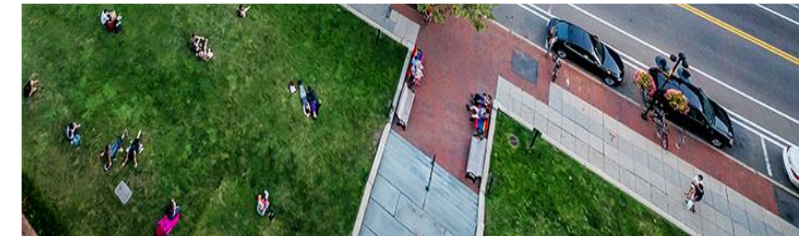

City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

November 2023





Welcome

Purpose

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

Outcomes

TAC members know the MBTA Central Square Accessibility Improvements project and the CRA Grand Junction Transit study updates

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 and City Updates

Andy Reker, City of Cambridge



Updates: Transit Advisory Committee



Upcoming Meetings

- Next Transit Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday, December 7, 2023
- Committee meetings
 - None scheduled
- Scheduled joint meetings of Transit Advisory, Bicycle, Pedestrian Committees
 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – Mass Ave Partial Construction

Working on the following topics

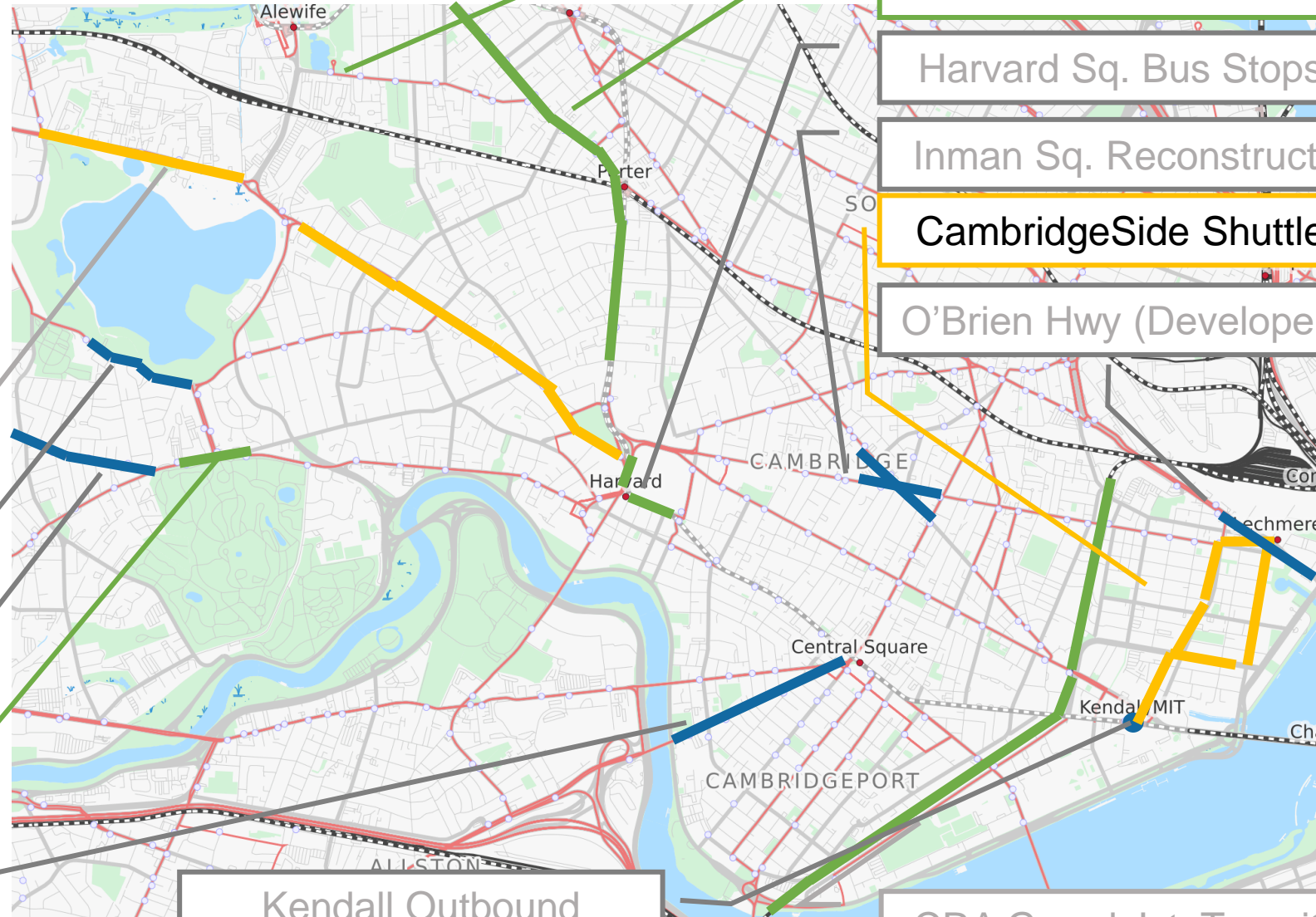
Based on feedback from the September meeting, City staff are requesting presentations on:

- Kendall-MIT Station Alewife Headhouse Design
- Updates from MBTA Bus Electrification / North Cambridge Carhouse



Selected City projects

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



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

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
 - TAC members to ask questions during joint meeting on November 15
- Developing designs – ongoing
 - Porter Square
 - Northern Section

Working Group

Met on Oct 12

Joint Meeting

Tentative Nov 15



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)

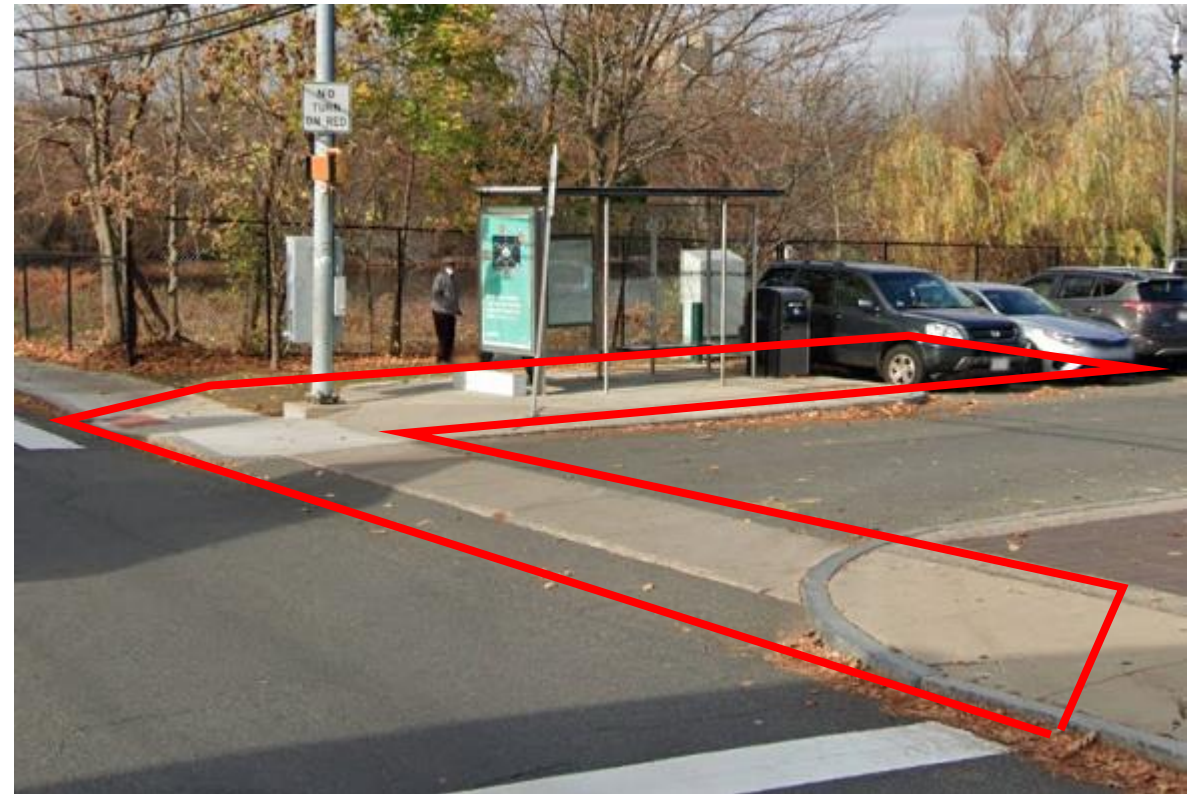
Rindge Ave at Russell/Comeau Fields

Developer funded construction work

Rebuild of sidewalk in order to minimize slope of entrance

Responding to concerns with bus travel through this area

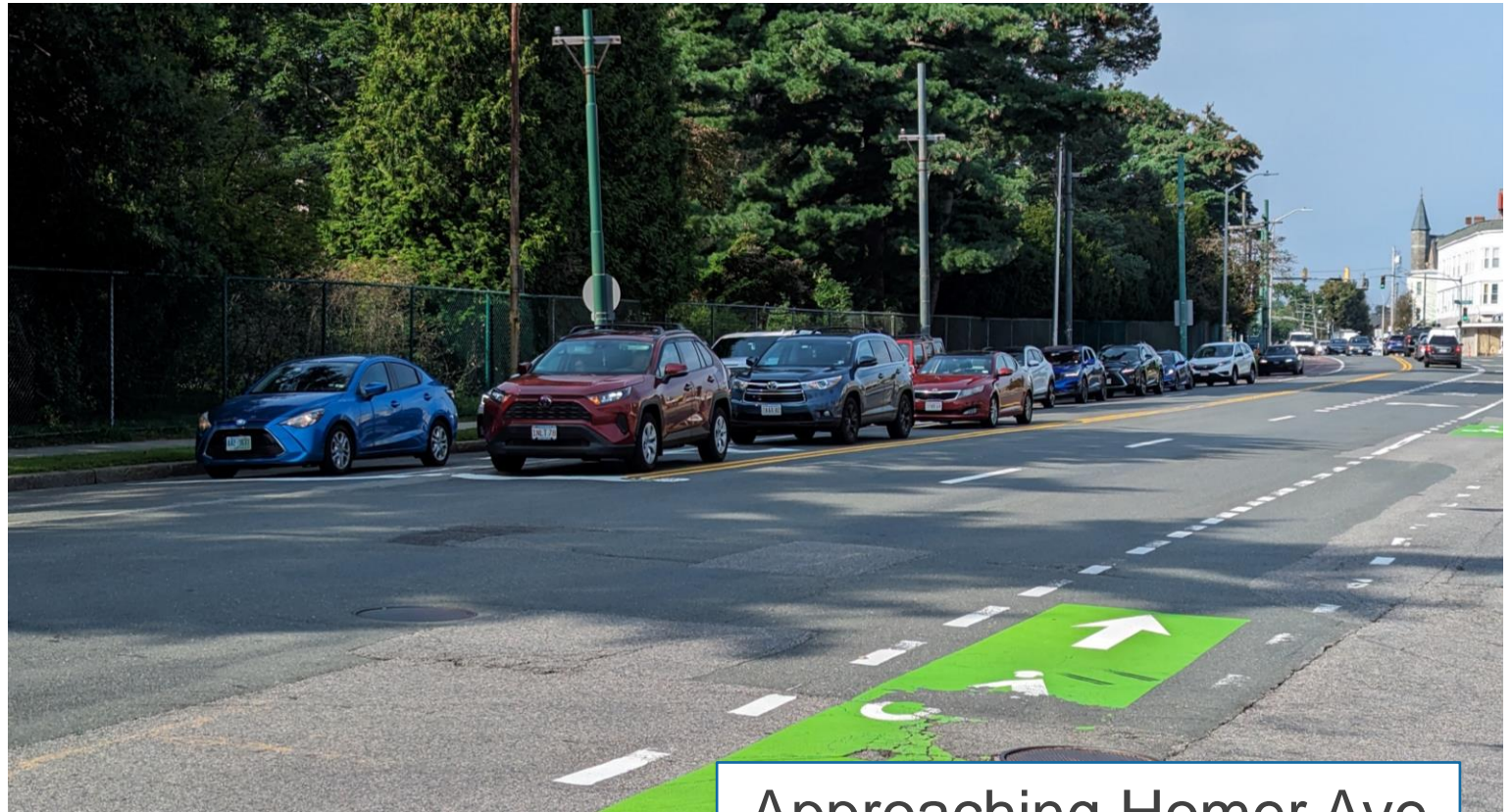
Expanding the bus stop at



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

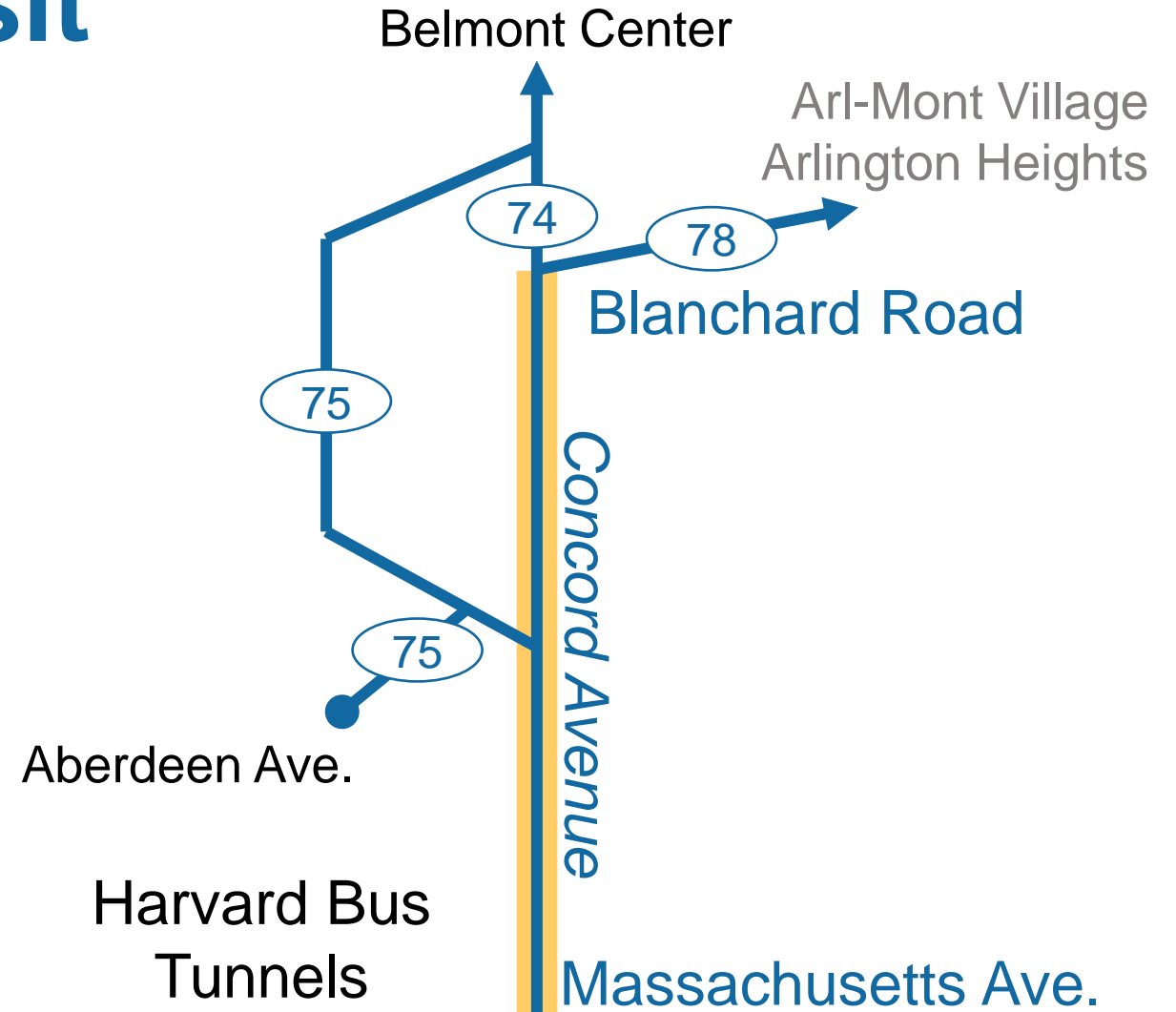
Concord Ave Transit Signal Priority

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



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

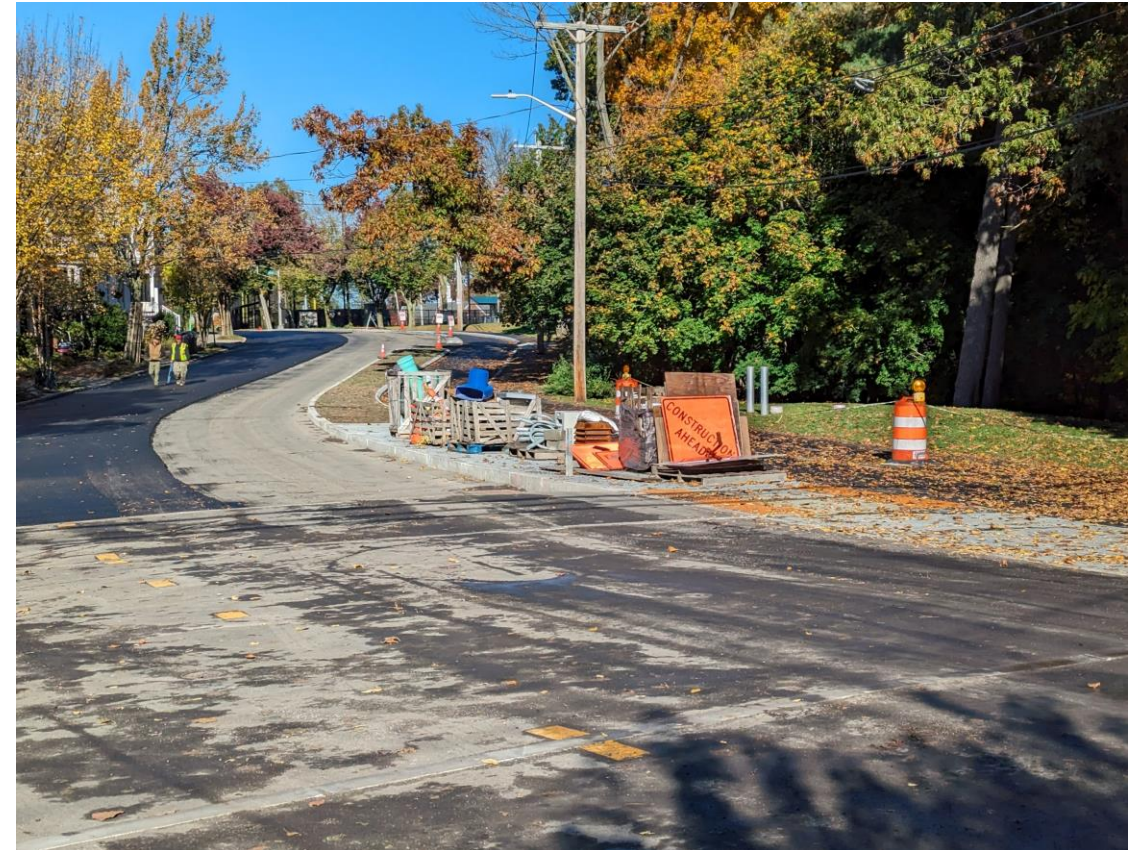
Ongoing work – two-way separated bike lane, rebuilt and new bus stops

Rebuilt bus stop locations:

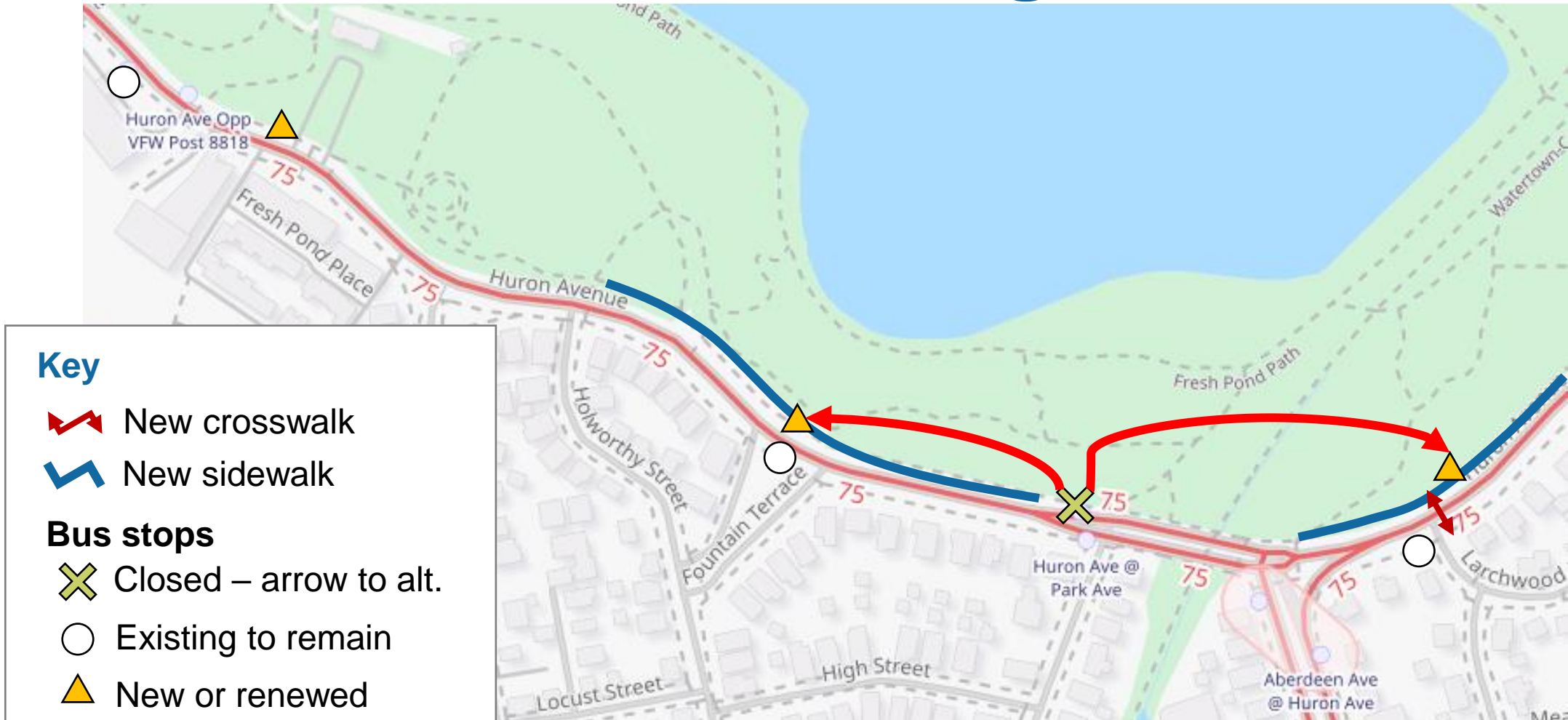
- Golf Course
- Opposite Golf Course
- Fountain Terrace

New bus stop

- Opposite Fountain Terrace



Huron Avenue + Cushing Plaza



Belmont Street Reconstruction

Ongoing work – full reconstruction of Belmont Street

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





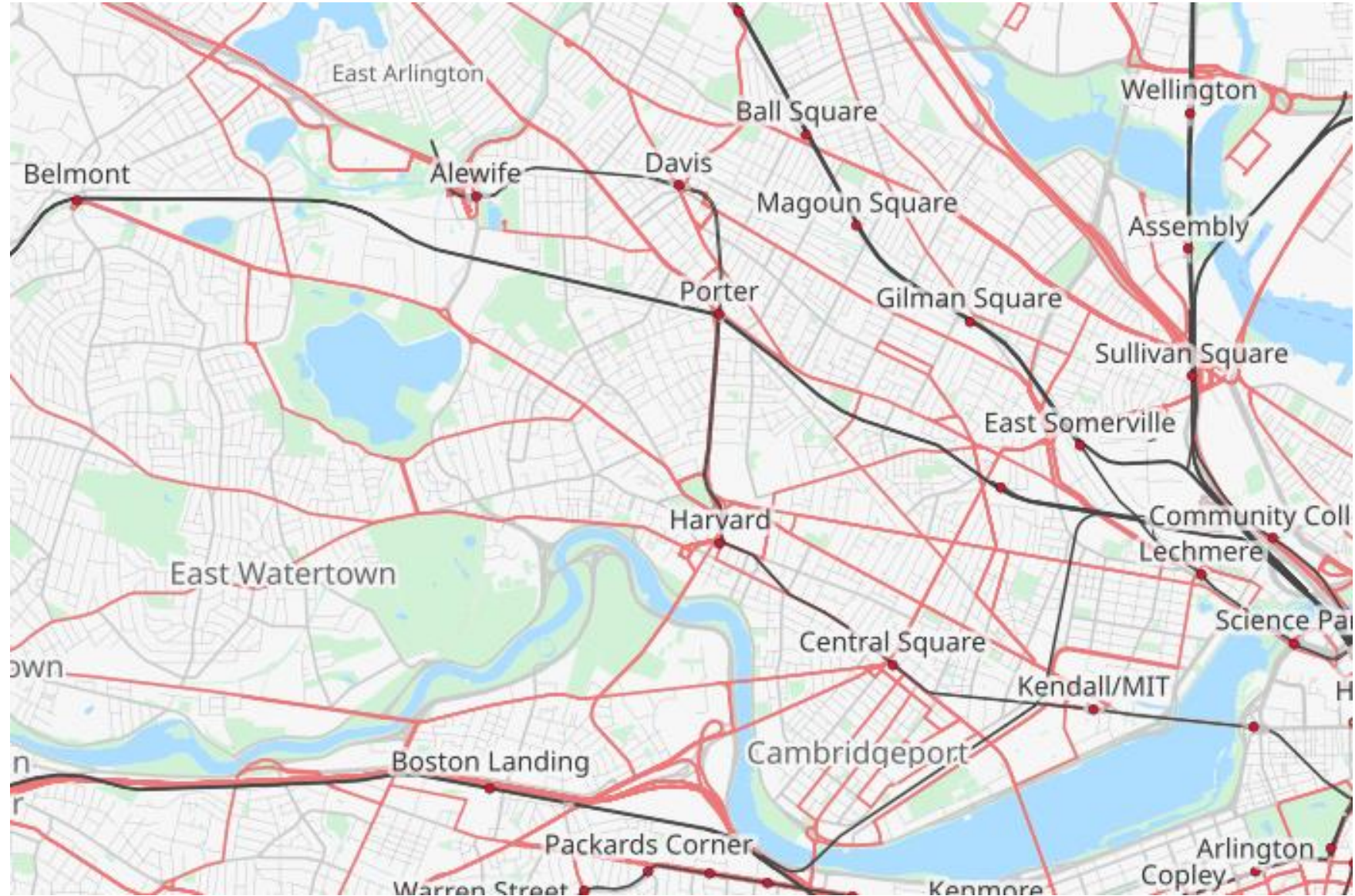
Real Time Transit Screens

- 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





MBTA published two documents

Bus Network Vision

- A network map showing MBTA's top priority locations for dedicated bus lanes and signal priority for buses
- A document showing detailed information for different corridors (i.e. specific streets along a bus line)

Bus Priority Toolkit

- A guidebook that includes learnings from local project, benefits of bus priority, and general guidelines

Visit webpage

[MBTA.com/projects/Bus-Transit-Priority](https://www.mbta.com/projects/Bus-Transit-Priority)



Upcoming subway diversions

Because of MBTA maintenance work and developer construction, the MBTA will have alternate service on:

- Red Line - Bus Shuttles
 - Alewife to Kendall/MIT – weekend of Nov 4 and 5
 - JFK/Umass to Park St – after 8:45 p.m. on 11/14-16 and weekend of 11/18-19
- Orange Line – Bus shuttles
 - Oak Grove to North Station – after 8:45 p.m. on 11/7-10 and weekend of 11/11-12
- Haverhill Commuter Rail line – Bus shuttles
 - Until 11/5 – all-day

**Improvements
from previous
closures**

JFK/UMass to
Mattapan

North Quincy to
JFK/UMass

Reduced slow
zones



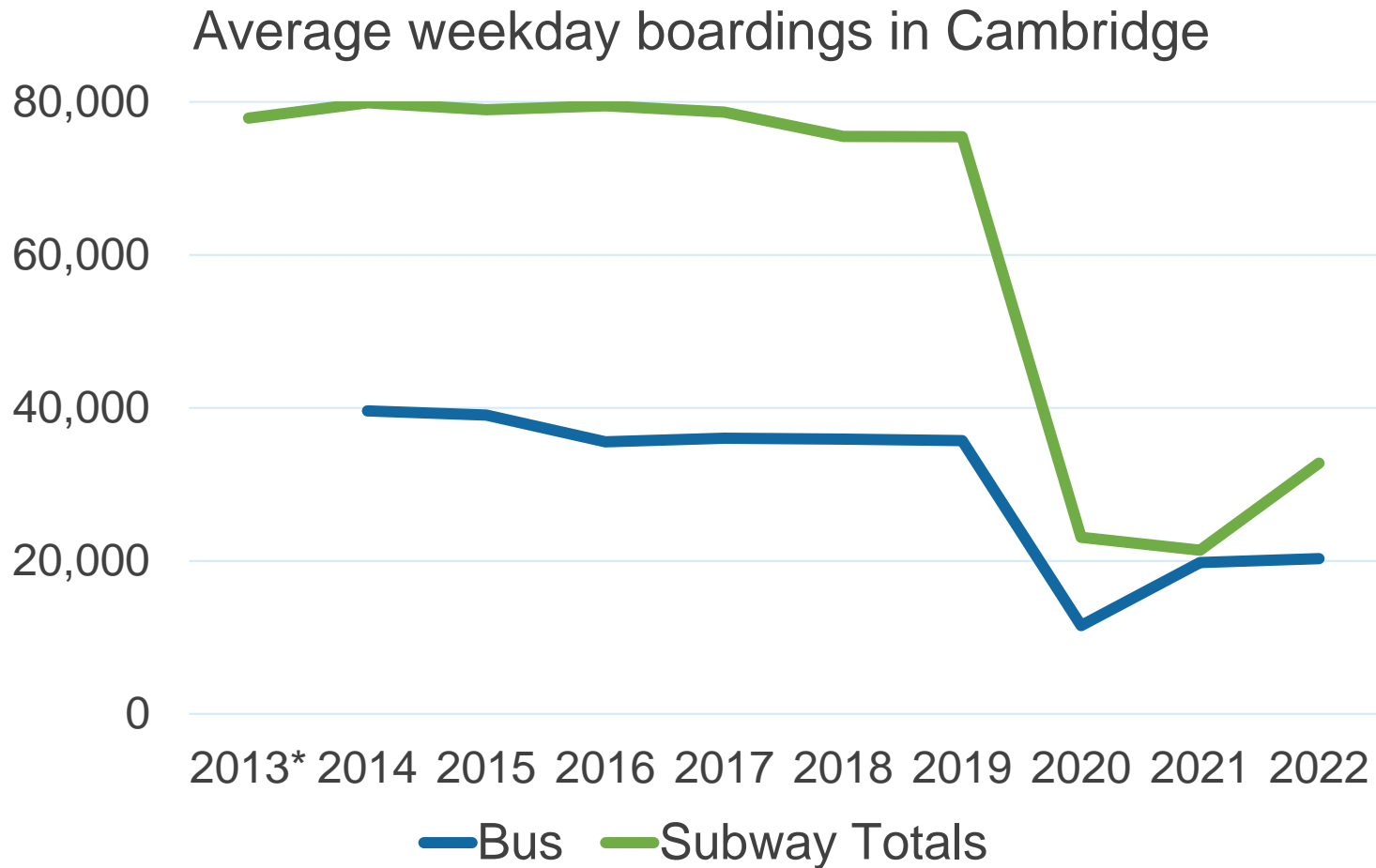
State of transit in Cambridge

Information on

- Ridership historically (10 years)
- Red Line travel times from Transit Matters
- Service offered on buses

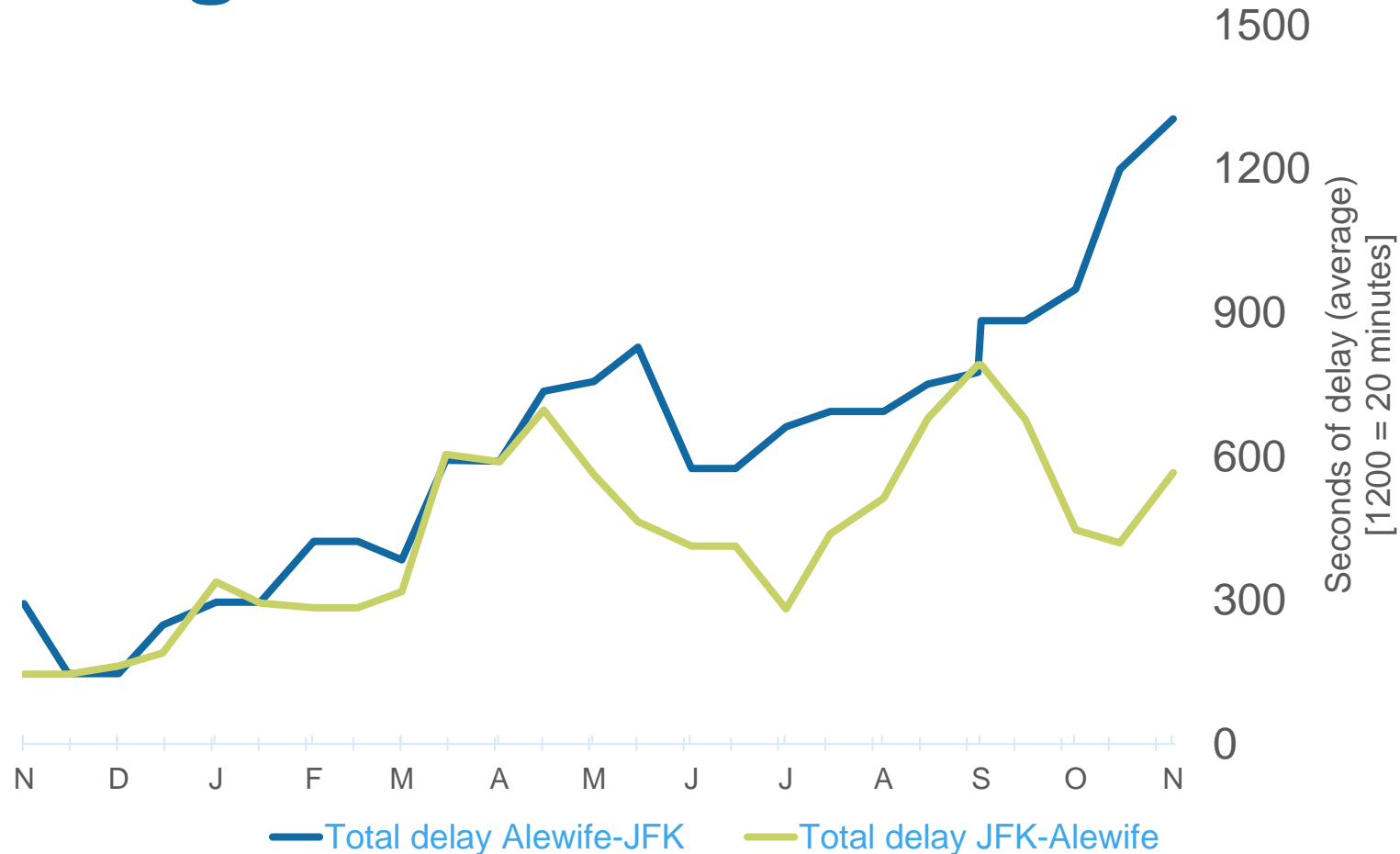
**Other
questions you
may have?**

Historical ridership patterns



In 2022, weekday boardings “recovered” by 56% at bus stops and 43% at subway stations

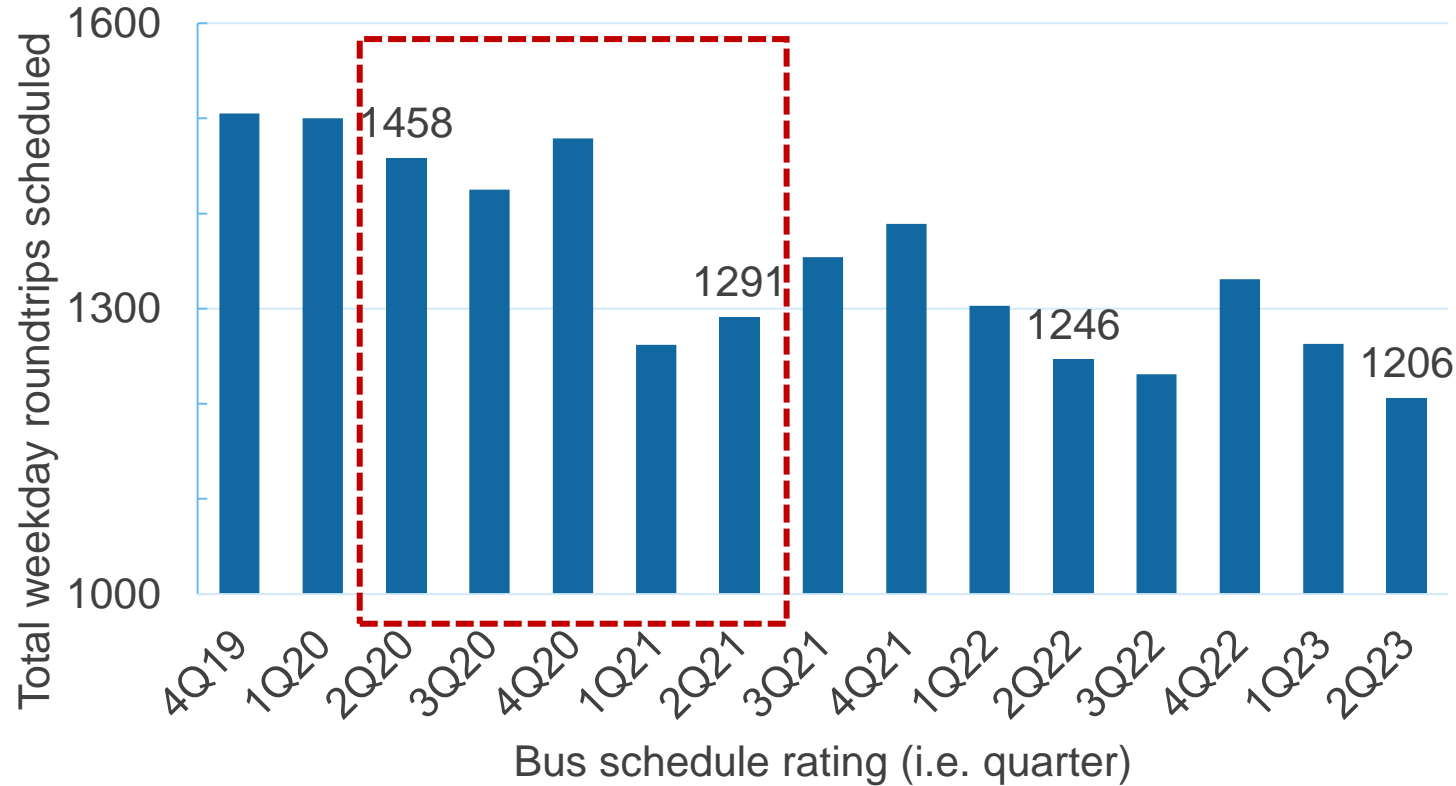
“Core” Red Line travel times are at the longest since December 2022



A trip from Alewife to JFK/Umass is about 21 minutes extra time; the return is about 9 minutes extra

Scheduled bus trips

Total weekday bus roundtrips in Cambridge have significantly decreased



Total scheduled roundtrips in Cambridge have decreased by ~250 on a weekday



Will be looking at additional analyses

Bus ridership by route compared with service offered

Dropped trips by route

Ridership and service operated on Red Line and Green Line

**Other
questions you
may have?**

Thank you for participating in this Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and cool tonight.

Thank You