

# Welcome!

## **Allston-Brighton Mobility Study Community Work Session**

Sign in here, grab a  
“Welcome Handout”,  
and share your thoughts!

# Study Purpose & Overview

## **Who, What, Where, and When of the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study**

Introduction & Meet the Team

Study Area & Focus

Study Schedule & Tasks

Draft Study Goals

# Introduction & Meet the Team

## Why are we here?

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is undertaking a transportation study called the **Allston-Brighton (A-B) Mobility Study**.

Learn about the Study process, meet our staff, and share your ideas about mobility in your neighborhood!

## How can you participate?

Your feedback will help shape this study. Grab a “Welcome Handout”; it has information about this meeting, a comment area for your thoughts, and contact information.

Visit the boards to learn about the progress made on this study, discuss what the goals of the Study should be, and suggest transportation improvements that you’d like to see. Stay tuned for a presentation at 6:30pm

## Meet the Team!

### City of Boston



**John (Tad) Read**  
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*BPDA*



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*BPDA*



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Assistant Deputy  
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*BPDA*



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**Jack Halverson**  
Transportation Planning  
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**Conor Newman**  
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Neighborhood Contact  
*ONS*



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*BPDA*



**Jun Ju**  
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*BPDA*



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*BPDA*



**Rosa Herrero de  
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### Consultants



**Ellen Moshier**  
Project Manager  
*KITTELSON  
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**Matt Ciborowski**  
Senior Planner  
*ARUP*



**Chris Herlich**  
Associate  
*nbbj*

## Study Area & Focus

### Study Focus

- Improve **mobility** for all **users, modes and types of transportation**
- Focus on **short-term (0-3 years) and medium-term (3-10 years) transportation improvements**, while still considering long-term (10-20+ years) mobility improvements as well
- Help **manage the impacts of development** by coordinating transportation improvement commitments to accomplish larger projects

### Study Area

Allston-Brighton Mobility Study



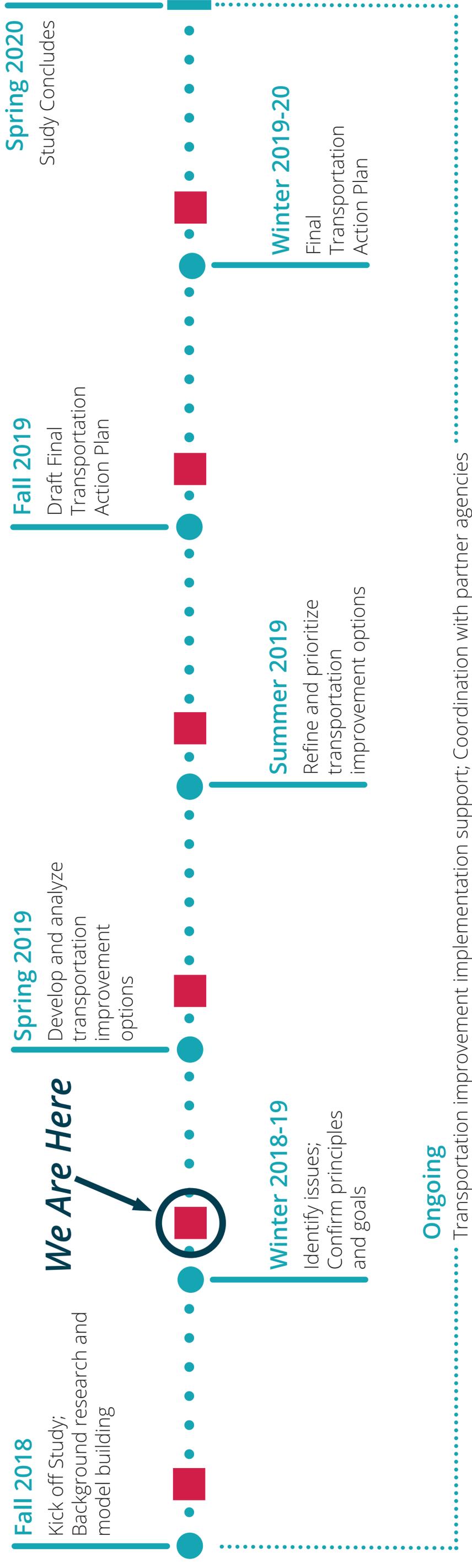
The **Allston-Brighton Mobility Study** study area is the Boston neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton. It extends west from the BU Bridge and is bordered by Brookline to the East/Southeast, Newton to the West/Southwest, and the Charles River to the North.

## Study Purpose & Overview

# Study Schedule & Tasks

● = Major Task

■ = Community Engagement



## Draft Study Goals

### Draft Goals

Below are the draft goals for the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study. These have been developed based on public comments and review of existing citywide and neighborhood plans. In order to shape these goals, please *use sticky notes on this board to provide your feedback*.

1. Increase **safety for all modes** - pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger vehicles- while working towards a Vision Zero<sup>1</sup> Boston.
2. Guided by Boston Complete Streets<sup>2</sup>, **allocate space in streets** in order to safely and comfortably accommodate **diverse users**.
3. Increase the **sustainability** of the transportation system by emphasizing walking, biking, and transit.
4. Improve **equity** in transportation by increasing opportunities for affordable transportation.
5. Identify corridors and intersections for **priority accommodations for buses**, where demand is greatest.
6. Create a more attractive and comfortable walking and bicycling environment by **improving streetscapes** and establishing active spaces.
7. **Enhance parking and permit regulations** to preserve existing residential and commercial needs to encourage alternative travel modes within the Allston-Brighton neighborhood.
8. Create a transportation system that enhances mobility while **accommodating local and regional growth**.
9. Identify strategic opportunities where proposed **new development** can **mitigate its transportation impacts** by funding, building, or otherwise providing appropriate mobility improvements.

<sup>1</sup>**Vision Zero Boston** is our commitment to focus the City's resources on proven strategies to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes in the City by 2030. <https://www.boston.gov/transportation/vision-zero>

<sup>2</sup>Adopted by the City of Boston in 2013, **Boston Complete Streets Design Guidelines** offer detailed guidance on making our streets more engaging, sustainable, and safe for all users. <https://bostoncompletestreets.org/>

# Existing Conditions & Plans

Imagine Boston 2030

Go Boston 2030

Existing Plans

Pending Development

# Imagine Boston 2030

## IMAGINE BOSTON 2030

Imagine Boston 2030 is the first Citywide plan for Boston in over 50 years.

Imagine Boston 2030 (IB 2030) provides a **blueprint** for the growth and evolution of Boston through 2030 and beyond. The **goals** of IB 2030 include:

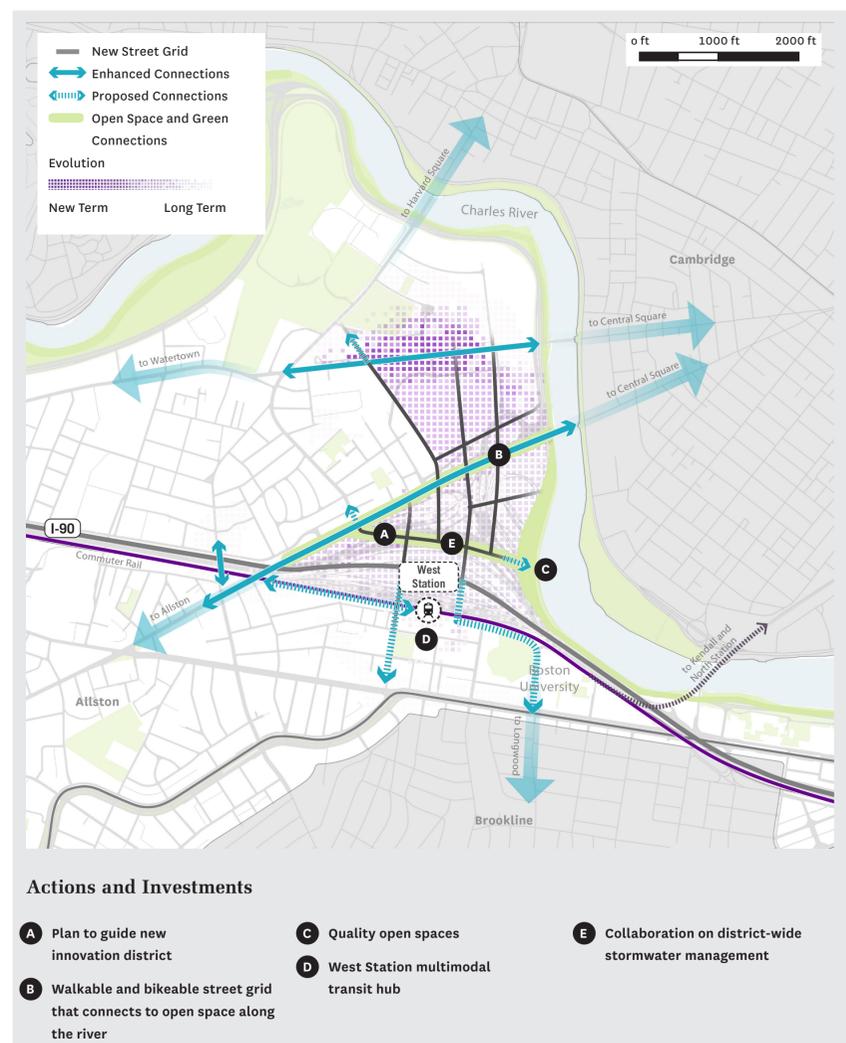
1. Encourage affordability, reduce displacement, and improve **quality of life**
2. Increase **access to opportunity**
3. Drive **inclusive economic growth**
4. Promote a **healthy environment** and prepare for climate change
5. Invest in **open space, arts & culture, transportation, and infrastructure**



Boston's Mayor Martin J. Walsh speaking about Imagine Boston 2030. "Share Your Vision. Shape Our City." Source: Boston Herald.

## Beacon Yards Reimagined

Source: Imagine Boston 2030



A reimagined Beacon Yards, including quality open spaces, a new innovation district, enhanced walkable and bikeable connections to the river, and a West Station multimodal transit hub

IB 2030 sets forth a **broad vision** for Beacon Yards and an expanded Harvard campus in Allston. These plans call for new **multimodal street grids with bicycle and pedestrian corridors**, integrating new districts with existing neighborhoods and creating stronger connections to the Charles River.

*"This vision is shaped by over 12,000 Boston voices, when residents came together to decide the type of city we want to live in. Together, we set goals—and most importantly, we identified the actions to help us reach those goals, like affordable housing and accessible transportation. The result is Imagine Boston 2030, Boston's first Citywide planning process in fifty years." - Mayor Walsh*

For more information about Imagine Boston 2030, visit [imagine.boston.gov](https://www.imagine.boston.gov).

## Go Boston 2030



Go Boston 2030 is a City of Boston initiative from 2017 that envisions a bold transportation future for the next 5, 10, and 15 years.

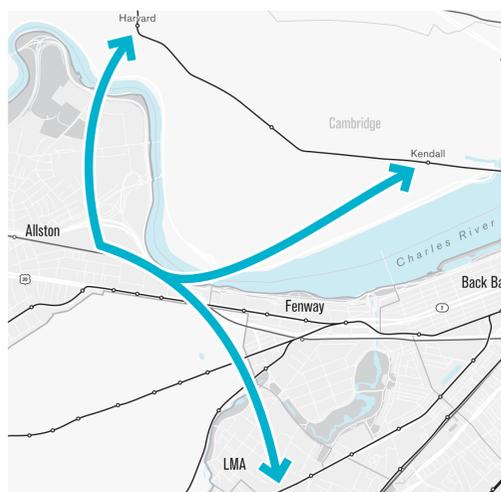
The plan proposes 58 transportation projects and policies that are designed to expand access to connected transportation options, improve traffic-related safety, and ensure high-quality and reliable transit and transportation for all.

These **projects and policies** address needs throughout Boston. Many will benefit Allston-Brighton specifically, including the following **Action Plan Projects**:

- Oak Square to Commonwealth Avenue Rapid Bus (1)
- Commonwealth Avenue Re-imagined (2)
- West Station Rapid Bus to LMA, Kendall, Harvard (3)
- I-90 Newton Urban Rail (4)
- Better Bike Corridors
- Ped/Bike Friendly Main Streets
- Neighborhood Mobility MicroHUBs
- Restructure Bus Routes
- Bikeshare Network Expansion

### 3. West Station Rapid Bus to LMA, Kendall, Harvard

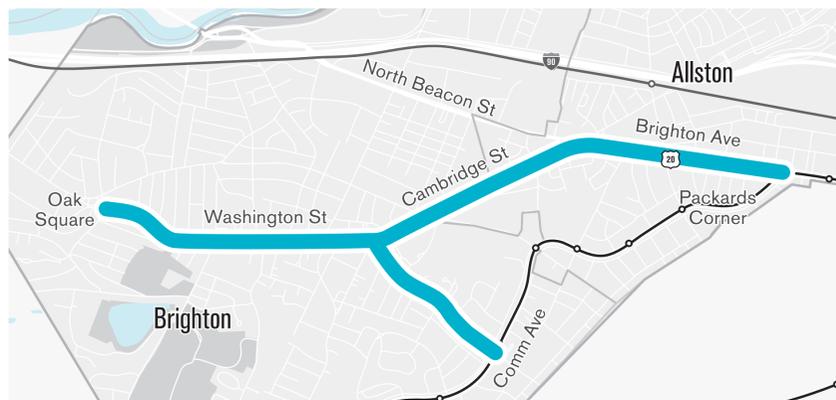
Source: Go Boston 2030



*Proposed Action Plan Project to connect a future West Station to the Longwood Medical Area, Kendall Square, and Harvard Square. This would connect many transit commuters with top regional employment centers, all without requiring travel into Boston's core.*

### 1. Oak Square to Comm Ave Rapid Bus

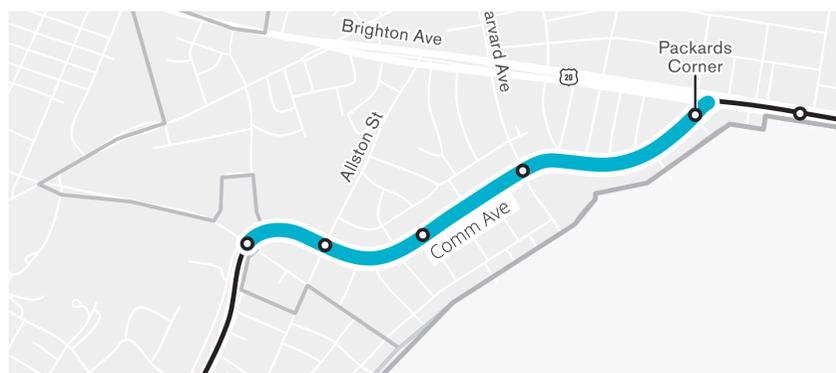
Source: Go Boston 2030



*Proposed Action Plan Project to connect Oak Square to Kenmore Square and the LMA with rapid bus accommodations. Improving bus reliability will ease congestion and improve commutes on high-ridership and high-delay corridors.*

### 2. Commonwealth Avenue

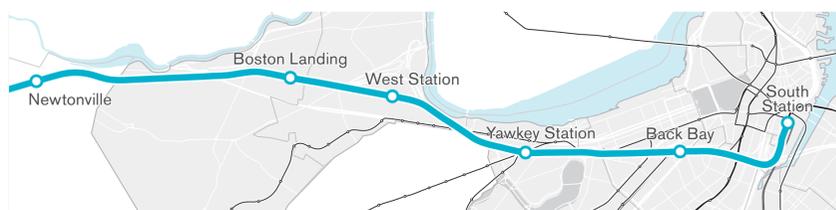
Source: Go Boston 2030



*Proposed Action Plan Project to redesign Commonwealth Avenue to include separated bike facilities and sidewalk and transit improvements. The intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Harvard Avenue will be redesigned to enhance safety and outdoor public spaces.*

### 4. I-90 Newton Urban Rail

Source: Go Boston 2030



*Proposed Action Plan Project to use smaller urban railcars in between less-frequent commuter rail trains. This will provide subway-like service between several neighborhoods of Boston and Newton, incentivize transit-oriented development, and ease pressure on the Massachusetts Pike.*

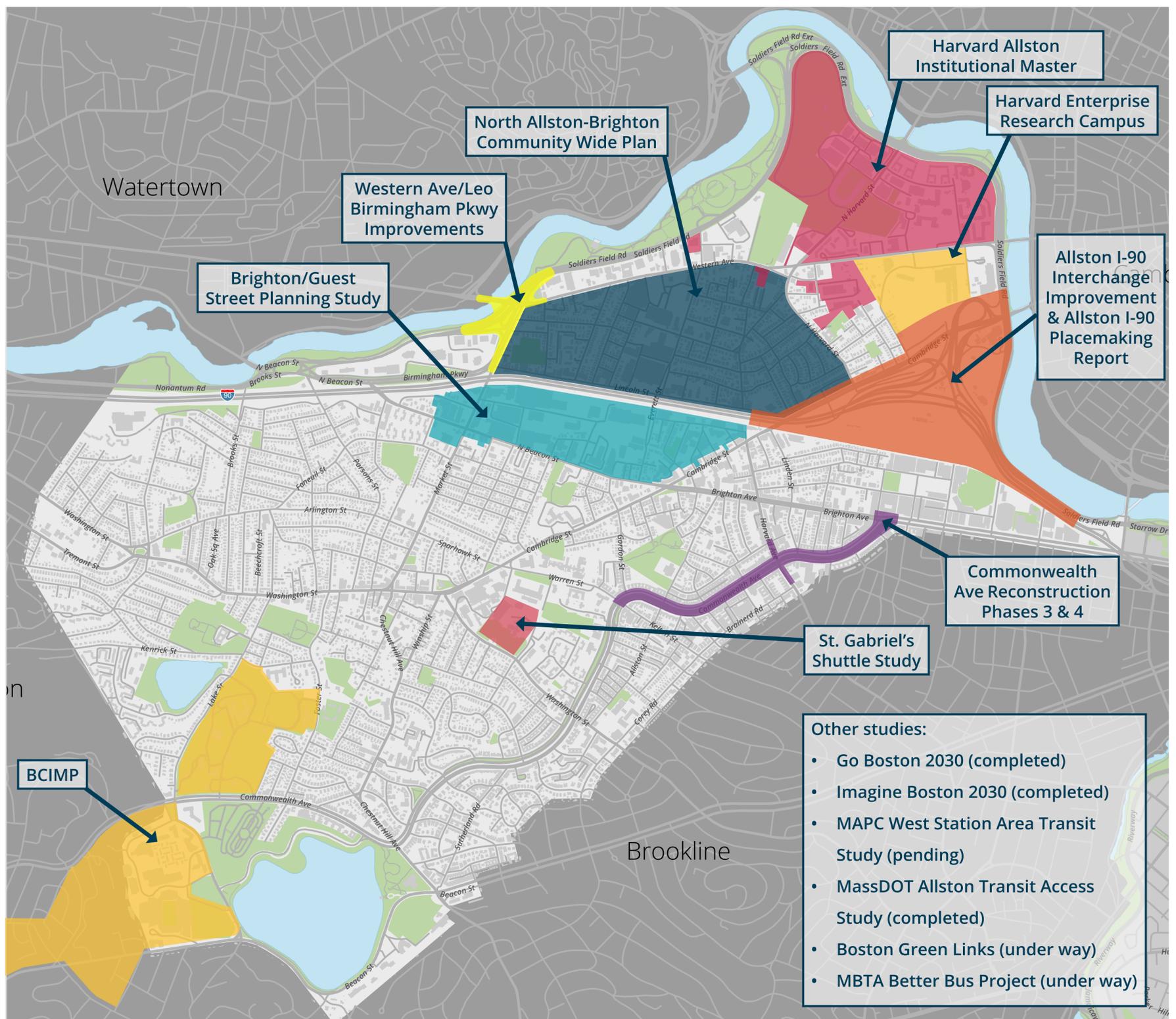
## Existing Plans

The Allston-Brighton Mobility Study builds on a universe of previous & ongoing planning initiatives in Allston-Brighton.

- Parts of Allston-Brighton have been studied before
- The focus of this study is to provide realistic and implementable recommendations, **informed** and **guided** by **past planning efforts**
- Work will not be duplicated: the **Allston-Brighton Mobility Study** is building on these plans in crafting a comprehensive **Final Transportation Action Plan** for Allston-Brighton

### Past & Ongoing Planning Initiatives Within the A-B Mobility Study Area

Source: bostonplans.org



# Pending Development

## Managing ongoing development in Allston-Brighton

### Development in Allston-Brighton

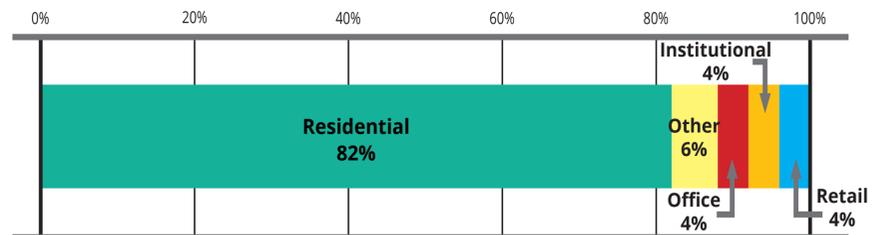
Some areas in particular within Allston-Brighton have seen significant new development and growth in recent years.

Based on projects currently going through the City's Article 80 review process, approved, or under construction, approximately 8 million square feet of new development is anticipated in Allston-Brighton. As shown in the chart to the right, most of this new development is residential.

Managing the impacts of these developments and taking advantage of their investments to create key transportation improvements for the community are a focus of the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study.

### Nature of New Growth

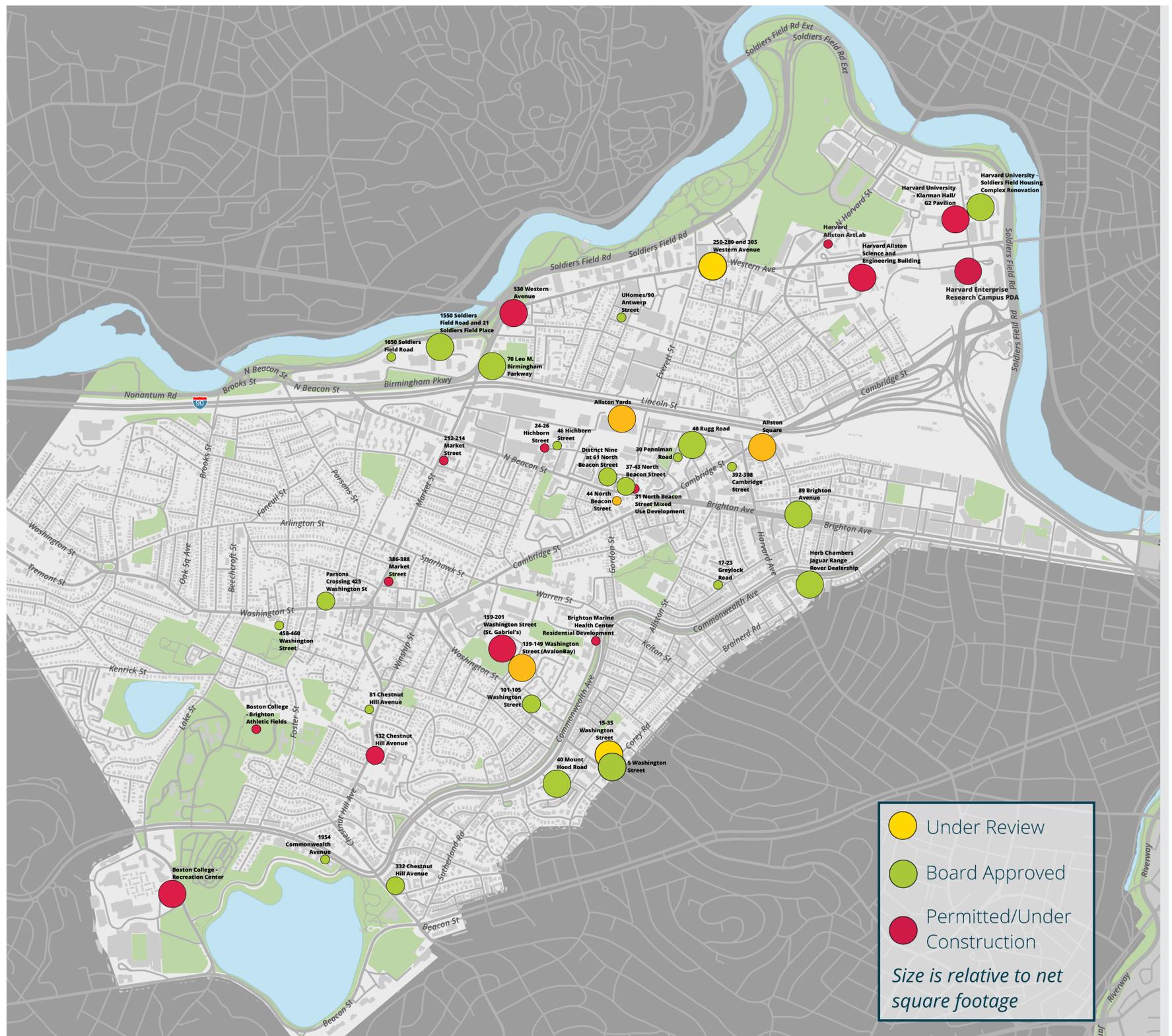
Source: bostonplans.org. By square footage.



*Development activity is primarily residential, though office, institutional, hotel, and retail development is planned alongside this growth in housing units as well.*

### Projects Under Article 80 Review, Approved, or Under Construction

Source: bostonplans.org. Current as of December 2019



# Study Focus

Planned Improvements

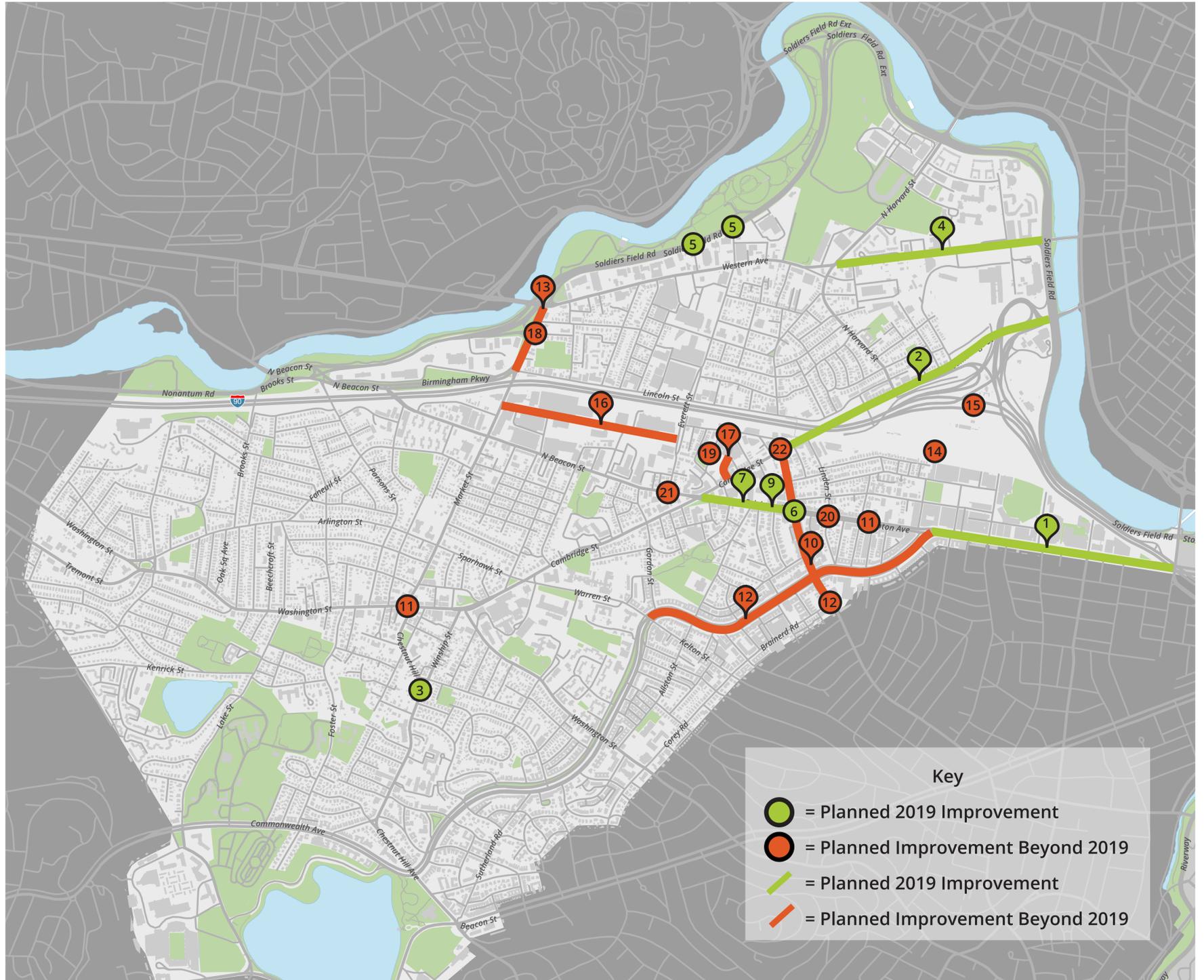
Heat Maps

Transit

# Planned Improvements

## Planned Transportation Improvements\*

Source: City of Boston research



## List of Projects:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Commonwealth Avenue Phase 2/2A      | 9. Metered Parking                      | 17. Emery Road Sidewalk                                   |
| 2. Cambridge Street Bike Improvements  | 10. Better Bike Corridors               | 18. Lothrop St and Leo Birmingham Parkway Signal          |
| 3. Chestnut Hill Ave at Winship Street | 11. Walk and Bike Friendly Main Streets | 19. Penniman Road Crossing                                |
| 4. Western Avenue- Harvard ERC         | 12. Commonwealth Ave Phases 3 & 4       | 20. Brighton Ave / Linden St Signal                       |
| 5. Soldiers Field Road Crossings       | 13. Leo Birmingham Parkway Bike Lanes   | 21. Everett St / N Beacon St Signal                       |
| 6. Harvard Avenue Rideshare Zone       | 14. West Station                        | 22. Harvard Ave / Cambridge St / Franklin St Intersection |
| 7. Brighton Ave Bus Priority           | 15. I-90 Interchange Project            |   |
| 8. BTD Signal Equipment Upgrades       | 16. Guest Street Corridor               |   |

\*The transportation improvements are planned by several different transportation agencies at City and State levels including the Boston Transportation Department, the Boston Public Works Department, and MassDOT.

# Heat Maps

## Compiling Existing Problems

### Identifying Problem Areas

- We've **compiled crash data** reported to the Boston Police department and **Vision Zero\* Safety Concerns** suggested by Allston-Brighton community members
- These heat maps help us **identify key intersections and corridors** to consider in the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study

### Data Sources

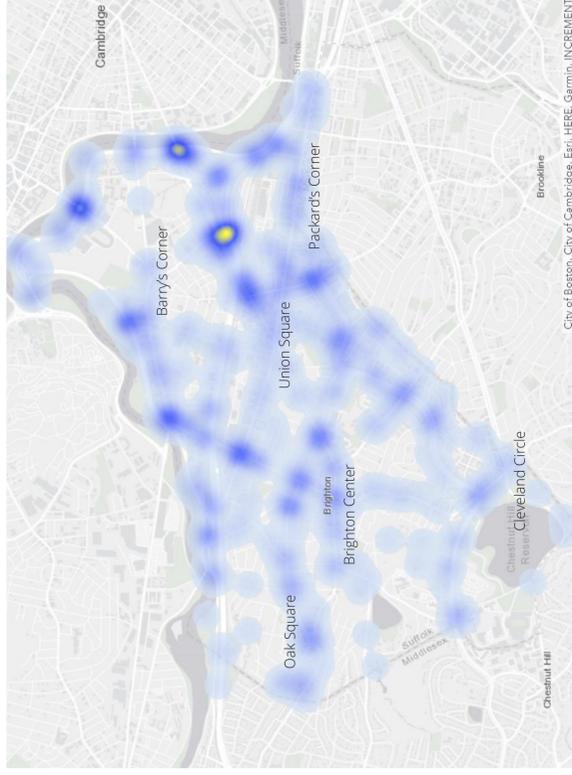
**Crash Data:** City of Boston crash records involving peds, bikes, or vehicles where Police or EMS were called since 2015

**\*Vision Zero Safety Concerns:** Based on over 500 comments from community members starting in 2016 about safety concerns related to different modes of travel

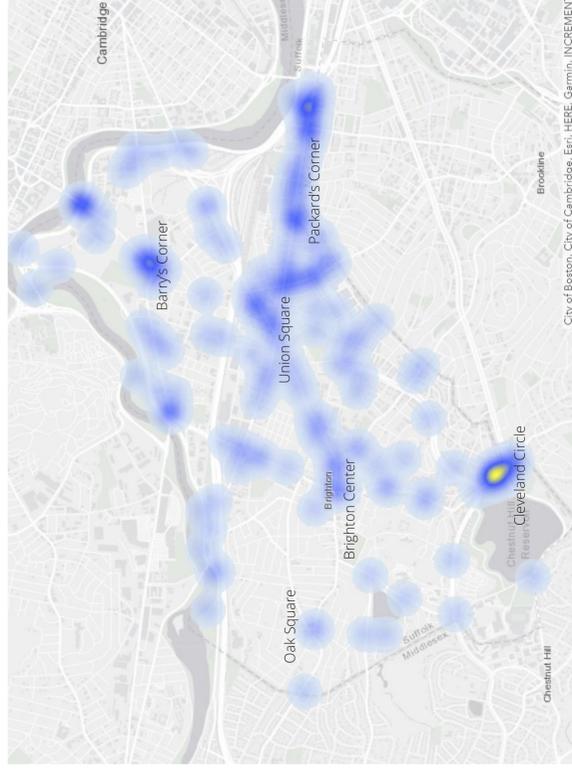
### A-B Mobility September 2018 Open

**House:** Comments on mobility issues from community members

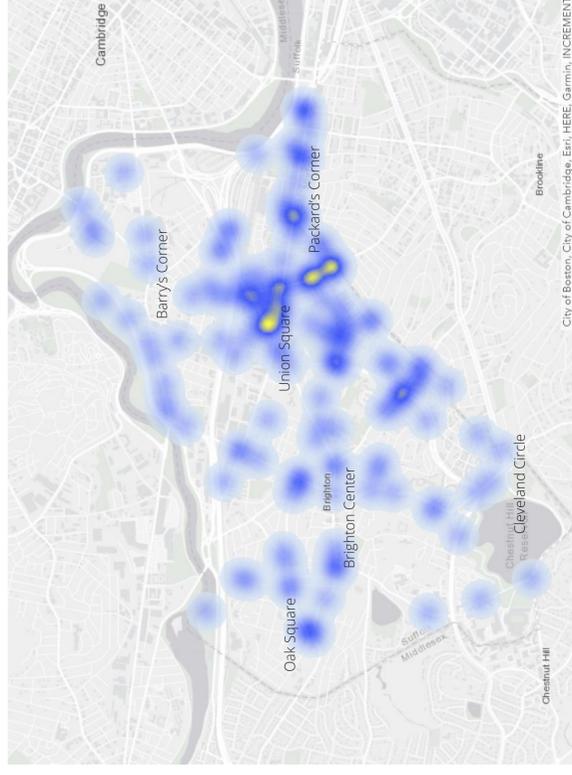
Crash Data - Vehicles



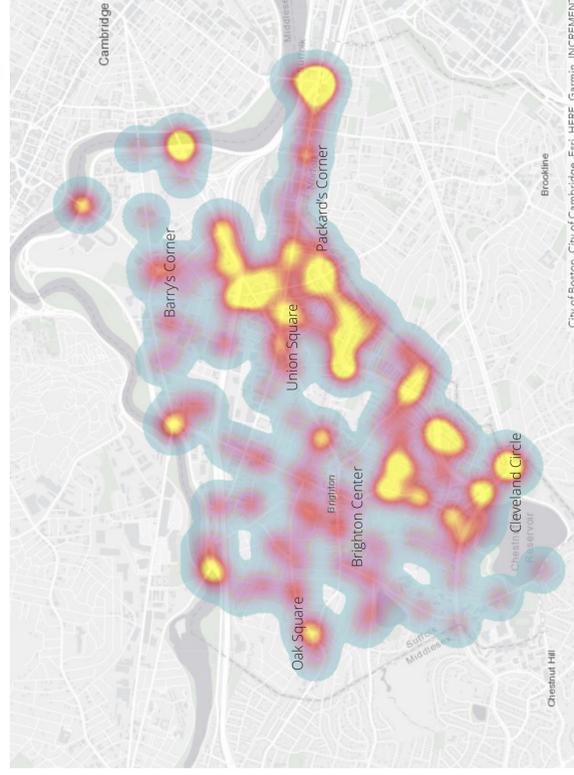
Crash Data - Bicycles



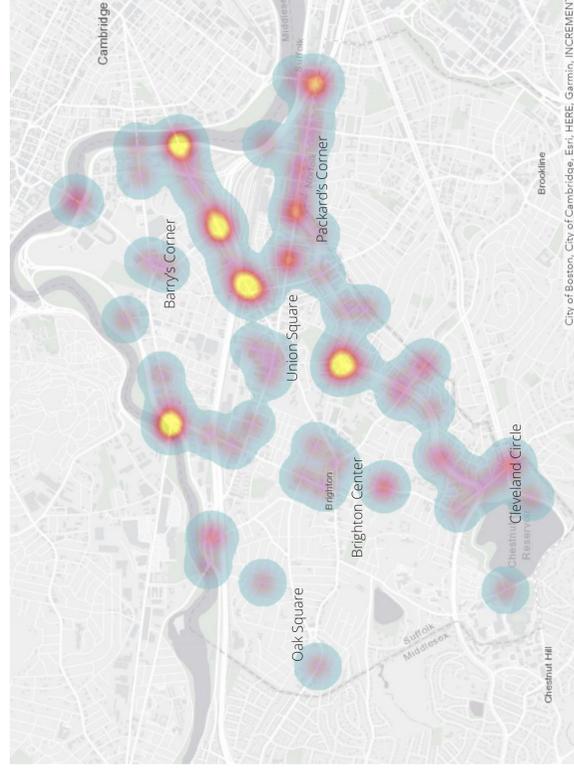
Crash Data - Pedestrians



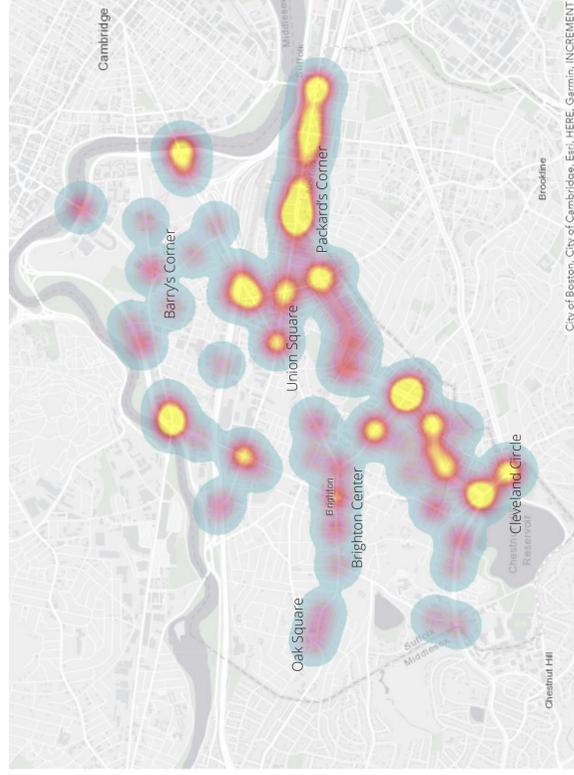
Vision Zero - Vehicles



Vision Zero - Bicycles

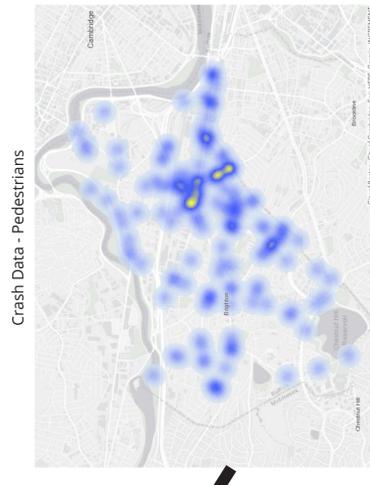
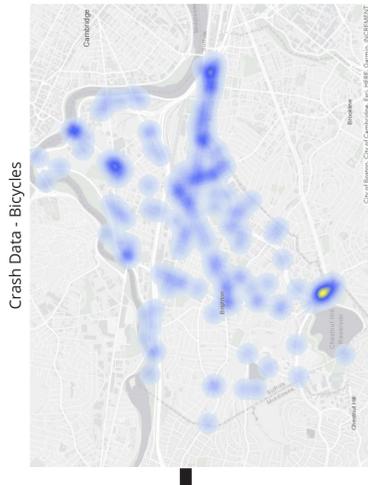
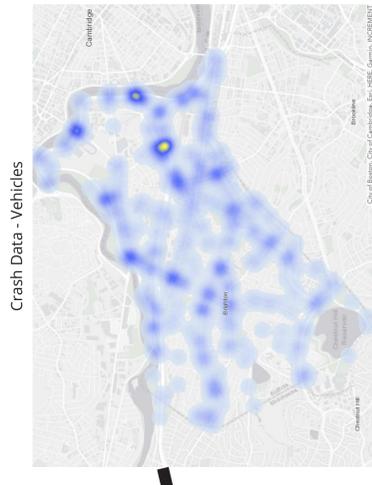
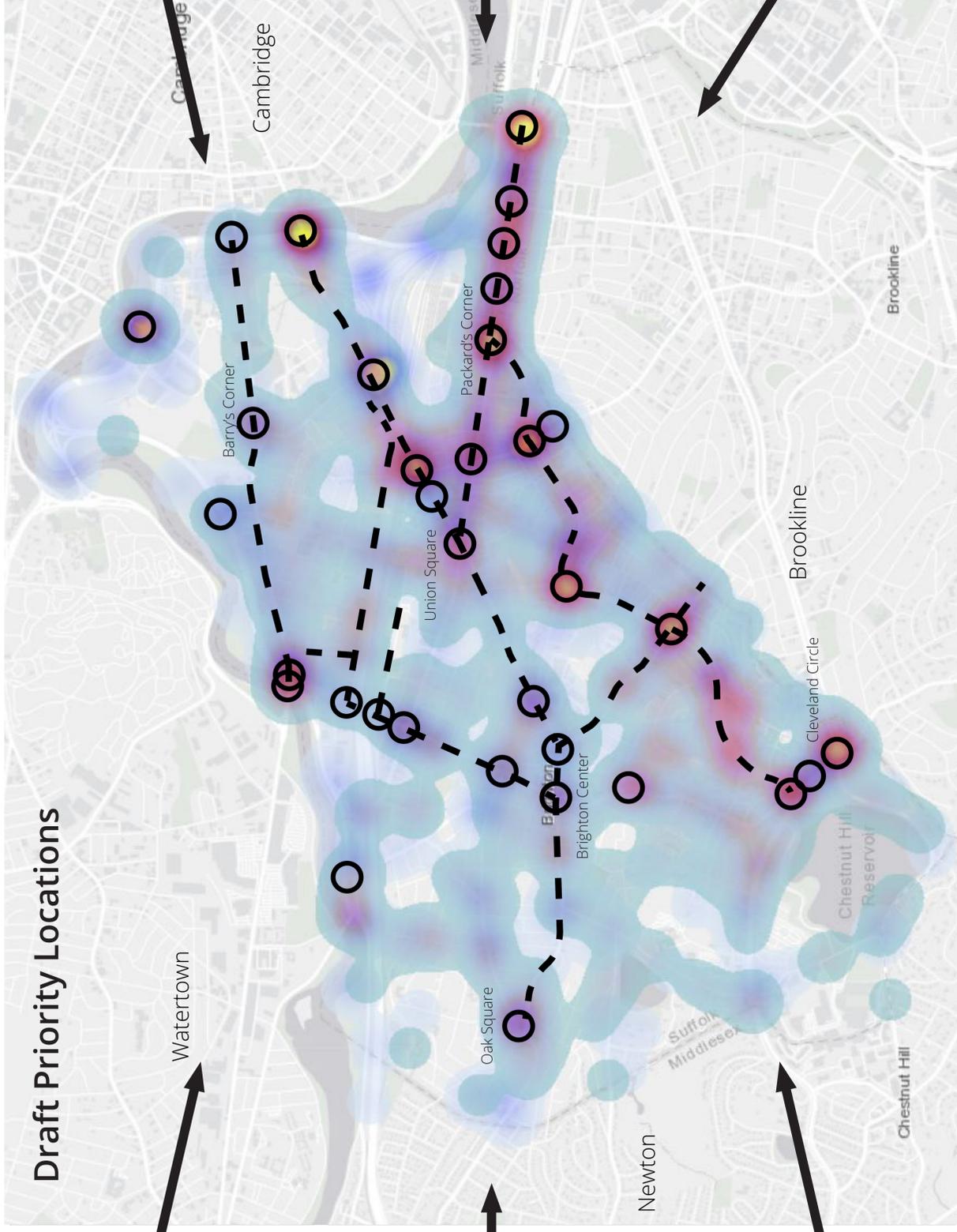
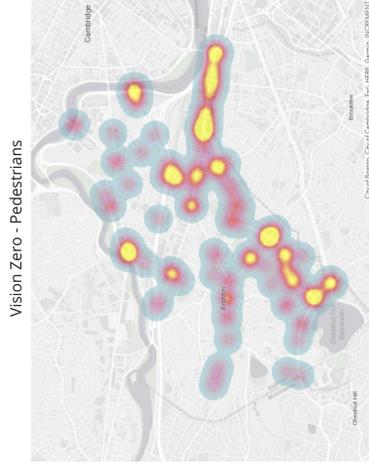
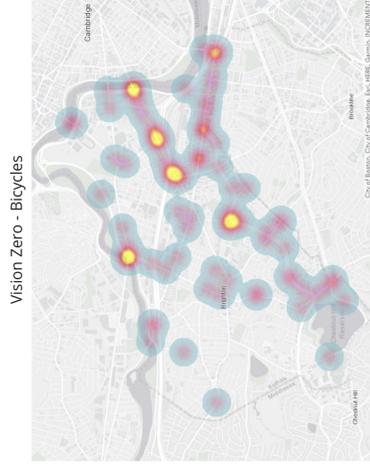
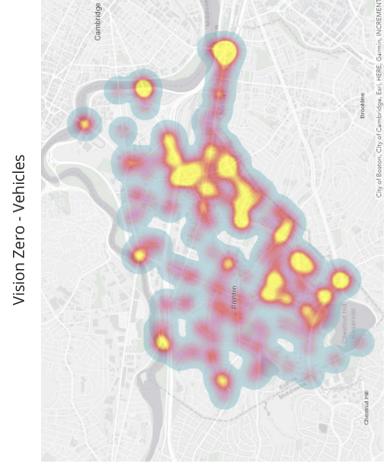


Vision Zero - Pedestrians



# Heat Maps

## Determining Draft Priority Locations



The **composite Heat Map** shown here combines **data from multiple sources**: recent **crash data** for each travel mode from the Police Department, hundreds of comments from Allston-Brighton community members collected as part of the **City's Vision Zero project**, and **public comments** collected so far as part of the A-B Mobility Study.

# Heat Maps

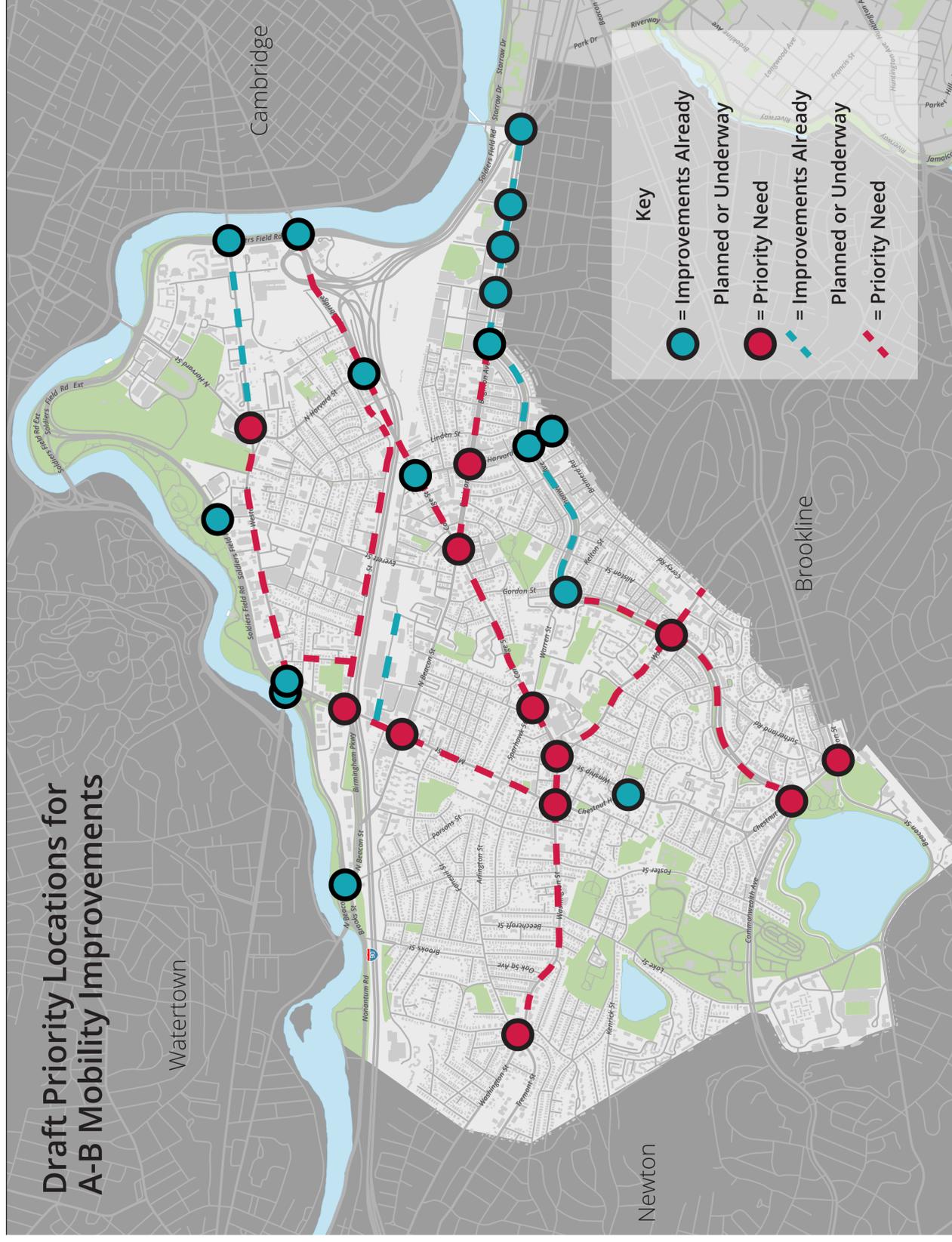
## Draft Priority Locations

### Methodology

- The map shows a **preliminary set of priority locations** for physical improvements and/or policy recommendations based on the Heat Maps.
- Among the priority locations, the map distinguishes between where the City has already **planned improvements** (blue) and where the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study has preliminarily identified the need for **additional improvements** (red).

### Map Key

- **Improvements Already Planned or Underway:** An intersection or corridor that has plans associated with it, either in a conceptual, designed, or construction stage.
- **Priority Need:** An intersection or corridor that seems to be a high priority based on the Heat Map analysis and anecdotal evidence.



# Transit Destination Access by Route

## Route-by-Route Access

• These polygon diagrams show how easy it is to **use individual transit routes to reach popular employment destinations** from Allston-Brighton.

• The categories are as follows:

**Direct Access:** One seat ride

**Indirect Access:** 2 seat ride, 1 seat on transit/rail

**Difficult Access:** 2 seat ride, both seats on bus

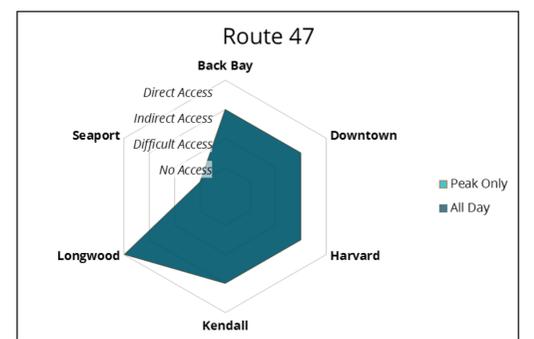
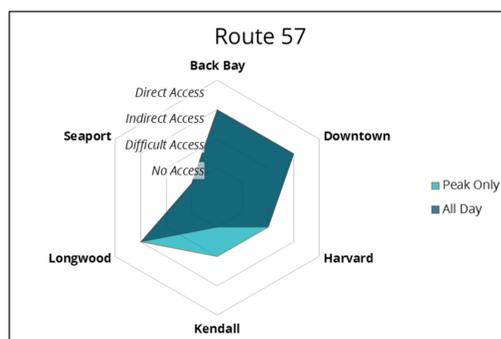
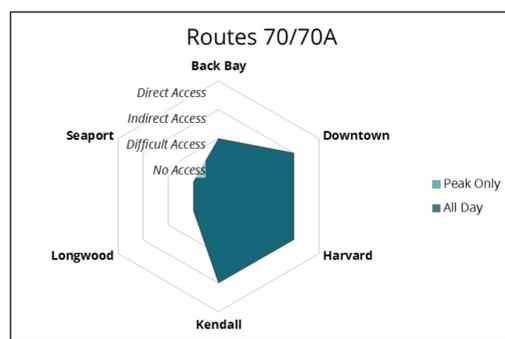
**No Access:** Greater than 2 seat ride

Boston Landing Station

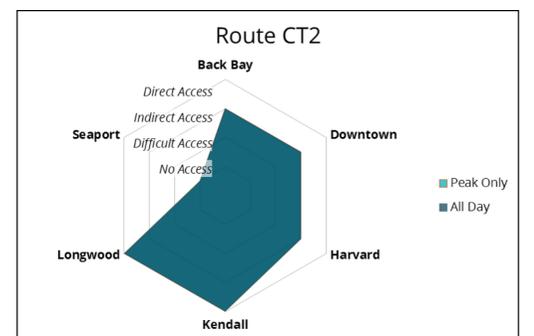
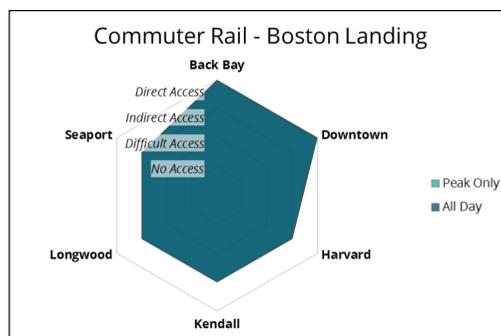
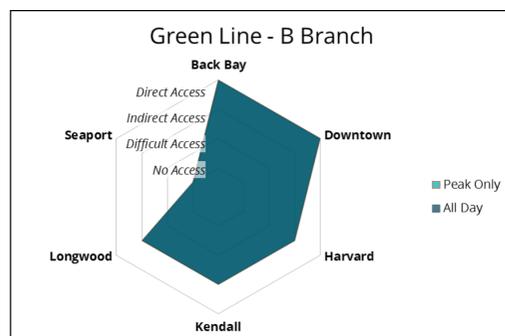


Source: Boston Magazine

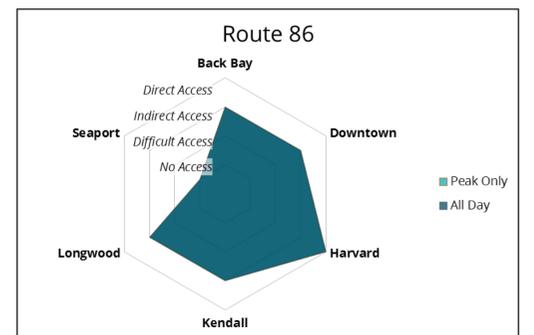
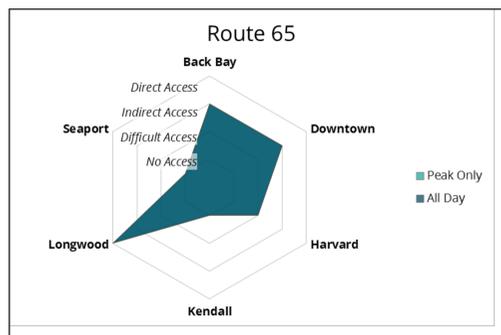
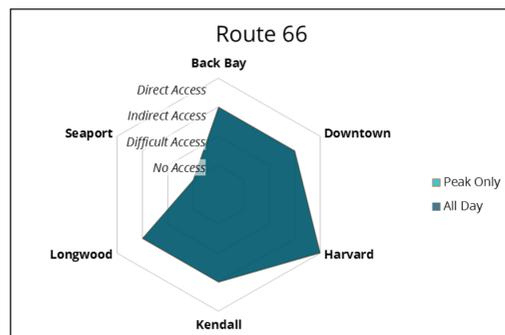
Primarily used for connections to rapid transit lines:



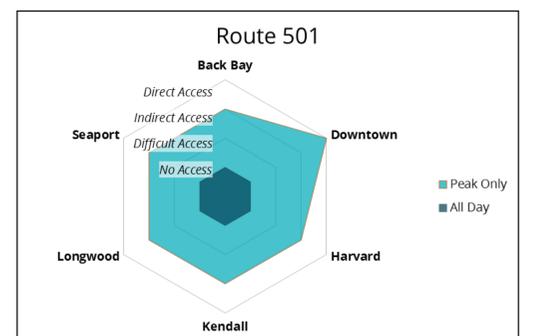
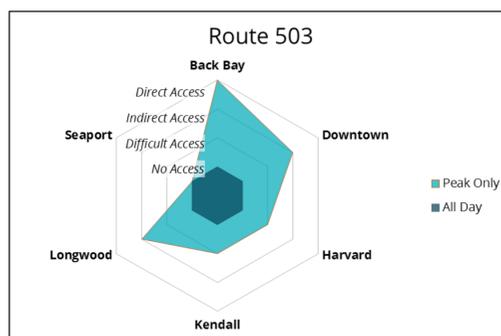
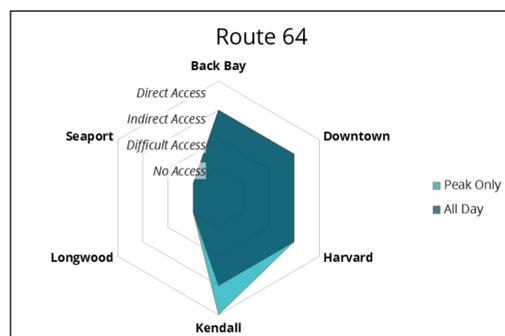
Direct access to key destinations, but not in the center of the neighborhood:



Direct access to a key destination, but also used for transit connections:



Much more access in the peak than the off-peak:



# Transit

## Access to Popular Employment Destinations

### Accessing Specific Destinations

- These maps show how easy it is to **access popular employment destinations** from within Allston-Brighton.

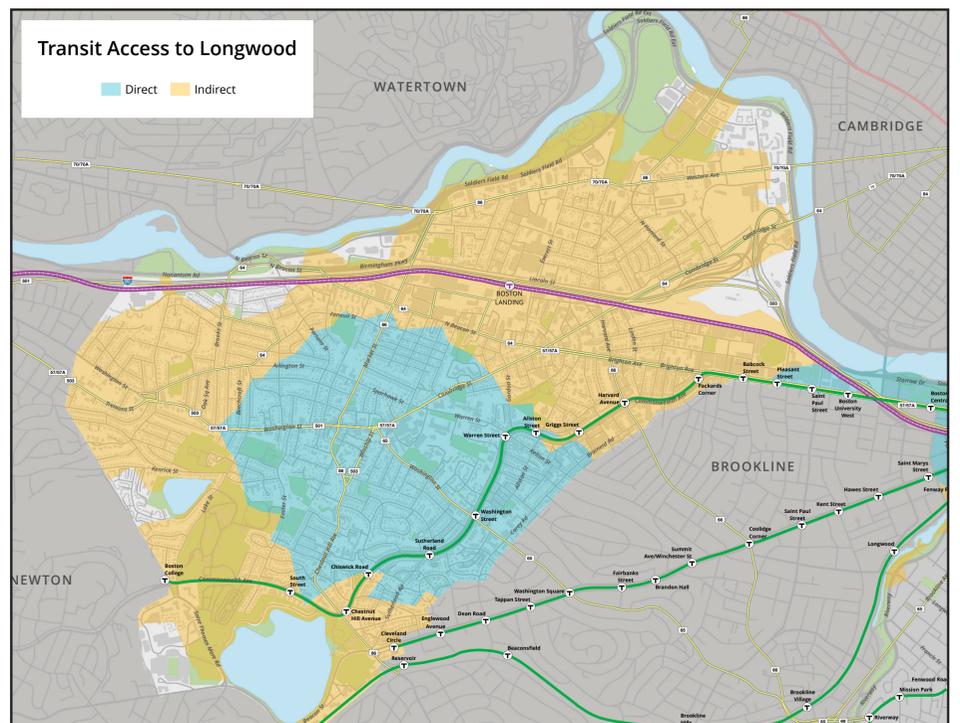
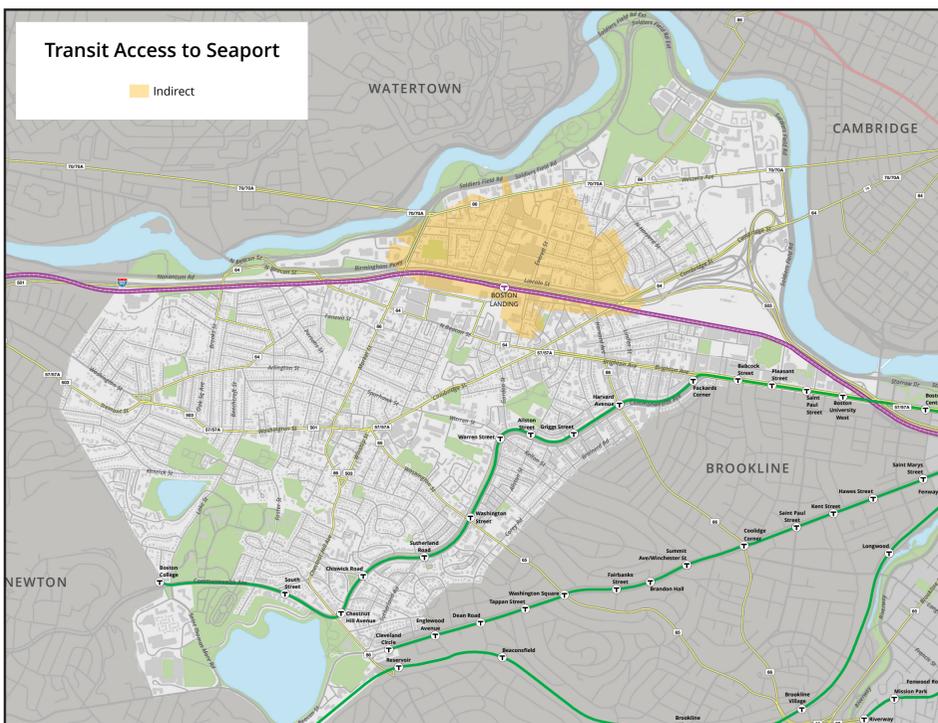
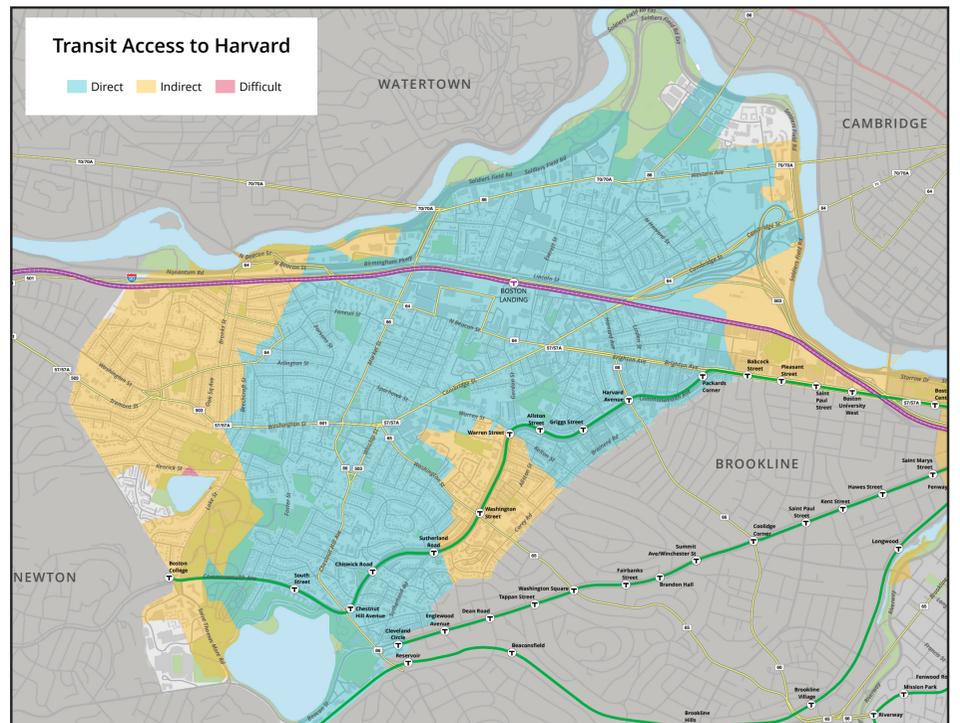
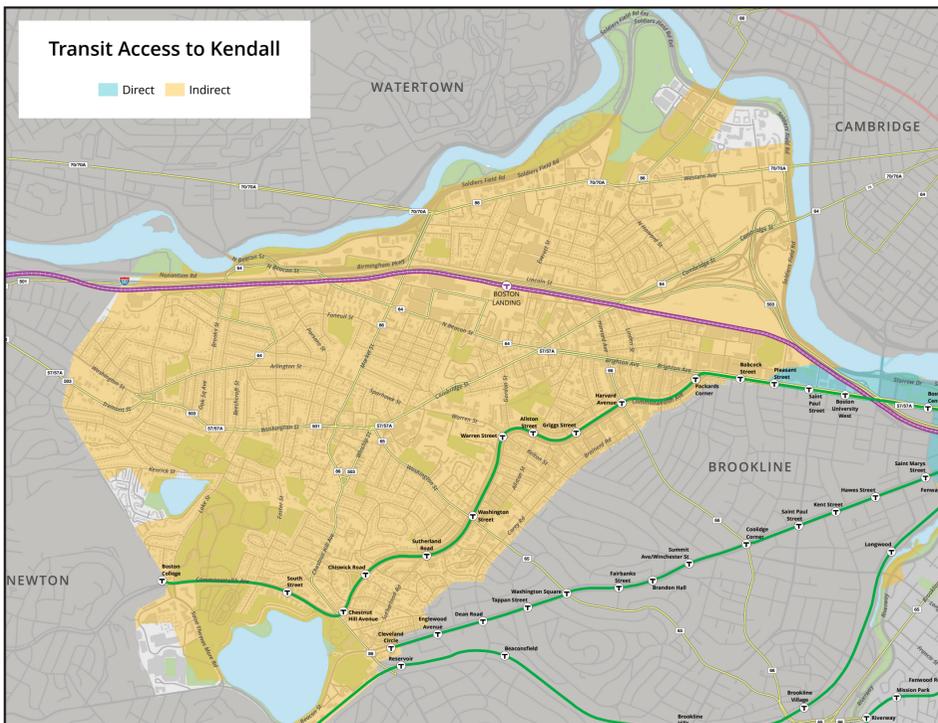
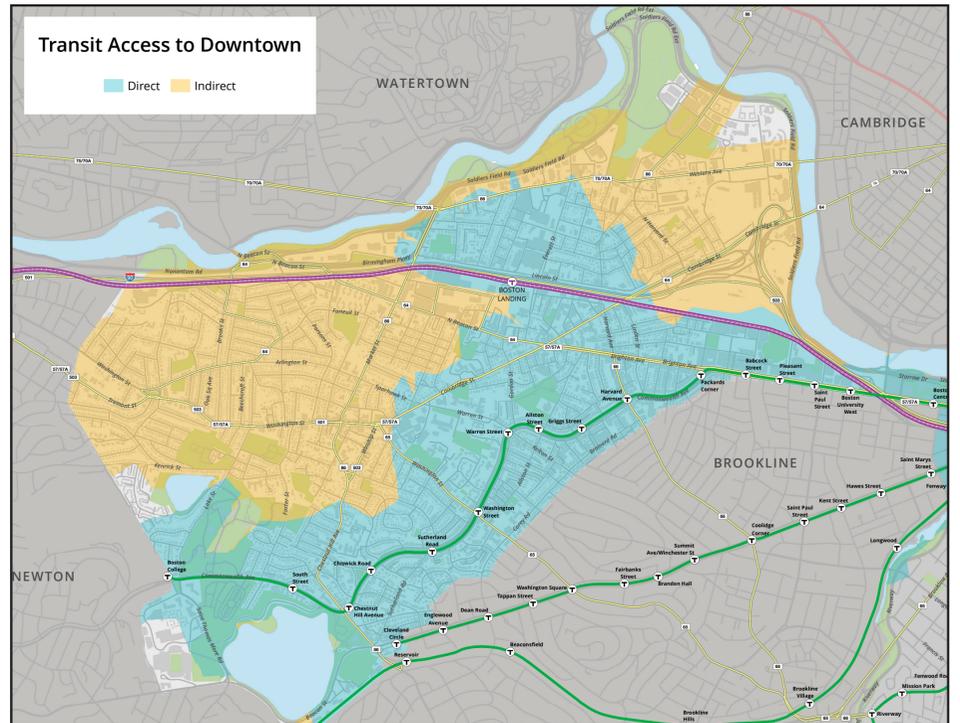
### Key for Maps

**Direct Access:** One seat ride

**Indirect Access:** 2 seat ride, 1 seat on transit/rail

**Difficult Access:** 2 seat ride, both seats on bus

**No Access:** Greater than 2 seat ride

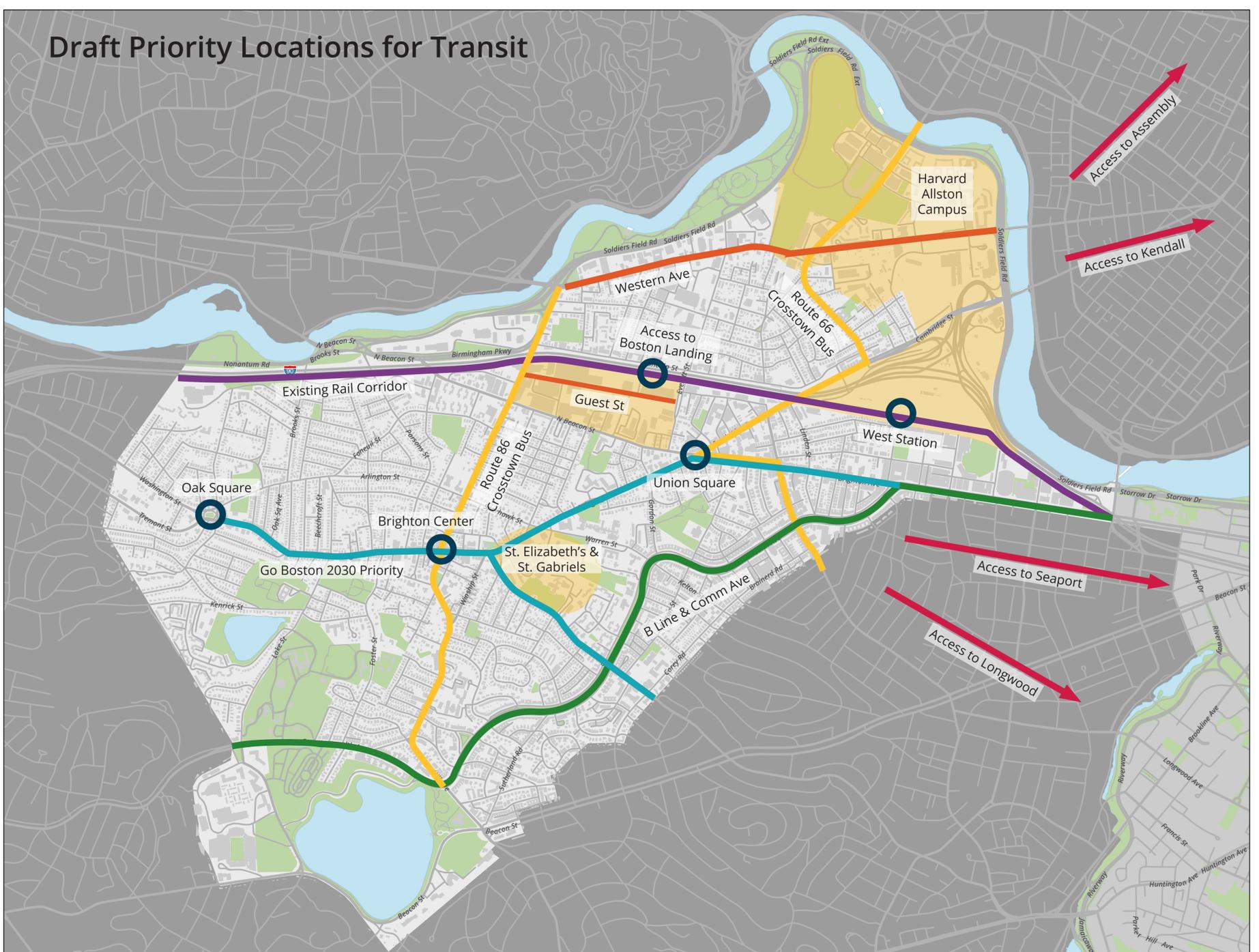


# Transit

## Draft Priority Locations

### Drafting Priority Locations for Transit

- This map shows a **preliminary set of locations for transit** that may be considered in the Allston-Brighton Mobility Study.
- These locations have been drafted **based on several sources of information**, including:
  - **Community comments** from the A-B Mobility Study September 2018 Open House
  - Analysis on **access to popular employment destinations** (see other Transit boards)
  - Transit recommendations from **previous and ongoing transit studies**
  - Preliminary **review of transit data** such as delay and ridership numbers



# Activity

## Priority Locations Activity

- The map on the table shows all of the draft priority locations for A-B Mobility improvements.
- Some locations already have planned improvements scheduled or under way; these are shown in blue.

## Instructions

- Grab a set of 3 sticky dots
- Place sticky dots on corridors or intersections that you want prioritized in this study
- You may place them anywhere on the map, not just the identified areas

# Next Steps

Improvements Toolbox

# Improvements Toolbox

## Recommending Improvements

- The A-B Mobility Open House in September 2018 focused on understanding what problems exist and where they are.
- Now, with your input, we want to identify and prioritize the areas of greatest need.
- This Toolbox encompasses a range of possible transportation improvements that we can consider for the A-B Mobility Study.

## Instructions

- Grab a “Next Steps” handout; it describes two ways you can use the Toolbox including the Area Workshops happening in February and March as well as how to use the Online Map on your own time at [maps.kittelson.com/allston-brighton](https://maps.kittelson.com/allston-brighton)

<b>Pedestrian Improvements</b>					
<b>Bicycle Improvements</b>					
<b>Transit Improvements</b>					
<b>Vehicles &amp; Parking</b>					
<b>Placemaking &amp; Beautification</b>					