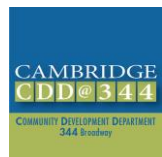




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# City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

December 2023





# Welcome

## **Purpose**

Get feedback from appointed members of the TAC, the City's "community experts"

## **Outcomes**

TAC members learn about the designs for the Kendall/MIT Station Alewife headhouse improvements

## **Process**

TAC to 'raise hand' during presentations and discussions  
Public to type in questions in zoom Q&A or speak verbal comments during public comment period



# TAC, City, and MBTA Updates

Andy Reker, City of Cambridge



# Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



# Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
  - Thursday, January 4, 2024
- Committee meetings
  - None scheduled
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
  - Wednesday, December 13, 2023



# Meeting dates in 2024

## **Transit Advisory Committee** – Generally first Thursdays

- January 4
- February 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6
- July 11
- August 8
- September 5
- October 10
- November 7
- December 5

## **Joint meetings of committees** – Generally third Wednesdays

- January 17
- February 28
- March 20
- May 15
- June 20
- July 17
- August 28
- September 18
- October 16

# Working on the following topics

Based on feedback from the September meeting, City staff are requesting presentations on:

- Updates from MBTA Bus Electrification / North Cambridge Carhouse

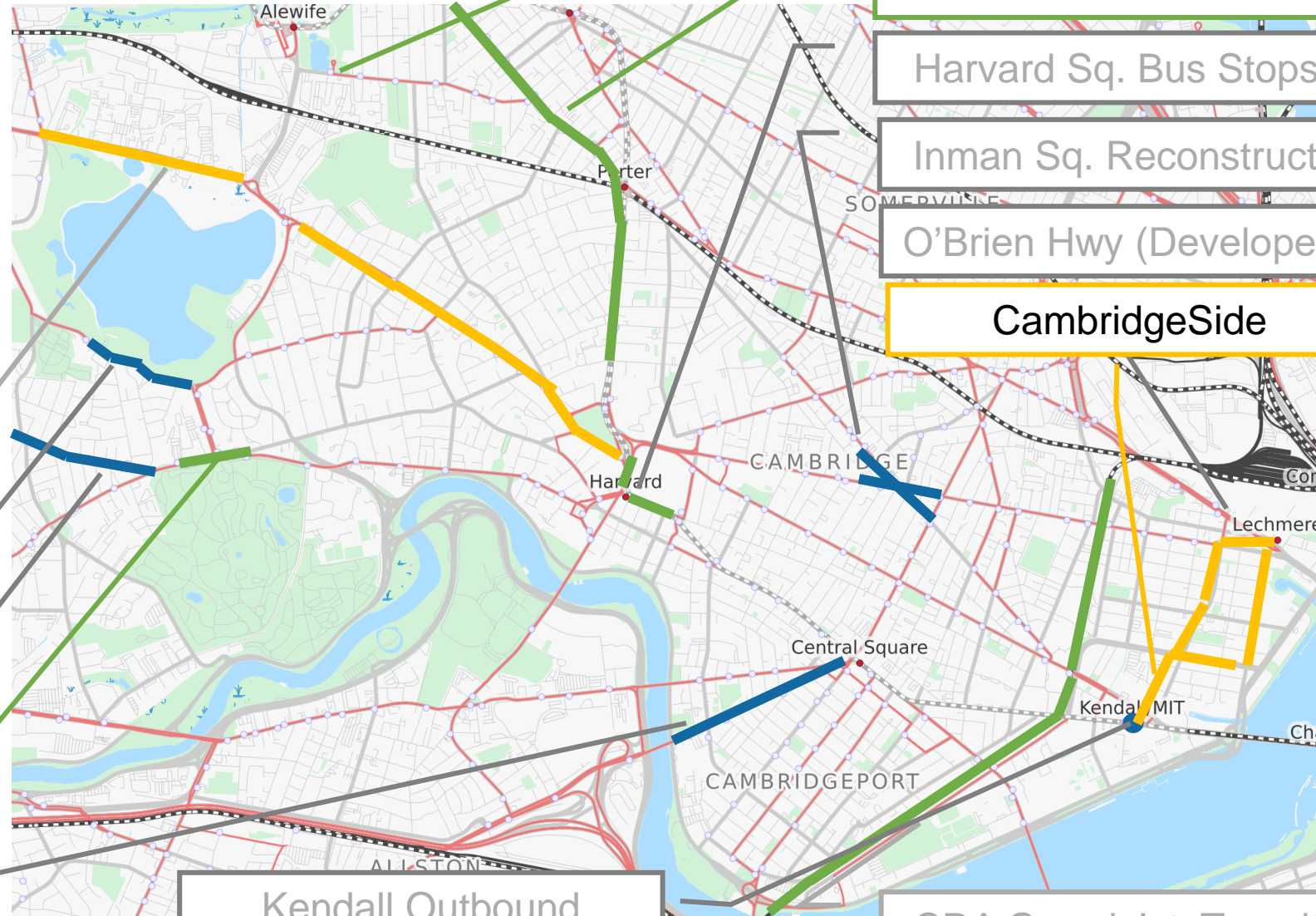


MBTA project rendering showing an overhead, angled view of North Cambridge Carhouse after completion of retrofit project



# Selected City projects

- Concord Transit Signal Priority
- Huron Ave Reconstr.
- Belmont Street Reconstr.
- Mt Auburn/Aberdeen Improvements
- River Street Reconstr.



- Rindge
- Mass Ave Partial Const.
- Harvard Sq. Bus Stops
- Inman Sq. Reconstruct.
- O'Brien Hwy (Developer)
- CambridgeSide

Kendall Outbound Headhouse (Developer)

CRA Grand Jct. Transit.





# CambridgeSide Shuttle

## Route

1. Cambridgeside Mall
2. Kendall/MIT Red Line
3. Lechmere Green Line
4. Cambridgeside Mall

**Free** for everybody (visitors, clients, workers, etc.)

**Seven days a week**

Weekdays

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Weekends

9 a.m. – 9 p.m.



# Mass Ave Partial Construction

## Timeline

- Design for Mass Ave between Linnean and Waterhouse
  - Shown at Working Group meeting
- Developing designs – ongoing
  - Porter Square
  - Northern Section

**Working Group**

Met on Oct 12

**Joint Meeting**

Nov 15

**Open House**

Dec 5



# Mass Ave Partial Construction

- City Project Subcommittee – Observations of bus stop blockages
  - Observed 5 bus stops in Porter Square from 5 to 6 p.m. on October 19
  - Tallied how many cars, delivery vehicles, trucks occupied bus stop zones
- Observation results for 1 hour
  - 10 cars observed occupying bus stops
  - 0 vehicles blocked a bus trying to serve stop
- Other observations
  - Many people cycling – some bus-bike conflicts at bus stops (Mass Ave Porter Square in particular)

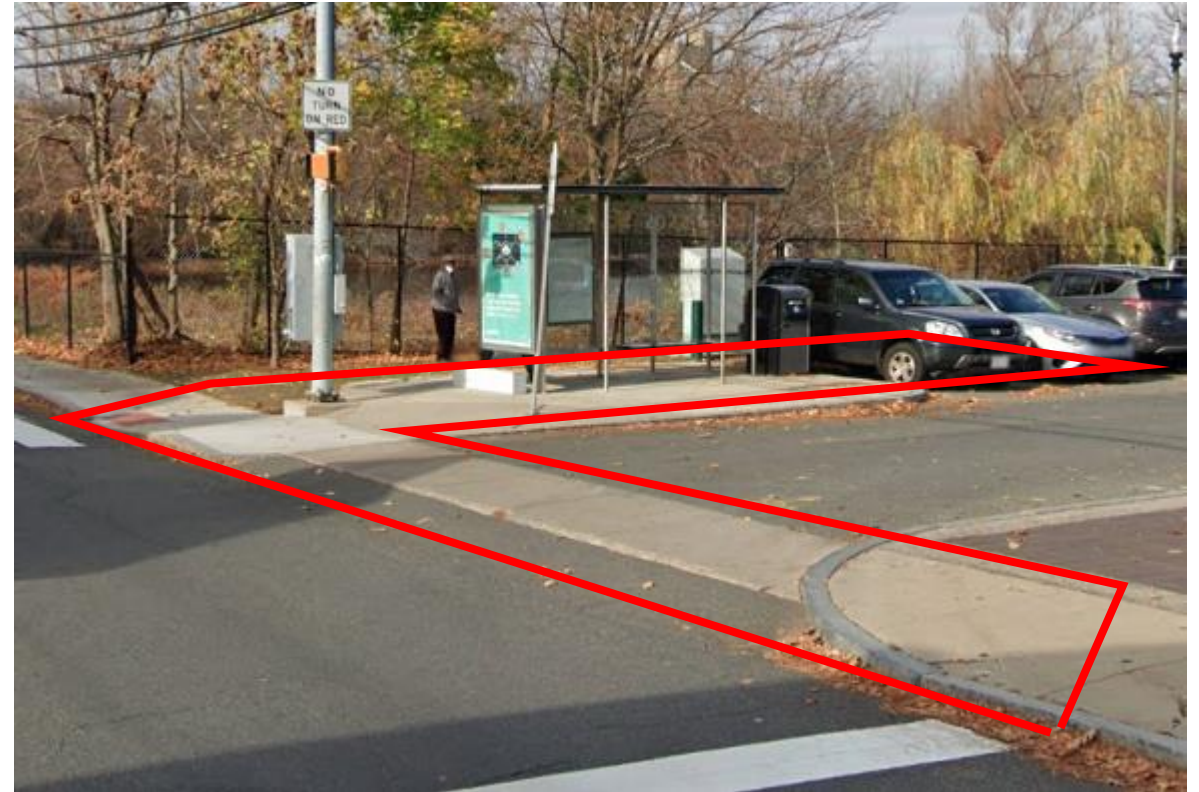
# Rindge Ave at Russel/Comeau Fields

## Developer funded construction work

Rebuild of sidewalk in order to minimize slope of entrance

Responding to concerns with bus travel through this area

Renewing sidewalk, dropped curb, and curb cut



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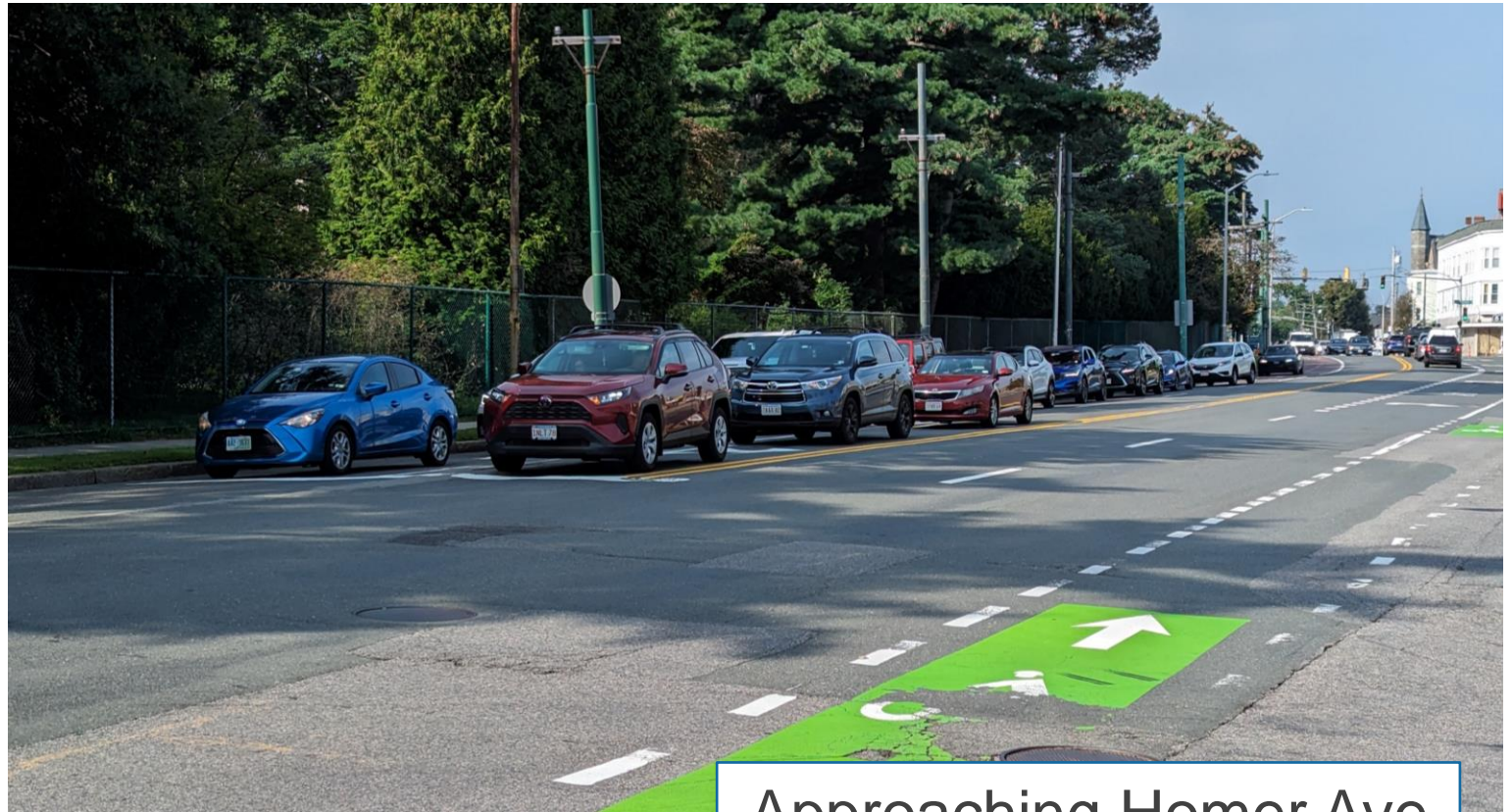




# Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

Installing new signal equipment on Mount Auburn Street at Aberdeen Avenue + changing traffic patterns

**Work beginning + traffic pattern changes in spring**



Approaching Homer Ave



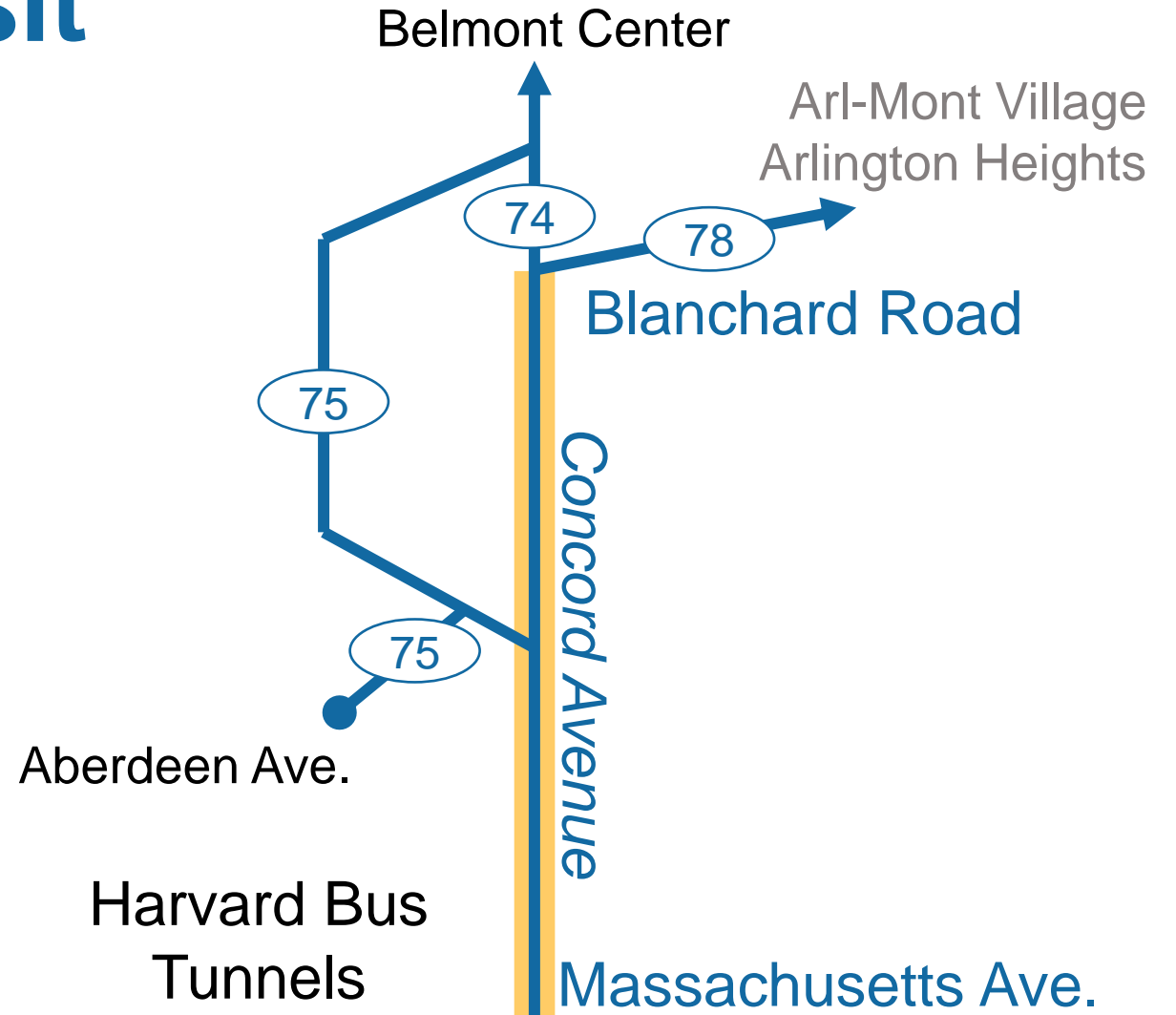
# Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

Grant funded with MBTA as implementing agency

MBTA to award contract to:

- Install wirelessly-connected TSP request generator
- Upgrade signal controllers at two locations
- Develop programming and signal controller logic for TSP

Preparatory work began in October





# Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

City-owned signals are found these intersections

Concord Avenue at

- Blanchard Road
- Moulton St
- Alpine St
- Walden St
- Huron Av
- Craigie St
- Garden Street

Garden Street at

- Mason St
- Appian Way

**MBTA TSP  
Coordinator**

Presented in  
January 2022

Review that  
presentation for  
more information  
on then newest  
TSP systems



# Transit Signal Priority

TSP is about giving more “green” time to the buses travelling along a street.

- **Extend a green** so the bus makes it through an intersection
- **Shorten a red on a side street** so we can give the bus a green signal earlier
- **Give a dedicated time only for buses** (more advanced)

## Concord Ave TSP

Recommended  
in Envision  
Alewife District  
Plan (2019)



# Transit Signal Priority

MBTA has a “new” nextGen TSP system that includes:

- **Location info from on-board bus systems**
- **Provides an “arrival” prediction** so we can give the bus a green signal at the right time
- **Evaluates bus travel time + signal timing changes** in easy to analyze formats

**NextGen TSP** means that we can monitor and modify as conditions change

# O'Brien Highway (Developer)

Approaching completion –  
Vehicle circulation is  
complete. Remaining items:

- Traffic islands
- Pollinator garden
- Additional infrastructure for people walking and biking
- Final paving



# Huron Avenue Cushing Plaza

**Ongoing work** – two-way separated bike lane, rebuilt and new bus stops

**Rebuilt bus stop locations:**

- Golf Course
- Opposite Golf Course
- Fountain Terrace

**New bus stop**

- Opposite Fountain Terrace





# Huron Avenue Cushing Plaza

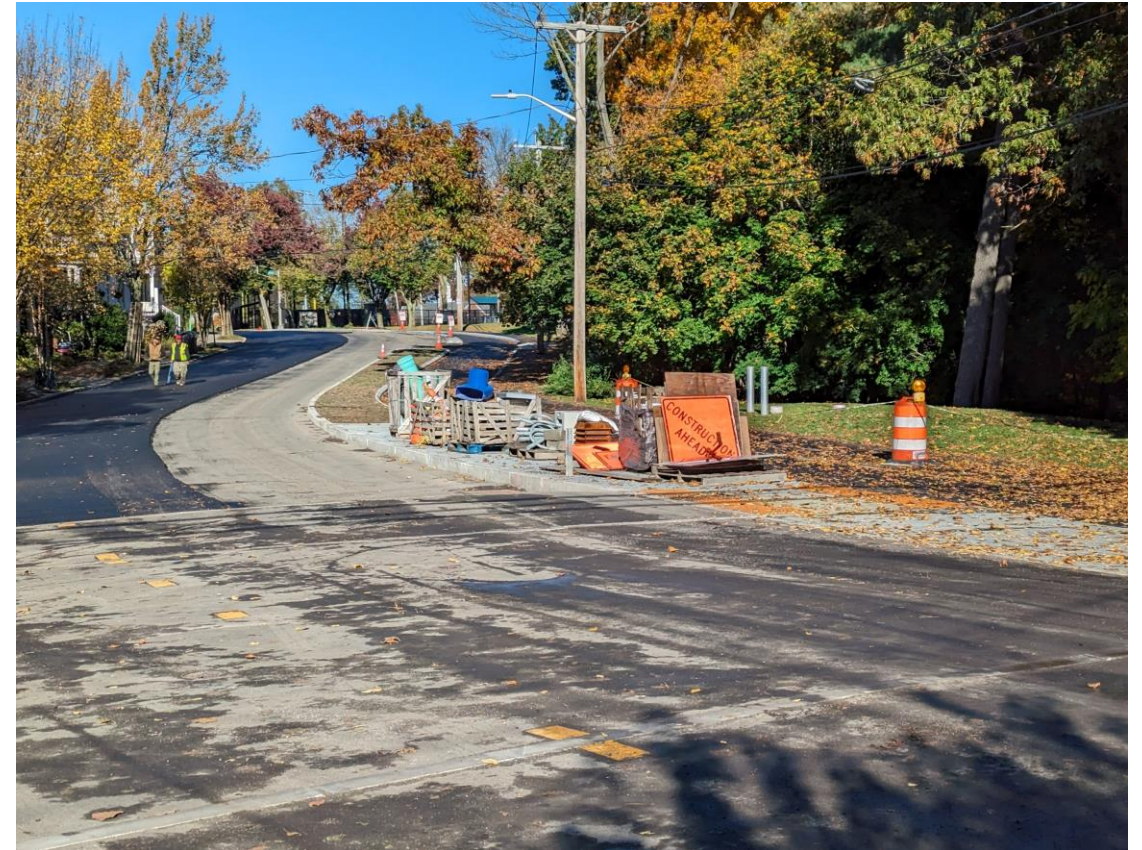
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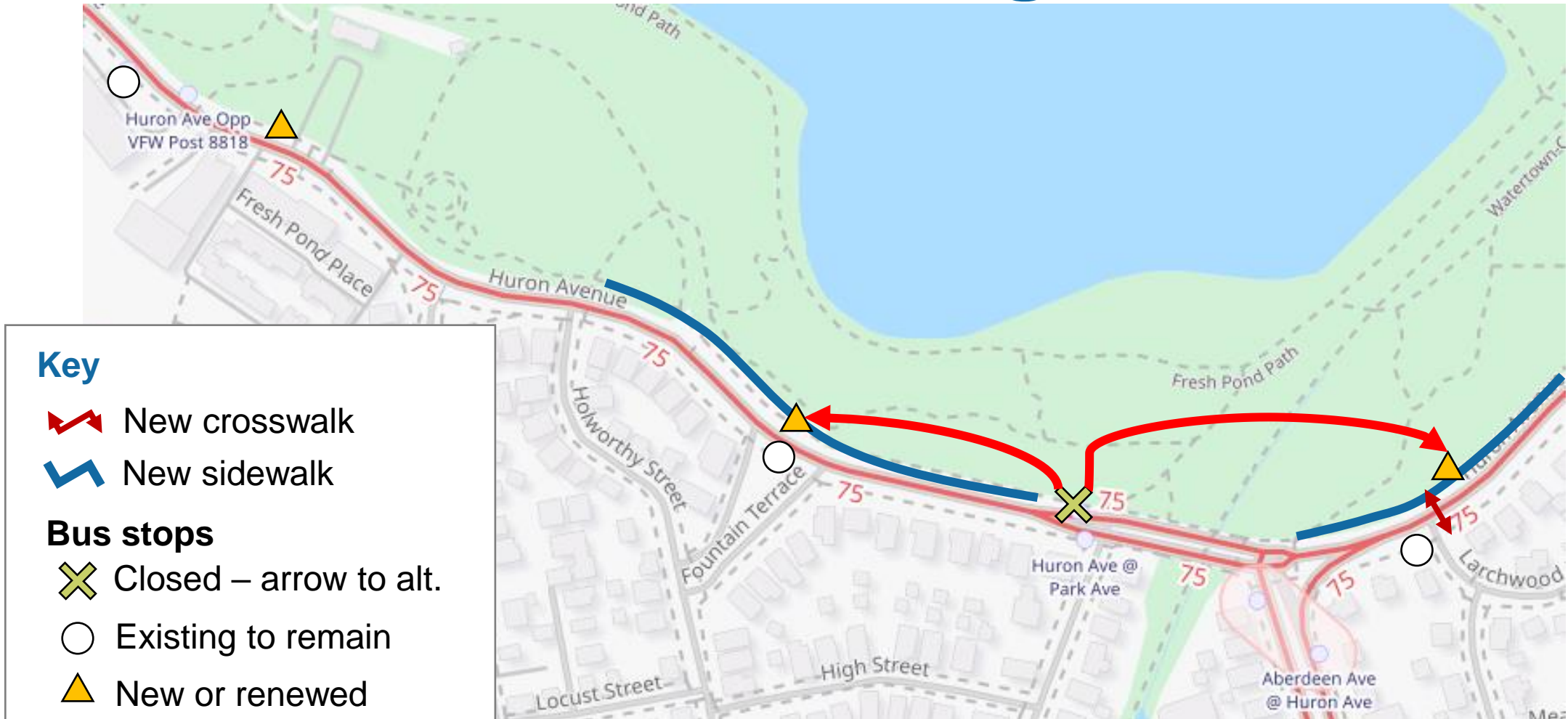
- Golf Course
- Opposite Golf Course
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**New bus stop**

- Opposite Fountain Terrace



# Huron Avenue + Cushing Plaza





# Belmont Street Reconstruction

**Ongoing work** – full reconstruction of Belmont Street

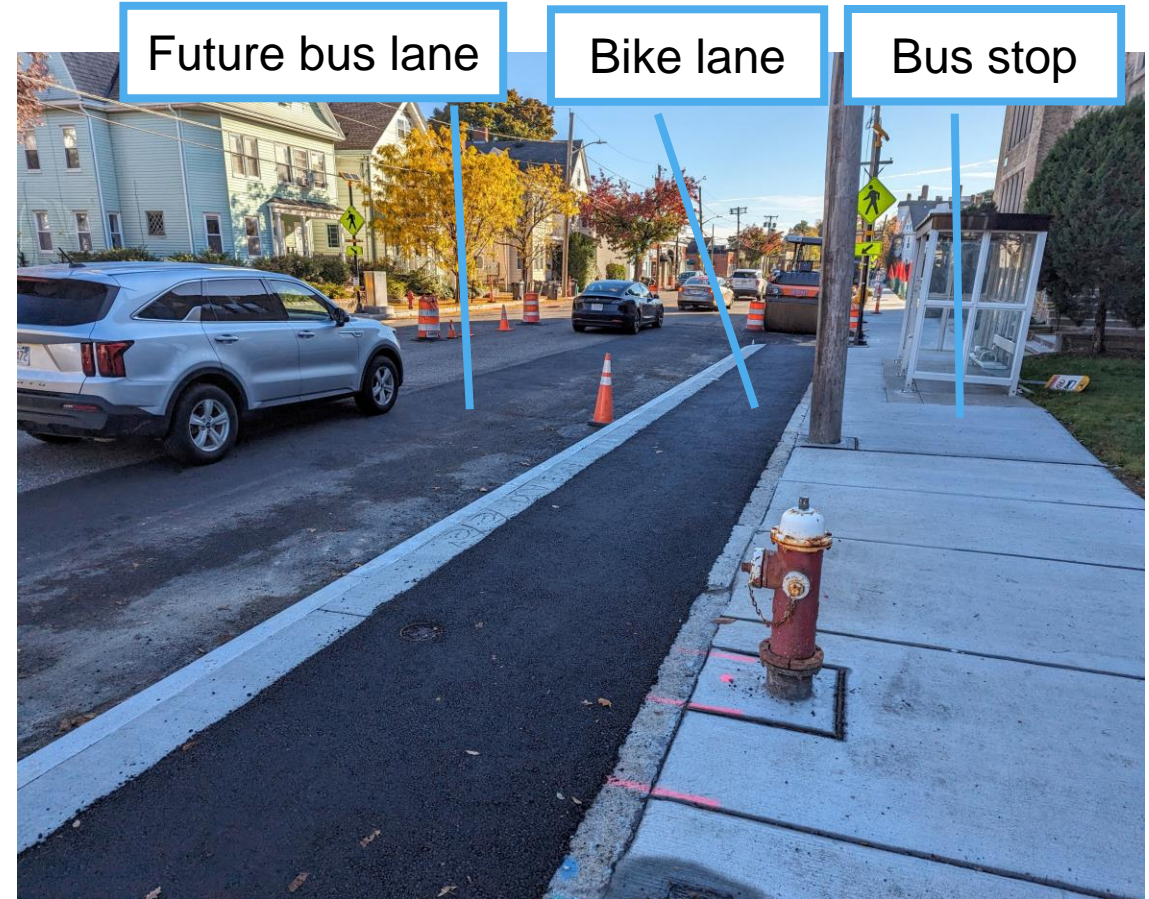
- Raised side street crossings underway
- Added buffered bike lanes – to separate cyclists from buses
- New bus stop design –
  - Shared cycle track and bus boarding curb



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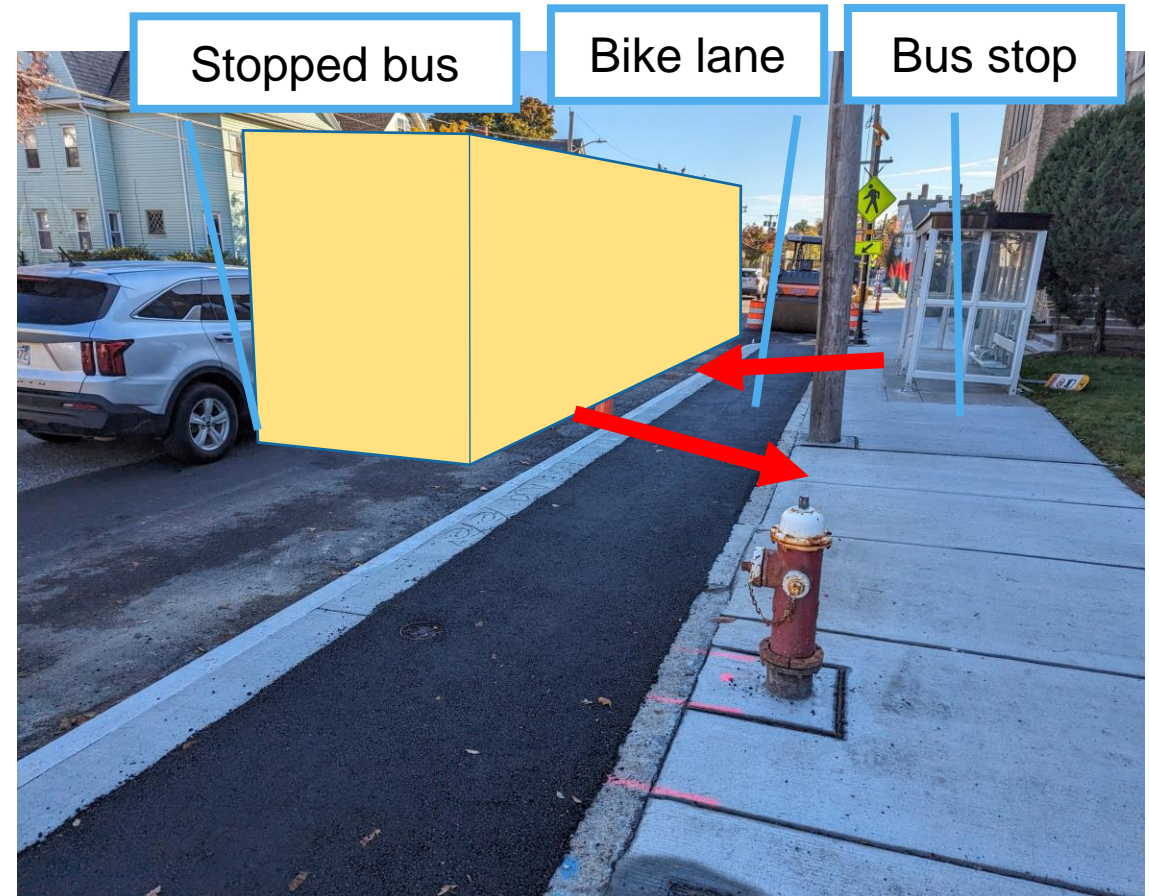




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# Real Time Transit Screens

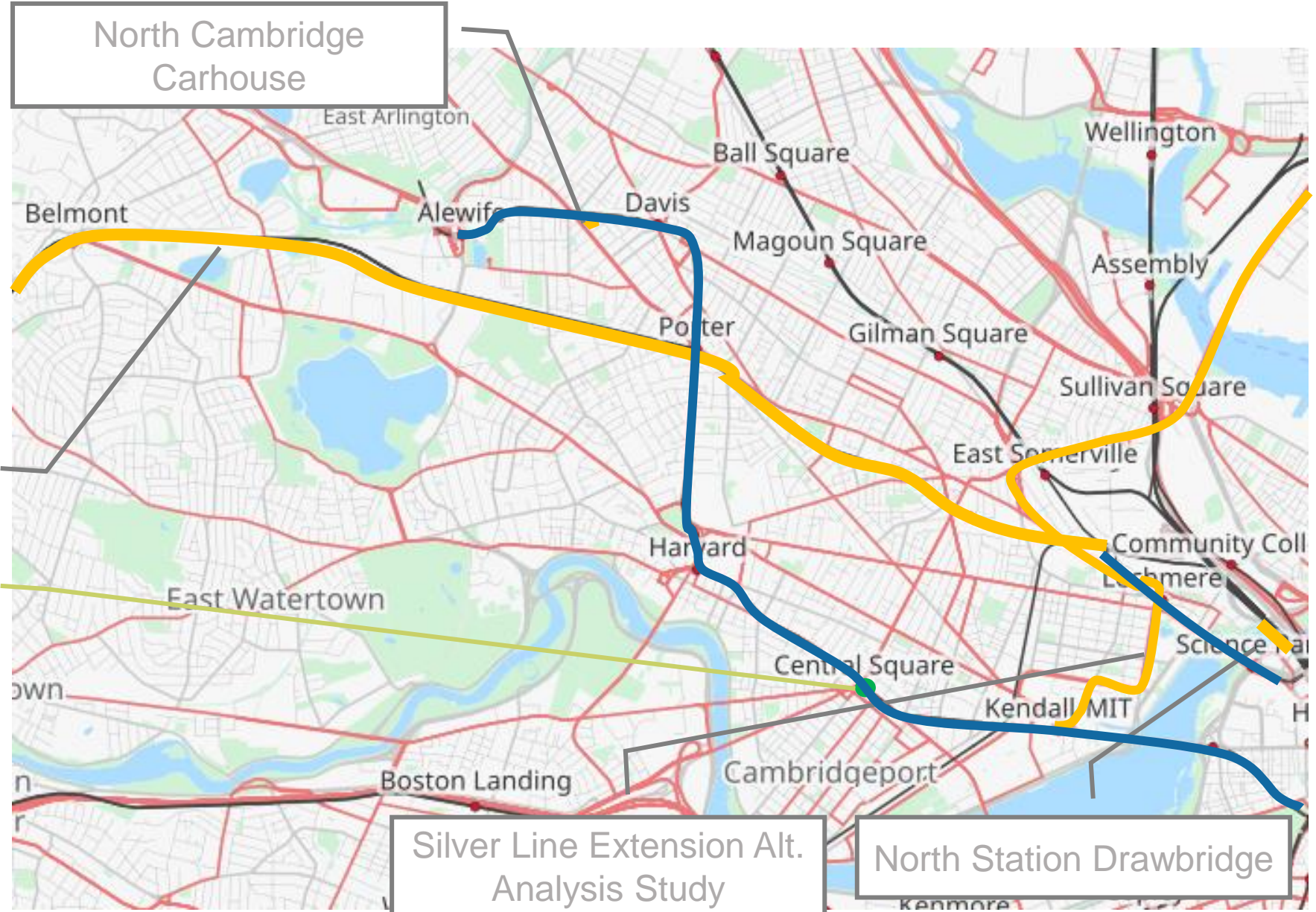
- City staff requested proposals for up to 10 locations
  - Existing city owned bus shelters with no advertising panels
- City staff are reviewing proposals in order to sign an agreement with winning bidder
- Funded by Participatory Budgeting grant and bus stop improvement capital funds

## Target locations

Focused on neighborhood centers: Inman Square, Porter Square, Riverside/Cambridgeport Neighborhoods



# Selected MBTA projects



Fitchburg Line CIP project

Central Square Accessibility Improvements.

2024 Track Improvement Program

Silver Line Extension Alt. Analysis Study

North Station Drawbridge



# 2024 Track Improvement Program

- MBTA will rebuild subway tracks to:
  - Increase train speed
  - Reduce delay & disruptions
  - Improve safety
  - Delivery timely, reliable, consistent trips
- November & December – expect to complete this work:
  - Remove 39 speed restrictions
  - Reduce 20 minutes delays
  - Replace 15,000+ feet of rail; 13,000+ feet of tamping; 3,800 rail ties

**Rapid Transit  
Track Program  
Website**

**MBTA.com/  
TrackProgram**

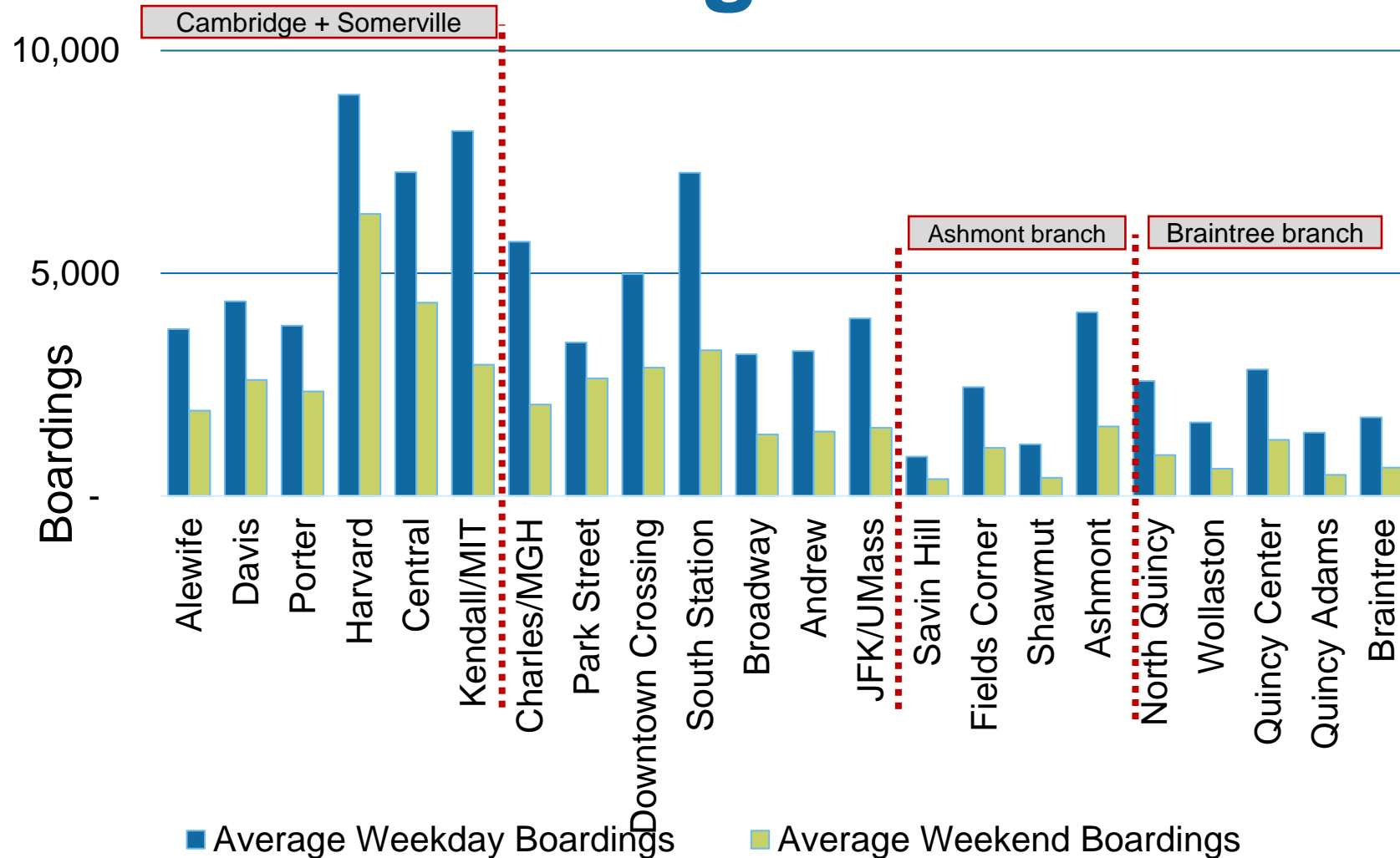
# Will result in bus diversions in Cambridge

- Buses or alternate subway routes to replace regular service for closures of 4 to 21 days
  - 7 times on Red Line
  - 7 times on Green Line
  - 5 times on Orange Line and 3 times on Blue Line
- Additional “early access” closures begin at ~8 p.m. where buses replace subway service

**Rapid Transit  
Track Program  
Website**

**MBTA.com/  
TrackProgram**

# Boardings at Cambridge stations are some of the highest on the Red Line



Weekday boardings in Cambridge have “recovered” 35-49%

# Several closures within Cambridge

Red Line closures are planned in 2024 for:

- Alewife to Harvard – February 5 to 13
- Alewife to Kendall – July 8 to 23
- Kendall/MIT to Broadway – October 15 to 20
- Harvard to Park – December 14 to 19

Red Line closures outside of Cambridge are:

- Park to JFK/Umass – May 1 to 8
- JFK/Umass to Braintree – September 3 to 1

**Rapid Transit  
Track Program  
Website**

[MBTA.com/  
TrackProgram](https://www.mbta.com/TrackProgram)



# What else should we be thinking of?

City staff are working with the MBTA to plan for shuttle operations and evaluate mitigations

- **On-street mitigations** – dedicated shuttle stops, supportive temporary infrastructure, advanced minor repairs (potholes, cracked sidewalks)
- **Off-street mitigations** – free or reduced fares for alternate service on Commuter Rail
- **Communications** to constituents

**Do you have other ideas and suggestions?**



Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

**Stay healthy, keep safe, and warm**

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**Thank You**