Virtual Public Meeting | E Branch 28-Day Full Access

Track & Intersection Upgrades (August 2-29)

July 23, 2020
Wear a face covering when riding public transit
Agenda

- Green Line Transformation (GLT) Overview
- E Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades Project
- Making Connections During Construction
- Construction Sequence
- Community Engagement & Outreach
Green Line Transformation
Our Goal

Improve the Green Line quality of service, including increased capacity and enhanced accessibility, through fleet modernization, infrastructure/facility upgrades and state-of-the-art technology.
Quality of Service | *Providing Service that Riders Expect and Deserve*

Green Line improvements target five key service metrics focused on our riders:

- **Safety**: Mitigate service interruptions due to safety concerns
- **Capacity**: Increase speed, frequency, and capacity
- **Reliability**: Improve reliability and regularity of service
- **Access**: Improve passenger circulation and ADA compliance
- **Experience**: Improve comfort, convenience and communication
### Stations
- Cleaning of high-contact surfaces **every 4 hours**
- In-station **hand sanitizer** dispensers more widely dispersed

### Vehicles
- Buses will be disinfected **every 24 hours**
- Seats directly behind the vehicle operator unavailable to maintain distance
- Seated passengers only to maintain **social distancing**

### Operators
- Operator’s temperature to be checked pre-shift for elevated temperatures
- We strongly encourage everyone to wear **face coverings** during this time

### Contractors
- Job briefings and breaks will be staggered / in small groups
- All personnel will use **personal protective equipment**

For the **safety of our riders, employees** and **contractors** during the public health crisis, additional measures are in place, with up to date information at [mbta.com/covid19/ride-safer](http://mbta.com/covid19/ride-safer)
Green Line Full Track Renewal Plan

Green Line Extension (GLX) will add 8.6 miles of track, increasing total track length to 54.6 miles.

This work is part of the vision for the Green Line Transformation (GLT) program.

2020 Safety Investment & Capital Acceleration Plan

11 miles (24%) – 58,000 feet
- 33,000 feet B, C, E
- 17,000 feet through D Branch Track & Signal (10,000 completed in 2019)
- 8,000 Lechmere Viaduct (track finished in 2020)
- Reduces average GL track age by ~10 years

Remaining Work – Design Underway

16.7 miles (88,000 feet) (36%) 2021 - 2024
- B Branch, Packards to Warren + Blandford (15,000 ft)
- Central Tunnel – to all portals (50,000 ft)
- D Branch – Beaconsfield to Fenway (19,000 ft)
- Brigham – Mission Park (4,000 ft)

Adequate Track

16.7 miles (36%) – 88,120 feet
- D Branch 2019: 10,000 feet

Acceleration 2019 (Completed)

1.6 miles (4%) - 8,480 feet (completed)
- B & C Branches (Green Line Intersection Upgrades)

11.6 miles (24%) – 58,000 feet
- B Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades

46 Miles
Revenue Track Miles
(242,600 ft)
**B BRANCH**
- B Branch Station Consolidation: Babcock St – BU West
- B Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades: Boston College – Blandford

**C BRANCH**
- C Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades: Cleveland Circle – Kenmore
- Green Line Transit Signal Priority (TSP): Cleveland Circle – Kenmore
- Beacon Junction Special Trackwork*: St Marys – Kenmore
- Duct Bank Work: Washington Square

**E BRANCH**
- Lechmere Viaduct Rehabilitation: Lechmere – North Station
- E Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades: Heath – Symphony
- Green Line Extension*: Somerville/Medford

**B BRANCH**
- B Branch Station Consolidation: Babcock St – BU West
- B Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades: Boston College – Blandford

**C BRANCH**
- C Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades: Cleveland Circle – Kenmore
- Green Line Transit Signal Priority (TSP): Cleveland Circle – Kenmore
- Beacon Junction Special Trackwork*: St Marys – Kenmore
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**D BRANCH**
- D Branch Track & Signal Replacement: Riverside – Beaconsfield
- Fenway Portal Flood Protection: Kenmore – Fenway
- Brookline High School Expansion Project (TOD)*: Brookline Hills Station

*Concurrent projects underway by other Departments
A **28-day closure** replaces **1 year** of delays, slow zones, and early access/weekend diversions — reducing inconvenience to riders—to improve **safety and reliability sooner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekends Only: Impacts riders, residents, businesses over <strong>1 year</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available Work Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holidays, Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued Delays &amp; Slow Zones</td>
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1 Year

### 28-Day Closure: Provides a **safer, more reliable**, and **faster** ride in **1 month**

### Construction Strategy | Condensed Duration Delivers Results Sooner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Year, Non-Stop Night Work (Work Scope Limited)</th>
<th>20 Weeks of Early Access (Mon–Fri) (Work Scope Limited)</th>
<th><strong>18 - 20 Weekend Diversions spread over 1 year</strong></th>
<th>= <strong>4 Weeks (28-Days)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A 28-Days is more **efficient than 1 year** of diversions or night work
E Branch Track & Intersections Upgrades
Overview | About E Branch & Full-Access Closure

- **E Branch**
  - ~26,400 Feet of Track (5 miles)
  - 25 Years Average Age of Track (1995)
  - 8 Intersections
  - 11 Stations
  - 9 Surface Level
  - 2 Subway
  - 864 Riders (Pre-COVID)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Heath – Prudential</td>
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</table>

- **Heath – Prudential**
- **E Branch Track & Intersection Upgrades**

- **Work Area & Movement of Equipment**

- **Shuttle Service**
  (Heath to Prudential)

- **Route #39 Bus Service**
  (Forest Hills to Back Bay)
**Full-Depth Replacement (Forsyth St – Tunnel Entrance)**
Affects subgrade, ballast, ties, running rail

**Embedded Track Full-Depth Replacement (Heath – Riverway)**
New pavement, subgrade, ballast, ties, running rail

**Intersection Reconstruction (7 locations)**
Forsyth St, Parker St/Forsyth Way, Ruggles St, Evans Way, Longwood Ave, Fire Department, Huntington Ave/South Huntington Ave Curve

Mitigate risk of service interruptions by replacing track beyond its planned design life

Improve travel times in each direction through eliminating 3,800 feet of slow zones

A more accessible and smoother experience for passengers, bicyclists, and drivers over rubber panel intersection crossings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Approx. Start 6AM</th>
<th>Approx. End 6AM</th>
<th>Occupancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth St to Tunnel Entrance (Portal)</td>
<td>Monday, August 3</td>
<td>Friday, August 14</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longwood Intersection/Brigham Circle &amp; Pedestrian Crossing</td>
<td>Friday, August 7</td>
<td>Monday, August 10</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth Way to Forsyth St &amp; Intersections</td>
<td>Thursday, August 13</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 18</td>
<td>Extended Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Dept Crossing &amp; Ruggles St Intersection</td>
<td>Friday, August 14</td>
<td>Monday, August 17</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans Way Intersection</td>
<td>Monday, August 17</td>
<td>Saturday, August 22</td>
<td>Weekday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington Ave/South Huntington Ave Curve</td>
<td>Thursday, August 20</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 25</td>
<td>Extended Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Huntington Ave</td>
<td>Sunday, August 2</td>
<td>Saturday, August 29</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The schedule for this infrastructure project is weather dependent and subject to change without notice*
Making Connections During Construction
GLT conducted passenger counts at each E Branch surface station on July 14 to understand and assess needed capacity for replacement service during the pandemic.

- Ridership on the date measured was **70% of pre-COVID levels**

- **We found** that current activity centered around medical area Green Line stations during shift changes (7 am, 3 pm, 11 pm)

- **We understand the minimum number of buses needed to satisfy peak demand** along Brigham Circle and Longwood with a maximum bus load of 20 passengers
For the health and safety of our riders, shuttle service will be monitored throughout the 28-days and adjusted to reduce crowding.

**Free, Accessible Buses** will operate between Heath and Prudential.

Additional bus service schedule will meet or exceed frequency of current E Branch schedule.

**Shuttle Service** (Heath – Prudential)
- **3-5 Minutes** Peak Period
- **8-10 Minutes** Non-Peak Period
- **10-12 Minutes** Weekends
- Private Carriers (Weekdays) & MBTA Buses (Weekends)

**Route 39 Bus** (Forest Hills - Back Bay)
- **7 Minutes** Peak Period
- **10-13 Minutes** Non-Peak Period
- **11-15 Minutes** Weekends
- MBTA Regular Service
**Curbside Conditions and Path of Travel**

- Pedestrian path of travel across work zones will be marked
- Green Line Stations will be closed, and riders redirected to the adjacent Route 39 bus stops
- Parking spaces taken at various locations

**Wayfinding and Alternatives**

**Know Where to Go**

- Signage will be setup before and monitored during construction at stations and surrounding areas
- Additional MBTA Buses to support Route 39 service
- Project updates on construction progress and alternative service schedules available on MBTA.com
- Identify Alternate Routes

**Service Impacts**

**Curbside Conditions and Path of Travel**

- Pedestrian path of travel across work zones will be marked
- Green Line Stations will be closed, and riders redirected to the adjacent Route 39 bus stops
- Parking spaces taken at various locations
Huntington Ave

Considerations on Rt 39

- **Opera Place** will need to move to the east about 300 feet (both directions) from August 2-16
- **Forsyth Way** near the MFA will need to move toward Forest Hills from August 2-18
- **Fire Dept Crossing & Ruggles Intersection** weekends of August 7-10 and 14-17
- **Longwood Ave** inbound Bus stop location will be shifted towards Evans Way to the east during construction
- **No dedicated bus lanes**

### 39 Route Inbound vs 39 Route Outbound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>39 Route Inbound</th>
<th>39 Route Outbound</th>
<th>E Branch Stations</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>360 Huntington Ave</td>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Opera Place</td>
<td>Northeaster University</td>
<td>Opera Place will need to move to the east about 300 feet (both directions) from August 2-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Forsyth Way</td>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Louis Prang St</td>
<td>Museum of Fine Arts</td>
<td>Forsyth Way near the MFA will need to move toward Forest Hills from August 2-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Ruggles St</td>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Longwood Ave</td>
<td>Longwood Medical Area</td>
<td>Inbound Bus stop location will be shifted towards Evans Way to the east during construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Considerations on Route 39

- Riverway moves from South Huntington to Huntington Ave near Colburn Rd (by the closed entrance of Mission Park)
- Police will monitor the Huntington/South Huntington Ave curve through construction
- Heath Street/VA Hospital will need to be moved about 150 feet towards Forest Hills (both directions)
- 105 South Huntington Ave will be monitored during construction

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<th>39 Route Outbound</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huntington Ave @ Parker Hill Ave</td>
<td>835 Huntington Ave opp Parker Hill Ave</td>
<td>Mission Park</td>
<td>No Change Planned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Huntington Ave @ Huntington Ave</td>
<td>S Huntington Ave @ Huntington Ave</td>
<td>Riverway</td>
<td>Riverway moves from S. Huntington to Huntington near Colburn Rd (by the closed entrance of Mission Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 S Huntington Ave</td>
<td>105 S Huntington Ave</td>
<td>Back of the Hill</td>
<td>Monitor adjustment may be needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Huntington Ave @ VA Hospital</td>
<td>S Huntington Ave opp VA Hospital</td>
<td>Heath Street</td>
<td>Heath Street/VA Hospital will need to be moved about 150 feet towards Forest Hills (both directions)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Alternative Service | Bike Share

Bluebike Stations along Huntington Ave and South Huntington Ave

1. Christian Science Plaza - Massachusetts Ave at Westland Ave
2. Wentworth Institute of Technology - Huntington Ave at Vancouver St
3. Huntington Ave at Mass Art
4. Brigham Circle - Francis St at Huntington Ave
5. One Brigham Circle
6. S. Huntington Ave at Heath St

Visit Bluebikes.com to learn more
Construction Sequence
Who are our stakeholders?
Temporary lane taking for material storage (No Parking)
Temporary loop taking for the storage
Temporary lane taking for material storage (No Parking)
Temporary lane taking for storage (No Parking)
Single Lane of travel Westbound on Huntington Ave between Forsyth St & Forsyth Way for welding

Left Lane Closed 9 PM to 5 AM

Parker St closed 9 PM to 5 AM
Typical Work Zone | South Huntington Ave

- Contractor will occupy the center of the roadway to remove and replace track paving and track elements
- All roadway traffic will operate in existing parking lanes
- Parking will not be permitted during construction (24/7)
- Bus stops will be adjusted outside of the work zone to avoid single-lane traffic back-ups
  - Riverway bus stop will be moved to Huntington Ave.
  - Back-of-the-Hill bus stop may be adjusted towards Heath St. if necessary to be separated from the construction work zone
• Contractor will occupy left lanes to gain access to the reservation
• Space is used for crane access and over-the-road vehicles delivering and removing materials
• All roadway traffic will operate in the right lane
• Parking will not be permitted during the construction (24/7)
• Bus stops will be adjusted outside of the work zone to avoid single-lane traffic back-ups
**Traffic Management Plan**

**Essential transportation services and reduce traffic congestion**

**Vehicle Access**
- Encourage all general purpose traffic to detour away from the construction zone
- Officer enforcement to maintain the #39 and #66 buses and emergency vehicles through the intersection of Huntington and South Huntington
- Other bus routes will be monitored during construction (#8, #47 and Area Shuttles)
- Support delivery access for local businesses and shops

**Pedestrian Access**
- Maintain pedestrian access and crosswalks at each end of the work zone and across the intersection of Huntington Ave and South Huntington Ave at all times
- Officer enforcement to assist pedestrians through each intersection
Community Engagement & Outreach
• **Local Restaurants:** permits for the outdoor seating

• **Work Zone:** track work will take place at Brigham Circle Station Pedestrian Crossing

• No major work is currently planned for the intersection at Francis St and Huntington Ave

• **Bus/Shuttle Stop:** Fenwood Rd will remain at the existing location
Our transformation program is focused on investing in the future of the E Branch and Green Line.

### Maintaining Environment and Urban Fabric
- Protecting trees during construction
- Ensuring plantings are intact or replaced
- Supporting local businesses “open during construction”

### Investing in the E Branch for Today...
- Infrastructure improvements for better reliability and safety
- Responding to riders who want improvements sooner

### Mobility Improvements
- Transit Signal Priority
- Supporting Green Links Crossing at Forsyth/Parker St Intersection
- Supporting pedestrian and bicycle improvements at Huntington & S. Huntington

### ...Laying the Foundation for Future Investments
- Type 10 Supercars
- Platform and Accessibility Upgrades
### Stay Connected

**Ask Questions and Be Informed**

- Contact [GLT@mbta.com](mailto:GLT@mbta.com)
- Call 24/7 noise hotline: 508-676-3517
- Follow on social media
- Subscribe to alerts [mbta.com/alerts](https://mbta.com/alerts)
- Check website for up to date info
- Ask a Customer Service Agent

**Alternate Routes and Transit Options**

- Regular service replaced by **shuttle buses**
- **Accessible pedestrian pathways well-marked** during closure
- Advanced messaging **signage for drivers**
- Plan ahead: [mbta.com/glework](https://mbta.com/glework)

Contact us at: **GLT@mbta.com**

[www.mbta.com/GLT](https://www.mbta.com/GLT)
Public Comment | Next Steps

Please share only one question or comment at a time

• Press the “Raise Hand” button to share your question or comment verbally. Wait for the moderator to recognize and unmute you before speaking.

• All attendees who speak Spanish, Russian, or Cantonese, please raise your hand to provide your comments/questions verbally for the interpreters to hear your comments.

  After you speak, we will lower your hand and you will be muted to allow the team to respond and provide opportunities for others to participate.

• Use the “Q&A” button to submit a typed question or comment.

Comments may also be sent to GLT@mbta.com