

SL – Extension

Alternatives Analysis

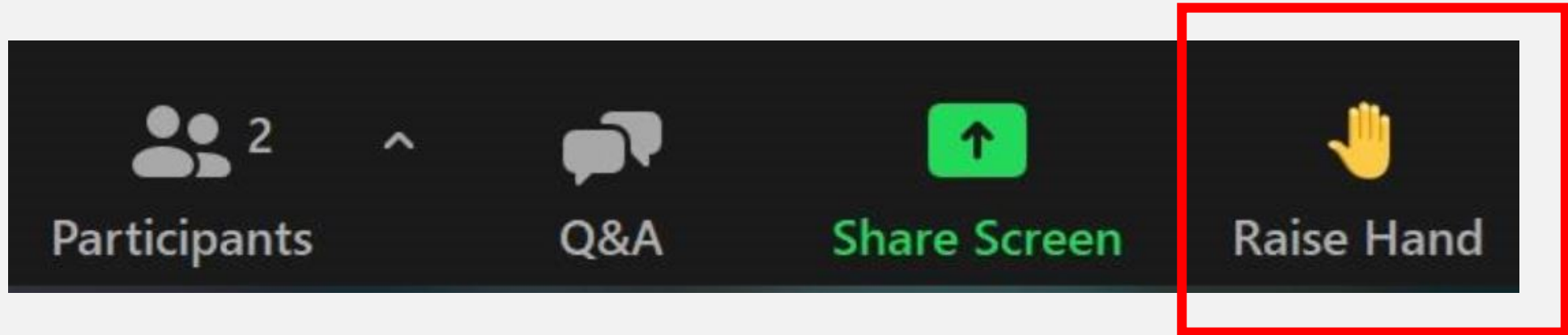
Working Group Meeting #1

February 1, 2021



Working Group Participation

- Press the “Raise Hand” button. Please wait for the moderator to recognize you before unmuting yourself and speaking.



Note: if you are not using the latest software of Zoom, you may have to click the Participants button to access the Raise Hand feature.

Agenda

01 | Welcome and Introductions

02 | Project Overview & Your Role

03 | Study Goals and Objectives

04 | Existing Conditions

05 | Next Steps

Meeting Purpose

Our hope is that today we will lay the groundwork for the study by reaching agreement on our proposed Goals and Objectives.

Project Overview

And the Role of the Working Group

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis is to assess the feasibility, utility, and cost of various alignment and service frequency options of an extension of the Silver Line, providing high quality transit from Chelsea through Everett and on to Somerville, Cambridge and/or Boston.

Project Need

- This project's objective is to add transit service capacity and connectivity that will knit together Chelsea and Everett with nearby communities that are not currently well connected with high-quality transit.
 - Existing transit service is not competitive with driving for many types of trips being made to and from Chelsea and Everett.
 - Despite the lack of competitiveness, bus ridership in Chelsea and Everett during the pandemic has been more durable than in other communities.
 - There are existing transit connections in Chelsea, Everett, and nearby communities that could be leveraged and improved into a high-quality cohesive network.

Project Coordination

We recognize that our project is happening at the same time as other projects that are important to our region. We are actively working with staff from these efforts to ensure consistency in our methods and approach:

- Bus Transformation & Network Redesign
- Wellington Circle Study
- McGrath Boulevard Project
- Bus Priority Lanes (various cities)

Bus Transformation Pillars

Fleet & Facilities and other major infrastructure



Service and Street Design



Connections and Hubs



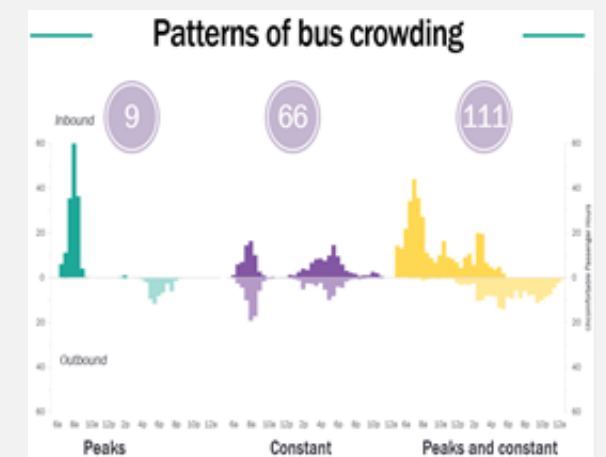
Rider Facing Information



Process and People

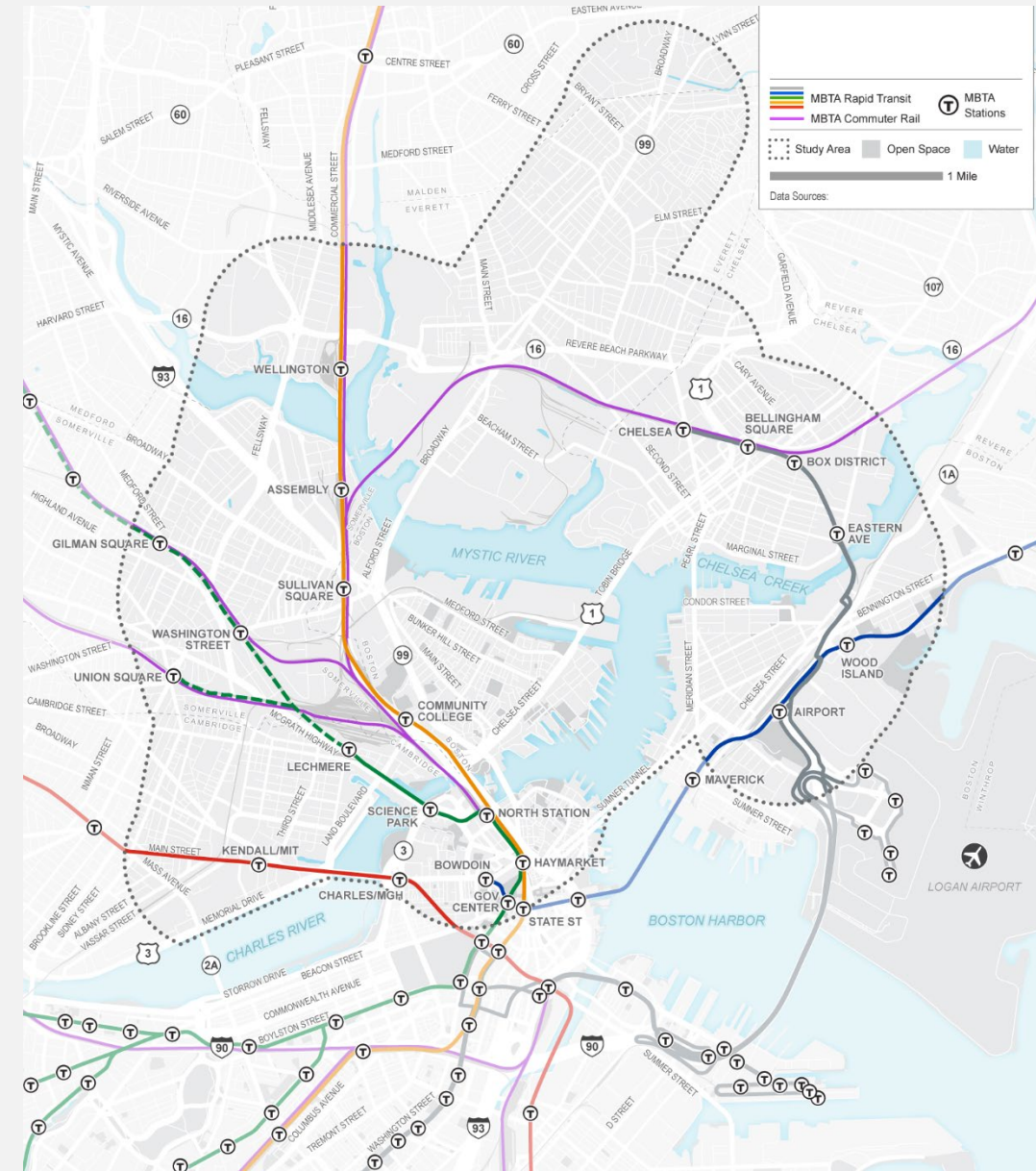


Foundational Enablers (Planning & Policy)

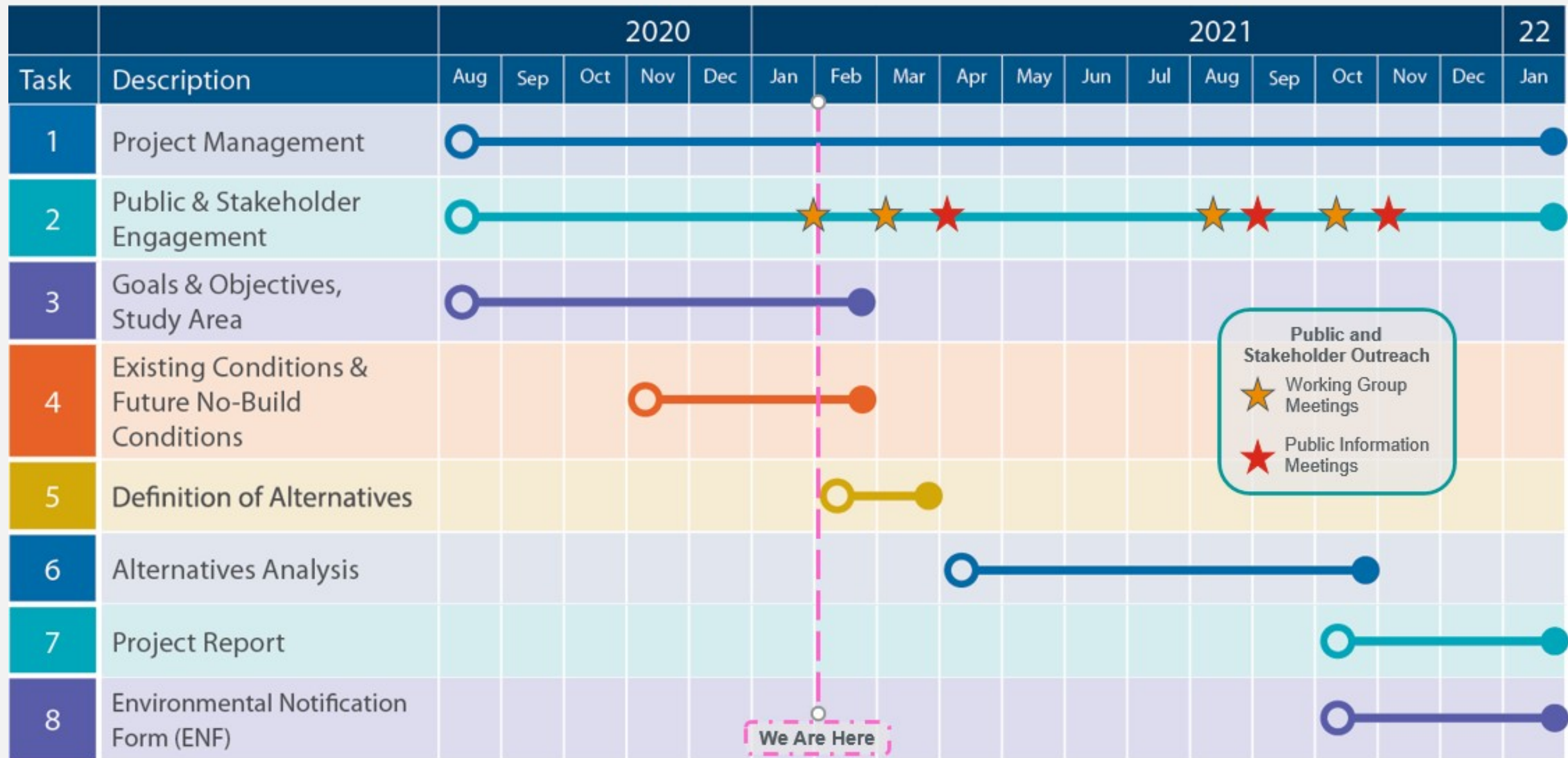


Study Area

The study area was developed to encompass likely study alignments that would meet the project's purpose, with a reasonable buffer to reflect uncertainty.



Project Schedule



Role of the Working Group

We have established this Working Group to help us by:

- Providing input and informed advice to the project team throughout the course of the study
- Collaborating with the project team to identify and evaluate alternatives
- Meeting as a group at key points (4 times) through the project

Working Group Members (Page 1 of 2)

Nominees and Municipalities Represented

- Jay Monty, *City of Everett*
- Alexandra Kleyman, *City of Somerville*
- Susanne Rasmussen, *City of Cambridge*
- Alexander Train, *City of Chelsea*
- Vineet Gupta, *City of Boston*
- Travis Pollack / Eric Bourassa, *MAPC*
- Julia Wallerice, *ITDP, City of Everett Nominee*
- Julia To, *of Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Committee City of Somerville Nominee*
- Joseph Aiello, *Community Nominee, City of Cambridge Nominee*
- Maria Belen Powers, *GreenRoots, City of Chelsea Nominee*

Working Group Members (Page 2 of 2)

Elected Officials Represented

- Joseph Boncore, *MA State Legislature, Senate*
- Sal DiDomenico, *MA State Legislature, Senate*
- Patricia Jehlen, *MA State Legislature, Senate*
- Adrian Madaro, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*
- Daniel Ryan, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*
- Aaron Michlewitz, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*
- Jay Livingstone, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*
- Mike Connolly, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*
- Joseph McGonagle, *MA State Legislature, House of Representatives*

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

We expect to share information and get feedback with members of the community through a variety of mechanisms

- Project Website <https://www.mbta.com/slx>
- Working Group Meetings (4 meetings)
- Neighborhood Briefings
- Public Information Meetings (3 meetings)
- Meetings with Elected Officials
- Meetings with Municipalities

Definition of Alternatives

- Project area divided into four sections:
 - Chelsea Terminus to Broadway in Everett
 - Glendale Square to Orange Line
 - Orange Line to Kendall Square
 - Orange Line to North Station
- Scope includes analysis of up to 4 alignments per section
- Identification of stop locations, layover, etc.

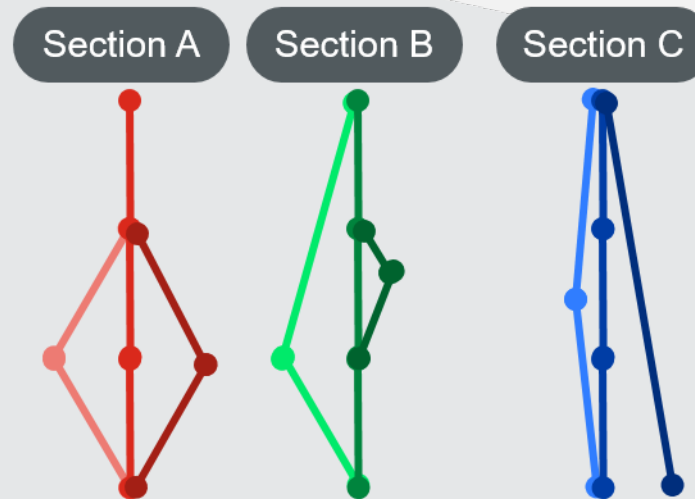
Our Proposed Evaluation Process

Screening



Review a wide host of ideas and remove all those that don't meet the project's purpose

Tier 1 Evaluation

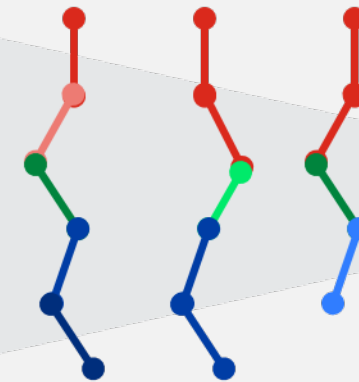


Test different alignments within each section

NOTE: Alignments shown are illustrative, and not intended to represent any specific alignments!

Tier 2 Evaluation

Entire Route



Test best route alternatives as complete route

LPA

Alternatives Analysis

- Analysis of each alternative will include:
 - Conceptual roadway design
 - Operational Analysis – fleet requirements, service frequencies, vehicle running times, infrastructure needs, etc.
 - Ridership (CTPS)
 - Traffic and Parking Impacts
 - Pedestrian and bicycle access
 - Land Impacts – includes wetlands, Chapter 91, acquisitions and easements
 - Stormwater
 - Planning Consistency
 - Air Quality (CTPS)
 - Environmental Justice (CTPS)
 - Construction Schedules, Cost Estimates

DISCUSSION: WHAT ARE YOUR DESIRED OUTCOMES?

What, from your perspective, would be the most successful outcome from this project?



Improving Transit
Quality of Service



Providing Options
to our Most
Vulnerable
Populations



Supporting the
Economic Growth
of our Region

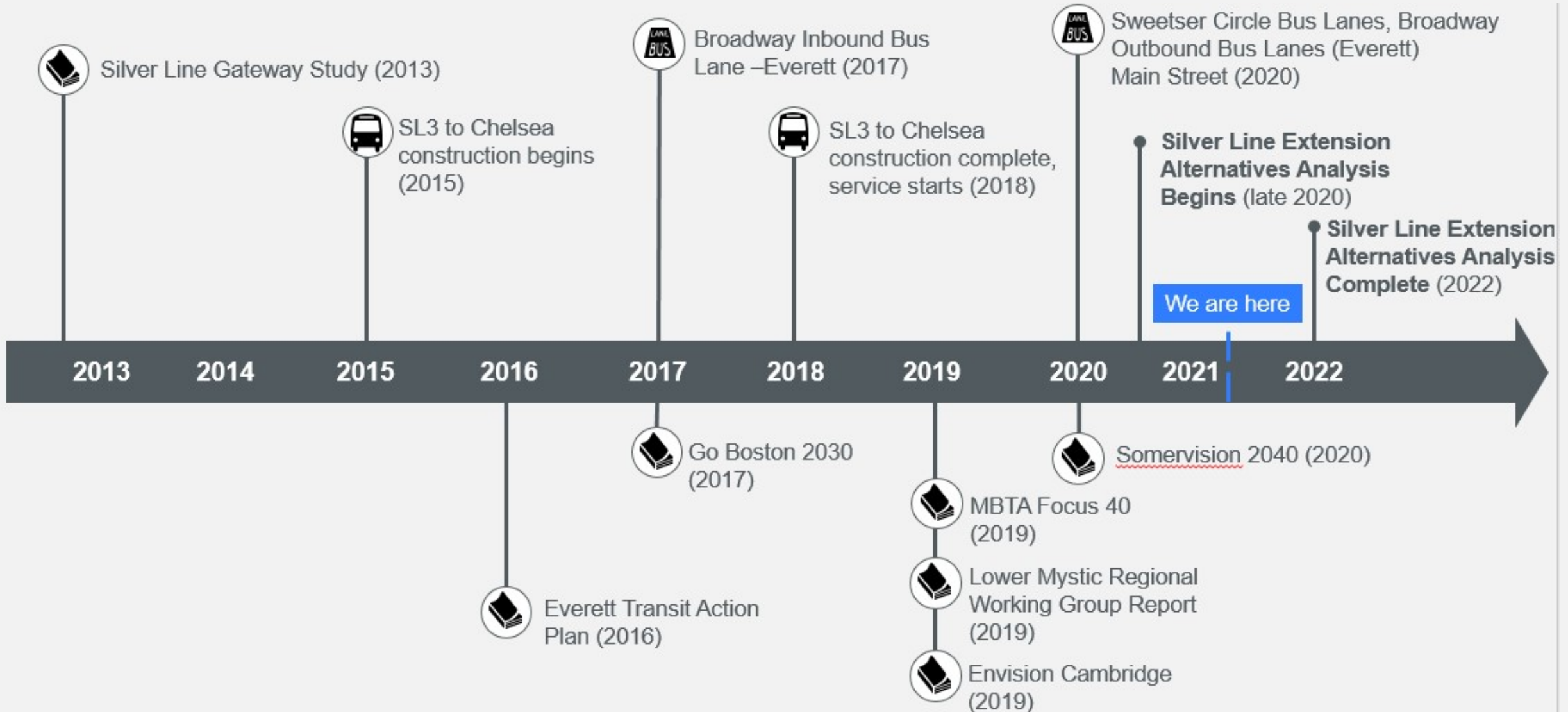


What Else?

Goals and Objectives

Setting the Stage for Making Decisions

Context and Project History



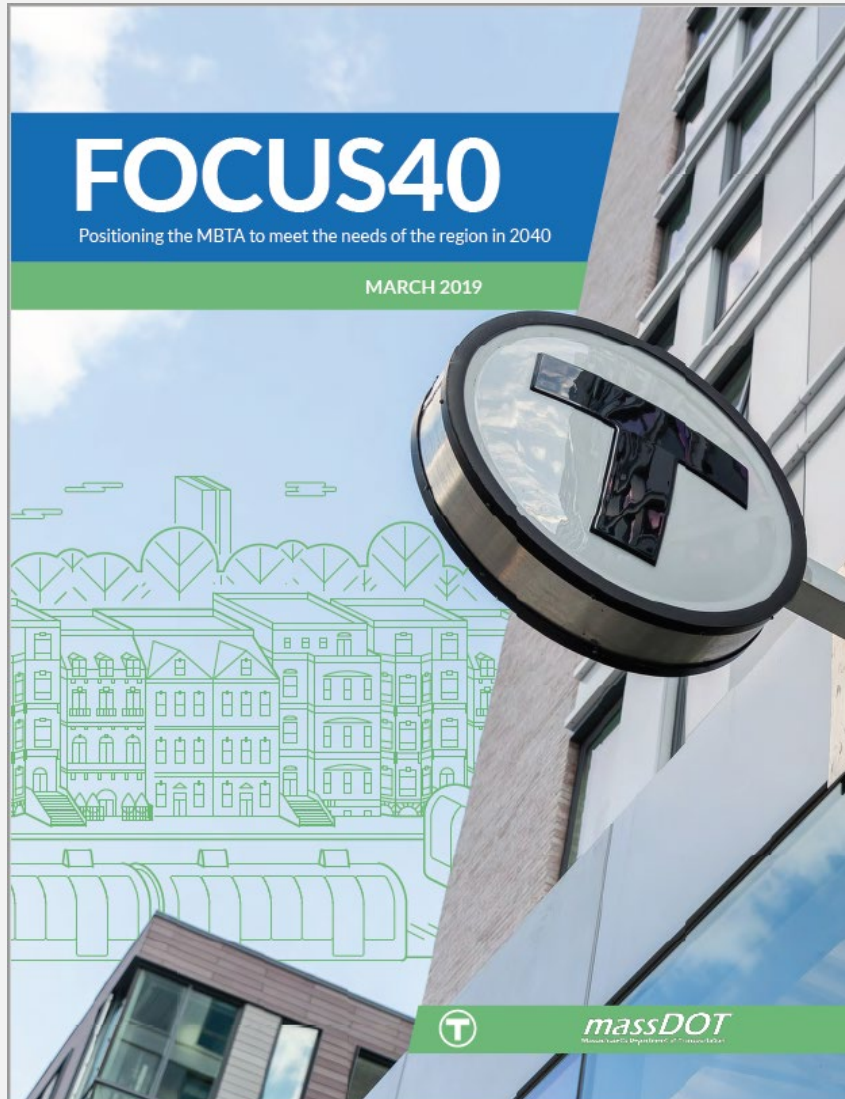
Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives are Important!

- They provide the framework that guides the study
- They help us know when we have been successful
- Evaluation criteria nest within the goals and objectives, and help us understand which alignments are more effective than others

Our Goals and Objectives must be consistent with the goals and visions laid out by each community within the study area as well as the missions of MassDOT and the MBTA

Focus 40 Goals



Livability

Improving quality of life with more customer-focused transit options



Equity & Affordable Housing

Improving mobility options for all - regardless of income or ability - and supporting more affordable housing near high-quality transit



Sustainability

Contributing to achieving greenhouse gas reduction goals



Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity

Supporting local and regional economic growth and competitiveness



Focus40:
Positioning the MBTA to meet the needs of the region in 2040



To Serve the Needs of the Region the MBTA must be:

Reliable

Providing service that is safe, on-time, and high quality for customers of all ages and abilities

Robust

Providing service that has the capacity to take people where they want to go as demand for transit increases

Resilient

Providing service that is built to last through extreme weather and other disruptions

Bus Transformation Program Goals

Goals that our study must align with and support:

- A route network that goes where people need to go when they need it and is simple to use
- A core network of high priority corridors with all day frequent service, supported by transit priority facilities and infrastructure
- A fast, reliable, and competitive bus experience that includes all-door boarding, and safe, accessible, and comfortable bus stops and busways

Goals and Objectives

Our Goals and Objectives are drawn from other recently-completed plans:

- MBTA Focus 40 (including Bus Transformation and Silver Line 2040)
- City of Chelsea (various studies)
- Everett Transit Action Plan
- Go Boston 2030
- SomerVision 2040
- Envision Cambridge

Proposed Goals and Objectives (pg. 1 of 2)

GOAL

Expand Mobility and Access

Draft Objectives:

- Connect residents directly with jobs, services, and other daily activities
- Provide reliable transit service at or near rapid-transit levels to communities not currently served by rapid-transit
- Make transit competitive* with driving for trips within the study area
- Maximize connections with other transit services
- Improve access to existing and planned affordable housing

* Competitive: relatively similar transit travel times compared with drive times

** Transit Critical populations: derived from race and ethnicity, vehicle availability and income status, members of the community who rely on transit for most or all trips

GOAL

Advance Equity

Draft Objectives

- Improve transit service for transit critical populations**
- Ensure service frequency and span matches the travel patterns of transit critical populations
- Leverage investments to improve existing transit services throughout the study area

Proposed Goals and Objectives (pg. 2 of 2)

GOAL Support Economic Development

Draft Objectives:

- Provide transit service to areas currently experiencing and anticipating substantial increases in housing and jobs
- Provide service compatible with community desires, as adopted in local plans

GOAL Improve Safety

Draft Objectives:

- Provides safe and comfortable pedestrian access to and from stations
- Address identified transportation safety issues along project corridors

GOAL Support Climate Change Resilience and Sustainability

Draft Objectives:

- Increase transit mode share in the study area and reduce dependence on cars for trips within the study area
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from trips within the study area
- Address climate change vulnerabilities of transit infrastructure

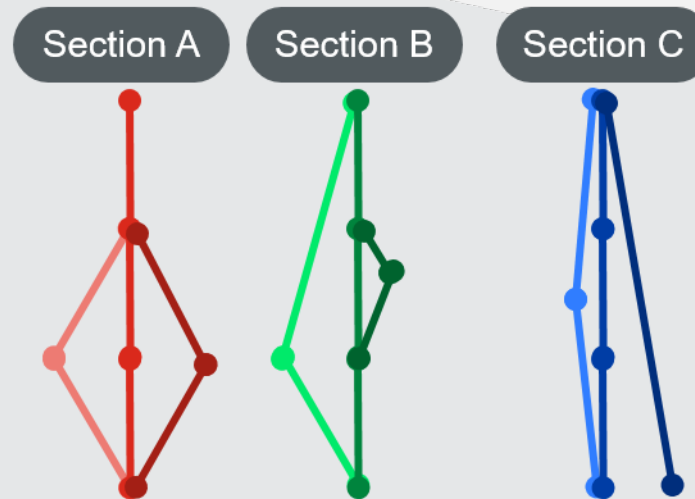
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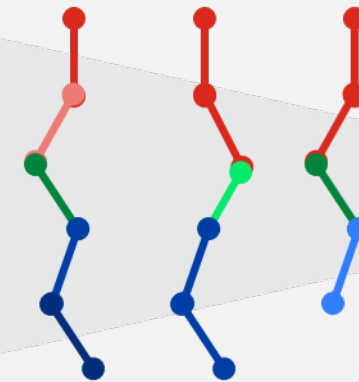


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WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do you think of the project's draft purpose and need?
2. Do you have any suggested changes to our study area?
3. Is anything missing from our proposed Goals and Objectives?
4. Are there thoughts or concerns about how we go about the evaluation?

WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

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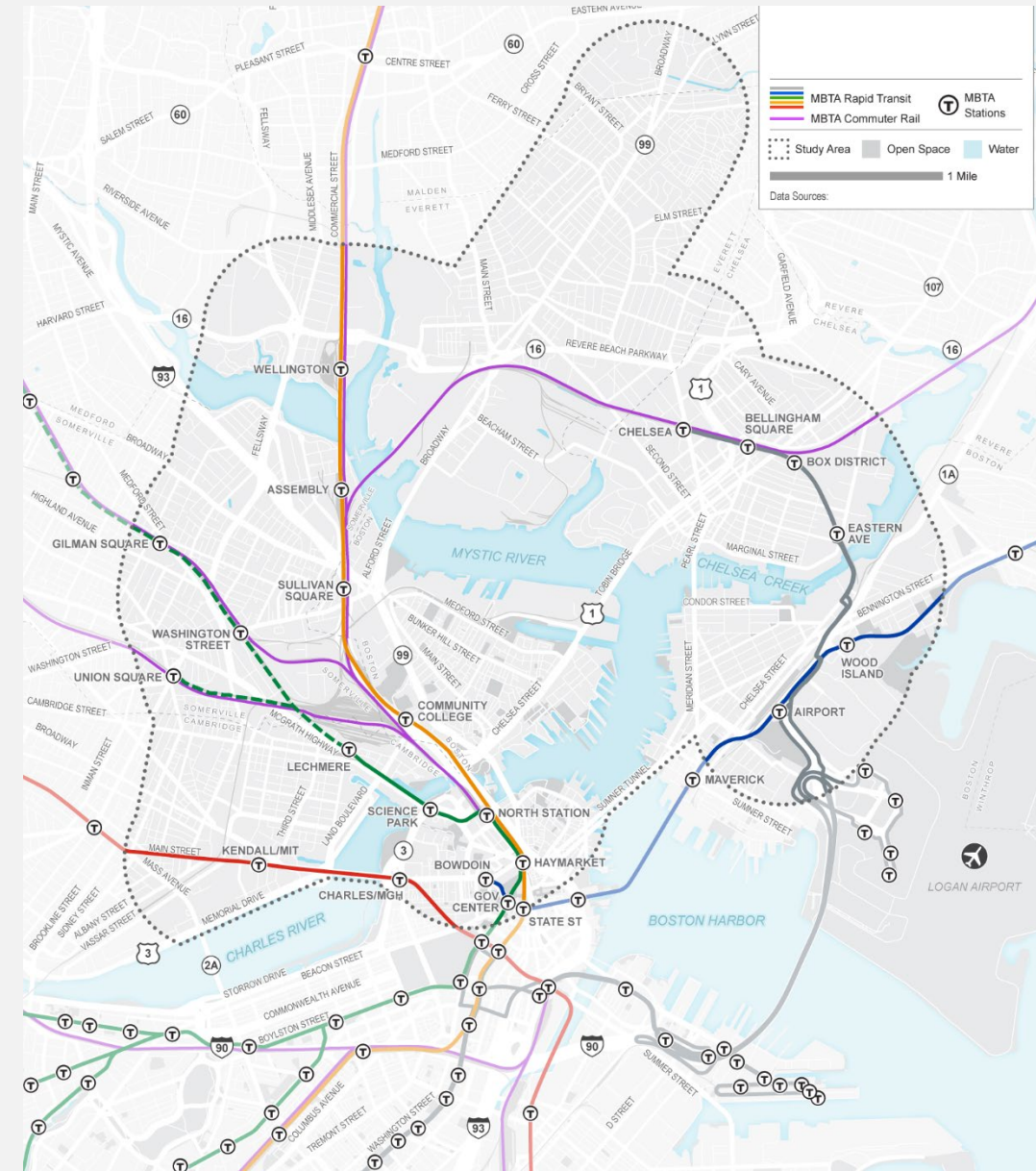
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WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

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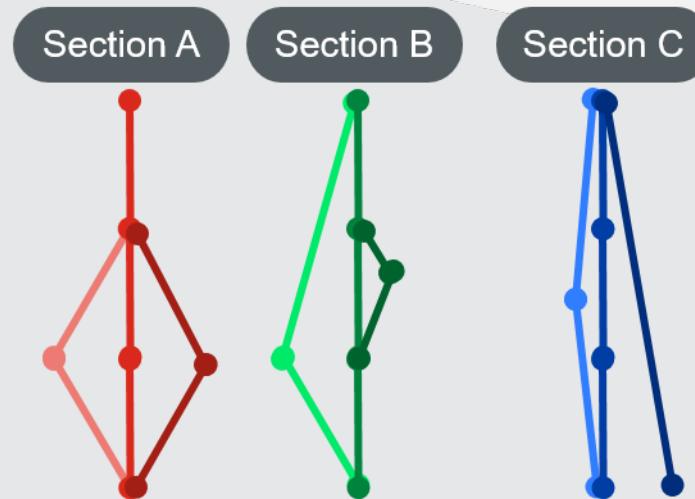
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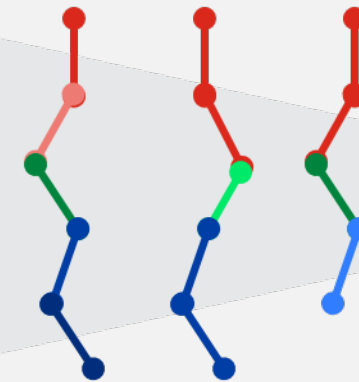


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Next Steps

Between Now and our Next Meeting we Intend To:

- Document existing conditions analysis
- Prepare future conditions analysis
- Develop draft alignments
- Set a date for our first public meeting

SL – Extension

Alternatives Analysis

THANK YOU!



**For questions and
comments please email
slx@mbta.com**