

Riders' Transportation Access Group General Meeting

June 29, 2023

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.



Notification of Recording

- This virtual public meeting will be recorded. The MBTA may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or transcript. By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you consent to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.
- **Other Important Notes – (use this whether you record or not)**
 - Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering this meeting.
 - The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
 - Please take time to respond to our survey! Your feedback is important.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Zoom Directions
- Welcome MBTA GM – Phillip Eng
- RTAG Co-Chair Update – Elizabeth Foster
- SWA Updates - Laura Brelsford, Assistant General Manager
- Bike Policies & Bike Lanes Near Bus Stops- Laura Brelsford, Mike Muller, Robert Guptill, Kathryn Quigley, MBTA
- Boston Brakes – Colleen Flanagan Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities – Outreach & Engagement Specialist
- Feedback Session

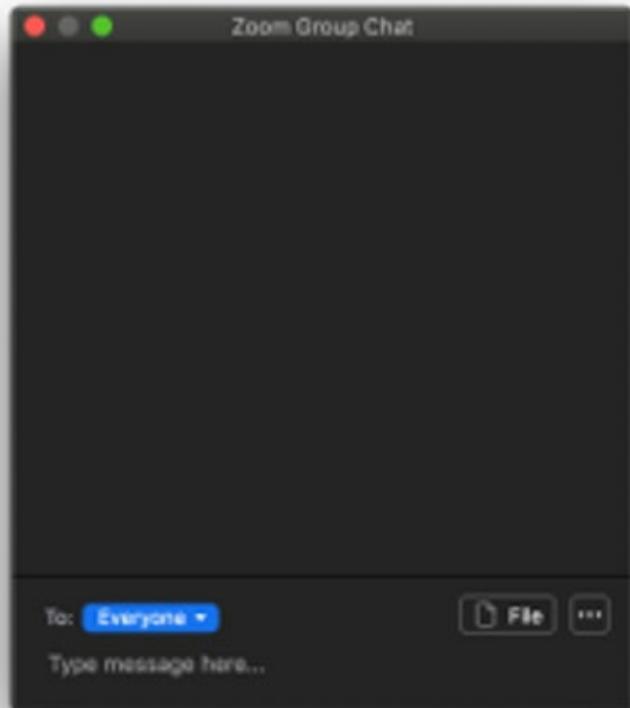
Zoom Directions: ASL Interpreter

- Our ASL Interpreters are: **Kerri MacSwain** and **Tom Lauterborn**
- To view their video:
 - Find the interpreter's video in the gallery
 - In the top right corner of the interpreter's video, click the ellipses
 - Then, click the "Pin Video" option. This will keep the interpreter's video on your screen

Zoom Directions: CART Captioning

- Our CART Captioner tonight is **Denise Gracia**
- To start viewing closed captioning click **Closed Caption** with the **CC** icon
- **Tip:** Click and drag the closed captioning to move its positioning in the meeting window.
- To adjust the caption size:
 - Click the upward arrow next to **Start Video / Stop Video**
 - Click **Video Settings** then **Accessibility**
 - Move the slider to adjust the caption size

Zoom Directions: Use Chat for Technical Questions



- If you have a technical question about Zoom or the features of the meeting, please use the chat function
- Our technical assistant will attempt to troubleshoot your problem and get back to you

**RTAG
Co-Chair
Update**

Elizabeth Foster - RTAG Co-Chair

System-Wide Accessibility Updates

Laura Brelsford, Assistant General Manager

33rd Anniversary of the ADA

July 26th marks the 33rd anniversary of signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Building on the strides we've made over the past decade, in the next few years, the MBTA will:

- Renovate 25+ inaccessible stations to make them fully accessible
- Replace our existing Red and Orange Line fleets with our most accessible subway cars to date
- Design and procure the next-generation Green Line train—a critical step towards achieving level boarding along the Green Line
- Increase bus service and expand shelters, benches, and accessible real-time information at bus stops.
- Roll out additional audio and visual displays throughout the system
- Continually enhance classroom and hands-on curricula to provide the most up-to-date, robust employee training on serving customers with disabilities

ADA Day City Hall Plaza Boston



To celebrate the ADA's 33rd anniversary, the Mayor's Commission for Persons With Disabilities will host ADA Day 2023.

This event will feature food, music, information, and free t-shirts!

Our MBTA cooling bus will also be on hand to help beat the heat.

Date: Tuesday, July 18th, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM–2:00 PM

Location: Boston City Hall Plaza

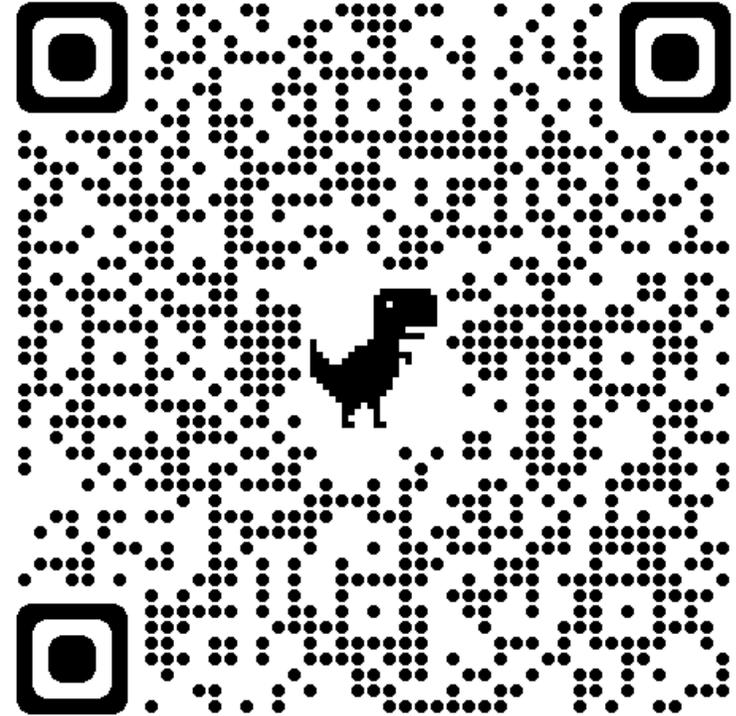
Register for ADA Day

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.boston.gov/calendar/ada-day-2023>

Register at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAjqEwmKVHnrsqor6suaXrDqr9LkcedmlqS-kpc7m4P2GmBA/viewform?pli=1>



To Learn More: [Mbta.com/accessibility](https://www.mbta.com/accessibility)

Upcoming Meetings:

- RTAG September 14th, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Virtual)
- Semi-Annual Settlement Update – December 6th, 2023, 5:30 PM -7:30 PM (Virtual)

Complete Initiatives Report: [MBTA.com/swa-initiatives](https://www.MBTA.com/swa-initiatives)

Questions, Complaints or Commendations

617-222-3200

www.mbta.com click on "Support"

Tweet @MBTA

Stay Informed on Accessibility Updates

Sign up for SWA Newsletters

www.mbta.com/SWAsignup



Sign up to receive Accessibility Updates

www.mbta.com/SWAsignup

Bike Policies & Bike Lanes Near Bus Stops

Bikes on MBTA Buses

- Bikes are not generally allowed on MBTA buses
- All non-electric MBTA buses are equipped with a bike rack that can hold two conventional bikes.
- Customers with disabilities who use a conventional bicycle as a wheeled mobility device are permitted to bring their bicycle into vehicles during all hours of operation
- However, no customer can ride bicycle on vehicles or in stations



Bikes on the Subway

Red, Orange & Blue Line Cars

Conventional bicycles are allowed on the Red and Orange Lines during all hours of service, except on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. And on the Blue Line during all hours of service, except on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Green Line & Mattapan Cars

Conventional bicycles are not permitted on the Green Line at any time.

All Lines

- Folding bicycles are allowed on all lines, including the Green Line, during all hours of service when folded in the most compact position.
- Customers with disabilities who use a conventional bicycle as a wheeled mobility device are permitted to bring their bicycle into stations and vehicles during all hours of operation.
- However, no customer can ride bicycle on vehicles or in stations

Bikes on Commuter Rail

- Bikes are not allowed on peak Commuter Rail trains, except on the Fairmount, Greenbush, Kingston, Middleborough/Lakeville Lines. Bikes are allowed on all trains during the weekend.
- The designs of the current vehicle fleet and infrastructure make it very difficult to safely and consistently accommodate riders with bikes and riders with disabilities in the same limited space—especially on higher ridership trains and at higher ridership times:
 - The accessible spaces near car end doors, where bikes are normally placed, are first and foremost provided to ensure safe and accessible seating for riders with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and MBTA policy; and
 - Crowding on peak trains exacerbates the challenge of accessible spaces being unavailable to riders with disabilities.

Bikes Allowed on All Trains:

Fairmount, Greenbush, Kingston, Middleborough/Lakeville Lines



- Bikes are allowed on all Fairmount, Greenbush, Kingston, and Middleborough/Lakeville trains at all times.
 - The Old Colony Lines have all high-level platforms and normally operate with only bi-level cars and power doors,
 - Most Fairmount Line stations (all but one) have high-level platforms
- Bikes can be stored in the designated spaces near car-end doors, with priority given to passengers with disabilities
- If space is needed for a rider with an accessibility need, then bikes will have to be moved
- MBTA and Keolis closely monitor for impacts to customers and reassess as needed

Future Vehicle & Station Designs:

Will Support Commuting With Bikes

Peer transit systems in the US and worldwide that allow bikes on all trains usually have vehicle fleets and stations designed to accommodate riders with bikes, including:

- Dedicated bike storage cars
- Extensive bike storage facilities at stations
- All high-level boarding platforms.

Long term, we will design our future vehicles and stations to accommodate multimodal commuting with bikes.

Short term, we are exploring opportunities to improve the bike experience on the system, including new bike storage facilities at more commuter rail stations.



For More Information



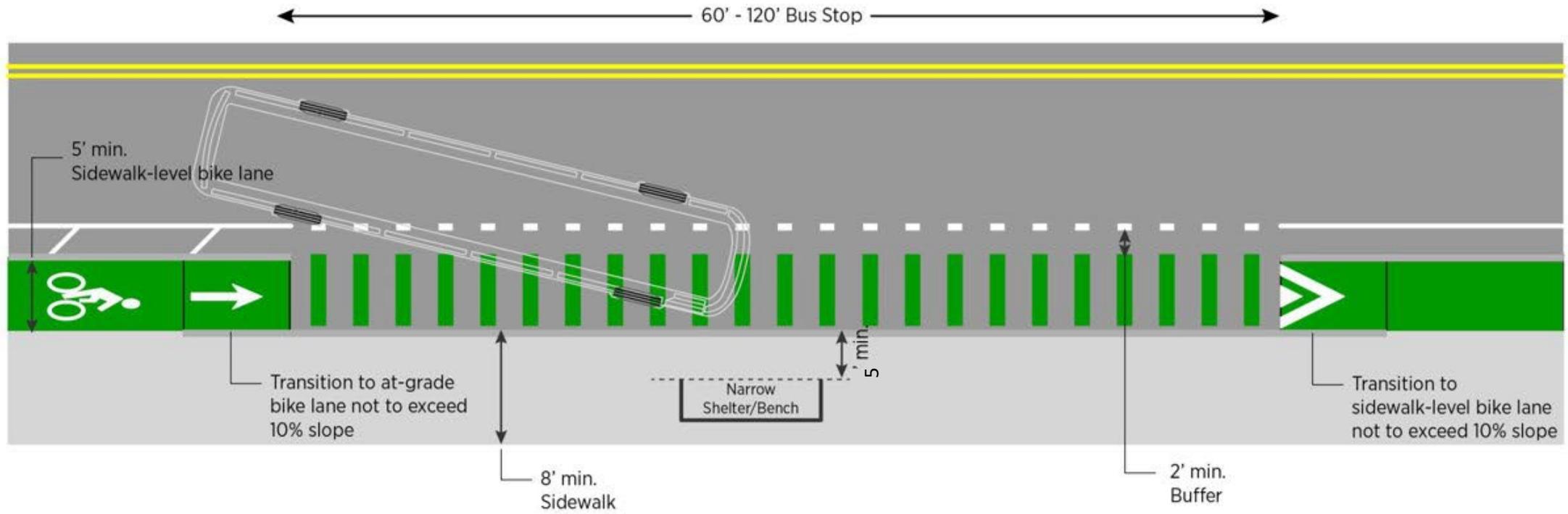
www.mbta.com/bikes

Bike Lanes

- Bike lanes and bike infrastructure has become increasingly popular over the last 5-10 years
- Goal is to ensure both cyclist and pedestrian safety
- Various approaches to bike lanes adjacent to bus stops

Bike Lane at Bus Stop

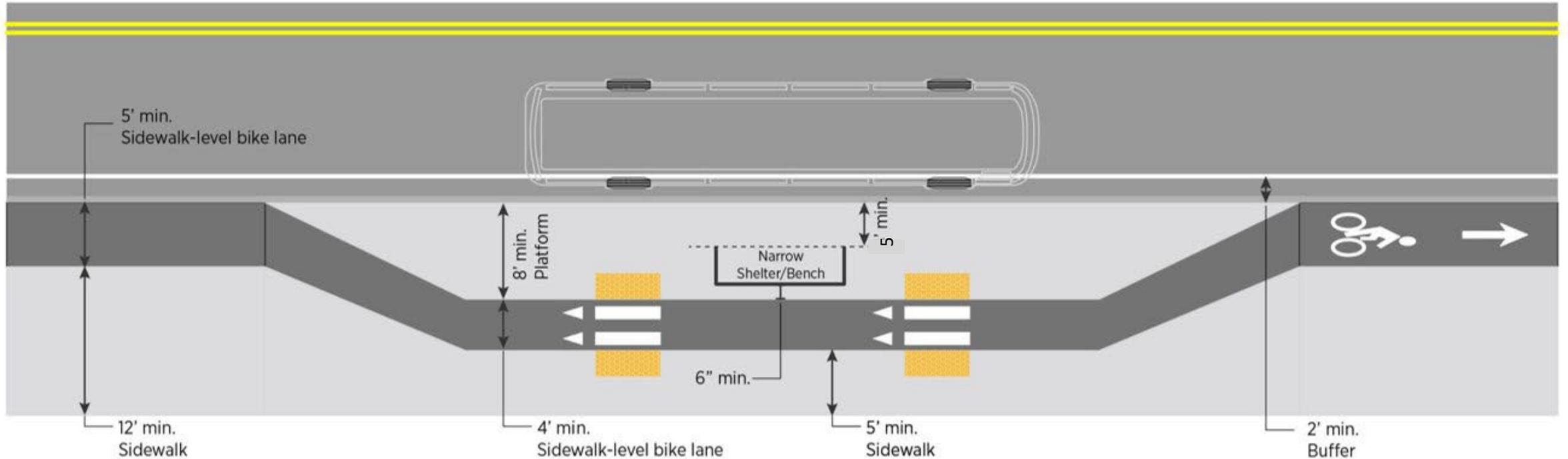
The bus pulls through the bike lane on the roadway to access the bus stop.



Bike lanes in the roadway put the cyclists at-risk for conflict with the busses pulling in and out of bus stops.

Floating Bus Island

A full-depth bus stop at the curb with a bike lane between the sidewalk and where riders board and alight the bus.

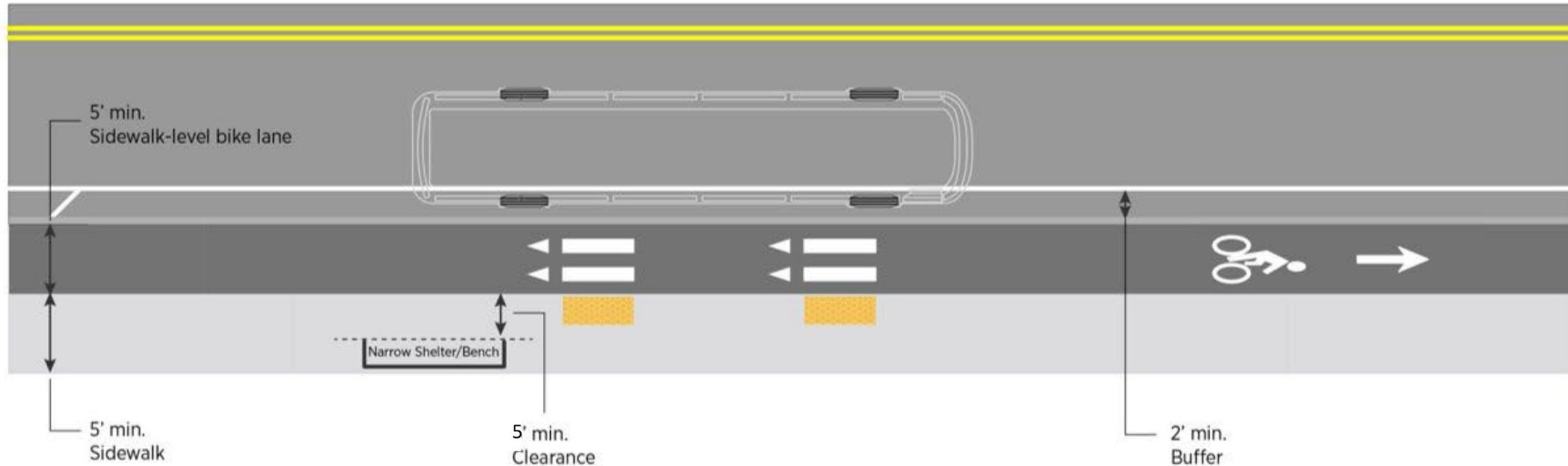


Bike lanes on the sidewalk, but behind a full-depth platform allow for riders to board/alight the bus without conflict with the cyclists, but does require riders to cross the bike path to access the sidewalk.

***Details do not represent latest best practices identified by MBTA (E.g. putting shelter on back edge of island)

Constrained Bus Stop **Not supported by MBTA**

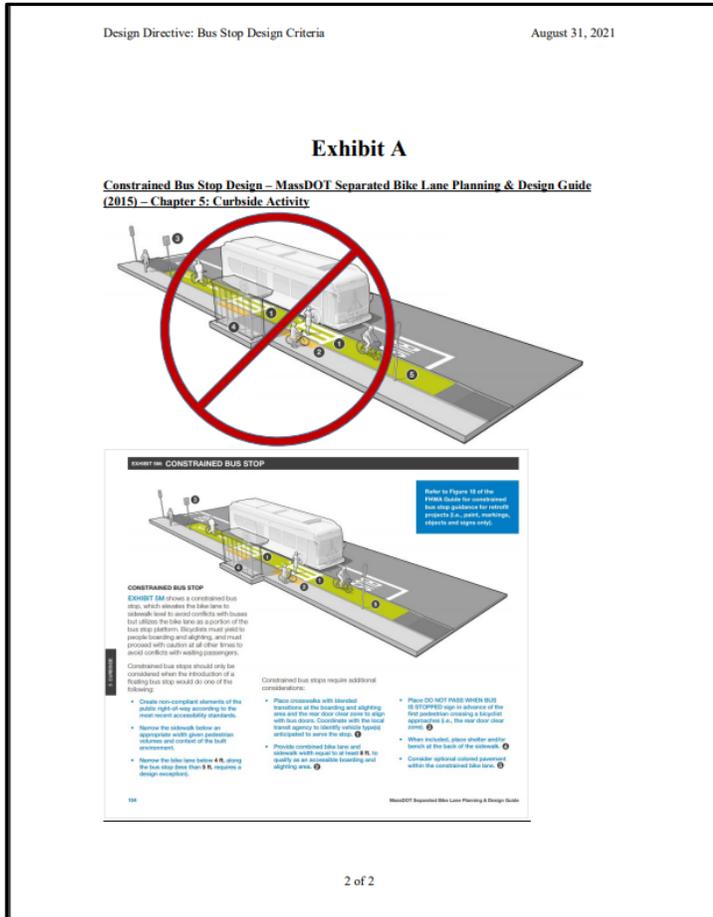
Riders board and alight the bus within the sidewalk level bike lane.



Bike lanes at the curb, but on the sidewalk put riders boarding/alighting in conflict with the cyclists.

Constrained Bus Stop – MBTA Policy

This style of stop is prohibited by the MBTA.



- The Office of the Chief Engineer Design Directive establishes that Constrained Bus Stop designs are prohibited by the MBTA.
- Due to the conflict between bus rider queuing, boarding and alighting with the bike lane in a physically constrained environment.
- Should circumstances render all other Bus Stop design alternatives infeasible, a waiver may be requested for relief from this directive, prior to the completion of 30% design.

Protocol for MBTA Review

MBTA Review of municipal bike and bus lane proposals and the process for collaboration

Design Discussions with Municipalities:

The design and implementation of bike lanes is typically led by municipalities. The MBTA asks that all municipalities reach out to the MBTA anytime they are contemplating a change to the infrastructure at or adjacent to a bus stop so that the MBTA can provide feedback on proposal – including evaluation of accessibility impacts.

New Bus Stop Design Guidelines:

Service Planning is in process of updating guidelines for a new and improved version that will include guidance for bike/bus stop designs (floating islands and center-running platforms), new stop amenities and MBTA best practices.

Internal MBTA Working Group participating in review of updates – Service Planning, Capital Delivery, SWA and Safety

UMass Amherst & Northeastern Project

Accessible Bus Stop Design in the Presence of Bike Lanes research project through MassDOT Grant

Project Timeline: February 2023 to August 2024

Objectives:

1. Investigate bus rider and bicyclist behavior and interactions when bicycle infrastructure is adjacent to floating and constrained bus stops
2. Propose design improvements and guidance to mitigate conflicts between bus riders of all abilities and bicyclists.

Current Effort: Focus groups and rider feedback

If you are interested in sharing your feedback, please email:

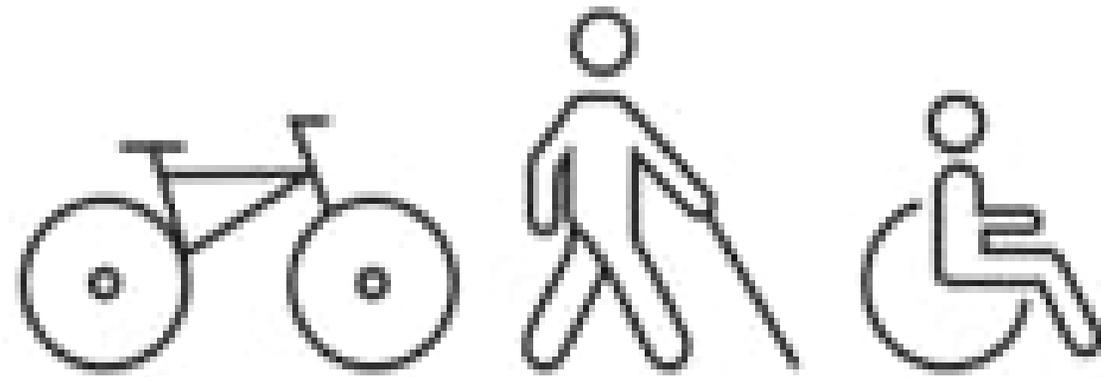
Eleni Christofa, echirstofa@engin.umass.edu



**City of Boston Disabilities
Commission presents**

BOSTON BRAKES

A public education project created for
cyclists and people with disabilities



BOSTON BRAKES

SHARING THE SPACE IN OUR CITY

it's about
sharing space





and about
respecting
each other's pace

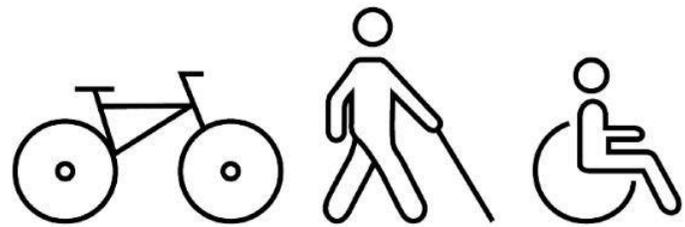
BOSTON BRAKES

because...



- 84,266 Boston residents identify as having at least one disability
- 12% of the city's population are people with disabilities





BOSTON BRAKES

SHARE THE SPACE

Discussion

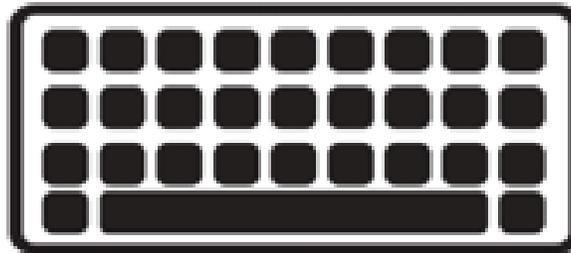
- When called upon, introduce yourself very briefly.
- Please try to keep your response limited to 2-3 minutes and focused on an example related to the discussion topic.
- We want to hear from as many people as possible. Please share one piece of feedback, and if there is time after everyone with their raised hand has shared, you can share again.

Comments

- To indicate that you have a question, please use Zoom's "Raise Hand" feature located at the bottom of the screen.
- When you raise your hand, it alerts the moderator that you'd like to speak. The moderator will unmute attendees to ask questions in the order that they raised their hands.



To speak, click
"Reactions" then
"Raise hand"



Alt + Y



*9 Raise Hand
*6 to Unmute