



City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

September 2023





Welcome

Purpose

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

Outcomes

TAC members know the progress on different projects in Cambridge

Process

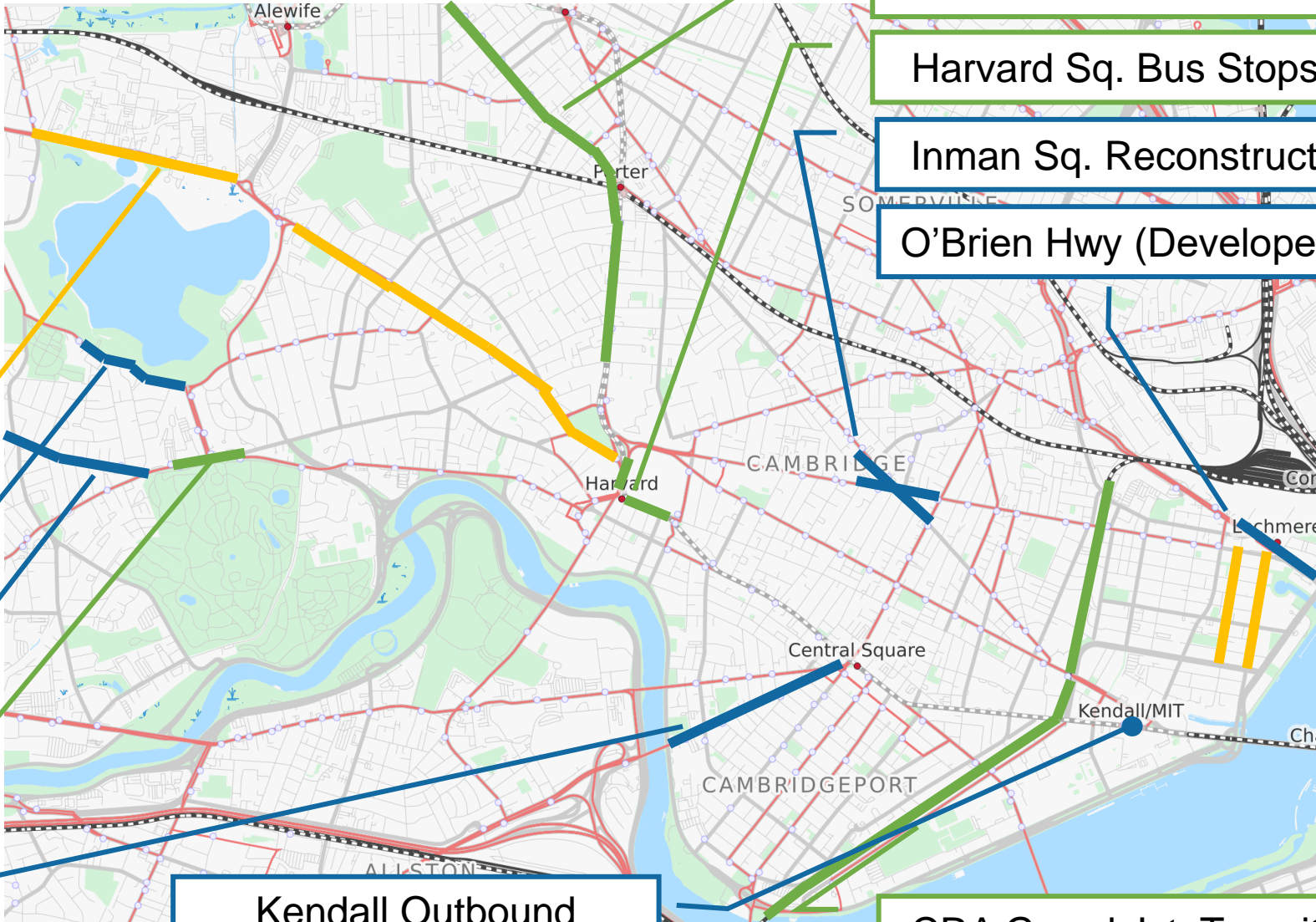
TAC to 'raise hand' during presentations and discussions
Public to type in questions in zoom Q&A or speak verbal comments during public comment period



City and MBTA Project Updates

Selected street projects

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



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

Kendall Outbound Headhouse (Developer)

CRA Grand Jct. Transit.

Inman Square Reconstruction

Substantially complete – i.e. some remaining final items, but, the vast majority of work is done.

- Part-time queue jump lane
- Dedicated transit signal

Evaluation

Will evaluate queue-jump lane efficiency after completion – 6 to 12 months.



O'Brien Highway (Developer)

Approaching completion –
Vehicle circulation is complete.
Remaining items:

- Traffic islands
- Pollenator garden
- Cycling and pedestrian

Operations impacts

EZRide – Jim?

MBTA – consideration of
rerouting Route 69



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



Belmont Street Reconstruction

Ongoing work – full reconstruction of Belmont Street

- Utility work underway
- Added buffered bike lanes – to separate cyclists from buses
- Raised side street crossings
- New bus stop – shared cycle track and bus boarding



River Street Reconstruction

Ongoing work – full reconstruction of River Street from Memorial Drive to Mass Ave and bus terminal

- Utility work underway
- Detours and alternate bus stops are beginning
- Other utility and subsurface work to begin soon



Kendall Headhouse (Alewife)

Developer funded

New headhouse, refurbish elevator,

Extend Kendall garden and “porch” to space above headhouse

Renewed underground circulation areas

Preparatory work has begun



Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

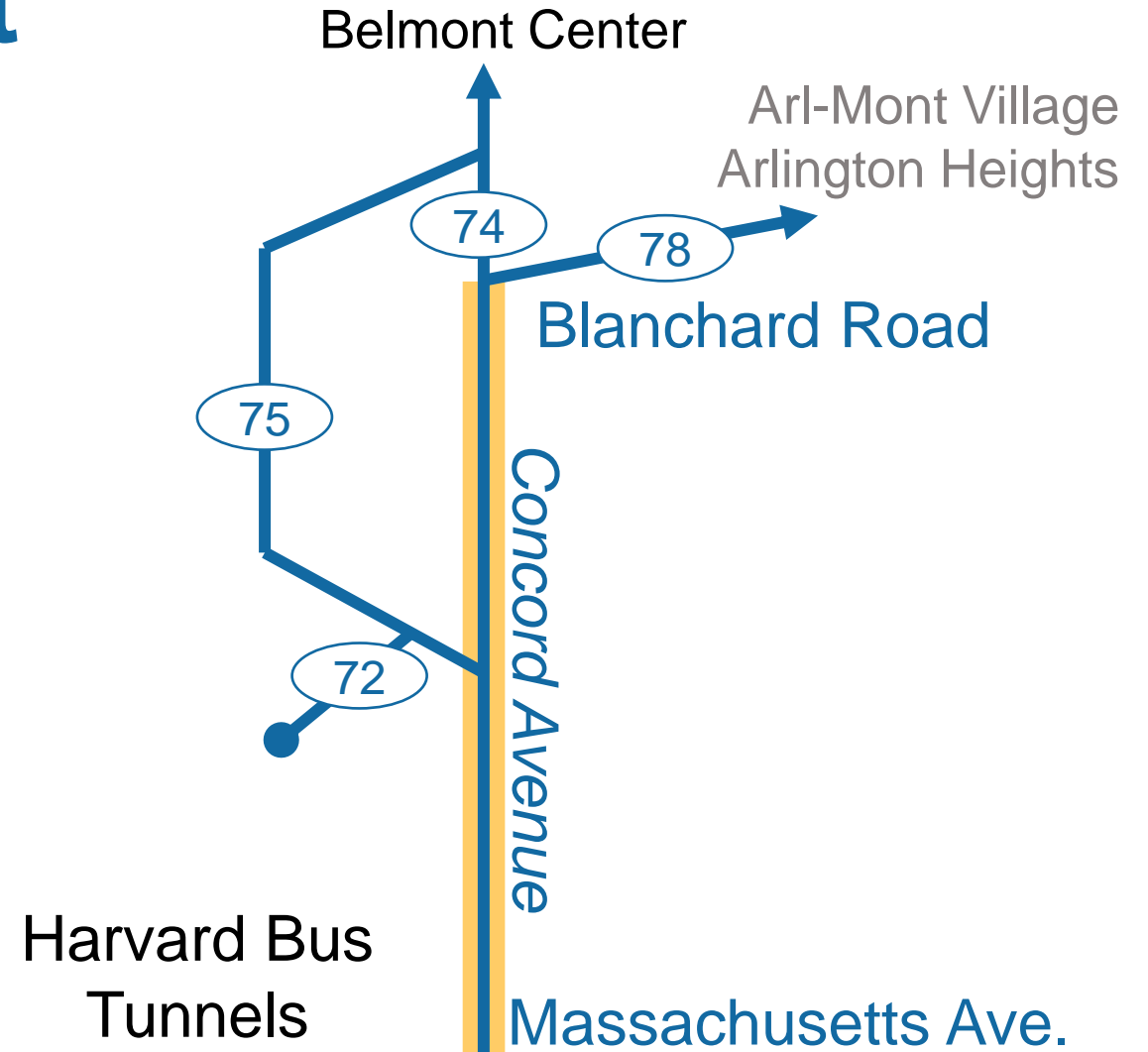
Grant funded with MBTA as implementing agency

Procurement completed

Review of proposals completed

MBTA to award contract

Upgrade signals at about 12 locations for signal priority



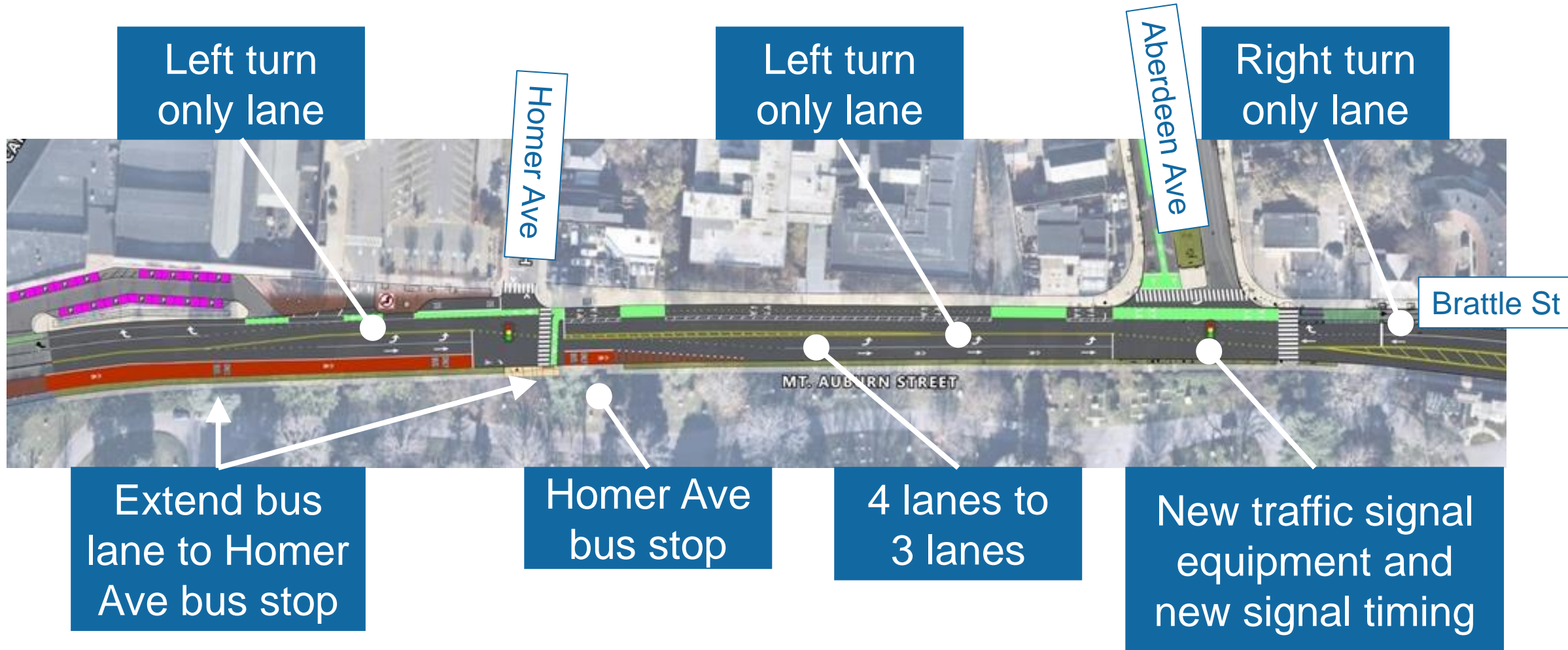
Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

Installing new signal equipment and making modifications to Mount Auburn Street

Changing traffic patterns on Mount Auburn St. and installing new traffic signal equipment



Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue





Mount Auburn at Aberdeen Avenue

Design changes

Bus lane extension remains

Bike lane changed from one-way on each side to two-way on north side

Open House Event

Tuesday, Sept. 12
5 to 7 p.m.

Sidewalk at 699 Mt
Auburn (Star
Market)



Mass Ave Partial Construction

Timeline

- Working group appointed and held first meeting - May
- Developing designs – ongoing
 - Sewer, storm water, drainage, bus and bike
 - Develop a phasing schedule

Working Group

Makayla Comas from TAC is on working group

Next meeting TBA



Mass Ave Partial Construction

- TAC may want to observe how the street works – signal operations, curb use, bus stops, boarding/alighting, sidewalks, stop amenities
- City Project Subcommittee – Observations of bus stop blockages



Mass Ave Improvements – Harvard Square

Project timeline

- Held meetings in September to October 2022 on conceptual designs
- Developing designs – ongoing
- Hold future meetings – Expected in Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Design concepts

- Bus boarding islands with separated bike lanes
- Bus lanes approaching bus stops
- Bus operations analysis
- Review of paths of travel from bus stops to stations



CRA Grand Junction Transit

- CRA and City are studying transit concepts
 - Presented “universe of alternatives” last meeting
 - Received feedback on this “universe” and our expected approach for further study
- Presentation in October (next month)
 - Potentially discuss evaluation, summary of results, and report



Real Time Transit Screens

- City staff are reviewing proposals
- Funded by Participatory Budgeting grant and bus stop improvement capital funds

Selected MBTA projects



North Cambridge Carhouse

Squires Bridge Transit Diversion Impact

Fitchburg Line CIP project

Central Square Accessibility Improvements.

Silver Line Extension Alt. Analysis Study

North Station Drawbridge

Squires Bridge Transit Diversion

Because of a MassDOT Highway and Bridge project, the Green Line to Union Square will terminate at Lechmere

Neither the MBTA or MassDOT will provide additional shuttles. They have asked riders to use alternate routes:

- Green Line to East Somerville – connect with 86/91/CT2 buses
- Green Line to Lechmere – connect with 87 bus to Union Square
- Green Line to Lechmere – connect with 69 bus to Inman Square

MassDOT Open House

Sept 12 6:30 p.m.

Somerville
Central Library,
79 Highland
Ave, Somerville



Alternatives Analysis Study

Purpose

Assess the feasibility, utility, and cost of different options to provide high quality transit from Chelsea through Everett to Somerville, Cambridge, and/or Boston

Outcome

A preferred alternative for Silver Line extension(s)

Process

Collect ideas, conduct an initial screen, create alternatives, evaluate using goals and objectives



Two groups of alternatives

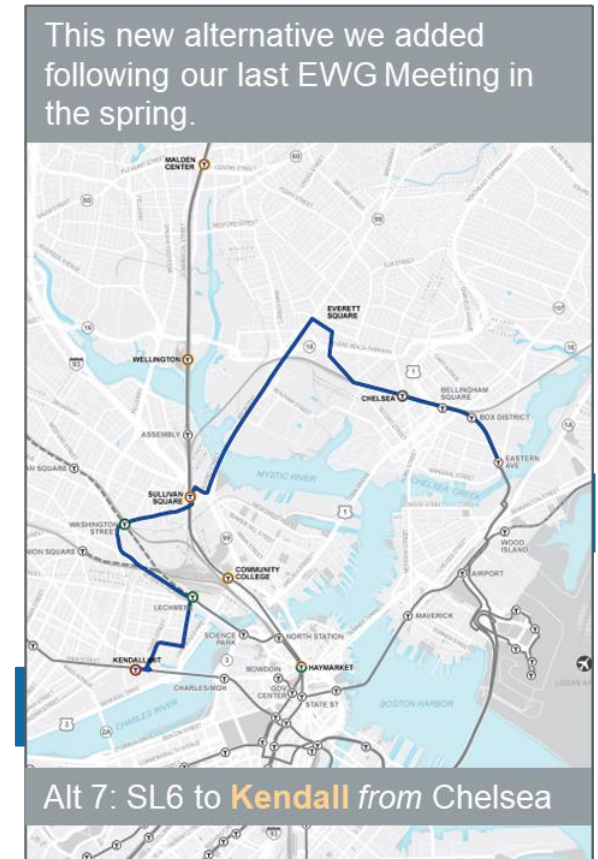
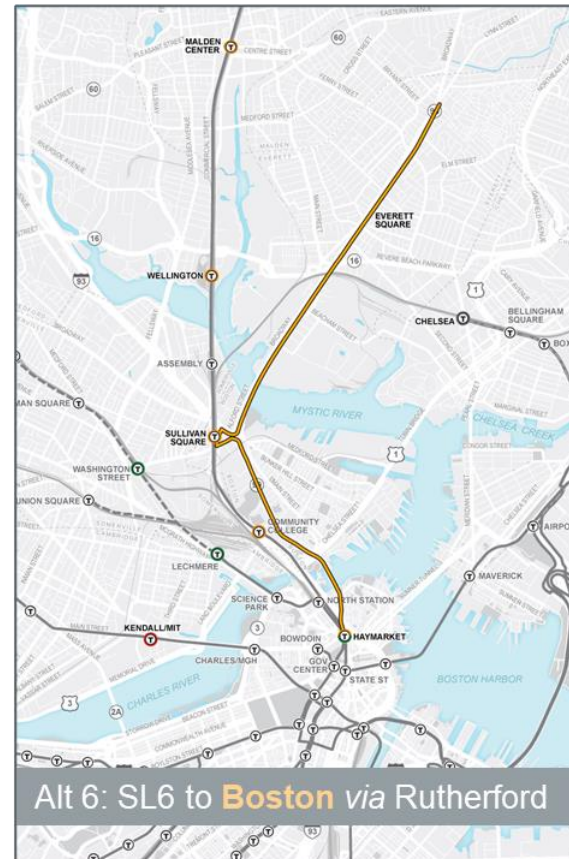
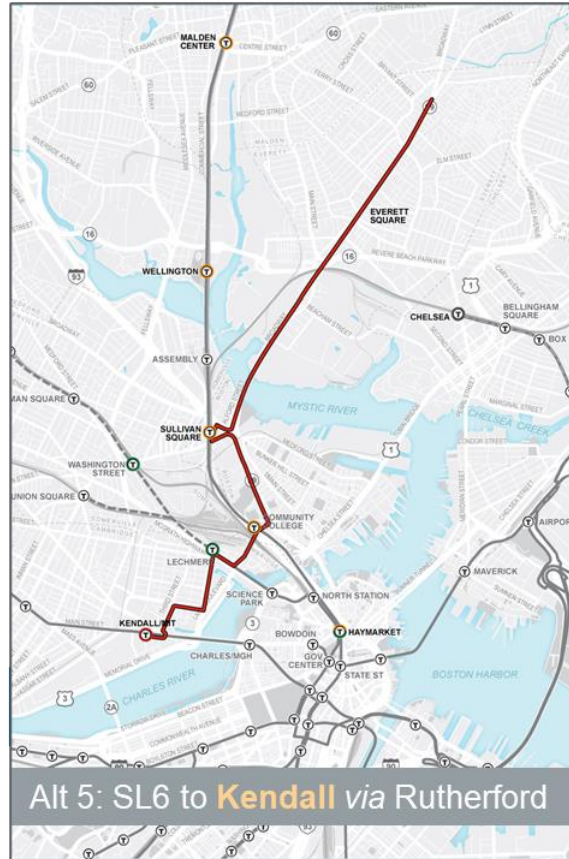
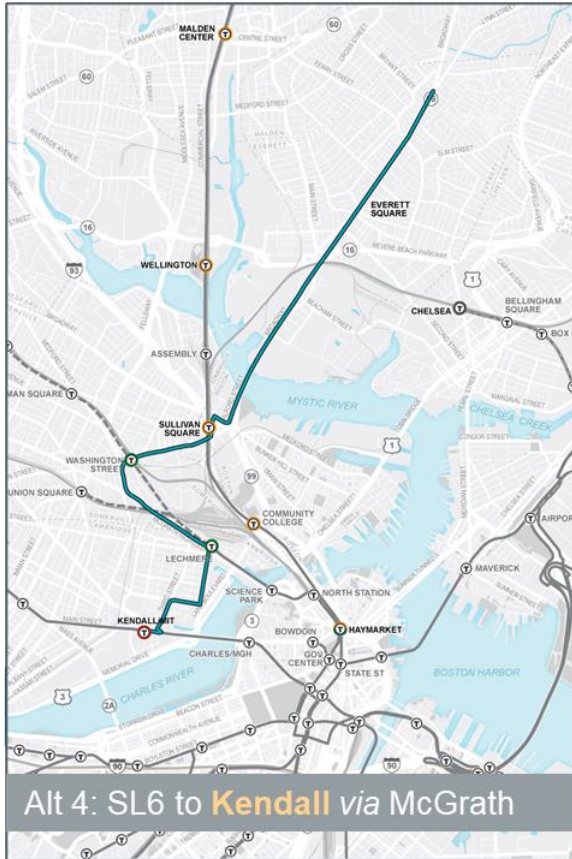
Extensions of current SL3 (South Station to Chelsea)

- South Station to Malden Center
- South Station to Wellington
- South Station to Sullivan Square

New route “SL6”

- Everett-Malden line to **Kendall** via **McGrath**
- Everett-Malden line to **Kendall** via **Rutherford**
- Everett-Malden line to **Haymarket** via Rutherford
- **Chelsea** Eastern Ave to **Kendall** via **McGrath**

SL6 New Service Alternatives



NOTE: SL6 Alternatives 4, 5, and 6 also assume an extension of SL3 to Everett Square. Alternative 7 includes this as part of its primary alignment, though it begins at Eastern Avenue in Chelsea to avoid the requirement for any Chelsea-originating trips to transfer at Chelsea station.

Central Square Accessibility Improvements

Purpose

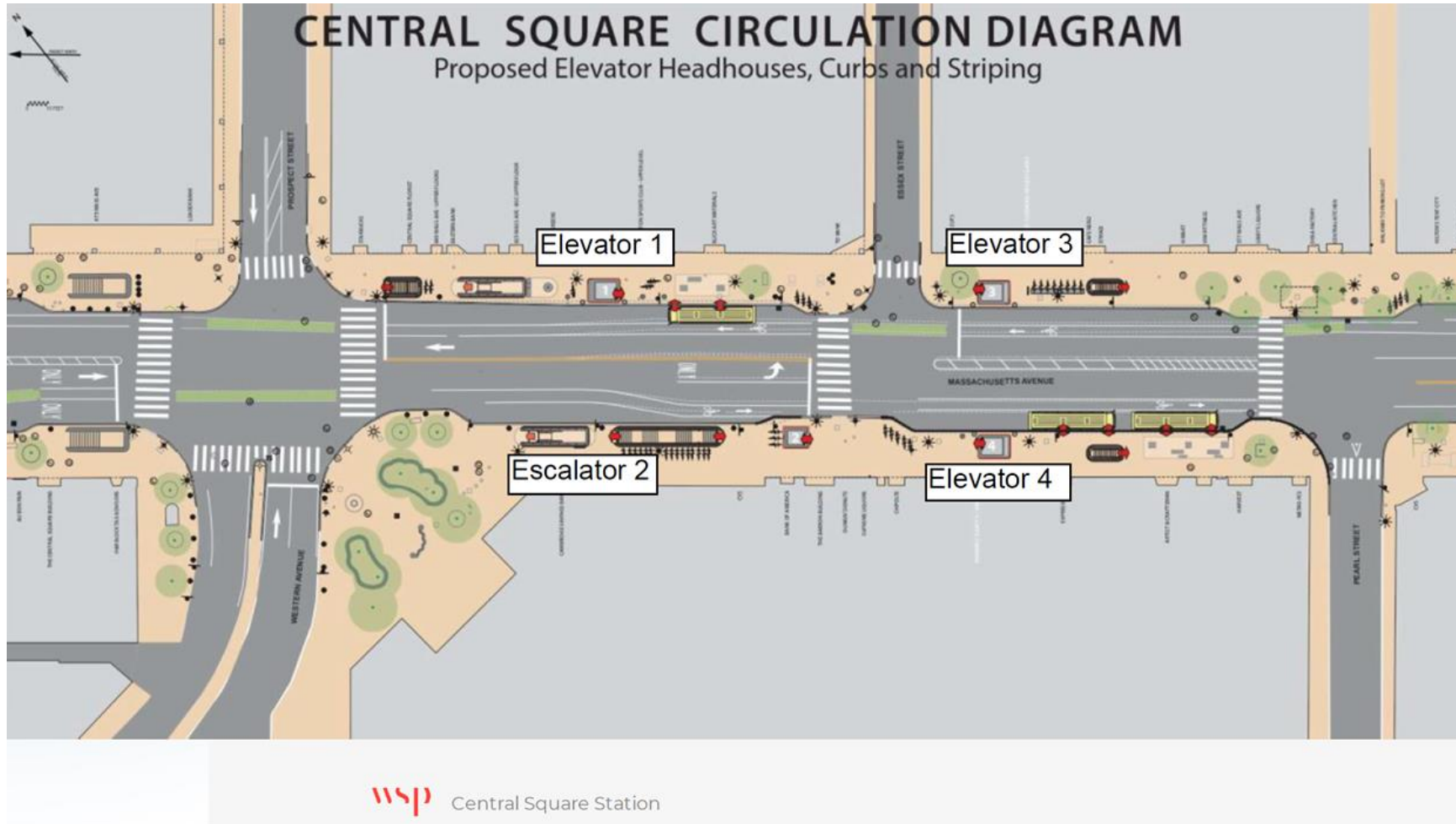
Upgrades to meet current accessibility requirements

Outcomes

- 1 renewed and 2 new elevators
- Build accessible 'area of refuge' on each platform
- Upgrade public restroom, escalator, interior lighting
- Clean, paint station
- Upgrade power, communications, wayfinding, and fare collection



Central Square Accessibility Improvements



North Station Drawbridge

Purpose

Replace and expand North Station Draw One Bridge – expand from 4 to 6 tracks

Outcomes

- Replace and modernize bridge
- Replace control tower
- Extend bridge platform
- Connect to unused Tracks 11 and 12 at North Station
- Upgrade track, signal, communications and infrastructure





North Cambridge Carhouse

MBTA is working on design in 2023

MBTA's plan is to:

- Begin construction in 2024
- End construction in 2025

TAC Question

Request a presentation from project manager

Upcoming subway diversions

Because of MBTA maintenance work and developer construction, the MBTA will have subway-replacement shuttles on:

- Red Line
 - North Quincy to Braintree
 - Quincy Center to Braintree
 - Broadway to Ashmont and Broadway to North Quincy
- Green Line
 - Union Sq to Lechmere
 - North Station to Government Center
- Orange Line – Skipping Haymarket
- Haverhill, Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush, Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail lines

Rail-replacement shuttles

Impacts on weekday evenings, weekends, and some short-term closures



Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday, October 5, 2023
 - Thursday, November 2, 2023
- Committee meetings
 - None scheduled
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
 - Wednesday, September 20, 2023
 - Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and warm tonight.

Thank You