



Welcome to the
**South Boston
Seaport Strategic
Transit Plan
Final Meeting**

We will begin at
6:05 pm

What brings you to the South Boston Seaport?

- Work
- Live
- Travel
- Restaurants and Entertainment
- Shopping
- Parks and Recreation

Meeting Recording

This event will be recorded and posted on the South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan project webpage at bit.ly/SeaportTransit for those who are unable to attend the Zoom event live. Breakout rooms will only be recorded for note-taking purposes, and those recordings will not be posted.

Also, it is possible that participants may be recording the meeting with their phone cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature by sending questions and comments to the staff member identified as "SUBMIT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS HERE".

Zoom Tips

Welcome! Here are some tips on using Zoom for first-time users. Your controls are at the bottom of the screen:



You will be able to mute/unmute yourself in a breakout room. Participants will be muted during the presentation. The host will unmute you during discussion periods if you raise your hand.



Turns your video on/off in a breakout room.



Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question. Send messages to the staff member identified as "SUBMIT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS HERE".



To raise your hand, click on "Participants" at the bottom of your screen, and then choose the "Raise Hand" option in the participant box.

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

March 3, 2022

AGENDA

- What are the Basics of the Plan?
- Plan Background
- What are our Identified Challenges?
- What are the Plan Recommendations?
- Implementation

BREAK-OUT GROUPS

What are the basics of this Plan?



boston planning &
development agency



Who leads the Plan team?



**Boston Planning &
Development Agency**



**Boston Transportation
Department**



Interagency Coordination



massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



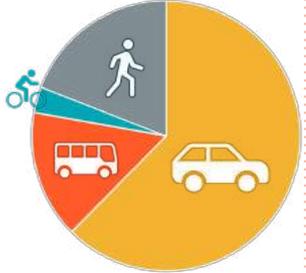
SEAPORT *TMA*

Plan Timeline

Spring 2019

Existing Conditions Analysis

Identified Challenges



Summer 2019

Review of past recommendations

Goal Development

EXPAND

RELY

RESPECT

EQUALIZE

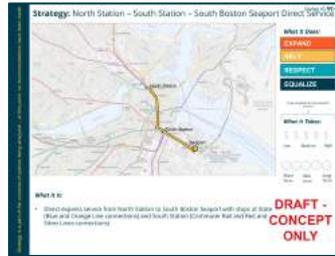
Identified 84 Potential Strategies

**44 Short-Term
32 Mid-Term
8 Long-Term**

Fall 2019

Metric & Evaluation process developed

Strategy Definition



Winter 2020

Spring 2020-
Summer 2021

Evaluate Strategies

What It Does:

EXPAND	63
RELY	17
RESPECT	100
EQUALIZE	61
TOTAL	241

Fall 2021

Prioritize Strategies for final recommendation in the South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

Winter 2022

Included ongoing review and revisions with Agency partners

Engagement To Date

3 Public Meetings in June, October, and December 2019

Pop-Up Events in January 2020

Civic Association and **Stakeholder Meetings**

Online Engagement and Comments

Nearby **Project Coordination**

Online Evaluation Releases in Summer 2020 and February 2022



Transit-Related Projects - Completed

- Bus Stop and Private Shuttle Pick-Up placed along Kenmore St @ Atlantic Avenue
- New Bus Lane on Summer Street
- Silver Line Ramp for direct outboard connection to Ted Williams Tunnel
- Fast Pass / Loading Walk Ferry
- 10 Street Silver Line Signal Improvements
- Multigroup Transportation System improvements
- Improved Signalization on Atlantic Ave
- City Street Bus Terminal
- South Boston Waycross Transportation Center



Transit projects & infrastructure center

What are we looking at?

Our focus is on **transit connections** in and to the South Boston Seaport

This means **buses, trains, subways, and ferries**

We are also assessing how improvements work with walking, biking, driving, and freight connections



Why a focus on Transit?

Community Conversations

- Community desire for better transit service in the Seaport District - **along with other multimodal street improvements**

Design Context

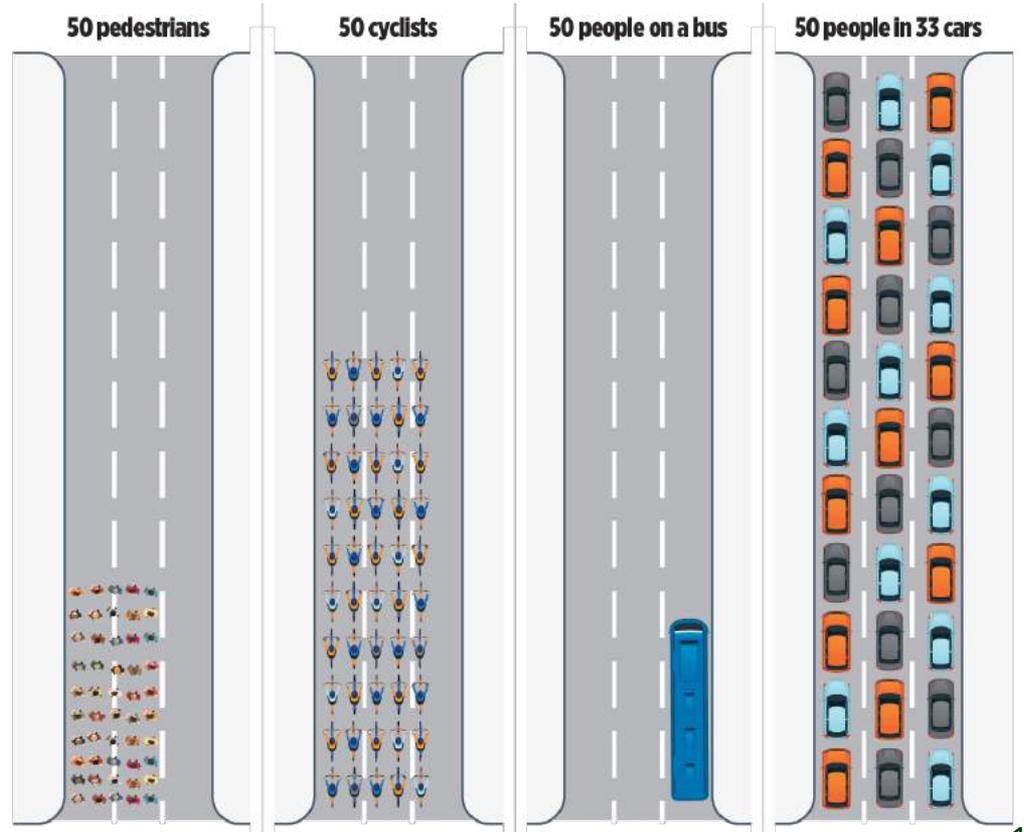
- Works with other multimodal improvements - like better bike infrastructure, pedestrian facilities, and open space
- Similar transit improvements have worked in other American and Canadian Cities

Fits with City Goals

- Works with existing streets and utilizes existing infrastructure more effectively
- Reduces transit delay, improves reliability, increases person throughput & improves safety on city streets
- Achieve mode share goals for functions of the South Boston Seaport

Why a focus on Transit?

We only have so much available space on our roads - and **transit, biking, and walking use this space more efficiently than cars**



Where is the Study Focus Area?

The core area of this study is the **South Boston Waterfront/Seaport District**

We are also looking at connections from **adjacent neighborhoods and points in the Greater Boston region**



What's the purpose of the Plan?

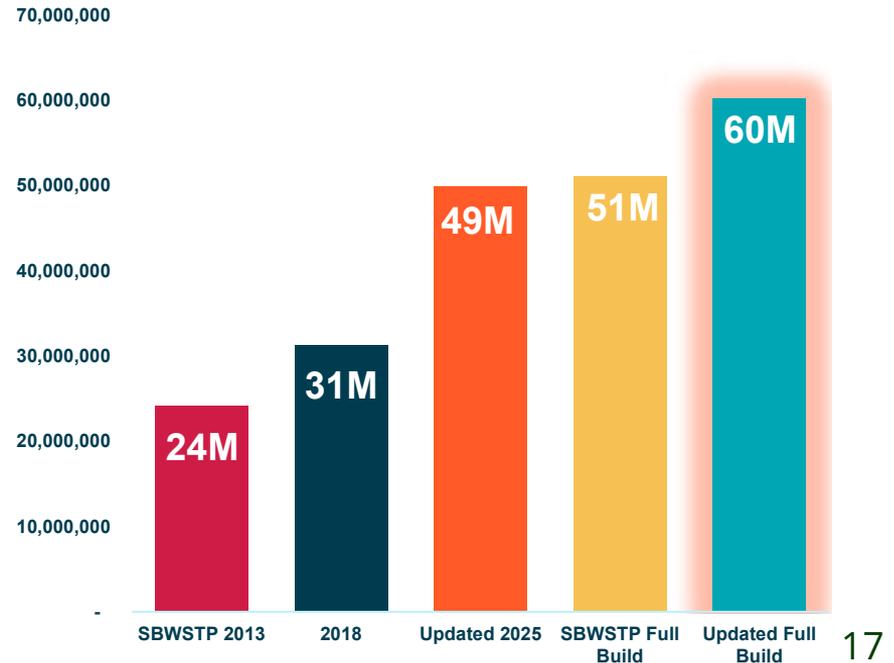
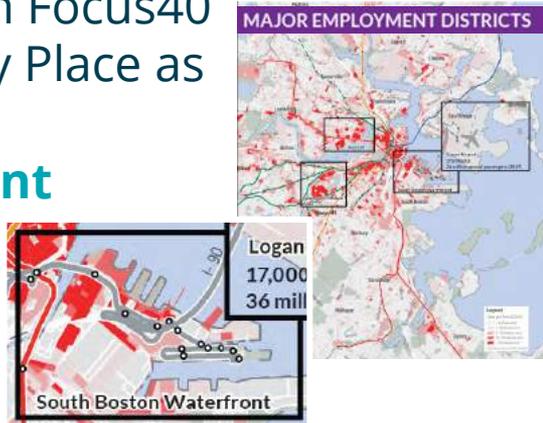
Previous studies made recommendations for goals & strategies on how to improve transit in the neighborhood.



The South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan recommends a prioritized set of transit improvements.

Why this Study Area?

- The Seaport District / South Boston Waterfront is experiencing **unprecedented development**, contributing to the rapid population and employment growth
- South Boston Seaport presently has **just over half of projected build-out** (32M of 60M)
- Identified in Focus40 as a Priority Place as **a Major Employment District**



Plan Context



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development agency



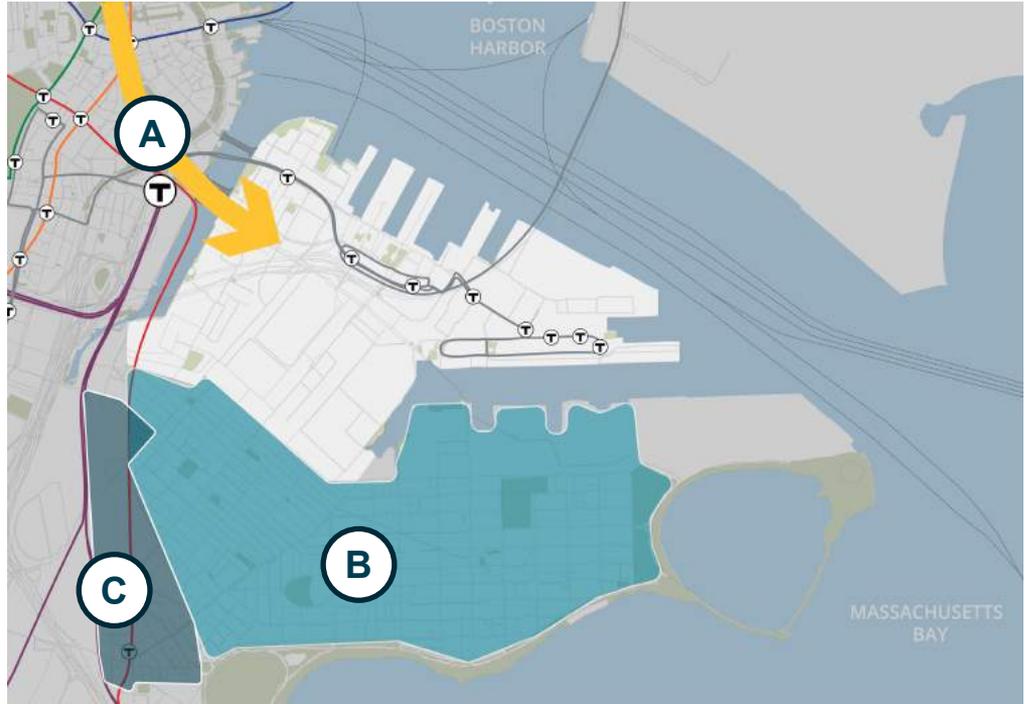
Planning with Context & Area Coordination

- Complementary Plans
- Other Public Sector Projects in the District
- Development Review



Other Transportation Planning Efforts

- (A) North Station to Seaport Multimodal Corridor**
 - Concept Planning
- (B) South Boston Transportation Action Plan**
 - Kick-Off Spring 2022
 - Focus on core residential neighborhood
- (C) PLAN South Boston Dorchester Avenue (2016)**
 - August 2021 Completed Transportation Plan



Transit-Related Project – Complete

The City of Boston and agency partners continue to improve the transit environment in the South Boston Seaport.

These are some bus and Silver Line projects that have been completed recently.

Bus Infrastructure

- Bus lane on Summer St from Dorchester Ave to Atlantic Ave
- City Point bus terminal upgrades
- Consolidation of private shuttles

Silver Line Improvements

- Draft Silver Line Capacity Study
- Silver Line bus fleet overhaul
- Pilot Silver Line use of State Police on ramp to I-90/TWT



Transit-Related Project – Complete

The City of Boston and agency partners continue to improve the transit environment in the South Boston Seaport.

These are some initiatives that have been completed recently.

Water Transportation

- Fan Pier/Lovejoy Wharf ferry service
- Fan Pier/East Boston (Lewis Mall) ferry service

Streetscape Improvements

- Seaport Blvd reconstruction

Policy

- New TDM Point System requirements of new development

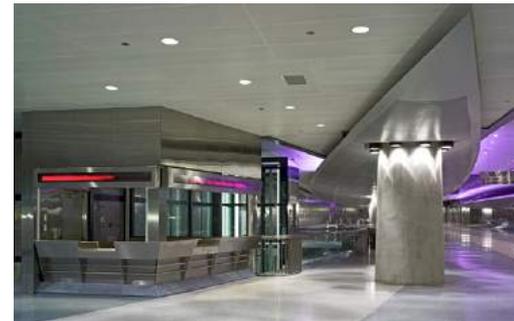


Transit-Related Project – In Progress

The City of Boston and agency partners continue to improve the transit environment in the South Boston Seaport.

These are some transit infrastructure projects that are underway now.

- Red Line vehicle replacement
- Courthouse Station new headhouse access on Seaport Blvd
- New Silver Line bus fleet procurement
- Upgraded Silver Line Way Station
- Summer St - design/implement “pilot” improvements
- BRT lane on Albany St for bus/shuttle connection from Nubian Sq to South Boston Seaport
- 88 Black Falcon



Transit-Related Project – In Progress

The City of Boston and agency partners continue to improve the transit environment in the South Boston Seaport.

These are some bus and water transportation projects that are underway now.

Bus Service

- Bus Network Redesign

Water Transportation

- Pier 10 (Marine Park) - upgrades for passenger ferry service
- East Boston ferry pilot (final design in progress)

Transit-Related Project – In Progress

The City of Boston and agency partners continue to improve the transit environment in the South Boston Seaport.

These are some streetscape projects that are underway now.

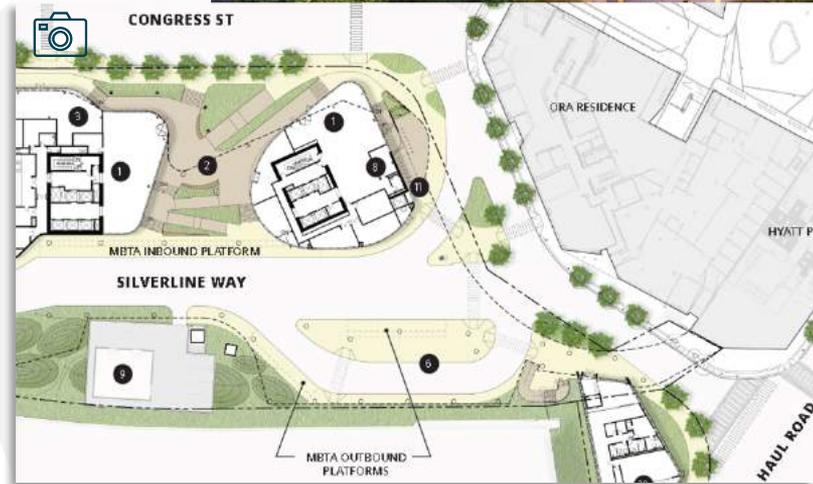
Street Network Improvements

- Northern Ave in Marine Park - “complete street” reconstruction
- Northern Ave/Haul Rd/Fid Kennedy Ave intersection reconstruction
- Congress St from Fort Point Channel to Boston Wharf Rd and Sleeper St reconstruction
- Seaport Sq roadway improvements (Congress St/Boston Wharf Rd/East Service Rd/Summer St)
- Summer St pedestrian corridor to Seaport Blvd (“Summer St steps”)
- Adaptive Traffic Signal Network
- Northern Ave Bridge replacement
- Cypher St and extension to E St - “complete street” reconstruction

Development Review

Major Projects in South Boston Seaport

- Seaport Square
- Fan Pier
- Summer St Hotel (Omni)
- Seaport Circle (Parcel H) 
- 244 A Street
- 24 Drydock



What are our identified Challenges?



boston planning &
development agency



How did we identify challenges?

- In Depth Analysis & Data Review
- Review of Past Plans, Policies, and Programs
- Community Engagement
- Stakeholder Discussions



Mid- and Long-Term Strategy Evaluation Results posted Online

The screenshot shows the Boston Planning & Development Agency website. The main heading is "South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan". Below the heading is a photograph of modern buildings. To the right of the photo is a "STAY CONNECTED" section with an email sign-up form. Below that is a "NEIGHBORHOOD" section for "South Boston/South Boston Waterfront". At the bottom is an "EVENTS" section. On the left side of the page, there is a navigation menu with categories like "What is Planning?", "Imagine Boston 2030", "Planning Initiatives", "Climate Change & Environmental Planning", "Downtown & Neighborhood Planning", "Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS)", "Regulatory Planning & Zoning", "Transportation & Infrastructure Planning", "Institutional Planning", "Urban Design", and "Urban Renewal".

The screenshot shows a strategy evaluation sheet titled "Strategy: North Station - South Station - South Boston Seaport Direct Bus or Shuttle Service". It features a map of the area with a yellow line indicating the proposed route. To the right of the map is a table with the following data:

What It Does:	Value
EXPAND	63
RELY	17
RESPECT	100
EQUALIZE	61
TOTAL	241

Below the table, there are icons for "What It Takes:" including "Low", "Medium", and "High" impact, and "Age" categories. A "What It Is:" section lists bullet points: "Direct routes served from North Station to South Boston Seaport with stops at State (Blue and Orange Line transfer)", "South Station (Commuter Rail and Red and Silver Line transfer)", "Bus service along bus-only route using College Street in Downtown Boston and Summer Street in the South Boston Triangle (Access to bus-only lane along Summer Street)", "Travel time is expected to be between 7 and 12 minutes", "Sign required for existing bus service", and "Access to Express rapid in South Boston Seaport is accommodated".

Strategy evaluation sheets

Narrated video presentations of past progress

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player for a video titled "Transit in the South Boston Seaport". The video is marked as "DRAFT". The video content includes a map of the South Boston Seaport area with various transit routes and modes of transport, such as buses, shuttles, and ferries. Below the video player, there is a section titled "Section 1 - South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan: A Guide to the Draft Strategy Evaluation" with a date of "40 views · Feb 17, 2022".

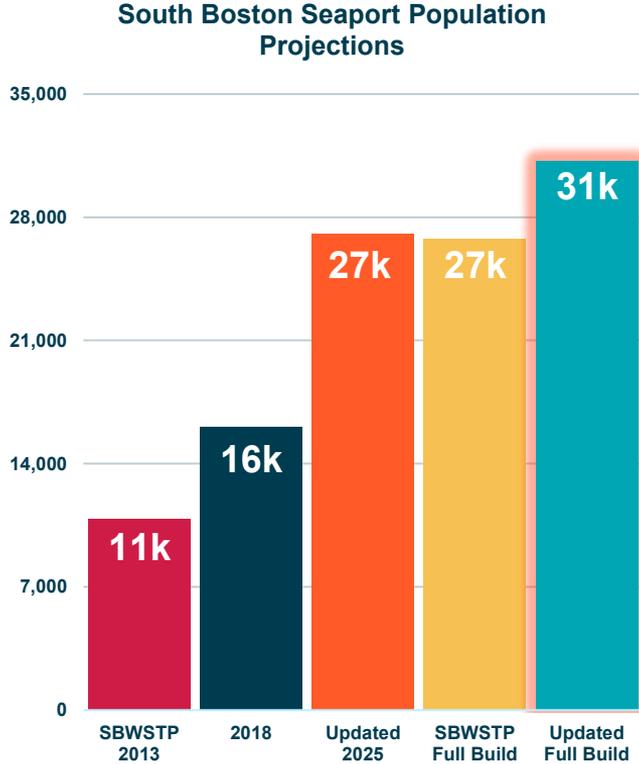
[Access the information here: bit.ly/SeaportTransit](https://bit.ly/SeaportTransit)

Key Challenges Identified

- **Neighborhood Characteristics**
 - Growth in Jobs/Residents
 - Mobility Goals
 - Street Design
 - Special Uses
- **Transit Service Issues**
 - Reliability & Congestion
 - Span of Service outside Rush Hour
- **Missing Connections**
 - Neighborhood, Crosstown, Regional, Harbor

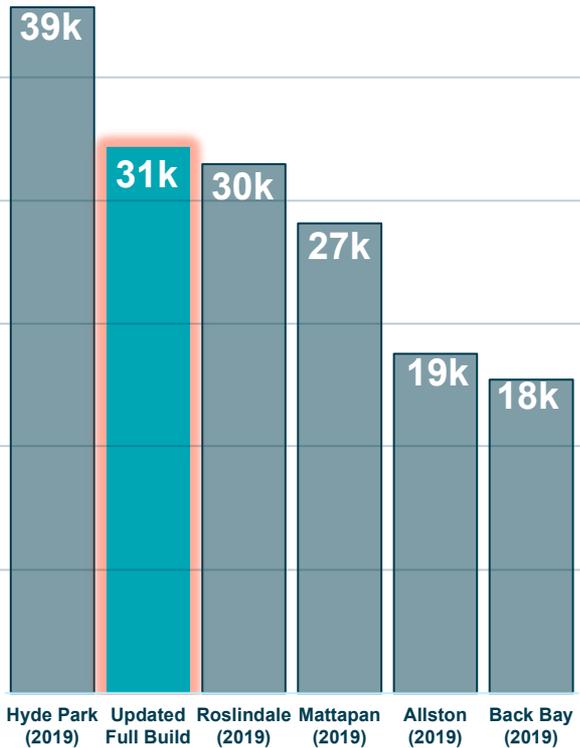


Neighborhood Characteristics: Growth



By 2030, the neighborhood will have roughly 31,000 residents

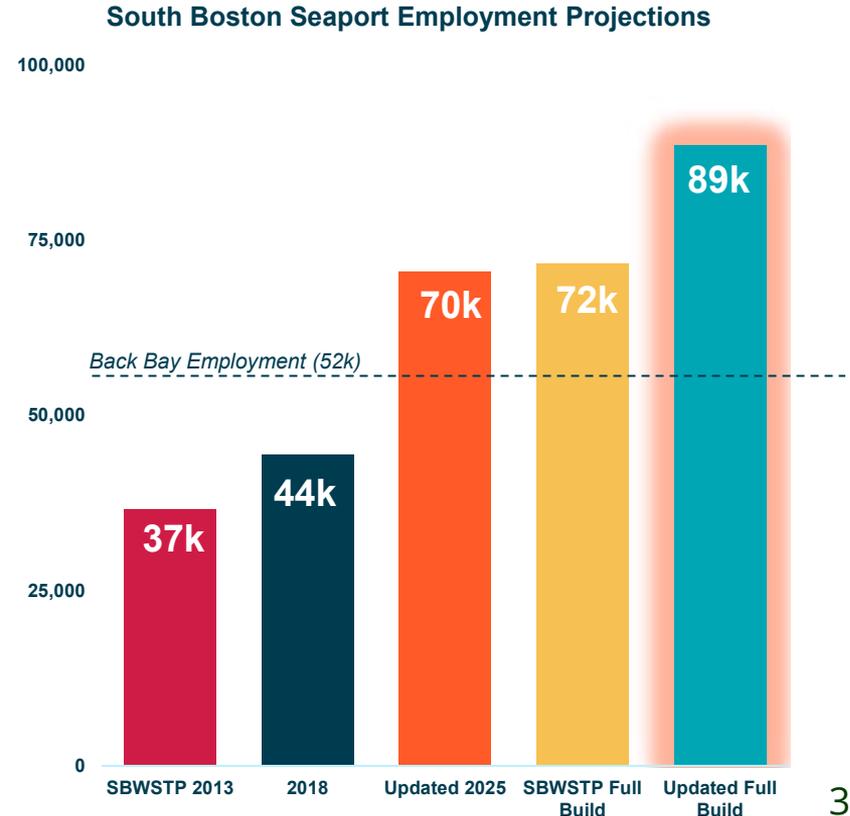
This is significantly ahead of projections from past planning work, and more than other City residential neighborhoods



Neighborhood Characteristics: Growth

By 2030, the neighborhood will have roughly 89,000 jobs, **becoming Boston's second largest employment hub** after Downtown Boston (178,000 jobs) and ahead of the Back Bay (52,000 jobs)

This growth is above projections from past planning work and double the number for 2018



Neighborhood Characteristics: Mode Share Goals

Guided by Go Boston, the goal is to **increase commuting to work by transit by a third** and reduce drive-alone rates by half



In 2018, the morning peak commute mode share to the **South Boston Seaport** is **54% drive alone** and **only 41% transit**

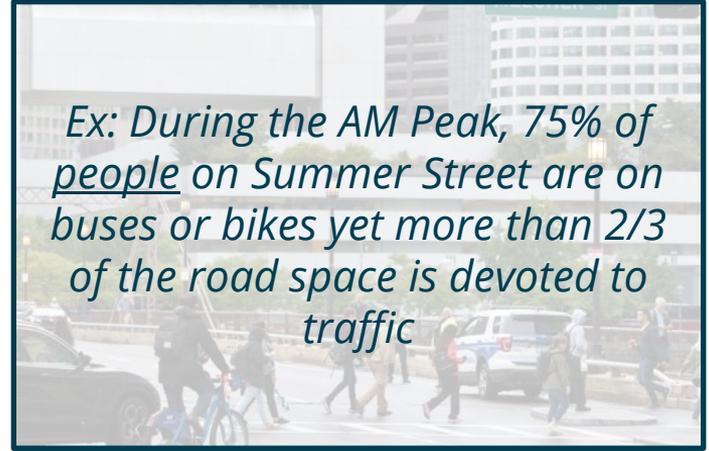


Goal to increase transit mode share



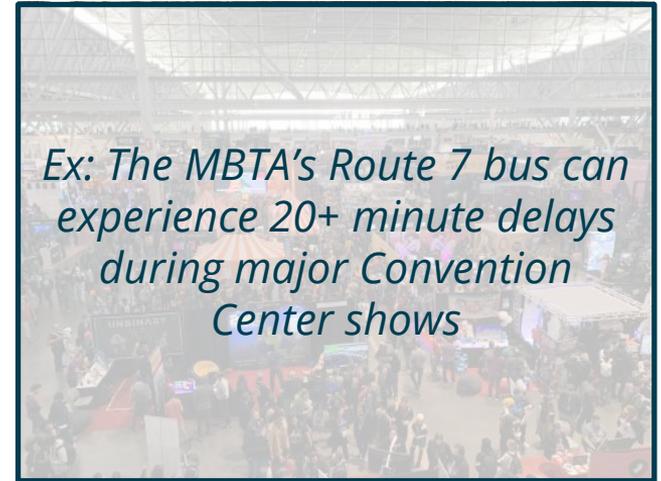
Neighborhood Characteristics: Street Design

- With private vehicles regularly prioritized over people on transit, on bike, and on foot, **traffic safety is a key concern** among residents in the neighborhood
- **Safe bike connections are lacking in key locations**, such as from the South Boston neighborhood and Downtown Boston to the South Boston Seaport
- **Pedestrian connections lack accessible facilities** and public realm features (street trees)



Neighborhood Characteristics: Special Uses

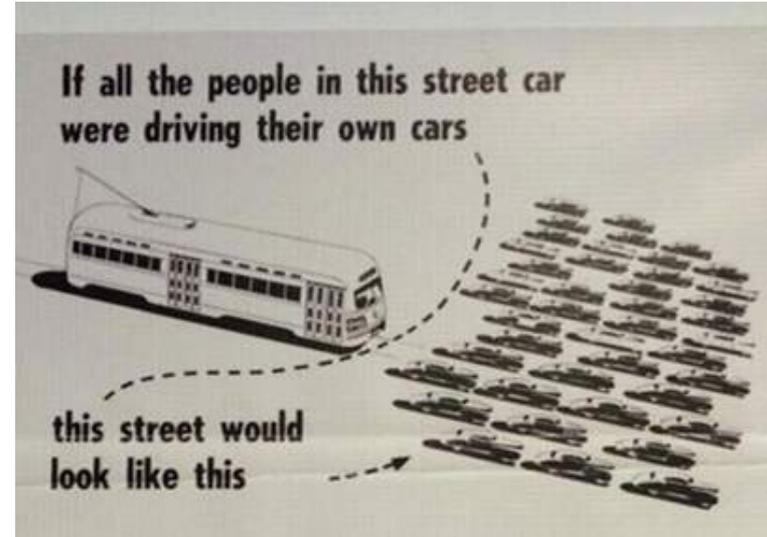
- **Port of Boston access must be maintained** due to the vital economic connection it provides for Greater Boston, particularly for truck traffic and delivery points
- **Coordination around major events** should be explored, such as Convention Center shows, which can overwhelm the neighborhood transportation network
- **Poor transit connections force visitors to drive**, exacerbating congestion and leading to cut through traffic in the neighborhood



Ex: The MBTA's Route 7 bus can experience 20+ minute delays during major Convention Center shows

Neighborhood Characteristics: Growth

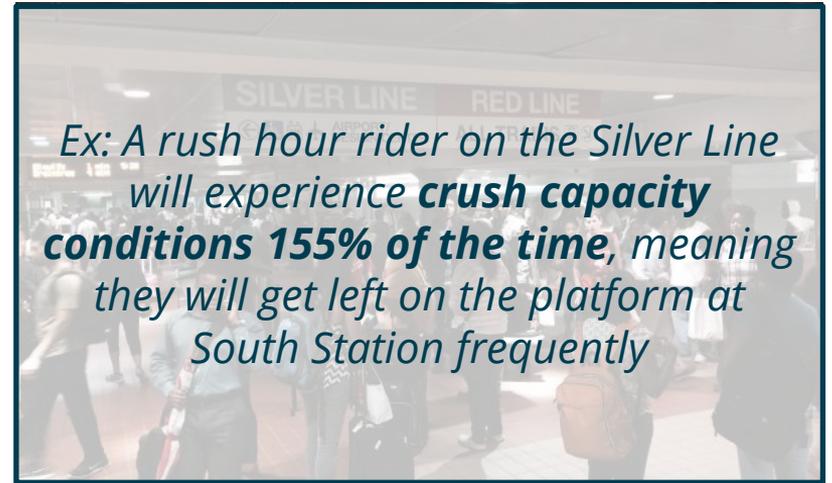
- **Existing transportation infrastructure will not handle future** demand caused by population and job growth if we do nothing.
- Approaching transportation with a “business as usual” approach will negatively impact residents, employment competitiveness, and the functionality of the Port of Boston as traffic increases over the coming years. This traffic will also spill over into surrounding neighborhoods as commuters seek alternative routes.



1940s-era transit poster

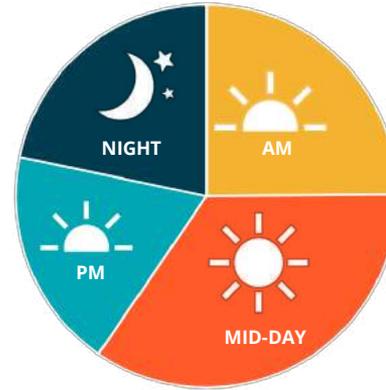
Transit Service Issues: Reliability & Congestion

- Silver Line and Route 7 operate at **unacceptable levels of crowding during peak periods**, delaying service and causing reliability issues
- **Delays on existing bus routes are due to vehicle traffic** in the South Boston Seaport



Transit Service Issues: Span of Service

- **Unreliable and/or inconsistent transit service across the span of the day** means getting to the South Boston Seaport is not an easy task, especially during off-peak hours
- Transit connections are inconsistent - especially for early or later shift workers or residents with later trips



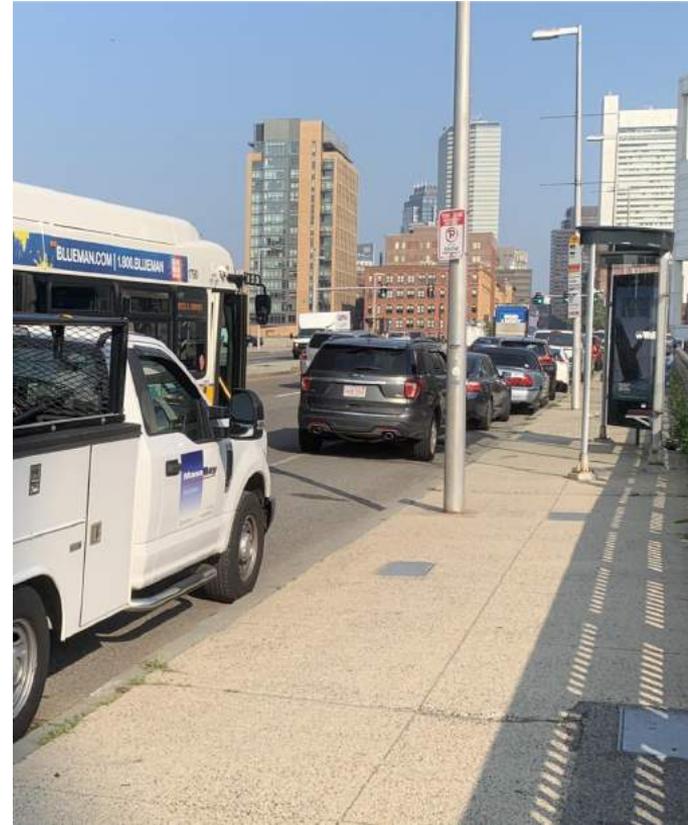
More than ½ of trips to the South Boston Seaport occur during off-peak hours

112,800 total trips

*Ex: **A Route 7 rider** trying to reach the Children's Museum from City Point will **experience a 40-minute wait during off-peak times** and there is no Sunday service*

Transit Service Issues: Missing Neighborhood Connections

- The South Boston Seaport **lacks first-mile/last mile transit connections** between key locations within the neighborhood
- Some bus stops **lack shelters, are inaccessible**, and are in locations that are **operationally inefficient**
- **Enforcement is inconsistent**, with vehicles oftentimes parking in bus stops



Transit Service Issues: Missing Crosstown Connections

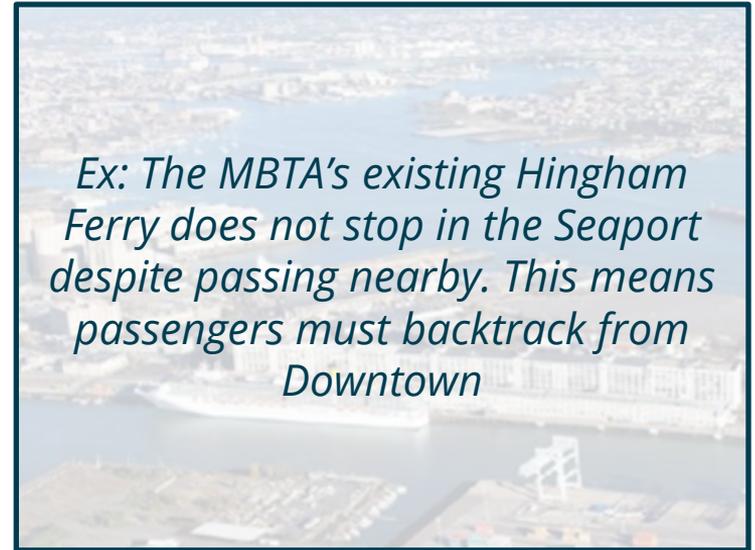
- **Connections to key Transit Hubs require multiple transfers, which adds time, frequently leads to delays, and makes trips less reliable** - it's difficult to reach North Station, Back Bay, Haymarket, Nubian Square, and other major transfer hubs
- **Most Boston neighborhoods lack a direct connection to the South Boston Seaport District** employment hubs

Ex: A rider making the 2-Mile Trip from North Station to Seaport Blvd might need to make two transfers and it will take them 26 minutes for their trip

Ex: A rider making the 3-Mile Trip from Roxbury to BCEC will make an indirect transfer at South Station and it will take 36 minutes for their trip

Transit Service Issues: Missing Harbor Connections

- The district **lacks connections to harbor-front neighborhoods** – despite its harbor-front location
- Ferries from outer-Harbor points pass near the South Boston Seaport and **most do not stop here**
- Docks in the South Boston Seaport are **not well located** for commuters



Transit Service Issues: Missing Regional Connections

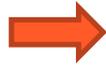
- Major regional population centers **lack direct transit connections** to the South Boston Seaport, requiring multiple transfers
- Driving is often times significantly quicker than transit - exacerbating congestion
- If a person has access to a free parking spot, the cost for driving is often cheaper too

Ex: A trip from Newton to the Seaport costs about \$2.35 with fuel and tolls. A transit trip on an MBTA express bus is \$4.25

Ex: A trip from Braintree to the Marine Industrial Park takes 20-30 minutes by car and 40+ minutes by transit - including at least one transfer. This likely leads to cut through traffic in residential areas

Challenges Translate into Plan Goals

Too many parts of Greater Boston have poor or indirect access to the district



EXPAND

Access to the region's people & places is maximized

Transit services are not prioritized in the district



RELY

Transit is a reliable, predictable option for travel

Riders do not feel valued when taking transit in the district



RESPECT

Transit access is convenient & integrated into all aspects of the South Boston Seaport

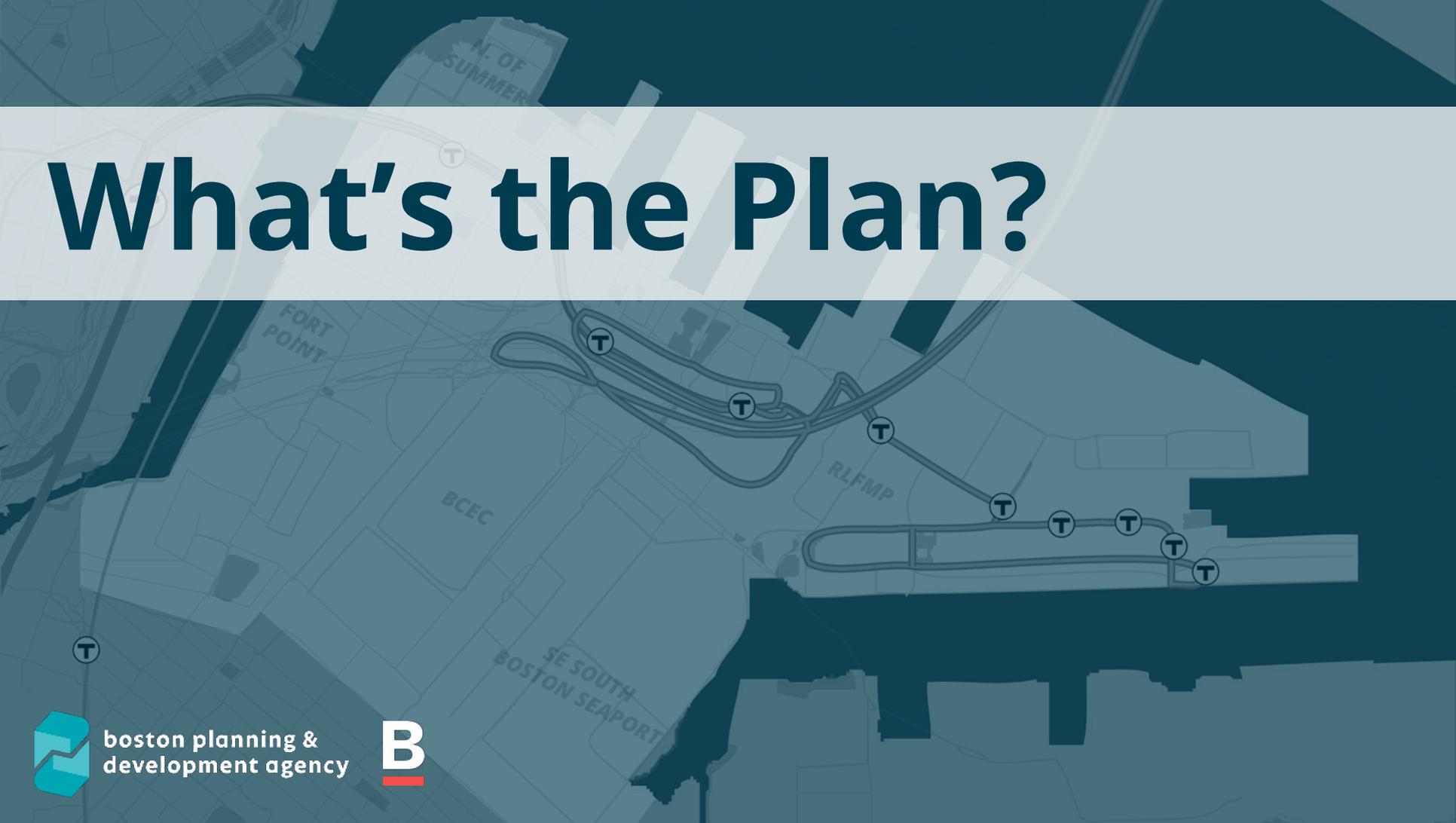
Transit is not available for many types of trips in the district



EQUALIZE

Transit serves all people & places in the South Boston Seaport

What's the Plan?



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development agency



Strategic Transit Plan

No one project, policy, agency, or department can “fix” transit in the South Boston Seaport

The Plan was developed to address the challenges with **real solutions** that can be **implemented over a series of years, with some already underway**

These ideas are not a final design. We will work closely in the coming years to get the specifics right with the community and stakeholders



Geographic Context for Recommendations

Local Connections

Improved travel for trips within the South Boston Seaport

Crosstown Connections

Improved connections between the South Boston Seaport and the rest of Boston

Water Connections

Direct ferry connections to Charlestown, East Boston, and regional ferry hubs

Regional Connections

Improved access to the South Boston Seaport from throughout Greater Boston

Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements

Local Connections

Strategies defined by..

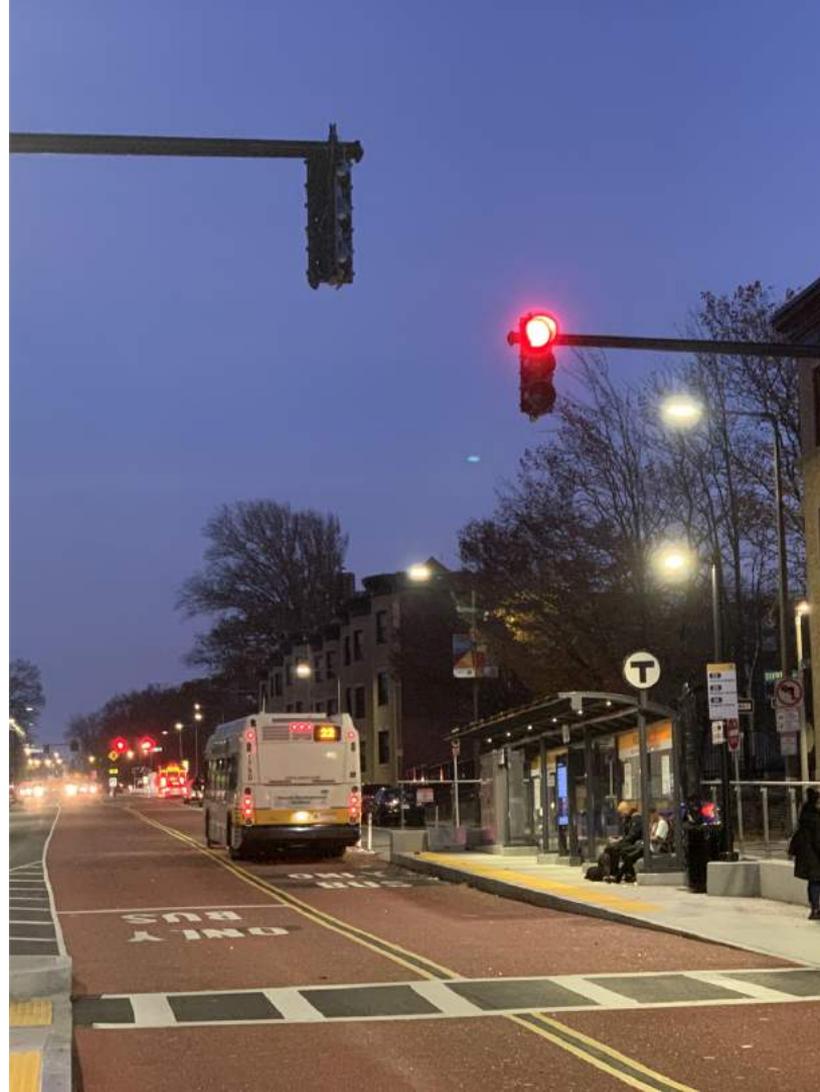
More transit services operating within a dedicated right-of-way in the South Boston Seaport

Infrastructure improvements supporting transit services with increased capacity

Resulting in...

Improved Transit Reliability by Creating a Predictable Trip Time

Enabled South Boston Seaport to accommodate existing demand and future growth



Local Connections

Transit Recommendations (1-8)

- 1** Broadway Station Upgrades
- 2** Summer Street Multimodal Corridor
- 3** Bus Access on Northern Avenue Bridge
- 4** Seaport Circulator (alternate route shown in transparency)
- 5** Bidirectional Service Improvements on A Street
- 6** Bus Rapid Transit Service to South Boston Neighborhood
- 7** SL Fleet Expansion/Platooning
- 8** T Under D

Additional Recommendations (not mapped):

- Expand Off-Peak Service
- Wayfinding
- Improve Multimodal Transit Connections
- Transportation Demand Management
- Continued Consolidation of Private Shuttles

Existing Services

- Commuter Rail
- Rapid Transit Lines
- Commuter Rail Station
- Rapid Transit Station
- Silver Line Branches
- Existing Bus Routes
- Green Line Branches
- Existing Ferry Route

*Projects shown on accompanying maps



Bicycle Network and Connections

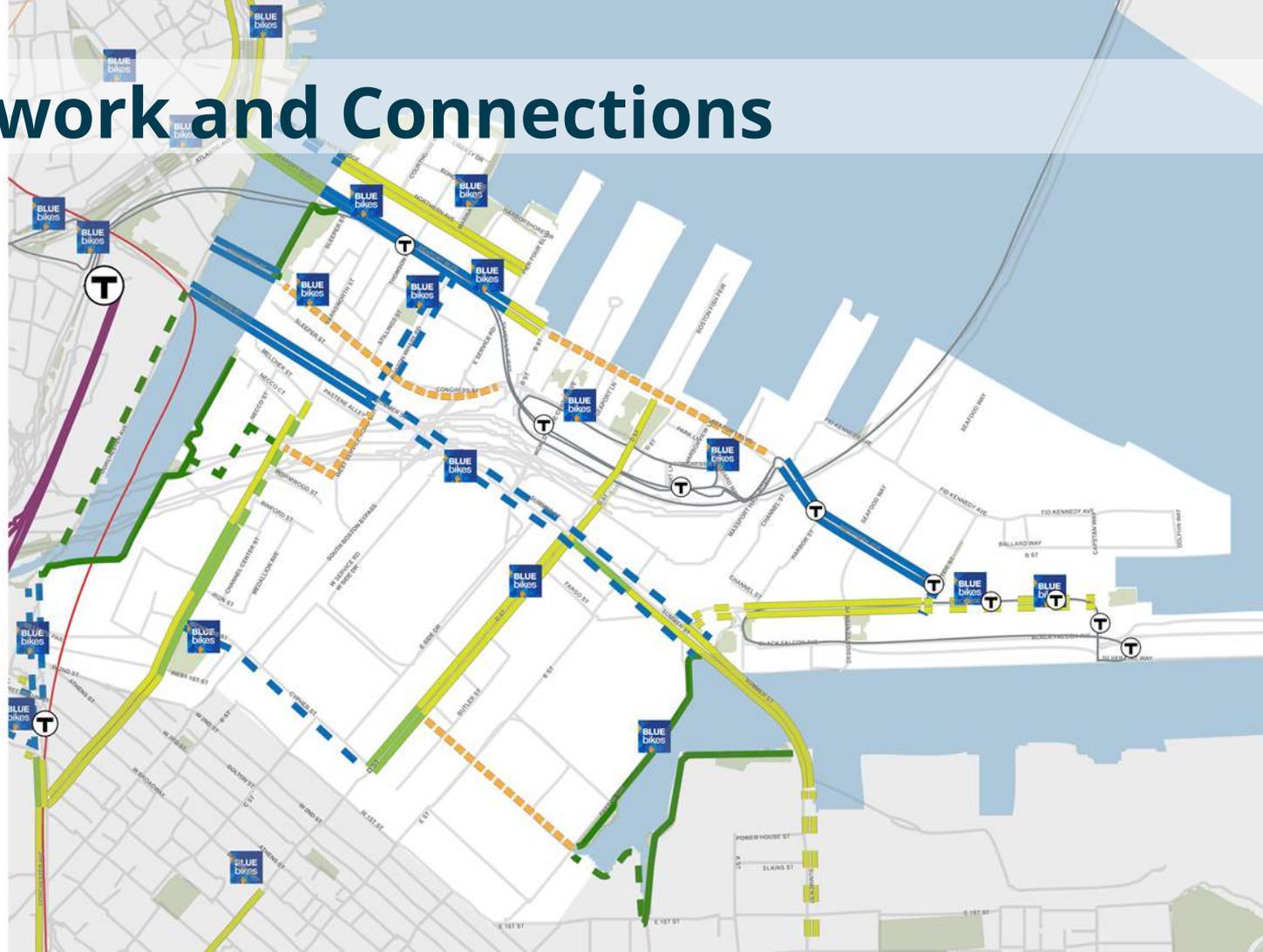
Existing Bicycle Facilities

-  Protected Bike Lane
-  Buffered Bike Lane
-  Bike Lane
-  Shared Use Path
-  Bluebike Station

Future Bicycle Facilities

-  Protected Bike Lane
-  Buffered Bike Lane
-  Bike Lane
-  Shared Use Path
-  Bluebike Station
-  Bicycle Desire Lines for Consideration in Future Planning (some dependent on land use change)

*Supporting Safe Streets
Connections on
Summer/L Street*

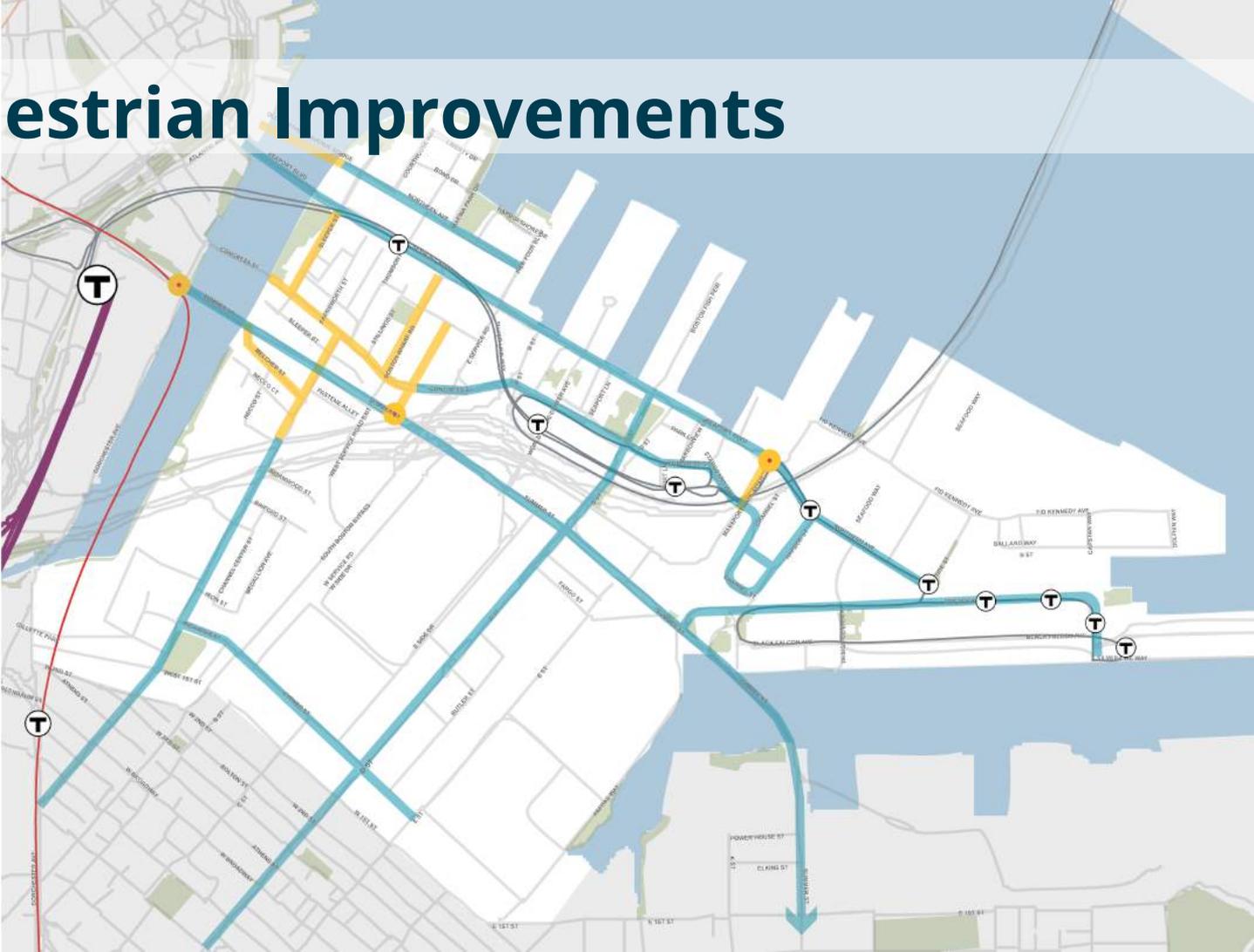


Priority Pedestrian Improvements

Creating safer and accessible streets through design and policy

Priority Pedestrian Improvements

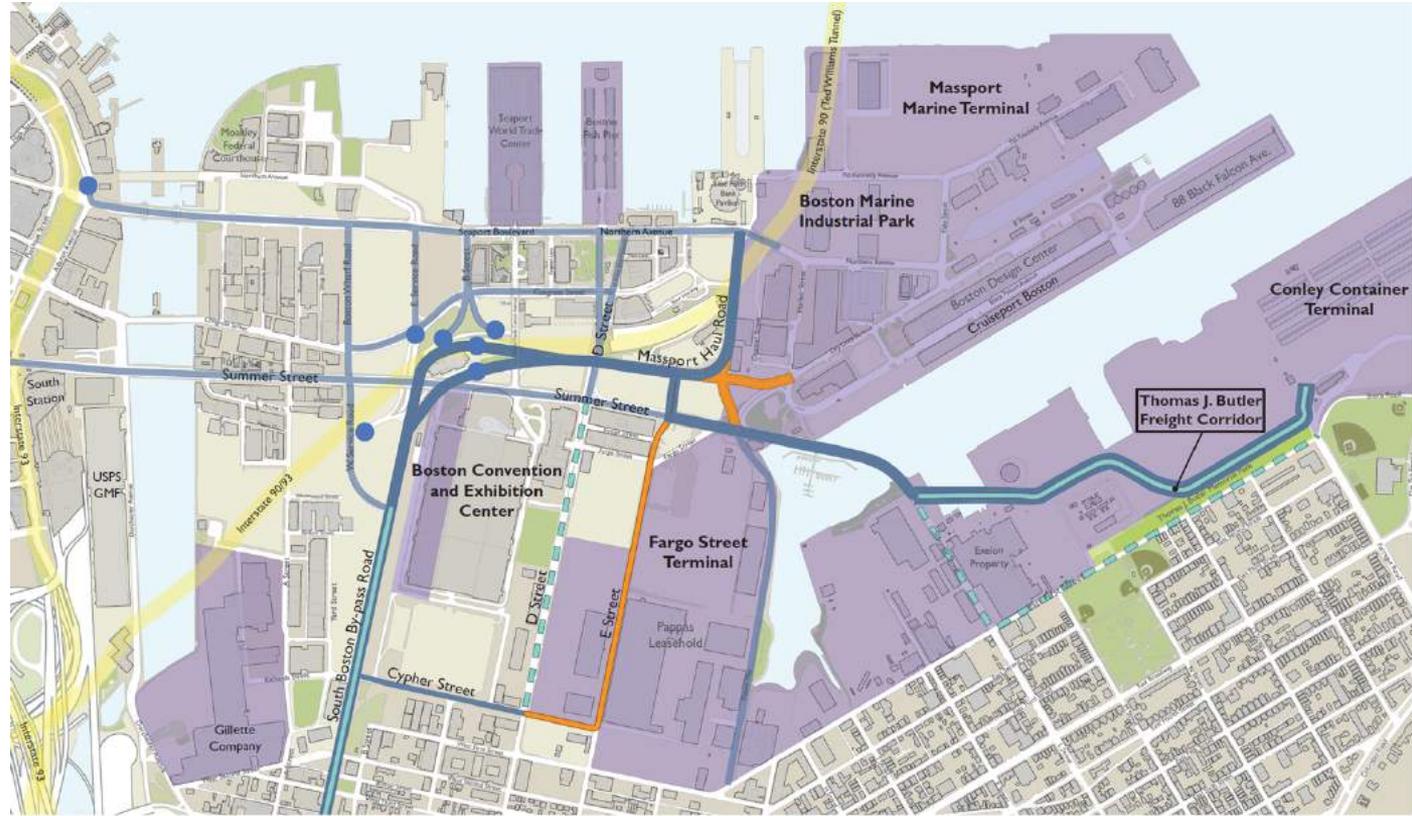
- Key Pedestrian Corridor-wide Improvements
- Critical Road Improvements
- Critical Intersection Needs



*Supporting Safe Streets
Connections on
Summer/L Street*

Freight Network in the South Boston Seaport

Protecting local connections to regional roads through design, plans, and policies



Crosstown Connections

Strategies defined by..

New transit links created which knit the South Boston Seaport better with the rest of Boston proper

More direct connections are created to key transit hubs

More regular, off-peak services become available

Resulting in...

New bus and ferry services connect South Boston Seaport to Neighborhoods not Directly Connected today, improving trip times and reliability

North Station, South Station, State, Nubian Square, Andrew, and Maverick are among stations with new connections to South Boston Seaport destinations

Expansion of off-peak services makes transit use more desirable outside of peak commuting services, facilitating more use by residents and visitors

Crosstown Connections

Transit Recommendations (9-14)

- 9** Nubian Square Link via Broadway Station and D Street circuit breaker
- 10** North Station-South Station Bus Priority
- 11** North Station-South Station Bus Rapid Transit Link
- 12** Nubian Square-RLFMP Link via Andrew Square
- 13** Red-Blue Connector
- 14** Columbia Point to South Boston Seaport Neighborhood Bus

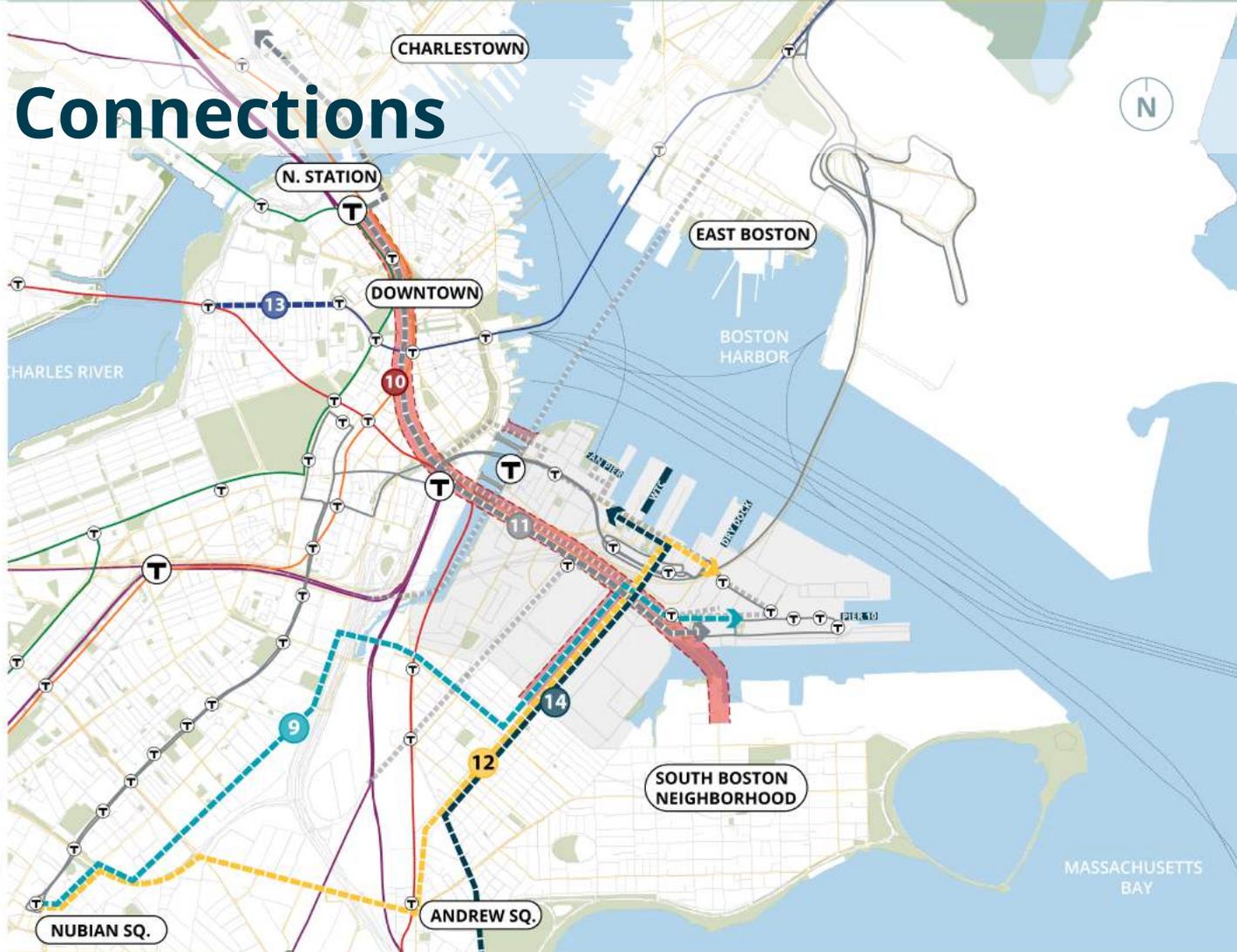
Additional Recommendations (not mapped):

- Expand Off-Peak Service
- Wayfinding
- Improve Multimodal Transit Connections
- Transportation Demand Management
- Continued Consolidation of Private Shuttles

Existing Services

- Commuter Rail
- Rapid Transit Lines
- Commuter Rail Station
- Silver Line Branches
- Rapid Transit Station
- Existing Bus Routes
- Green Line Branches
- Existing Ferry Route

*Projects shown on accompanying maps



Water Transit Connections

Transit Recommendations (15-19)

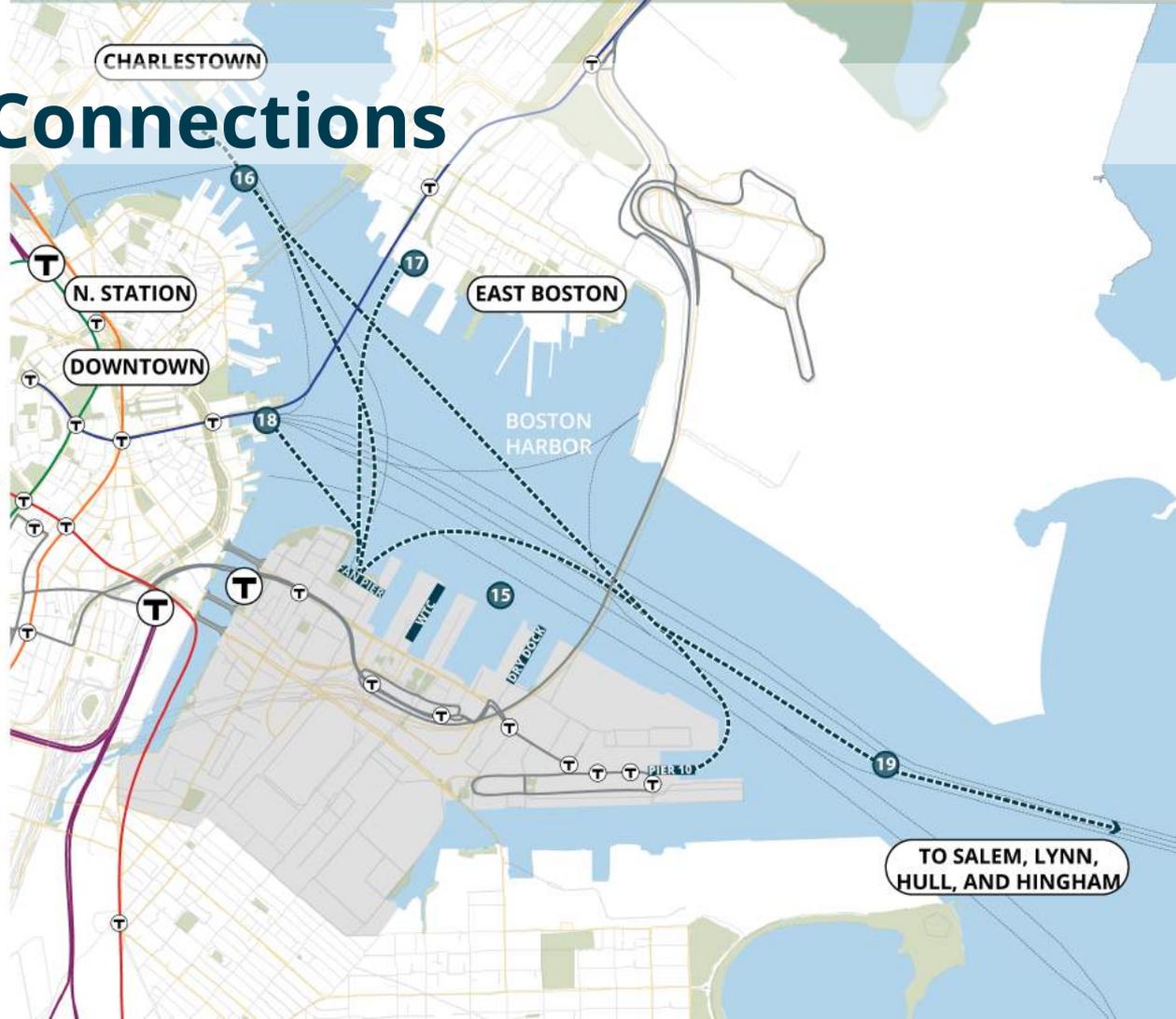
- 15 Ferry Terminal Improvements and Connections at Fan Pier, WTC, Dry Dock, and Pier 10
- 16 Ferry Connection to Charlestown
- 17 Support Permanent Ferry Connection to East Boston (current service is a pilot only)
- 18 Ferry Connection to Downtown
- 19 Direct Ferry Service to Lynn, Salem, Hingham, and Hull

Additional Recommendations (not mapped):

-  Expand Off-Peak Service
-  Wayfinding
-  Improve Multimodal Transit Connections
-  Transportation Demand Management
-  Continued Consolidation of Private Shuttles

Existing Services

-  Commuter Rail
-  Rapid Transit Lines
-  Commuter Rail Station
-  Silver Line Branches
-  Rapid Transit Station
-  Existing Bus Routes
-  Green Line Branches
-  Existing Ferry Route



Regional Connections

Strategies defined by..

Reduction in the number of transfers from several locations throughout the region

Transit becoming as or more competitive than driving for accessing the South Boston Seaport from throughout Greater Boston



Resulting in...

Direct connections are provided from both the **North Shore and South Shore to South Boston Seaport** destinations, reducing travel times and transit demand elsewhere

Recommendations prioritize transit within or near the South Boston Seaport or introduce new infrastructure, such as the **Cross Harbor Tunnel Link**



Regional Connections

Transit Recommendations (20-24)

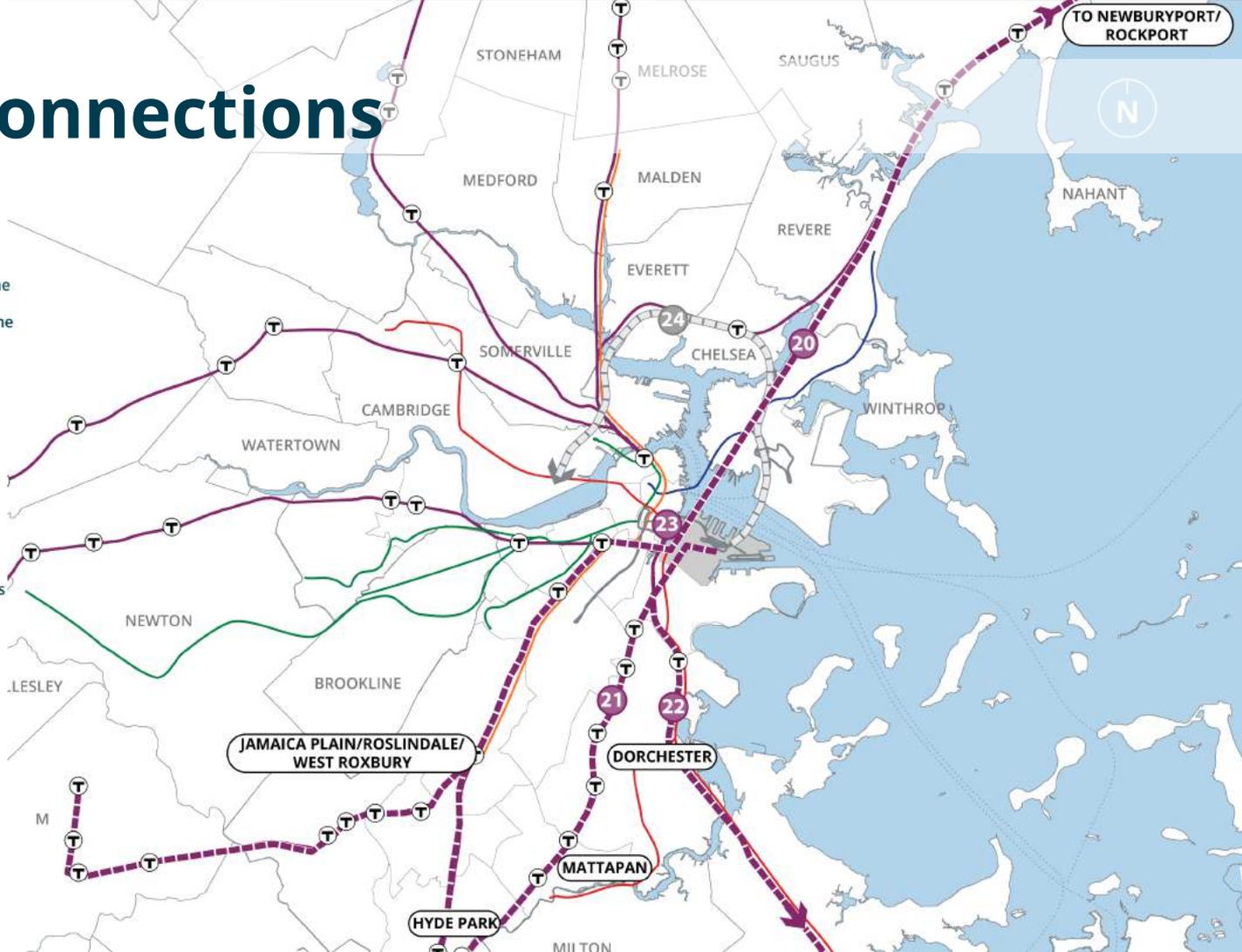
- 20 Cross Harbor Rail Link Tunnel
- 21 Urban Rail Connection from Fairmount Line
- 22 Urban Rail Connection from Old Colony Line
- 23 South Station Expansion
- 24 Silver Line Extension to Everett, Sullivan Sq., and Kendall Sq.

Additional Recommendations (not mapped):

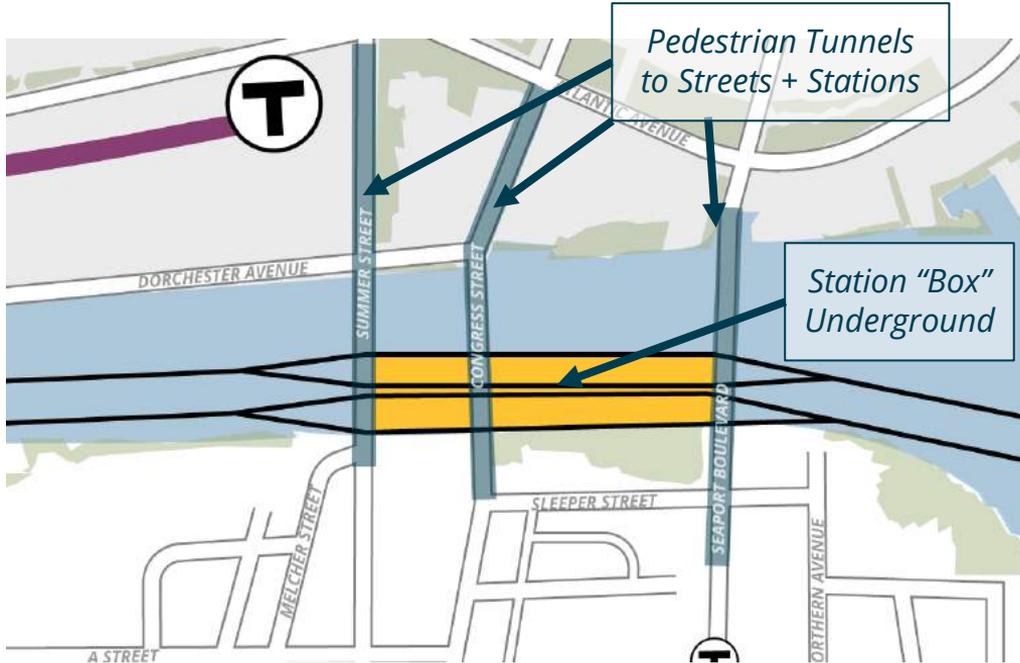
- Expand Off-Peak Service
- Wayfinding
- Improve Multimodal Transit Connections
- Transportation Demand Management
- Continued Consolidation of Private Shuttles

Existing Services

- Commuter Rail
- Commuter Rail Station



Crosstown Connections: Cross Harbor Concept



Ability to incorporate Climate Change Protection Barriers into Design

Streetscape/public realm enhancements on nearby streets possible

Would not preclude North-South Rail Link

Crosstown Connections: Cross Harbor Concept – London Comparison

London's CrossRail Project connected major transit hubs together and extended better rail service to Heathrow Airport



Implementation



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Implementation Timeline

NEAR-TERM
0-3 years

MID-TERM
3-10 years

LONG-TERM
10+ years



Near-Term Implementation

NEAR-TERM
0-3 years



Road Striping + Signage

More Service on Existing Routes



Route Adjustments

Mid-Term Implementation

MID-TERM
3-10 years



Corridor Capital Projects

New Service Routes

Urban Rail Projects



Long-Term Implementation

LONG-TERM
10+ years



**Transformative Major
Capital Projects**



Breakout Groups (20 minutes)



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Breakout Group Questions

- What do you think is the most important recommendation discussed today?
- What recommendation helps make a trip or connection easier for you?
- Which of the recommendations do you think should be prioritized in the:
 - Short-term (0-3 years)
 - Medium-term (3-10 years)
 - Long-term (10+ years)
- Does the Plan address your transit concerns in the South Boston Seaport?

Next Steps



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- **All Materials will be available for further review on the project website: bit.ly/SeaportTransit**
- **Virtual Office Hours:**
 - Lunchtime (12 pm to 1 pm) on Monday March 14 and 18
 - Evening (5:30 pm to 6:30 pm) on Wednesday March 16 and 22
- **Continued Discussions with Stakeholders/Civic Groups**
- **Please send any comments by Friday April 1**
- **Goal is to finalize the plan by late spring**

Questions?



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