

# Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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## Better Bus Project Update

FMCB, March 25, 2019

Better **B**us Project.



# Better Bus Project Process Map: Update

## Continuous Change

## Analysis

## Proposed Near-term Changes

## Multi-year Investment Strategy

## Future Network Redesign

### 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:** Begin implementation

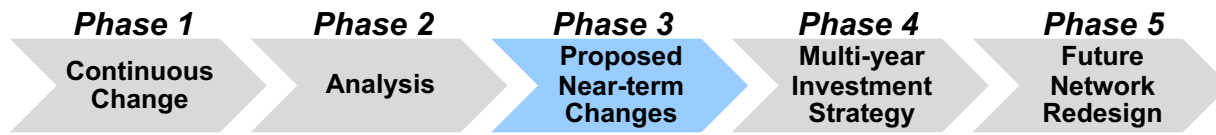
### Phase 4

- ✓ **Jan 28:** Release Route Profiles
- ✓ **Feb 25:** 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
- **Mar:** Consultant award (on track)

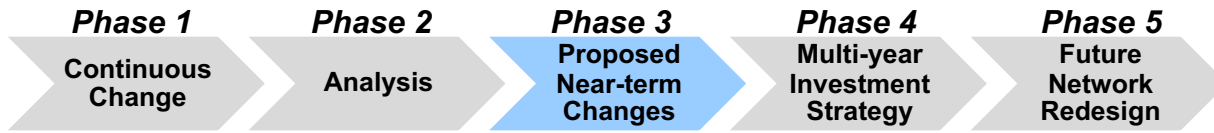
Products/ Actions



## Executive Summary

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- Completed 6 weeks of public engagement for near-term proposals:
  - >2,500 in-person interactions across ~75 meetings / briefings
  - >3,500 discrete comments for 47 near-term proposals
- Draft Equity analysis completed as of 3/20 and internal review with System-wide Accessibility
- Team is now reviewing all feedback and developing final recommendation on which proposals to be implemented based on feedback
- Proposals will then be finalized and sequenced for implementation based on downstream dependencies
- Goal of today is to review preliminary feedback with Board in anticipation of early April vote (pending finalized Equity analysis)



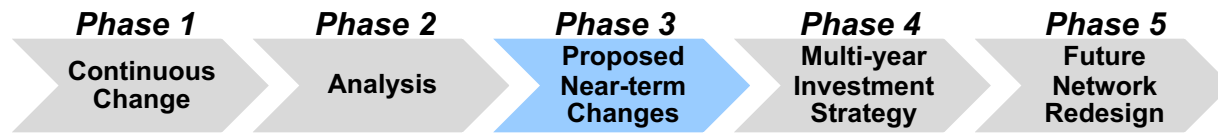
## Outreach since January 28

Between Open Houses, Street Teams and MBTA Community Meetings, staff had over 2,500 in-person interactions

Type of Event	Number of Meetings
Community Meetings	8
Open Houses (at stations)	7
Street Teams (at stations)	6
Briefings	50+

### Online Feedback

Type of Feedback	Number of Comments
Online Feedback Form	2,854
Emails/Letters	284



## Feedback Analysis of Near-Term Proposals - Overview

- In addition to accepting general comments, the MBTA asked stakeholders to complete forms both online or in-person about the 47 proposals
- Individuals were asked to rate their level of support for each proposal on a 5 point scale – from “strongly support” (5) to “strongly oppose” (1)
- Results: ~30 proposals were rated neutral or higher

Survey Completion  
0% 100%

Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority

English

Do you support this proposal?

SL2

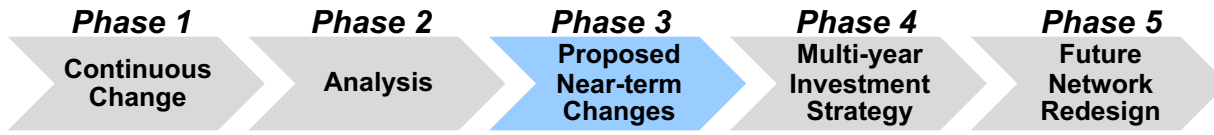
Strongly support

Somewhat support

Neutral

Somewhat oppose

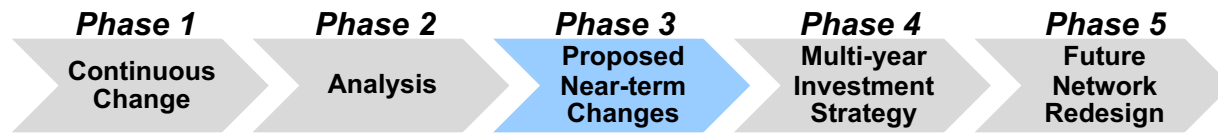
Strongly oppose



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# Over 3,500 discrete comments / ratings on proposals

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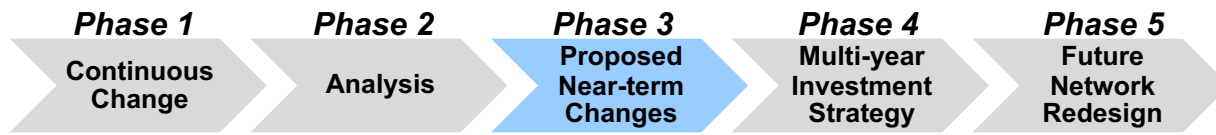


## Reviewing Feedback Using Screening Principles

- Staff screening all open-ended comments for all 47 route proposals to understand feedback and form a recommendation, using following principles:
  - Net positive feedback (average score as well as distribution)
  - Ridership representation (ratio of commenters to route riders)
  - Safety considerations
  - Accessibility considerations
  - Loss of direct service
  - Equity and populations affected



Each proposal evaluated along multiple criteria – feedback rating not taken alone without other considerations

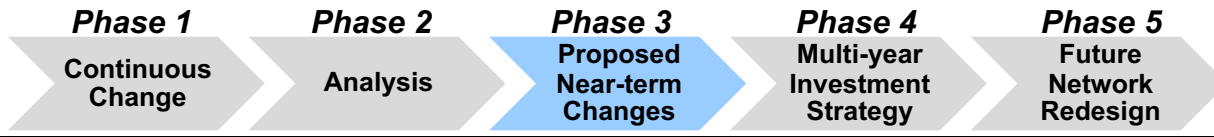


## Example Feedback from Public Engagement

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- Maintain busway access as much as possible
- Ensure accessibility is not lost, but either met or improved
- In favor of additional connectivity or longer service, but not always at trade-off of less frequency
- Changes to be considered in awareness of key construction projects, school closures, housing developments





# Preliminary Analysis – Deeper Analysis Underway

5/16	9*	34/34E
36*	37	44
52*	64	70/70A
92	106	111
120	134	201/202
222	225	350
428	424	

**Likely to move forward (20)**

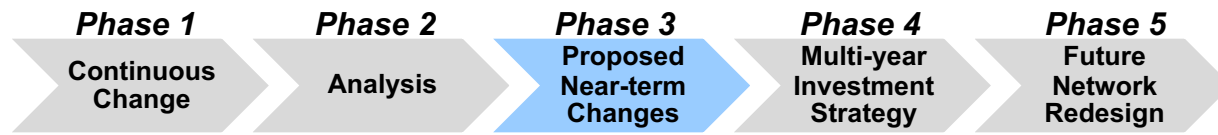
CT1/1	SL2
4	59
60	72/74/75
89	90
95	131/136/ 137
220	411
435	441/442/ 448/449
455/459	501/502/ 503/504

**Under deeper review by team (16)**

8	18
19	26/27
47	65
93	215
238	430

**Requires further analysis, not likely in CY19 (10)**

*Final analysis targeted to be completed by April 8<sup>th</sup>*



## Implementation Criteria and Next Steps

**Sort:** Finalize which proposals recommended for implementation incl. any route revisions



**Sequence:** Finalize dependencies for implementation and sequence implementation



**Implement:** Starting Fall 2019 (proposals w/ significant 3<sup>rd</sup> party dependencies may take longer)

- Finalize recommendations
- Finalize equity analysis based on final package
- Confirm any RIDE impact (ADA ⇔ Premium)
- New bus stops & turnarounds
- Accessible stops and path of travel
- Municipal & 3<sup>rd</sup> party engagement
- Schedule service changes
- Communicate changes to riders
- Conduct Fall Pick

