



**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

# Long-Range Planning

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# Long-Range Planning Overview

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- Provide an overview of MBTA strategic and long-range planning activities and team.
- This update will include:
  - An overview of the T's high-level goals and the Commonwealth's goals
  - An overview of the T's Mobility Integration Plan
  - Updates on MBTA Climate Planning
  - Updates on the Program for Mass Transportation



# MBTA Strategic Plan



# Meeting Commonwealth Goals

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*Through long-range planning, the T is supporting Commonwealth goals:*



## **Housing**

Increasing access to transit for many communities and support transit-oriented development



## **Economic development**

Building connections and addressing congestion that impacts employment centers and jobs across the region



## **Sustainability and resilience**

Supporting mode shift to more sustainable modes and decreasing the environmental impact of transportation



## **Mobility**

Improving access and transportation options to more destinations for travelers



# Strategic Transit Planning Team

*Building capacity for longer-range planning at the T*



Laura Gilmore  
**Senior Director of  
Strategic Transit  
Planning**



Sandy Johnston  
**Deputy Director of  
Regional Transit  
Planning**



Jay Maddox  
**Deputy Director of  
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Sanja Stegich  
**Senior Project  
Coordinator**



# Completed Work: Mobility Integration Plan

*Planning for improved connections between modes and services*

The MBTA has developed a **Mobility Integration Plan** to guide how the MBTA builds connections between modes.

*Mobility integration refers to better connecting between MBTA's existing services and building partnerships with other mobility services and providers – both public and private - to help riders move efficiently throughout the region.*

This plan will guide the MBTA's response to future mobility integration opportunities, pilots and partnerships.



## Mobility Integration Plan

Informing connectivity between modes through partnerships, infrastructure, and technology

2025

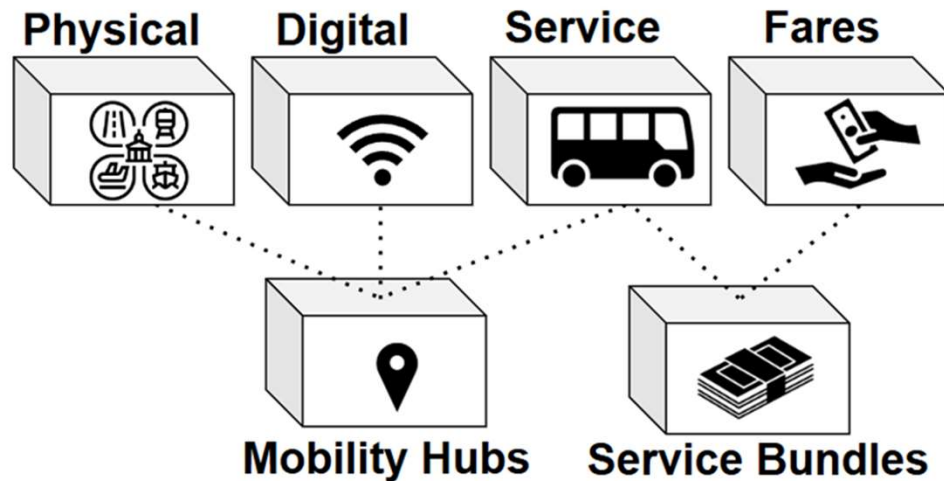


# Why Is Mobility Integration Important?

*Improving connections supports better service*

- Many trips include a modal transfer within the MBTA system
- Most heavy & light rail stations and more than half of Commuter Rail stations are transfer points within the T system.
- Many MBTA facilities connect to other providers and modes.

## Types of Integrations Addressed



## Supporting the rider, the region, and the T

### The Rider

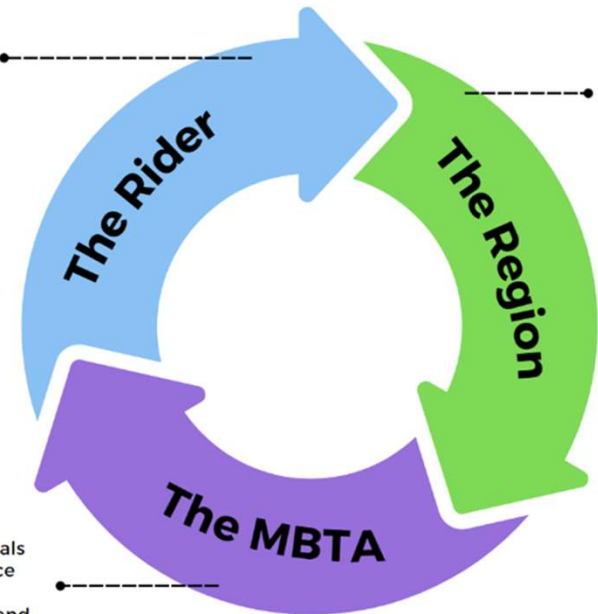
- To improve customer experience
- Reduce wait and travel times
- Increase equity and accessibility

### The MBTA

- To align projects with strategic goals
- To manage service disruptions
- Increase service and ridership

### The Region

- To increase access to transportation options across modes
- To address the first and last mile problem
- To encourage mode shift and decrease environmental impact
- Promote economic vitality



# MBTA Transit and Other Possible Connections

*Connecting the broader transit network*



## MBTA Fixed Route Transit

Heavy Rail  
Light Rail  
Commuter rail  
Ferry  
Contracted bus



## Local Buses and Shuttles

RTAs  
TMAs  
Local buses  
University and employer shuttles



## Regional and National Services

Logan Express  
Amtrak  
Intercity buses



## Demand Response

Micro-transit  
Dial-ride  
TNCs  
On demand paratransit



## Parking

MBTA Parking Lots



## Bikes

Blue Bikes  
Pedal and Park/bike parking



## Other

Carshare  
Human services



# What have we done so far?

*MBTA existing or new mobility integration activities*

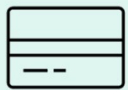
MBTA has already taken steps to build integrations between our modes and to other service providers:



Partnered with MassDOT to develop a comprehensive service map of providers



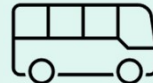
Coordinated Regional Rail Schedules with RTAs so they receive schedules several weeks earlier



Contactless "Tap to Ride" payment implemented on bus, subway, and ferry



Launched special event trains connecting transit to trails network



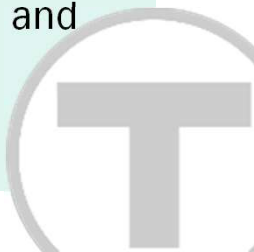
Enabled pick-up and drop-off by RTAs and certain TMA shuttles at MBTA stations (e.g. Alewife, Ashmont, etc.)



Partnered with Lyft to offer on-demand paratransit trips using RIDE flex

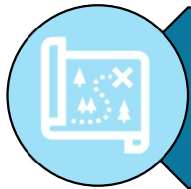


Received a grant from the Boston Region MPO to modernize pedal and park infrastructure



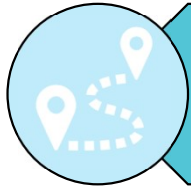
# Recommendations to build a more integrated MBTA

*Examples of the Mobility Integration Plan's recommendations*



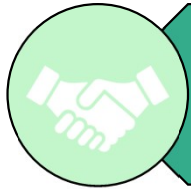
## Internal Alignment and Capacity

- Enhance wayfinding for connections to MBTA services
- Identify and publicize geographies where mobility integration initiatives would be especially welcome and impactful



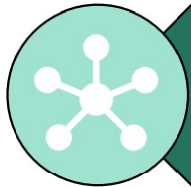
## Opportunities Led by MBTA

- Expand fare and other integration between MBTA modes
- Inventory and provide opportunities to enable mobility partners use to MBTA assets, such as bus turnarounds and wayfinding signage, as feasible
- Develop station access design guidelines that guide mobility priorities at stations



## Pursuing Partnerships

- Develop or update policies and standards that guide partnership with existing and emerging mobility providers
- Improve connections to all MBTA modes with other public sector mobility providers by addressing system-to-system connection points, schedule alignments, and partnerships



## Fostering Integration

- Pursue intermodal fare and service integration of public and private mobility providers into an MBTA fare payment system
- Expand institutional programs to support fare payment
- Explore bundled fare subscription packages



# Climate Planning Updates

## One year since the MBTA released the Climate Assessment



- First annual report forthcoming (final review)
- Highlighting leadership from teams across the agency:
  - Climate: Drafted systemwide resilience plan, incorporating sustainability and resilience into MBTA's updated Design Standards and Guidelines
  - Environment: Established the Utility Vendor Program to perform energy efficiency projects, first projects to be completed this fall
  - Infrastructure Planning: Completed power master plan prioritizing SGR investments for power assets
  - Safety, E&M and others: Initiated new worker heat safety trainings, expanded PPE offerings and worksite water availability, and more!

## Spotlight on Upcoming Plan: Resilience Roadmap

- Developing a systemwide resilience plan to prioritize initiatives across assets and operations
- Builds on climate change vulnerability assessments and asset master plans
- Launched internal engagement in spring with topic-specific focus groups
- Draft under review for release in Winter '25/'26



# Developing the Program for Mass Transportation (PMT)

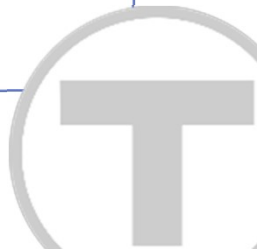
*MBTA's Long-Range Capital Plan*

## What is the PMT?

- A requirement in the MBTA's enabling legislation to create a long-term priority-setting document for the MBTA with a 25-year outlook
- The way **to highlight MBTA progress and priorities** in a public-facing document
- Will develop priorities that will inform an evaluation framework for potential tradeoffs
- A tool for public engagement about what our constituents think is most important for the MBTA to invest in

## Statutory Requirement (in MGL §161A (g)) requires that it:

- Be reviewed by the MBTA Advisory Board
- Shape and be implemented through the CIP
- Be developed in consultation with RTAs; Executive Branch offices in the environmental and housing spheres; MAPC; and other relevant entities
- Be “reviewed not less than every five years”



## MBTA Objectives for the PMT

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- *Provide focus* on modernizing the system and investing in ways that lay the groundwork for future transformative plans (e.g. “no-regrets decisions” in double tracking before expansions)
- *Communicate accomplishments* since *Focus40* and lay out a universe of future capital projects to inform CIPs
- *Engage the public* in the T’s future, while asking the public to consider how projects achieve the T’s goals
- *Demonstrate impact* of MBTA investments, including support for Commonwealth priorities
- *Lay out a path forward* to inform investments and better service





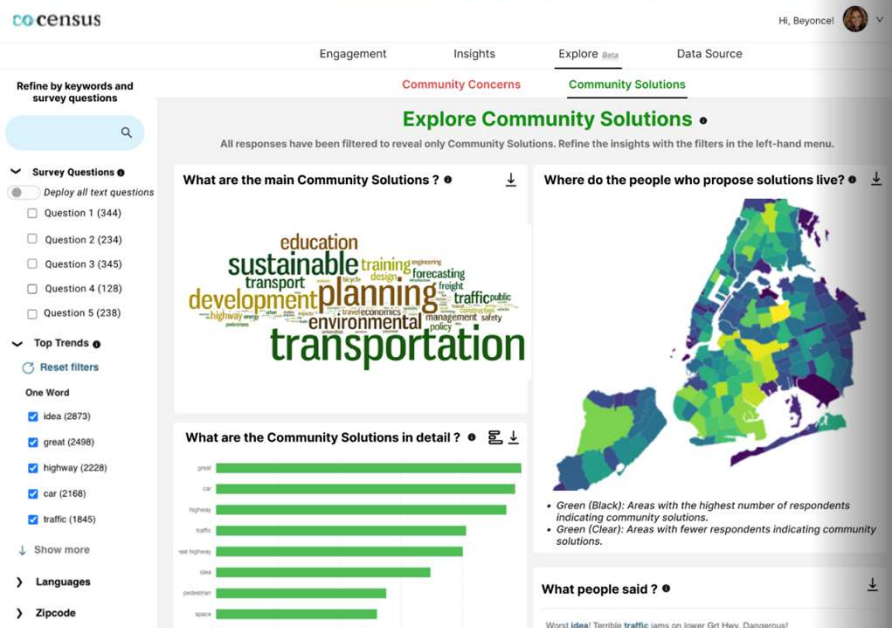
# Extensive Public Engagement

PMT is an opportunity for the public to inform the future of the T by:

- Sharing feedback about future service and projects
- Weighing tradeoffs in how the T achieves its goals

Engagement Opportunities:

- Meetings and workshops across the service area
- Popup events
- Surveys



## What's Next for MBTA Planning?

Implement early action recommendations from  
***Mobility Integrations Plan***

Begin development and public engagement for the  
***Program for Mass Transportation***

Collaborate with Commonwealth partners on connection between  
***housing and transportation***

Support MBTA modal planning (for ex: **Future of Water Transportation** study with MassDOT)

Roll out ***Resilience Roadmap***

Support planning for the future of **Regional Rail**



# Appendix



# MBTA Regional Engagement



Represent the T on Boston MPO Board and at MAPC subregional forums



Attend all FTA certification reviews for MPOs in our service area



Represent the T on the RTA Council



Participate in EV and Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Councils



Represent MBTA in state planning initiatives, including transportation plans by MassDOT (*Beyond Mobility*, Water Transportation Study, etc.) and state climate planning initiatives (such as Resilient Mass Action Team)



Represent the T on Massachusetts Bike/Ped Council



Municipal Coordination on key projects, local plans, TOD, regional climate collaboratives, and other MBTA needs

