



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Better Bus Project Update

FMCB, January 14, 2019



Overview

This presentation will update the Board on the Better Bus Project work plan including the timeline release of Near-term proposals to improve bus routes across the system and the public engagement strategy through winter/spring 2019. The Project Team welcomes the Board's feedback on this plan.

Better Bus Project Process Map: Update

System-wide impacts of Near-term proposals package

Public Engagement

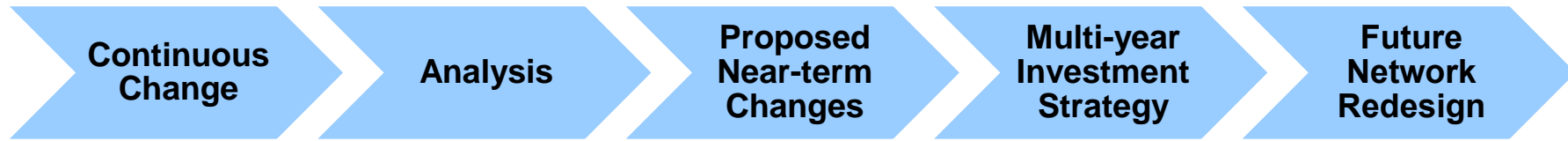
- Strategies
- Timeline

Near-term proposal example

Key Next Steps - Decisions and Implementation Timelines



Better Bus Project Process Map: Update



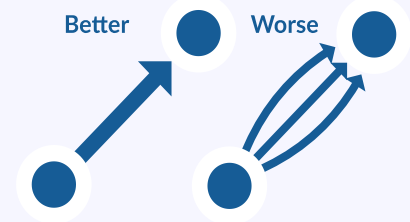
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Products/ Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Early Morning Pilot ✓ Late Night Pilot ✓ SL3 Service Expansion ✓ Dedicated Bus Lanes ✓ Transit Signal Prioritization ✓ Signal Optimization ✓ Addition Resources ✓ Dropped Trip Task Force ✓ Quarterly Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1nd Round Public/ Stakeholder/Operator Outreach ✓ Review existing service • Jan 28: Release State of the System Report • Jan 28: Release Market Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing: Municipal and State Officials Outreach • Jan 28: Release near-term service proposals • Jan 28 to Mar 13: 2nd Round Public/ Stakeholder Outreach • Apr: FMCB Vote: Go/No-Go • Early-May: Build new schedules & routes • Fall: Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 28: Release Route Profiles • Feb: Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20 • Mar: Finalize FY20 resource request • Apr: Selection of FY20 investment level by the FMCB Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nov: RFP posted • Jan/Feb: Consultant award



Proposed Near-term Changes: Principles for Change

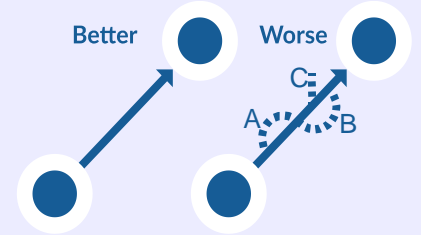
Combine Similar Services

Combine routes that serve the same areas in slightly different ways to create a more reliable and frequent service that's easier for our customers to use.



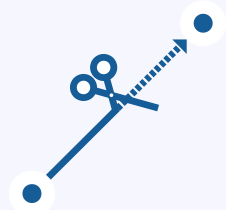
Minimize Route Variations

Reduce route variations that create customer confusion, serve few people, and do not impact vulnerable populations who do not have other alternatives. This creates faster and more reliable service for customers that's easier to understand.



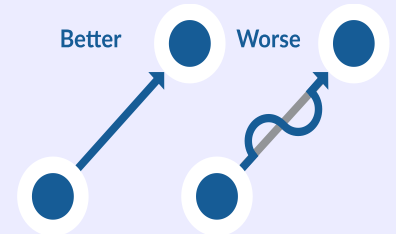
Shorten Unproductive Sections

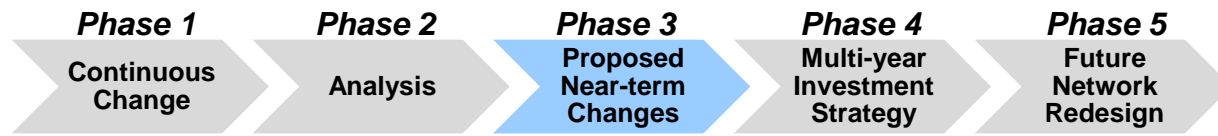
Many routes are very long with sections that have little to no ridership, or have other service options. By shortening routes, we provide customers on the remaining service with increased frequency and reliability.



Straighten Routes

The less a bus needs to turn or deviate from a straight path, the faster it will travel. This makes bus routes easier to understand while also provide faster and more reliable service for our customers.





Proposed Near-term Changes: Total Impact

- **47 proposals** that affect 63 of our 180 routes across ~35 communities
- **2,000 passenger hours saved each weekday**, or 509,000 weekday hours a year
- **8,000 new bus rides every weekday**, or over 2 million new rides a year
- **At least 30,000-45,000 of weekday bus riders positively affected** by these proposals
 - 14,000 of weekday bus riders will have a **faster trip**
 - 32,500 of weekday bus riders will have a **shorter wait time**
- **A small subset of riders will be inconvenienced** by these proposals
 - 786 of weekday bus riders will be further than ½ mile from bus or other MBTA transit service
 - 3,000 of weekday bus riders will have to transfer who didn't before
- *All proposals will be available online **January 28th** at **[mbta.com/betterbus](https://www.mbta.com/betterbus)***

Phase 1
Continuous
Change

Phase 2
Analysis

Phase 3
Proposed
Near-term
Changes

Phase 4
Multi-year
Investment
Strategy

Phase 5
Future
Network
Redesign



Example Proposal: Route 1 and CT1

Current-state challenge with existing Route 1 and CT1:

- Routes duplicate each other far more than they complement each other

Proposed changes to take effect September 2019:

- Combine CT1 with Route 1, using CT1 resources to provide more reliable Route 1 service
- Simplify Harvard Square loop

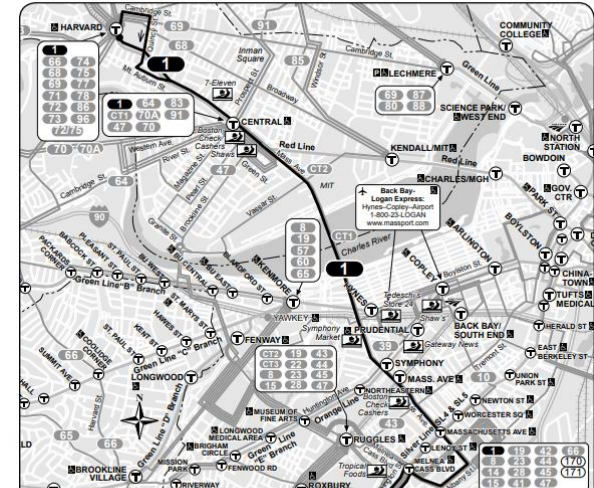
Projected impact:

- Shorter wait times, more reliable and faster service
- 20 passenger hours saved each weekday

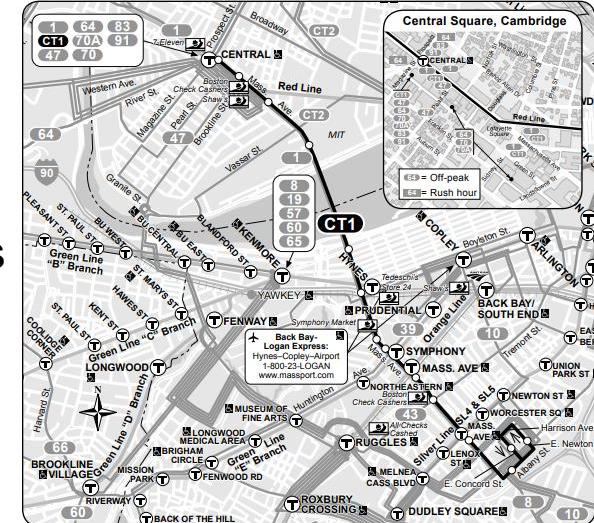
Trade-offs:

- Boston Medical Center access only on west side (Mass Ave)
- Longer walk across Harvard Square

Route 1 Harvard/Holyoke Street - Dudley Station



Route CT1 Central Square, Cambridge - BU Medical Campus/BMC



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Example Proposal: How we are communicating proposals

Dudley Station - Harvard Square

Route 1 & CT1

You asked for **1** that come on time & more often

Our proposal **1**

- Provide more frequent and reliable Route 1 service by combining Route CT1 and Route 1 into a single route
- Shorten the resulting route while maintaining service to Harvard Sq. and to the Boston Medical Center

3 minute faster trip from Harvard for 774 (6%) Route 1 riders

1 minute shorter wait time for 4,423 (37%) Route 1 riders

19 new passenger hours saved each weekday

Access maintained to west side of Boston Medical Center

Better Bus Project Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

FRONT PAGE:

- 1** Description of proposed change
- 2** Aggregated customer impact
- 3** Visualization of proposed change

BACK PAGE:

- 4** Why we believe in these changes and who is impacted
- 5** Trade-offs
- 6** Where to get more information, access to translated versions, and provide feedback online

Dudley Station - Harvard Square

Route 1 & CT1

Why we believe in these changes

- About a 3-minute faster trip from Harvard for 774 (6%) Route 1 riders
- About a 1-minute **4** time between Harvard and Central and between Central and Harrison Ave. for 4,423 (37%) Route 1 riders
- No change in wait time for 8,830 (63%) Route 1 and CT1 riders between Central and Harrison Ave.
- 19 passenger hours saved and 556 new passenger trips each weekday

Trade-offs

- 5** Up to a 6-minute walk for 245 (2%) Route 1 riders around Harvard Loop
- Up to a 7-minute walk for 327 (16%) Route CT1 riders around the Boston Medical Center

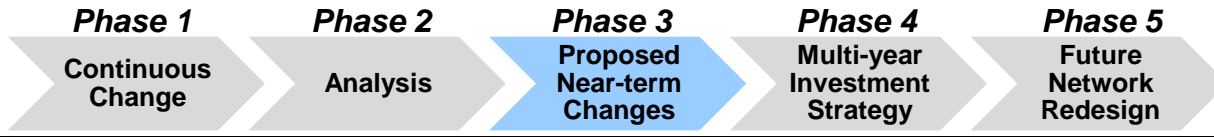
There are additional impacts (benefits or trade-offs) not captured in this summary. You'll find them at www.mbta.com/busanalysis.

About this proposal
The service change(s) in this proposal will, if approved, take effect on September 1, 2019.

6 a description of the data and methodology behind these proposals, as well as further details about this proposal, visit www.mbta.com/busanalysis. All of our proposals are available in multiple languages at <https://betterbus.mbta.com>.

Better Bus Project Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: mbta.com/betterbus



Public Engagement Strategies

Website Feedback
www.mbta.com/betterbus

Advertising Campaign
 Digital and print methods

Neighborhood Briefings
 Co-host briefings with municipalities or community groups

Community Meetings
 Held near busiest bus hubs in the system

Open Houses
 Meet riders where they already are

Street Teams
 One-on-one engagement
 Promote other outreach events

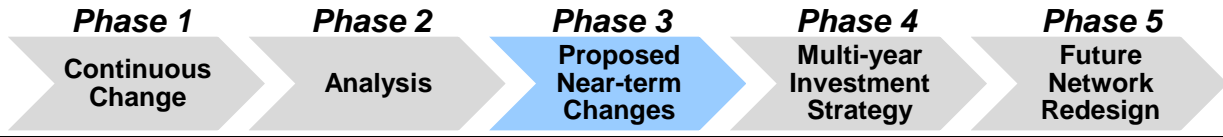
Stakeholder Workshop
 Meeting with transportation advocates

Municipal Engagement
 Staff-to-staff engagement

Operator Feedback
 Monthly listening sessions with bus operators

All feedback aggregated and used to develop final proposed package for April FMCB vote

*All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: **mbta.com/betterbus***



Public Engagement Timeline *(tentative)*

	Street Teams (6)	Open Houses (7)	Community Meetings (6)
Week of Jan. 28	Andrew	Boston City Hall Plaza, 1/31 Haymarket, 1/31	Roxbury (Dudley), TBD
Week of Feb. 4	Maverick	Wonderland, 2/5	Lynn, 2/7
Week of Feb. 11	Central Square	Ashmont, 2/13	Watertown Square, 2/12
Week of Feb. 18	Kenmore	Sullivan, 2/19	Quincy Center, 2/20
Week of Feb. 25	Ruggles	Forest Hills, 2/27	Cambridge (Harvard), 2/26
Week of Mar. 4	Oak Grove	Malden Center, 3/4	Downtown Boston, TBD
Add'l Community Briefings Planned for:	Newton, Everett, West Roxbury, Somerville, West Broadway (South Boston)		

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Key Next Steps

Date	Meeting/Deliverable Release
✓ Dec 10	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 1 Work Plan Review, Overview of State of System and Market Analysis</i>
✓ Jan 14	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 2 Overview of Near-term Change Proposals</i>
Jan 28 to Mar 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kick off Round 2 of public engagement• Release Market Analysis• Release State of the Bus System Report• Release Near-term Change Proposals• Release Route Profiles
Feb	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 3 Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20</i>
March	Action: <i>FMCB Propose FY20 Budget</i>
April	Action: <i>FMCB Vote on Package for Near-term change proposals</i>

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