordinance
- **October** – MBTA Service Planning
- *Notes:*
  - TAC meetings canceled in April, May, June, August, September as a result of COVID-19 response
  - Joint meeting of Ped/Bike/Transit committees in July



# River Street Reconstruction Bus terminal & Carl Barron Plaza

Project updates



# Two-year design and engagement process

- Design has been underway for 24-months
  - Project working/stakeholder group
  - Public meetings x 2
  - Virtual open house, comments until 11/14
- TAC presentations
  - October 2019, February 2020, Today



# Tonight

- Invite you to visit Virtual Open House, open until 11/14 – your comments help us refine the final designs
- Share more info from previous TAC meeting, River Street Q&A information session, and feedback from Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association
- Your additional questions



## **“Butterfly” shaped plaza meets many highly desired project goals**

Greatest potential for more space for pedestrians and transit riders

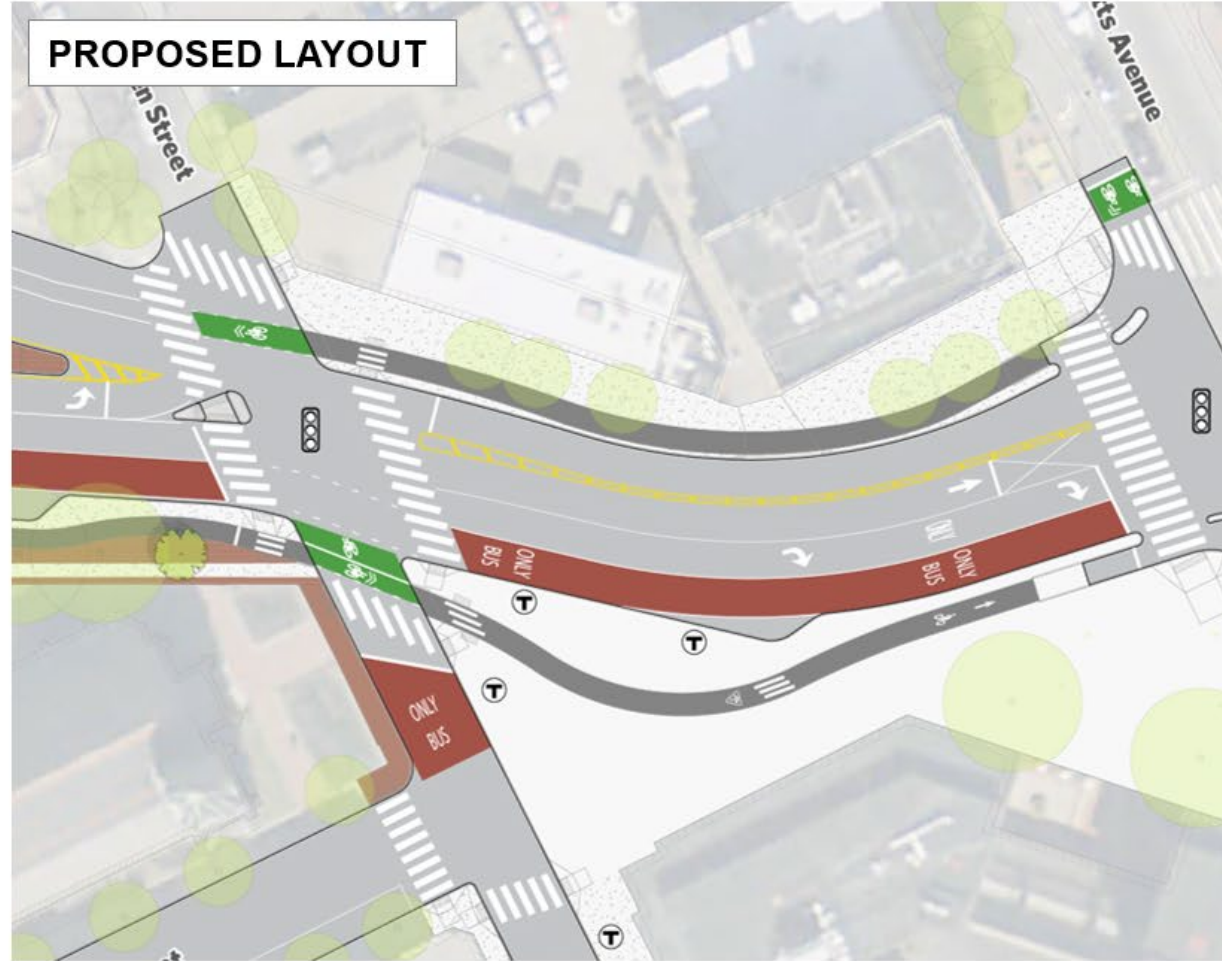
- Additional space for flexible uses in plaza
- Dedicated berths for many buses
- Construct additional amenities at bus stops – shelters, wayfinding signage, “iconic” structures
- Also looking at seating, planting, realtime signage



**EXISTING LAYOUT**



**PROPOSED LAYOUT**

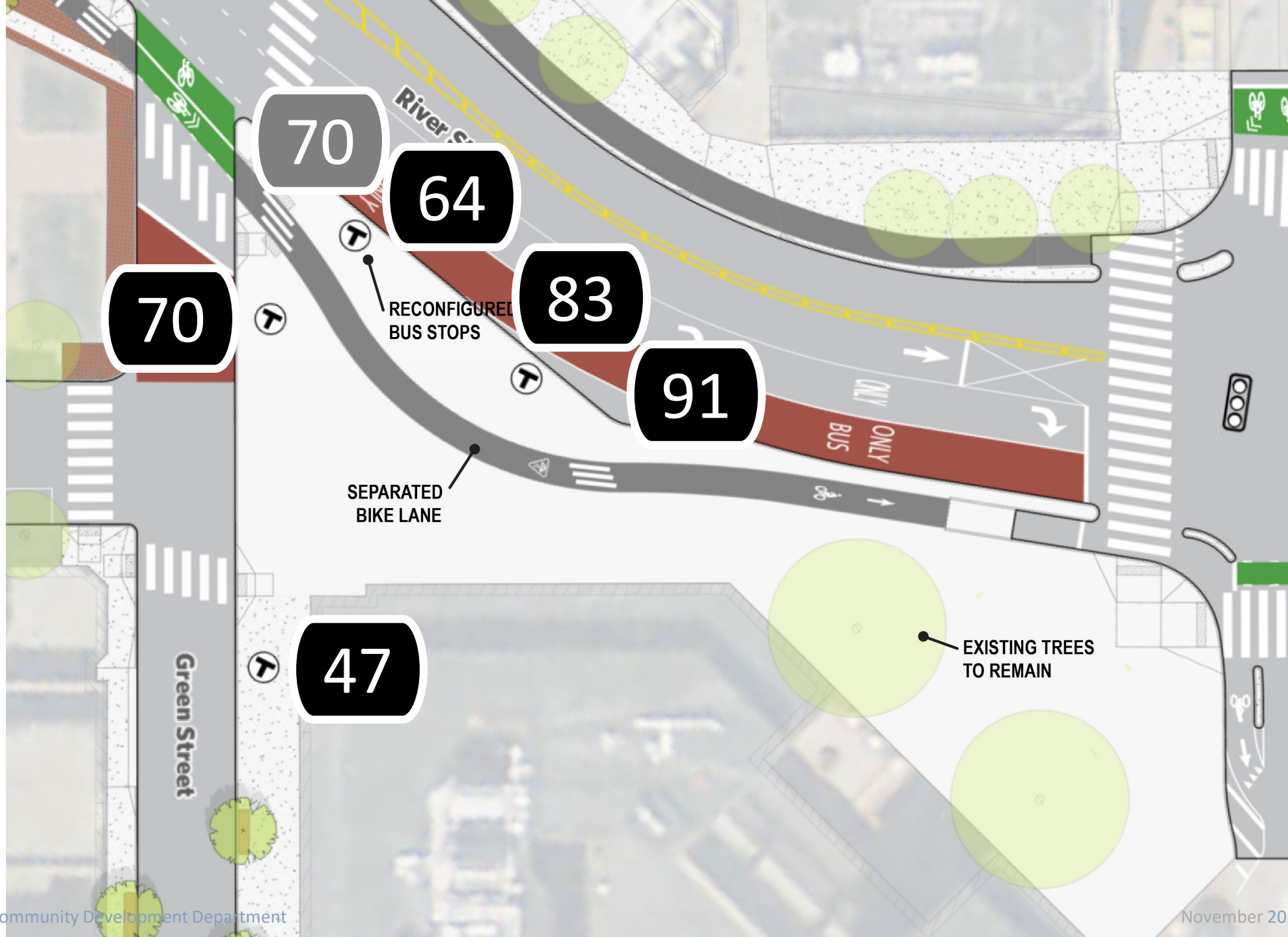






## Transit-specific changes

- **“Butterfly” plaza design** has greatest potential for more space for pedestrians and transit riders
- **Requires** changes to **bus routing and stop locations** on Route 47
- Other operational changes for Routes 64, 83, and 91



70

70

64

83

91

47

RECONFIGURE  
BUS STOPS

SEPARATED  
BIKE LANE

EXISTING TREES  
TO REMAIN

Green Street

River Street



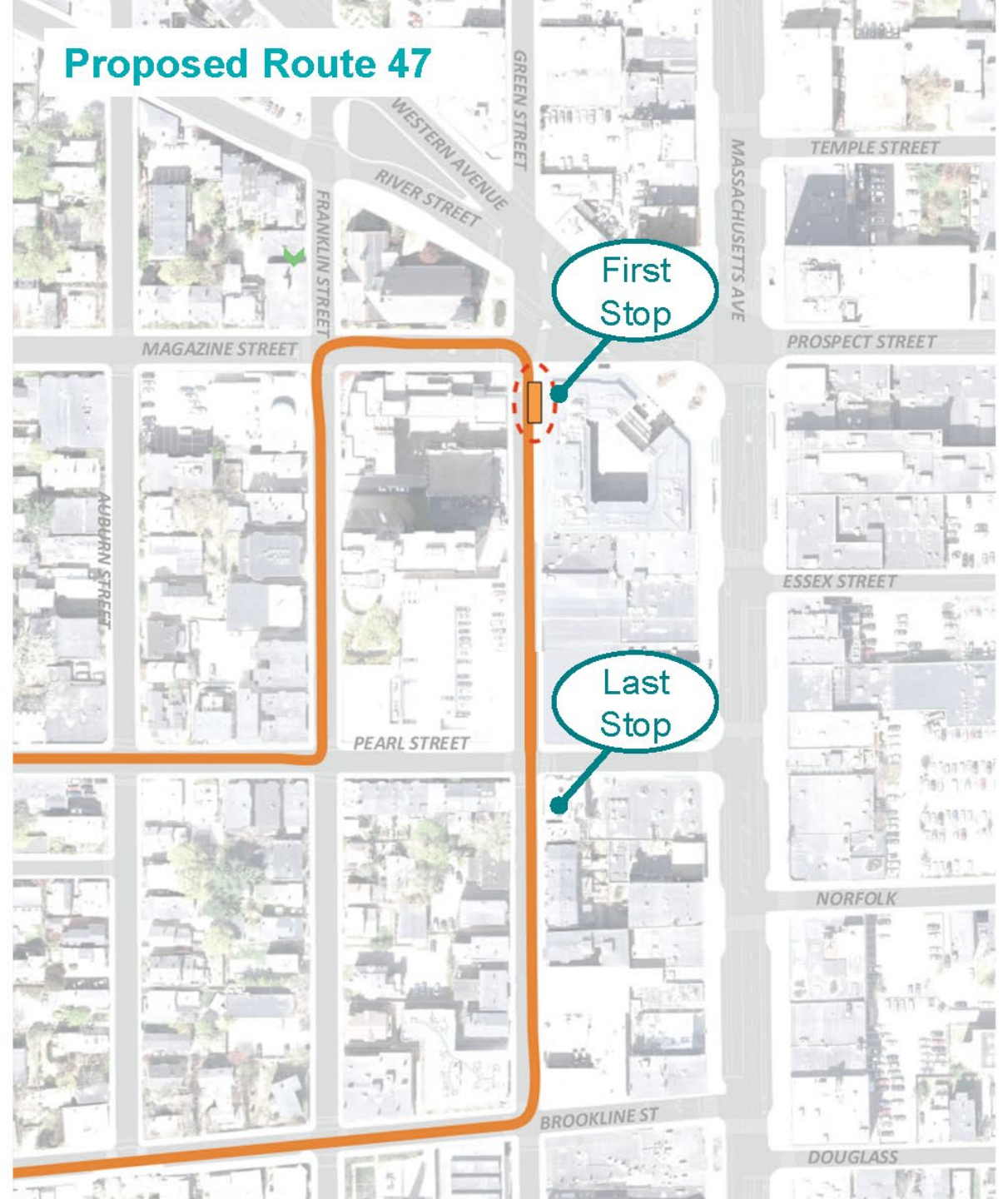
Bus shelter precedent/  
example

Chicago, Ill. -  
Washington / Clark  
“LoopLink”

## Existing Route 47



## Proposed Route 47





## Benefits of Route 47 change on Mass Ave

- Shorter route with travel time improvement
- Travel time improvement by avoiding traffic signals and Massachusetts Avenue crosswalks at Pearl St
- Total travel time improvement of 1-2 minutes
- Route 1 buses able to pull up to curb without navigating around Route 47 buses on layover
- Cycling lane often blocked by buses laying over



## Other considerations

- Majority of riders transferring bus-bus or bus-subway will have:
  - No significant change to transfer distances
  - Better amenities at stops
- Project team making sure to design for good circulation with wide accessible paths of travel
  - Paths and materials





# Questions from February TAC meeting

- What are the demographics of the Route 47 riders?
- How many transfers are there between Route 47 and Red Line?
- Consider and commit to realtime signage

# Demographics from MBTA Systemwide Survey

Route	Average Weekday Riders	Minority	Low-income	HH with 0 Car	Reduced Fare Pass	Over 65
Route 1	11,831	37% (4,377)	34% (4,022)	47% (5,560)	12% (1,420)	6% (709)
<b>Route 47</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>33%</b> (1,550)	<b>26%</b> (1,222)	<b>39%</b> (1,833)	<b>13%</b> (611)	<b>3%</b> (141)
Route 64	1,829	30% (549)	25% (457)	36% (658)	15% (274)	8% (146)
Route 70 (and 70A)	6,645	35% (2,326)	36% (2,392)	44% (2,924)	10% (665)	7% (465)
Route 83	1,849	29% (536)	35% (647)	42% (777)	27% (499)	9% (166)
Route 91	1,540	32% (492)	48% (739)	52% (800)	24% (370)	4% (108)
Red Line at Central	15,175	28%	23%	38%	6%	4%

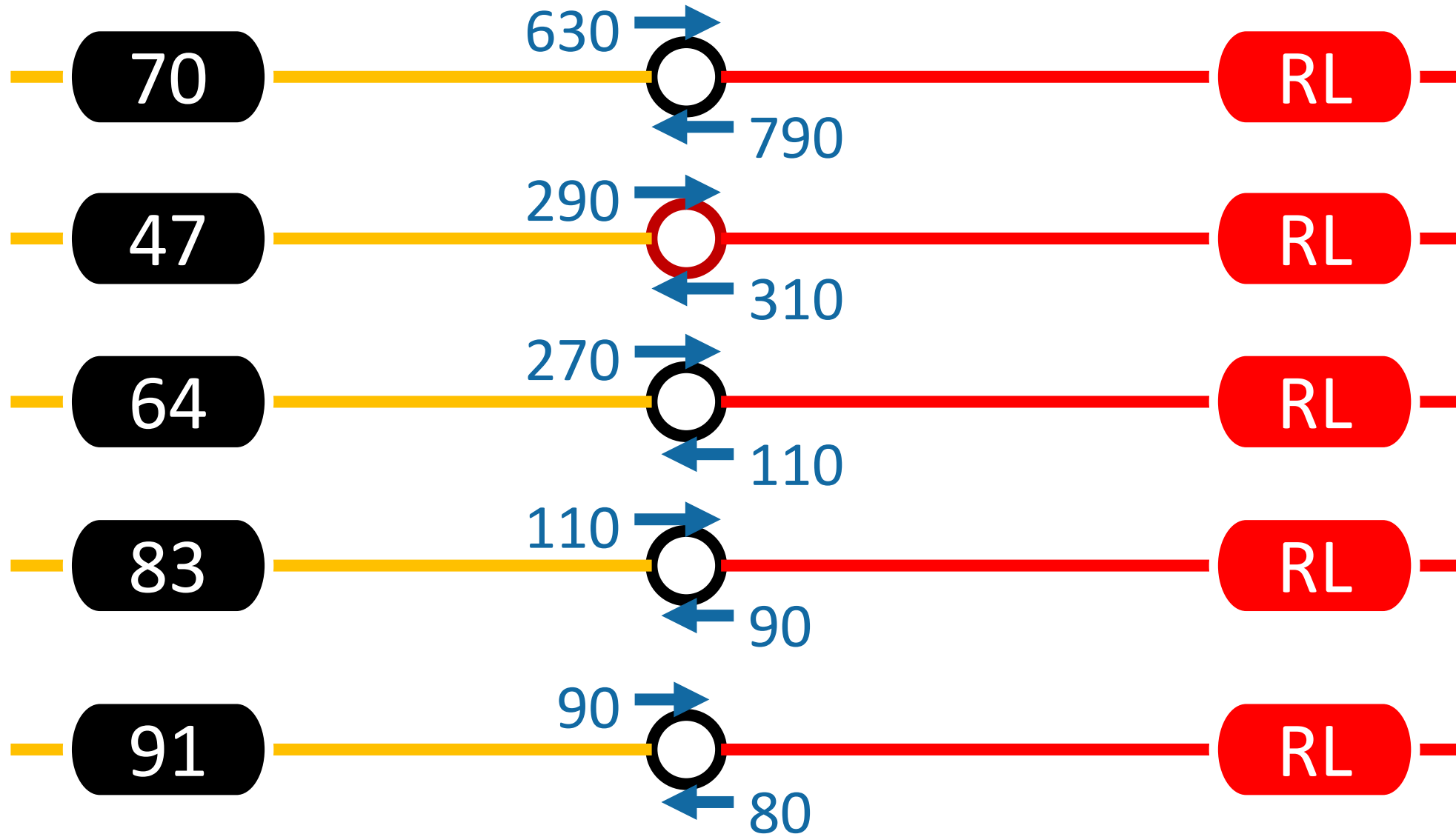


# MBTA Transfer Information

- MBTA Origin-Destination-Transfer model provides information on flows of passengers from bus-to-bus, bus-to-subway
- We were able to get information that showed:
  - Transfers by route - Route 47, in particular
  - Weekdays and weekend days
- MBTA also planning for two additional elevators on Mass Ave. at Pearl Street

# Central Square

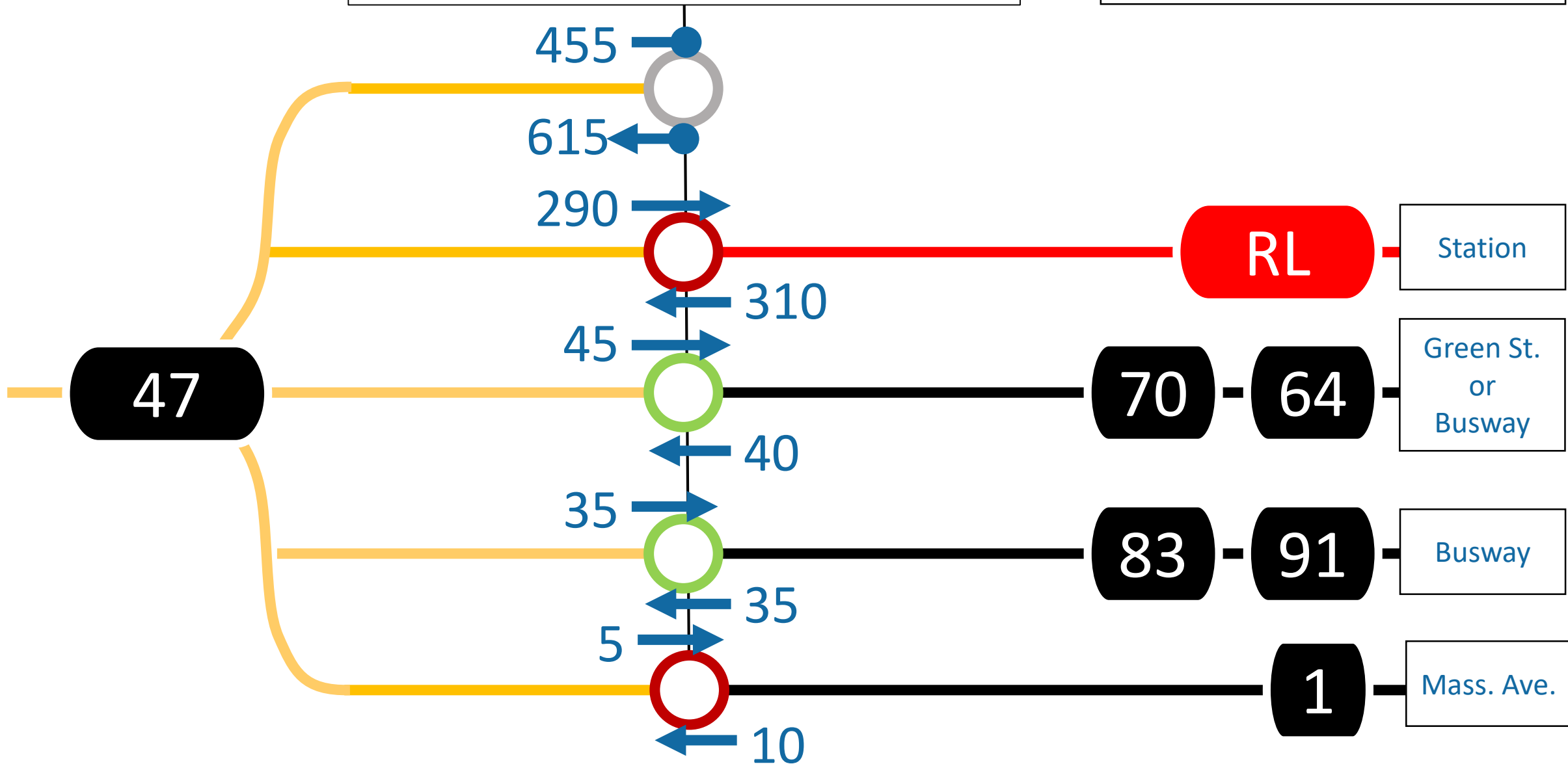
# Weekdays



# = Riders transferring from route to route on a weekday; **Arrow** = Direction of transfer

# Central Square

# Weekdays



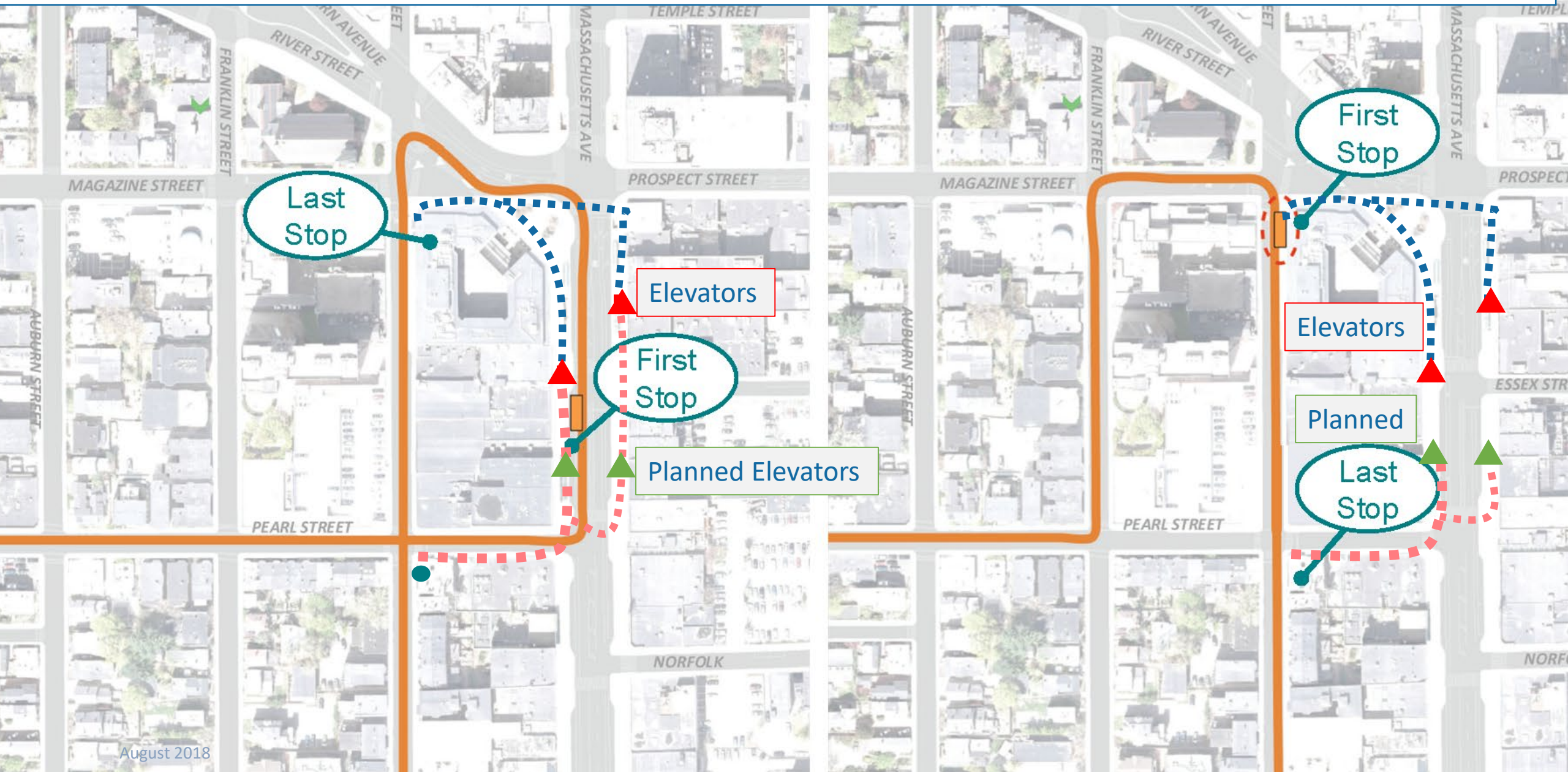
# = Riders transferring from route to route on a weekday; **Arrow** = Direction of transfer

# Realtime signage

- Coordinating with MBTA's ongoing pilot with solar-powered eInk signage
- MBTA recently began talking about potential for municipal procurement of the same system
- Opportunity to use as part of River Street project and for Participatory Budgeting project



# Location of elevators to Red Line platforms





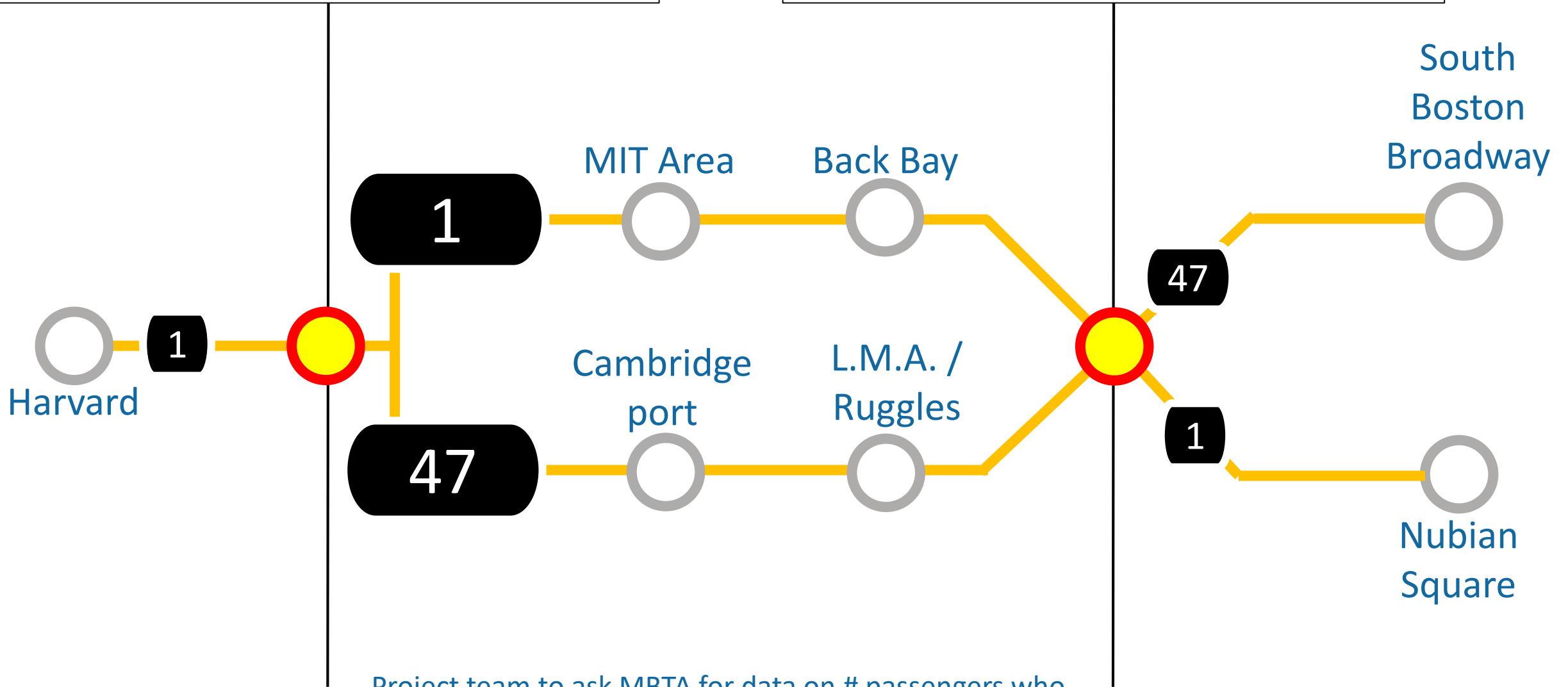
## Recent questions

- What about people who take either the 47 or 1?
- Could the last proposed stop be combined with the new proposed first stop?



# Central Square

# Boston Medical Ctr

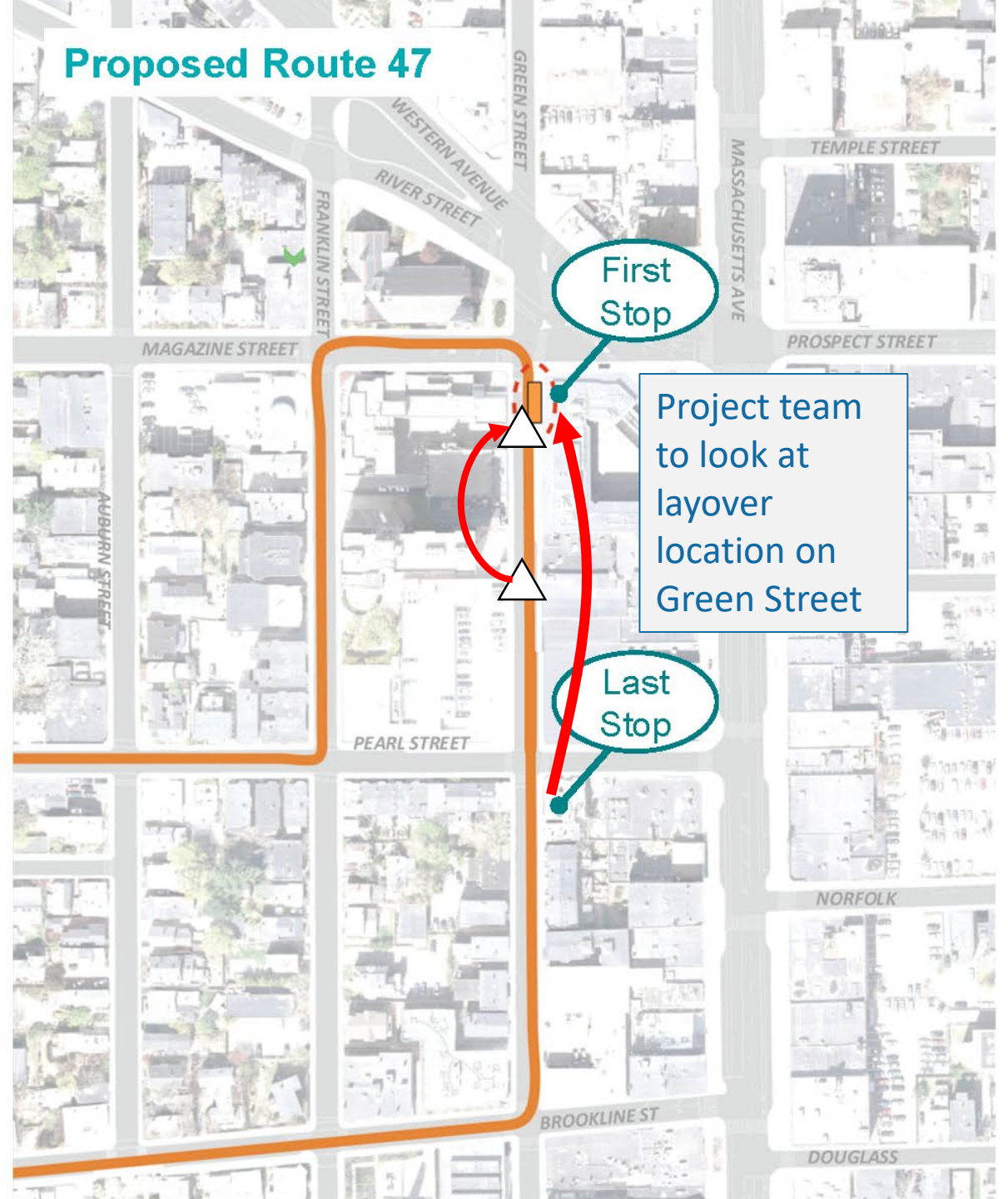


Project team to ask MBTA for data on # passengers who travel from Central Square to BMC-area stops on either Route 1 or Route 47.

## Existing Route 47



## Proposed Route 47





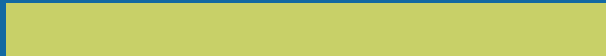
# Tell us your thoughts

- **Virtual Open House** – [arcg.is/10Xvum](https://arcg.is/10Xvum)
  - Comment forms throughout
  - Comment Map – [arcg.is/WPu0j](https://arcg.is/WPu0j)
    - At the end of the “Corridor Design” section
- Spread the word to others who are interested in transportation and transit, spend time in the neighborhood, etc.



# Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment

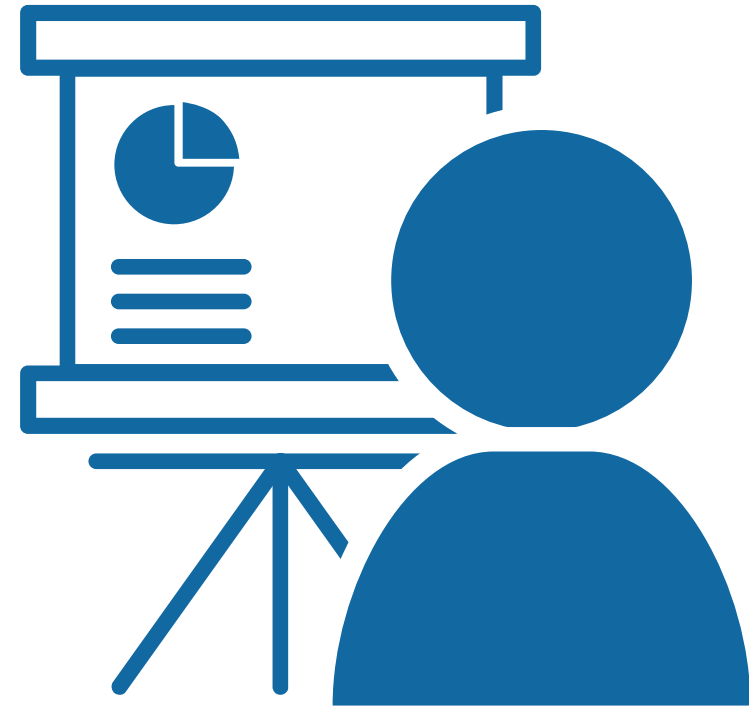


# Updates

City development project updates, MBTA service planning updates

# Cambridge updates

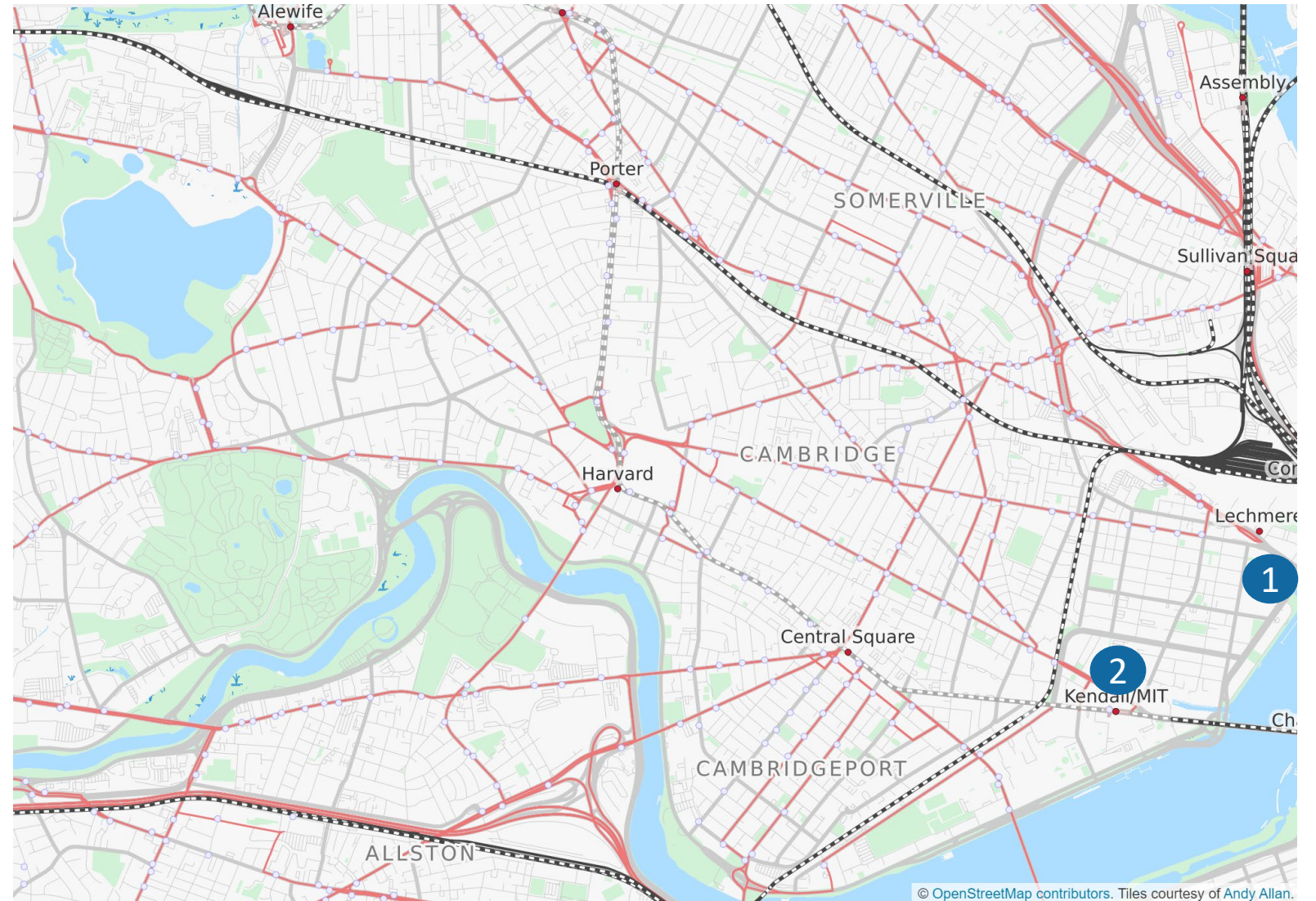
- Development project updates
- Non-city initiatives





# Development Project Updates

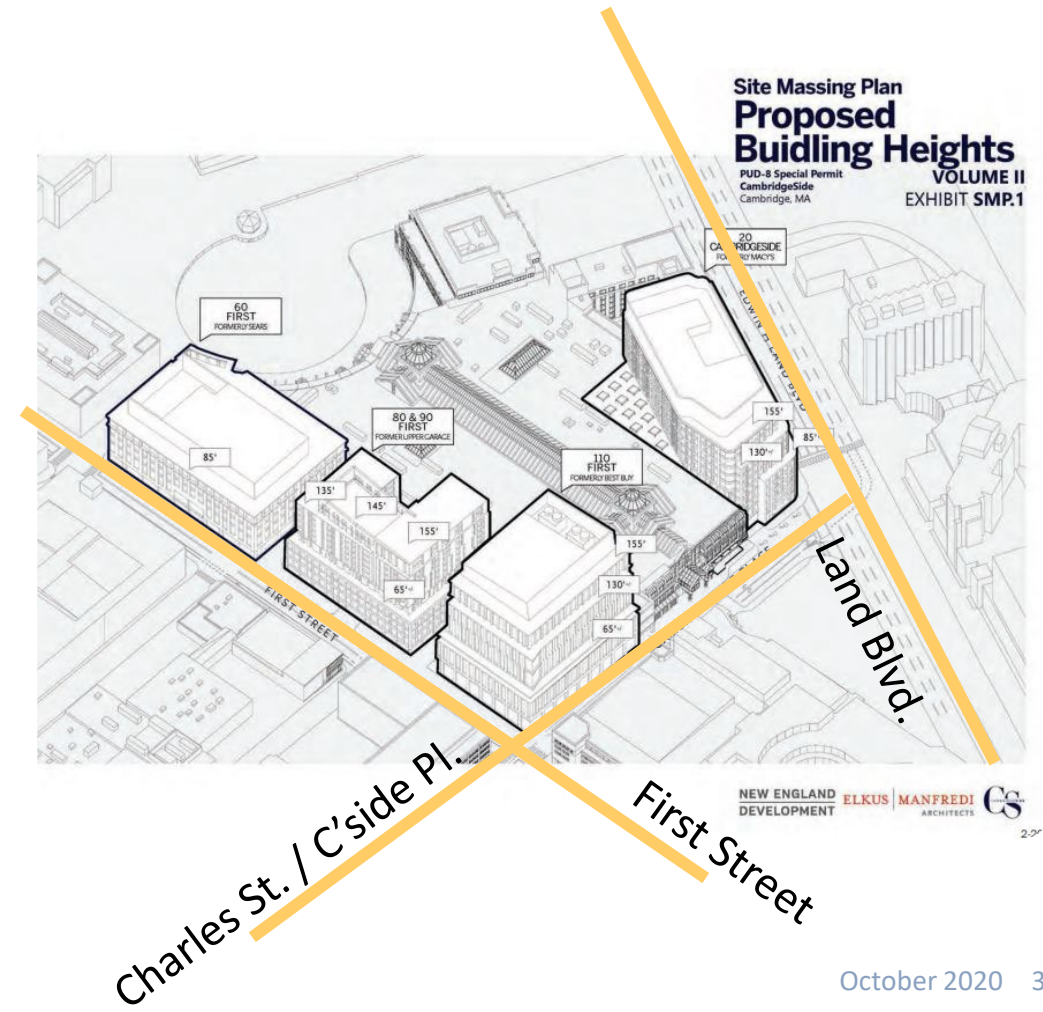
# Overview





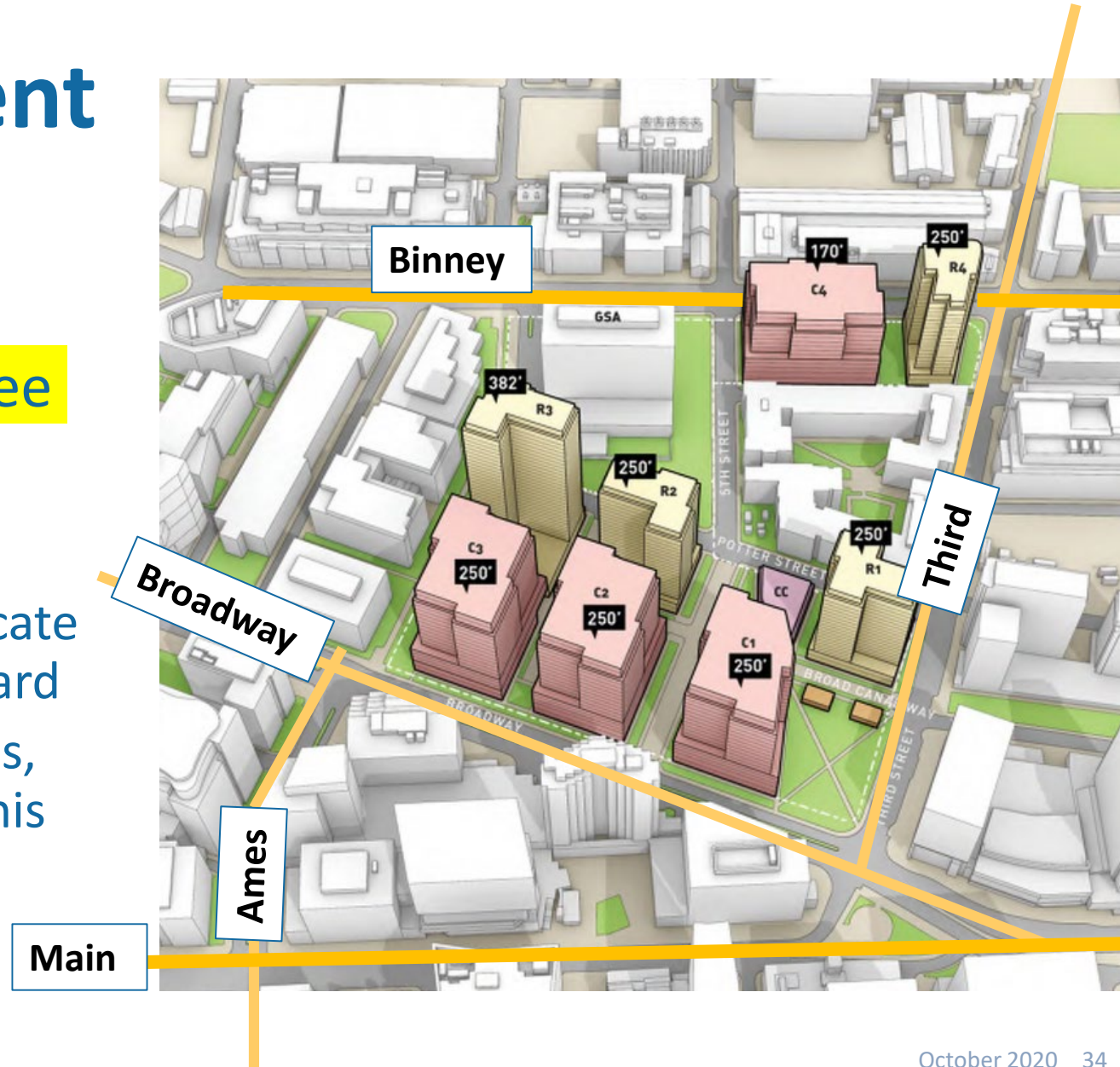
# Cambridgeside 2.0 Planned Unit Development

- **Planning Board** – first hearing was October 6, next hearing TBD
  - Study of First & Second Streets is moving forward
  - Ongoing negotiations for mitigation
- **Potential TAC actions**
  - TAC representative to stakeholder working group for study – Are you interested?
  - Review initial application and draft comment letter to Planning Board



# Volpe MIT Development

- Planning Board presentation on October 27
- Tentative date for joint committee review November 18 or 19
- Potential TAC actions
  - Review application and communicate comments to staff or planning board
  - Brainstorm transit issues, concerns, recommendations in relation to this site



# Other projects

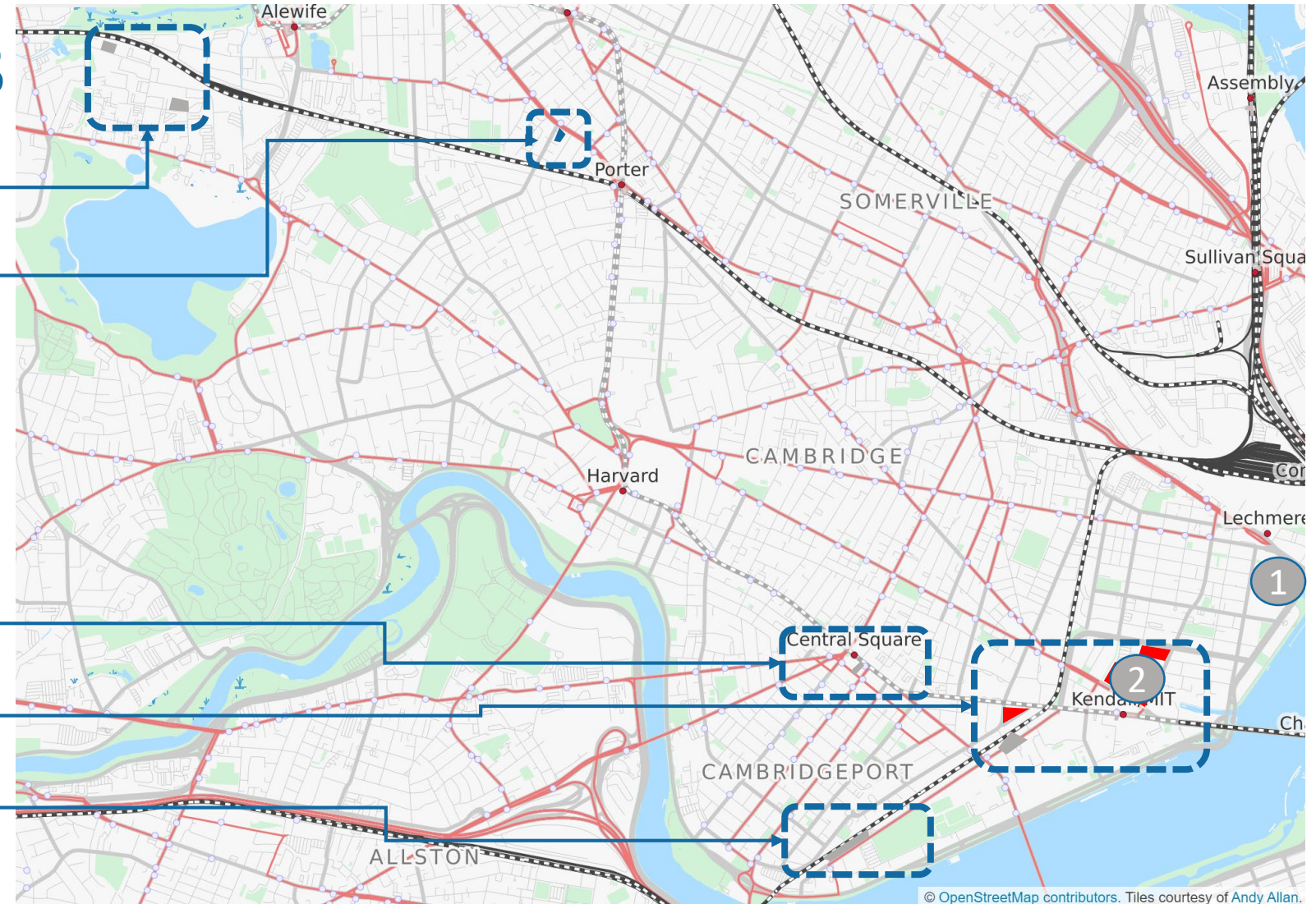
Alewife Quadrangle

North Cambridge

Central Square

Kendall Square area

MIT Campus



© OpenStreetMap contributors. Tiles courtesy of Andy Allan.



# Other upcoming project reviews

- **Kendall Square and surrounding area**

- 600 Main Street – Research & development proposal – **TIS Certified**
- Vassar Street / Cyclotron – MIT Schwarzman College – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study
- Vassar Street / West Campus – MIT Graduate housing – No TIS required. MIT will submit traffic and circulation study

- **Central Square**

- 600 Mass Ave – Residential proposal – **Potential PB meeting in December - to discuss at December TAC**



# Other upcoming project review

- **Alewife Quadrangle (Concord Avenue)**

- Mooney Street – mixed-use proposal – TIS underway
- 40 Wilson Road – Research & development proposal – TIS underway

- **North Cambridge**

- 2072 Mass Ave. – 100% Affordable Housing proposal – *Ch. 40B exclusion from TIS* – **Seeking BZA permit**

- **Others**

- City to evaluate updates TIS guidelines and methodologies



# Non-city updates



# MBTA “Forging Ahead”

- MBTA gave a preview presentation to TAC in October
  - Total expected budget gap \$308-577 million
  - Range of \$60-255 million expected service cuts
  - 2012 gap was \$167 million but only \$15 mil came from service cuts, fares rest
- “Essential service” routes
  - Reduce to minimum standards
  - Routes 1, 69, 83, 85, 86
- Other routes
  - Reduce below minimum, consolidate routes, or eliminate routes
  - Routes 71, 73, 77, and others



# MBTA “Forging Ahead”

- Proposal to be released – Monday 11/9/2020
- Public meetings with remote participation
  - Tues 11/17 6:00 PM – Cambridge/Central area-focused
  - Thurs 11/19 6:00 PM – Systemwide
  - Wednesday 12/2 6:00 PM – Systemwide
- Expected vote – Monday 12/7/2020
- Update in May-June 2021





# Public comment

Members of the public will have up to 3 minutes to make a comment

Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting with remote participation.

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**Thank You**