

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

A Guide to Transit Strategies: Reviewing the Short-Term Strategies and Initial, Draft Evaluation

The South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan is identifying specific recommendations to improve the operations and capacity of the transit network serving the South Boston Seaport District. The Plan is studying current transit connections and will recommend specific improvements in the short-term, as well as for the next 15 years and beyond. Rapid growth in the South Boston Seaport District has increased the number of residential, commercial, and institutional destinations in this area of Boston and additional growth is expected.

The Plan is developing an integrated inventory of pending development, infrastructure plans, and transportation projects and visions, including Go Boston 2030. The Plan is coordinating directly with relevant studies, including the Silver Line Capacity Study conducted by the MBTA and MassPort, MBTA's Better Bus Project, and other transit initiatives.

*The **South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan** is being undertaken by the City of Boston, led by the **Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)** with support from the **Boston Transportation Department (BTD)**. Partner agencies include the MBTA, MassDOT, MassPort, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) and Seaport TMA.*

The planners heard **You!** In public meetings, discussions and online comments, participants asked for better access to jobs and residences, both in the Seaport and to and from other Boston neighborhoods. New connections within the Seaport and to and from underserved neighborhoods are proposed in 22 short-term strategies. After you review these strategies, we want to hear what you think. Email us your comments and questions to SouthBostonSeaportTransit@Boston.gov

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

The Process

Past studies of the **South Boston Seaport** recommended goals and strategies on how to improve transit in these neighborhoods. The Plan aims to **prioritize** those strategies and kick-start **implementation change - now**.

How did this process begin?

First, the City looked at transit-related projects that are completed or in progress. These earlier processes and the feedback from the meeting helped inform the strategy list.

What are the conditions in the Seaport?

The team looked at existing transit conditions in the Seaport area and Downtown Boston, including Back Bay; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; car ownership; MBTA ridership; and population growth.

*Where do people travel to and from and how?
And where are residents traveling to?*

The Seaport hosts homes and workplaces yet it's missing essential connections for residents and commuters. Workers find it difficult to reach the working port, Marine Industrial Park and the Convention Center. You can see where people are traveling to and from in the maps in the October public meeting. And how people travel may change in the future.

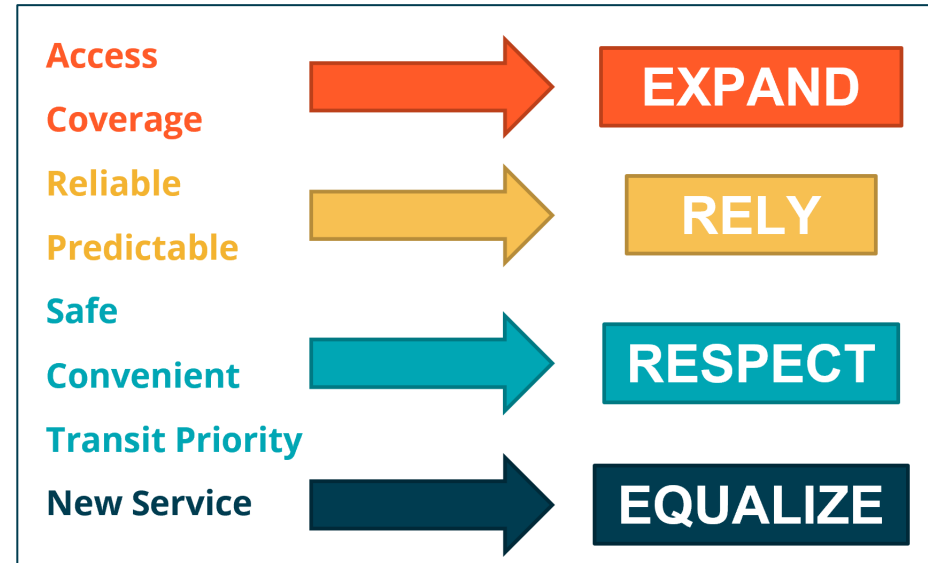
NO GONDOLA **MONORAIL** BUS PRIORITY ON NORTHERN AVENUE BRIDGE **LESS TRAFFIC**
MASTER PLAN **BETTER SHUTTLES - MORE SHUTTLES** MORE FLEXIBILITY
FOR MAJOR **DEDICATED, PROTECTED BUS LANES**
CORRIDORS **PROTECTED BIKE LANES** FREQUENT & RELIABLE
SUBWAY **BETTER ACCESS TO NORTH STATION** SERVICE ON MBTA RT. 7
SILVER LINE ACCESS TO POLICE RAMP FASTER
LESS MORE PARKING **TNC DROP-OFF LANES** **CARPOOL** SUNDAY TRANSIT SERVICE
TRAFFIC ACCESS TO CAMBRIDGE **BETTER ACCESS TO DOWNTOWN BOSTON**
USE PARKING REVENUE FOR TRANSIT MAKE SL3 FASTER THAN WALKING

Priorities of participants at the Plan's first public meeting

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

What You Said

At the December public meeting, the City shared your goals for transit collected at the June meeting and the strategies to be evaluated against these goals. You said the strategies should reflect the goals to **expand** transit, make transit **reliable**, **respect** transit and transit users, and **equalize** transit service within the South Boston Seaport.



Priorities of participants at the Plan's first public meeting led to the development of the 4 goals for the study.

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

Strategies for Improvement

With your help, over the last few months the South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan refined the strategies to improve the transit system serving neighborhoods and employment centers. The strategies that were developed to meet your standards include short-term fixes for current challenges as well as medium and long-term projects and initiatives. After three public meetings and seeking your input on-line, the next step was to model the strategies and evaluate them according to specific metrics.

Each strategy was scored on the metrics of the goals and objectives, modeled for its impact on trip patterns, summed up, and ranked for priority. The short-term strategies are ready for your consideration. After reading this material, we encourage you to review all the short-term strategies at bit.ly/SeaportTransit. The strategies fall into five categories:

-  New Transit Connections (NC),
-  Improved Transit Service (IS),
-  Transit Infrastructure (TI),
-  Better Access to Transit (BA), and
-  Transit Policy and Information (PI).

There is a strategy definition sheet for each of the 22 short-term strategies*.

We will share the medium and long-term strategies as soon as they are available.

**Strategies NC-12, NC-13, NC-17, and NC-20 have different routes and are evaluated by route. The strategy sheet defines the assumptions for all and presents an average score. A supplemental score sheet is provided to show how each route scored.*

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

How to Read the Strategy Sheets

Strategy ID –
TI represents Transit
Infrastructure

Strategy ID: TI-05

Strategy is a part of the universe of options being analyzed – at this point, no recommendations have been made

Strategy: Summer Street Bus Lanes



What It Does:

EXPAND	55
RELY	33
RESPECT	50
EQUALIZE	51
TOTAL	189

**Evaluation
Score Card**

What It Takes:

\$	\$	\$
Low	Medium	High
🕒	🕒	🕒
Short Term	Mid-term	Long Term

Travel time savings assumptions:

8-minute savings throughout South Boston Seaport; 10-minute savings to RLFMIP

**Travel Time
Assumptions
Used in
Modeling**

What It Is:

- Bi-directional, center median bus lanes along Summer Street, between Atlantic Avenue and Drydock Avenue/Pappas Way
- Existing bus stops along Summer Street will be assumed as the proximate locations for new stops, with no other new stops
- Existing MBTA bus services operating along Summer Street will use the bus lanes, with no service changes

Text description of strategy

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

Testing Our Strategies

In December, we shared the goals, objectives, and metrics. These metrics were applied to each strategy, resulting in a score that let's us compare strategies based on what you said was important.

All metrics are aimed to score the strategies based on what you said was important. In particular, in the category of EXPAND, the metrics provided for points for connecting to ***unserved or underserved communities***, and *extra points for connecting to marginalized communities, defined by measures like the MassDOT Environmental Justice communities*. In the EQUALIZE category, more value was awarded to strategies that connect to the **working port** and strategies that provide **service all day**, not just typical peak hours.

The Project [website](#) has a document that walks you through through the evaluation for NC-16: North Station to South Station to Seaport Direct Bus or Shuttle Service and see for yourself how the metrics are applied and add up.

While the scores are listed numerically, a low score does not mean that a strategy will not be considered for implementation. Strategies have value within the goal category - **EXPAND, RELY, RESPECT, or EQUALIZE** – they fit into. We want your thoughts on how strategies might work for you.

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

Short Term Strategy Evaluation



What are the results?

The draft analysis is complete for 22 short-term strategies and shown in the table below. ★s indicate that a strategy was the top scoring strategy in a goal category – EXPAND, RELY, RESPECT, or EQUALIZE. We are continuing to evaluate the mid- and long-term strategies.

	Strategy Title	ID	Total
★★	Improve Pedestrian Connections	BA-01	250
	Bus or Shuttle connection from Central Square to South Boston Seaport via LMA and Nubian Square	NC-14	204
	Bus or Shuttle connection from Nubian Square to South Boston Seaport Link via Broadway	NC-18	190
	Summer Street Bus Lanes	TI-05	189
	North Station - South Station - South Boston Seaport Direct Bus or Shuttle Service	NC-16	184
	Dedicated Transit Corridors	TI-06	175
	Wayfinding	PI-01	167
	New Bus Route - Andrew Square to Seaport Boulevard and Marine Park via South Boston Neighborhood and D Street	NC-05	153
★	Improve Bicycle Connections	BA-02	150
	Improve Multimodal Transit Connections	BA-04	150
	More Bus and Shuttle Service on A Street and Route 11 Improvements	IS-01	123
★	Expand Off-Peak Transit Service	IS-04	117
★	Extend Private and Consolidated Shuttles on A St to Broadway	NC-06	114
	Regional Bus or Shuttle Connections	NC-20	101
	Direct Bus or Shuttle Service to Regional Transportation Facilities	NC-17	100
	South Boston Seaport Circulator	NC-11	95
	Broadway Station Upgrades	TI-07	88
	Extend MBTA Express Bus Service	NC-12	77
	Bus or Shuttle connection from South Boston Neighborhood to RLFMIP Connection	NC-15	76
	Extend Regional Transit Express Bus Services	NC-13	71
	Consolidate Private Shuttles	IS-05	36

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

Adding Everything Up

Now it's time for your thoughts: what do you think of the short-term strategies? The strategies, evaluation process, and outcomes are available on the project website bit.ly/SeaportTransit, and we want your thoughts.

Visit the project website [here](#) to review the short-term strategies, their evaluation, and share your thoughts and questions. We will respond to questions or comments sent on the project's website and email SouthBostonSeaportTransit@Boston.gov by July 24.

We will be sharing the medium and long-term strategy results when they are available. Look for a date for a virtual public meeting and continued discussion later this summer.

You have an important part to play in improving transit in the South Boston Seaport. Whether you are an employer, resident, transit rider, pedestrian or bicyclist, by participating in this plan you can help frame a new future. Employers can support the Seaport Transportation Management Association (TMA) and provide incentives for using transit services. Commuters can tell us which strategies will better support your transit use. Pedestrians and bicyclists can indicate which strategies compliment your walk or ride. Residents can share their vision for their community.

Send us your comments on the strategies as we prepare the medium and long-term strategies for your review and our next public meeting.