Better Bus Project - Update
July 2018
Overview

• The MBTA Bus Network Strategy
  • Elements of Improving the Bus Network
  • Timeline and Sequencing
  • Our Current Bus Network
  • Strategy for Expediting Improvements

• Service Improvements, as of April 1, 2018

• Upcoming Service Improvements
  • Fall 2018
  • Winter 2018
  • Next Steps
The MBTA Bus Network Strategy

Elements of Improving the Bus Network
Timeline and Sequencing
Our Current Bus Network Strategy for Expediting Improvements
# Elements of Improving the Bus Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes</th>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Better Bus Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quarterly Changes</td>
<td>• Focused on routes with high passenger trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No budget impacts</td>
<td>• Focused on specific requests and considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Continued Quarterly Changes</td>
<td>• Focused on routes with high and moderate passenger trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tier Development, including proposals to realign routes, alter routes &gt;1 mile, implement bus stop changes, etc.</td>
<td>• Focused on specific requests and considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Budget impacts and considerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network Redesign</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A new bus network, including routes, frequency, span of service, and coverage to better serve the region’s travel needs.</td>
<td>• All routes, with a specific focus to rebuild moderate to low passenger trip routes and corridors, as higher passenger trip routes and corridors are addressed in Better Bus Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Timeline and Sequencing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Service Changes</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Improvements</td>
<td>⭐️ ⭐️ Build out</td>
<td>Design ⭐️ ⭐️ Implementation of Transit Signal Prioritization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Investments for Service Improvement</td>
<td>⭐️ Draft ⭐️ Vote</td>
<td>⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️ Implement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Redesign</td>
<td>⭐️ RFP ⭐️ NTP</td>
<td>Analysis and Draft ⭐️ Vote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Bus procurement (April 2019)
What have we learned about the MBTA Bus Network?

- Service is too complex
- There are too few frequent routes
- Service is slow and getting slower
- Service is unreliable
- Schedules are irregular
- Many buses are overcrowded
- Many routes start too late
- Many routes end service too early
- Many routes operate too infrequently
Service Improvements

As of April 1, 2018
Commitment to Service Improvement – April

114 changes; 53 routes
28,944 Passenger Trips
9.0% of Trips/Weekday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corridor/Route</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Route 212</td>
<td>- Route 212 increased from 57% to 68% reliable on weekdays. Routes 210 and 211 saw similar improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 7 and 9</td>
<td>- Route 7, weekdays: comfort improved from 79% to 82%; reliability from 74% to 83%. Route 9 improved similarly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route SL3</td>
<td>- New route established – 4,300 trips taken daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route SL1</td>
<td>- Light cycle adjusted to reduce wait times by 60 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Morning Pilot</td>
<td>- Additional trips added to ensure first train connect could be made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 15</td>
<td>- On-time departures for AM peak trips improved from 80% to 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadway Ave Corridor</td>
<td>- Adjusted running time to allow for better coordination of bus routes along corridor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Service Improvements

Fall 2018 - September
Winter 2018 – December
Next Steps
Commitment to Service Improvement – September

83 changes; 49 routes
158,571 Passenger Trips
38% of Trips/Weekday

- Combined Fixed Routes
- Run Time Adjustment
- Shift Trips
- Headway Adjustment
- De-interlining
- Resource Adjustment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corridor/Route</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Route 111      | - Additional operators  
- New policy for dropped trips implemented  
- De-interlined  
- Updated run time |
| Route 92       | - Additional operators  
- Updated run time |
| Route 93       | - Additional Operators  
- Updated run time |
| Route 34, 35, 37, 40 and 50 | - Dedicated bus lane implementation |
| Late Night Pilot | - $1.1 M dollar investment in late night service  
- 13 routes, 38 changes |
December: Focused Approach for Expedited Improvement

Key Bus Routes

18 Routes
Passenger Trips 168,919/wkdy
Average Passenger Trips 8,446/wkdy

41%

Key Corridors & Routes

35 Routes
Passenger Trips 239,451/wkdy
Average Passenger Trips 6,841/wkdy

58%
December: Goal >25% Passenger Trips/Weekday

Key Routes & Corridors

35 Routes

Passenger Trips
239,451 wkdy

Average Passenger Trips
6,841/wkdy

• Running time adjustments
• Departure time adjustments
• Headway changes to match ridership and service levels (provided the frequency and comfort minimums are still met)
• Route alignment changes
• Span of service changes within 1 hour or less
• Route extensions of 1 mile or less
• Route variation modifications
• Optimization (Dedicated Bus Lanes, Transit Signal Prioritization and Signal Optimization)
Next Steps

Infrastructure
- Dedicated Bus Lanes
  - Broadway Northbound (new), Everett (July 2018); Washington St. (Roslindale), Boston (Aug 2018); South Mass Ave, Cambridge (Mid 2018); Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge/Watertown (Oct 2018); North Mass Ave, Arlington (Late 2018); and Broadway, Somerville (Late 2018)
- Transit Signal Priority
  - Beacon Street, Brookline; Commonwealth Avenue, Boston; Huntington Avenue, Boston; Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge; Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge/Watertown; and Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington

Additional Investment for Service Improvements (Tier Development)
- October to November 2018 – Finalize Development of Tiers
- November 2018 – Board Presentation and Vote for FY20 Operating and Capital Budget Planning

Network Redesign
- August 2018 – Release of RFP
- October 2018 – Notice to Proceed