Better Bus Project Update

FMCB, January 14, 2019
Overview

This presentation will update the Board on the Better Bus Project work plan including the timeline release of Near-term proposals to improve bus routes across the system and the public engagement strategy through winter/spring 2019. The Project Team welcomes the Board’s feedback on this plan.

Better Bus Project Process Map: Update

System-wide impacts of Near-term proposals package

Public Engagement
  • Strategies
  • Timeline

Near-term proposal example

Key Next Steps - Decisions and Implementation Timelines
### Better Bus Project Process Map: Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuous Change</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Proposed Near-term Changes</th>
<th>Multi-year Investment Strategy</th>
<th>Future Network Redesign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Products/Actions**

#### Phase 1
- ✔ Early Morning Pilot
- ✔ Late Night Pilot
- ✔ SL3 Service Expansion
- ✔ Dedicated Bus Lanes
- ✔ Transit Signal Prioritization
- ✔ Signal Optimization
- ✔ Addition Resources
- ✔ Dropped Trip Task Force
- ✔ Quarterly Goals

#### Phase 2
- ✔ 1<sup>st</sup> Round Public/Stakeholder/Operator Outreach
- ✔ Review existing service
  - **Jan 28:** Release State of the System Report
  - **Jan 28:** Release Market Analysis

#### Phase 3
- ✔ Ongoing: Municipal and State Officials Outreach
- ✔ **Jan 28:** Release near-term service proposals
- ✔ **Jan 28 to Mar 13:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Public/Stakeholder Outreach
- ✔ **Apr:** FMCB Vote: Go/No-Go
- ✔ Early-May: Build new schedules & routes
- ✔ Fall: Implementation

#### Phase 4
- ✔ **Jan 28:** Release Route Profiles
- ✔ **Feb:** Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20
- ✔ **Mar:** Finalize FY20 resource request
- ✔ **Apr:** Selection of FY20 investment level by the FMCB Board

#### Phase 5
- ✔ **Nov:** RFP posted
  - **Jan/Feb:** Consultant award
Proposed Near-term Changes: Principles for Change

**Combine Similar Services**
Combine routes that serve the same areas in slightly different ways to create a more reliable and frequent service that’s easier for our customers to use.

**Minimize Route Variations**
Reduce route variations that create customer confusion, serve few people, and do not impact vulnerable populations who do not have other alternatives. This creates faster and more reliable service for customers that’s easier to understand.

**Shorten Unproductive Sections**
Many routes are very long with sections that have little to no ridership, or have other service options. By shortening routes, we provide customers on the remaining service with increased frequency and reliability.

**Straighten Routes**
The less a bus needs to turn or deviate from a straight path, the faster it will travel. This makes bus routes easier to understand while also provide faster and more reliable service for our customers.
Proposed Near-term Changes: Total Impact

- **47 proposals** that affect 63 of our 180 routes across ~35 communities
- **2,000 passenger hours saved each weekday**, or 509,000 weekday hours a year
- **8,000 new bus rides every weekday**, or over 2 million new rides a year
- **At least 30,000-45,000 of weekday bus riders positively affected** by these proposals
  - 14,000 of weekday bus riders will have a **faster trip**
  - 32,500 of weekday bus riders will have a **shorter wait time**

- **A small subset of riders will be inconvenienced** by these proposals
  - 786 of weekday bus riders will be further than ½ mile from bus or other MBTA transit service
  - 3,000 of weekday bus riders will have to transfer who didn’t before

- **All proposals will be available online** January 28th at mbta.com/betterbus
Example Proposal: Route 1 and CT1

Current-state challenge with existing Route 1 and CT1:
- Routes duplicate each other far more than they complement each other

Proposed changes to take effect September 2019:
- Combine CT1 with Route 1, using CT1 resources to provide more reliable Route 1 service
- Simplify Harvard Square loop

Projected impact:
- Shorter wait times, more reliable and faster service
- 20 passenger hours saved each weekday

Trade-offs:
- Boston Medical Center access only on west side (Mass Ave)
- Longer walk across Harvard Square
Example Proposal: How we are communicating proposals

FRONT PAGE:
1. Description of proposed change
2. Aggregated customer impact
3. Visualization of proposed change

BACK PAGE:
4. Why we believe in these changes and who is impacted
5. Trade-offs
6. Where to get more information, access to translated versions, and provide feedback online

All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: mbta.com/betterbus
Public Engagement Strategies

- **Website Feedback**
  - www.mbta.com/betterbus

- **Advertising Campaign**
  - Digital and print methods

- **Neighborhood Briefings**
  - Co-host briefings with municipalities or community groups

- **Community Meetings**
  - Held near busiest bus hubs in the system

- **Open Houses**
  - Meet riders where they already are

- **Street Teams**
  - One-on-one engagement
  - Promote other outreach events

- **Stakeholder Workshop**
  - Meeting with transportation advocates

- **Municipal Engagement**
  - Staff-to-staff engagement

- **Operator Feedback**
  - Monthly listening sessions with bus operators

---

All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: mbta.com/betterbus

All feedback aggregated and used to develop final proposed package for April FMCB vote.
## Public Engagement Timeline *(tentative)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of Jan. 28</th>
<th>Street Teams (6)</th>
<th>Open Houses (7)</th>
<th>Community Meetings (6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>Boston City Hall Plaza, 1/31 Haymarket, 1/31</td>
<td>Roxbury (Dudley), TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 4</td>
<td>Maverick</td>
<td>Wonderland, 2/5</td>
<td>Lynn, 2/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 11</td>
<td>Central Square</td>
<td>Ashmont, 2/13</td>
<td>Watertown Square, 2/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 18</td>
<td>Kenmore</td>
<td>Sullivan, 2/19</td>
<td>Quincy Center, 2/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 25</td>
<td>Ruggles</td>
<td>Forest Hills, 2/27</td>
<td>Cambridge (Harvard), 2/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of Mar. 4</td>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>Malden Center, 3/4</td>
<td>Downtown Boston, TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Add’l Community Briefings Planned for:
- Newton, Everett, West Roxbury, Somerville, West Broadway (South Boston)

*All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: mbta.com/betterbus*
# Key Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Deliverable Release</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dec 10</strong></td>
<td><em>FMCB Presentation</em> – Part 1 Work Plan Review, Overview of State of System and Market Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan 14</strong></td>
<td><em>FMCB Presentation</em> – Part 2 Overview of Near-term Change Proposals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan 28 to Mar 13 | • **Kick off Round 2 of public engagement**  
                      • Release Market Analysis  
                      • Release State of the Bus System Report  
                      • Release Near-term Change Proposals  
                      • Release Route Profiles          |
| **Feb**       | *FMCB Presentation* – Part 3 Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20                |
| **March**     | **Action**: FMCB Propose FY20 Budget                                                        |
| **April**     | **Action**: FMCB Vote on Package for Near-term change proposals                              |

All proposals will be available online on January 28th at: mbta.com/betterbus