

# Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue E-Branch Accessibility Project

Virtual Open House  
*May 2, 2024*

**CITY** *of* **BOSTON**



Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority

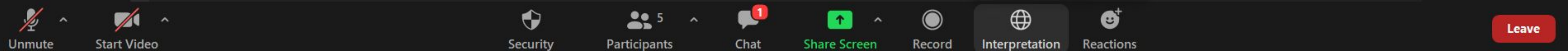
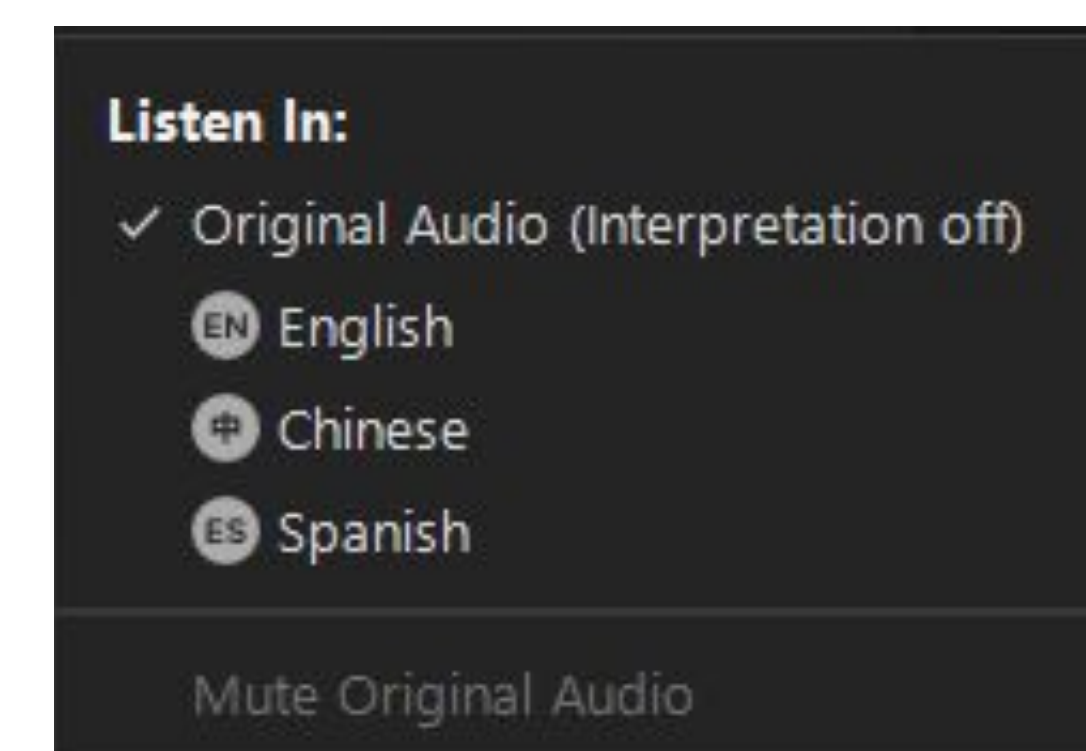


# WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S MEETING!

CITY of **BOSTON**




- . We have **simultaneous interpretation** in Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese available tonight.
- . After this message, please click **“Interpretation”** and choose your language of preference.
- . All English speakers choose English as your chosen language. We ask you select this, otherwise you won't be able to hear.
- . Please also **type in the chat** if you need interpretation services and in what language. We will ensure these services are available to you during the discussion portion of the meeting.

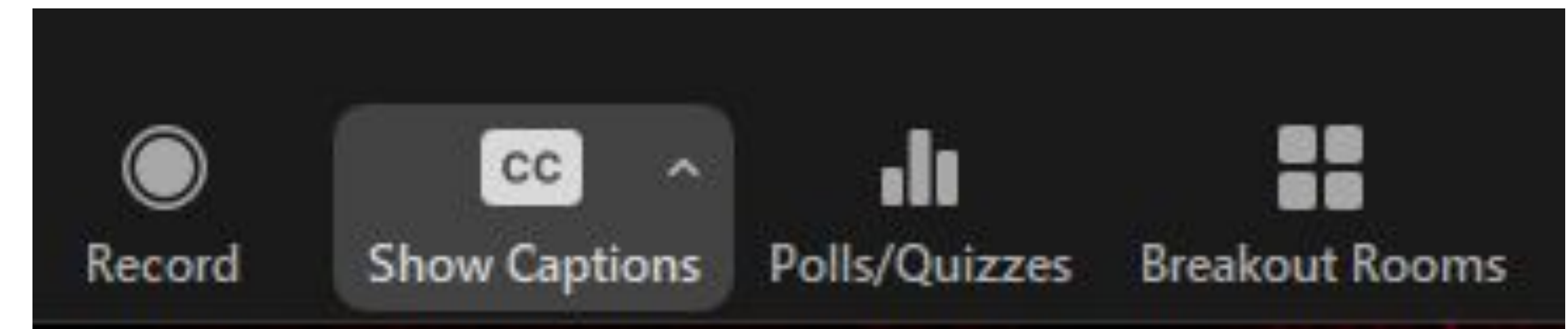




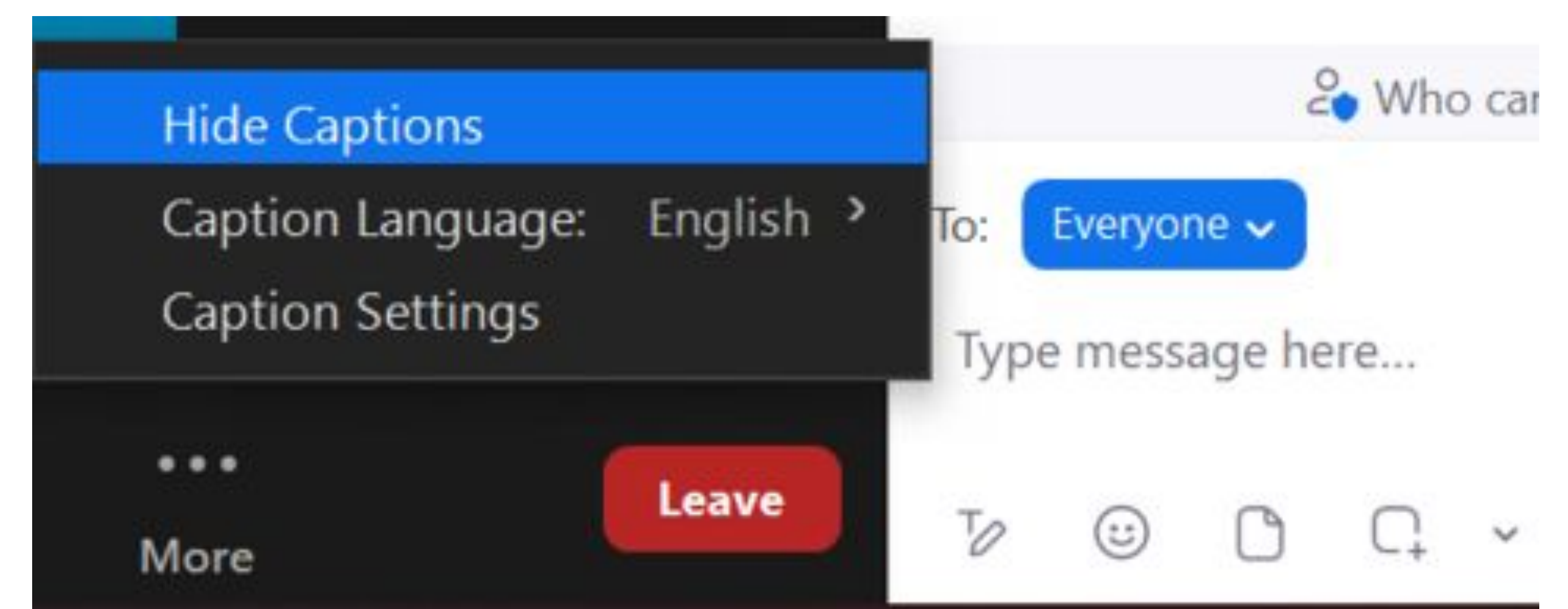
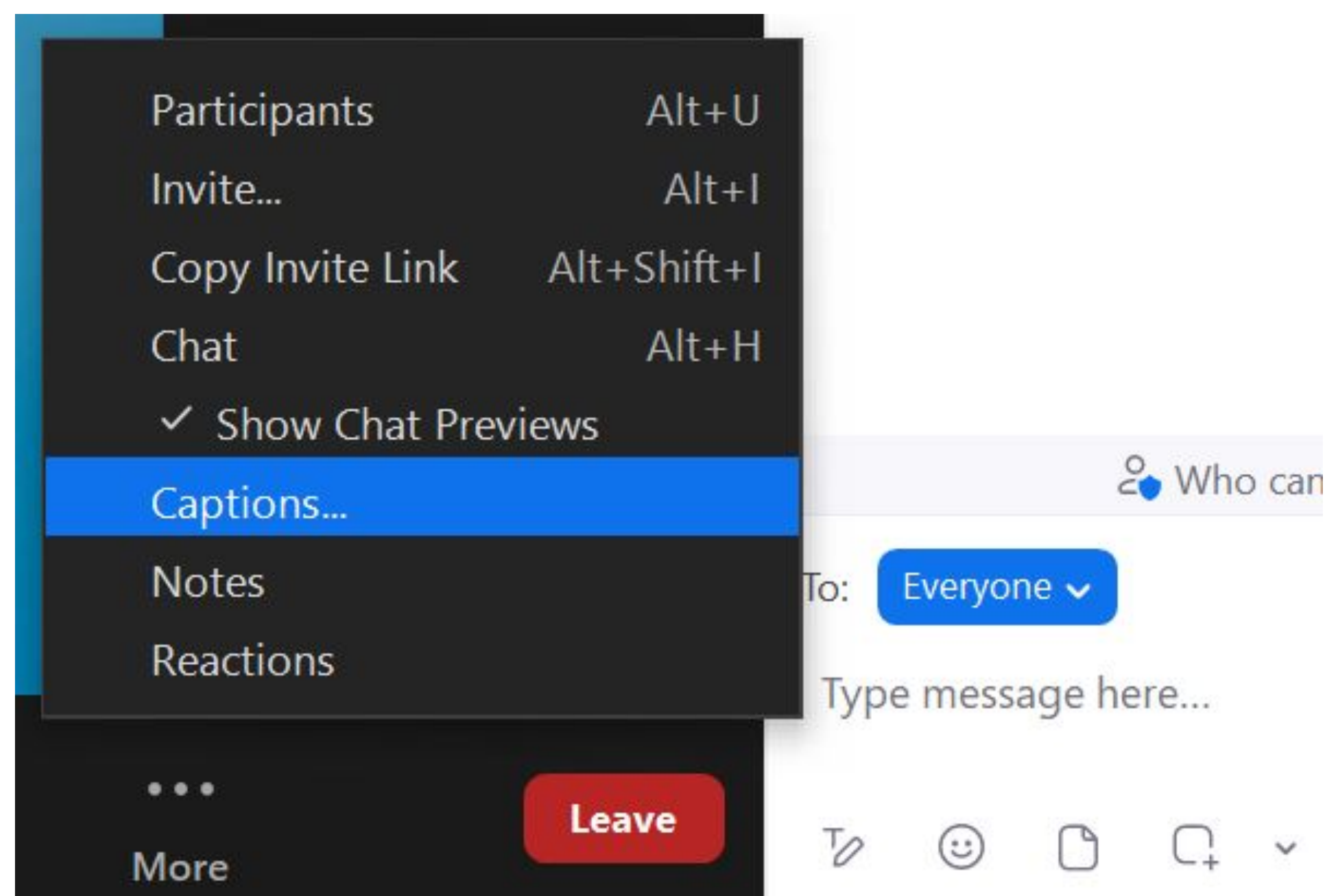
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- . To see Closed Captions, click the **'Show Captions'** button in the bottom middle of the screen
- . (it may be hidden under the **More** button in the bottom right-hand corner depending on your screen size).



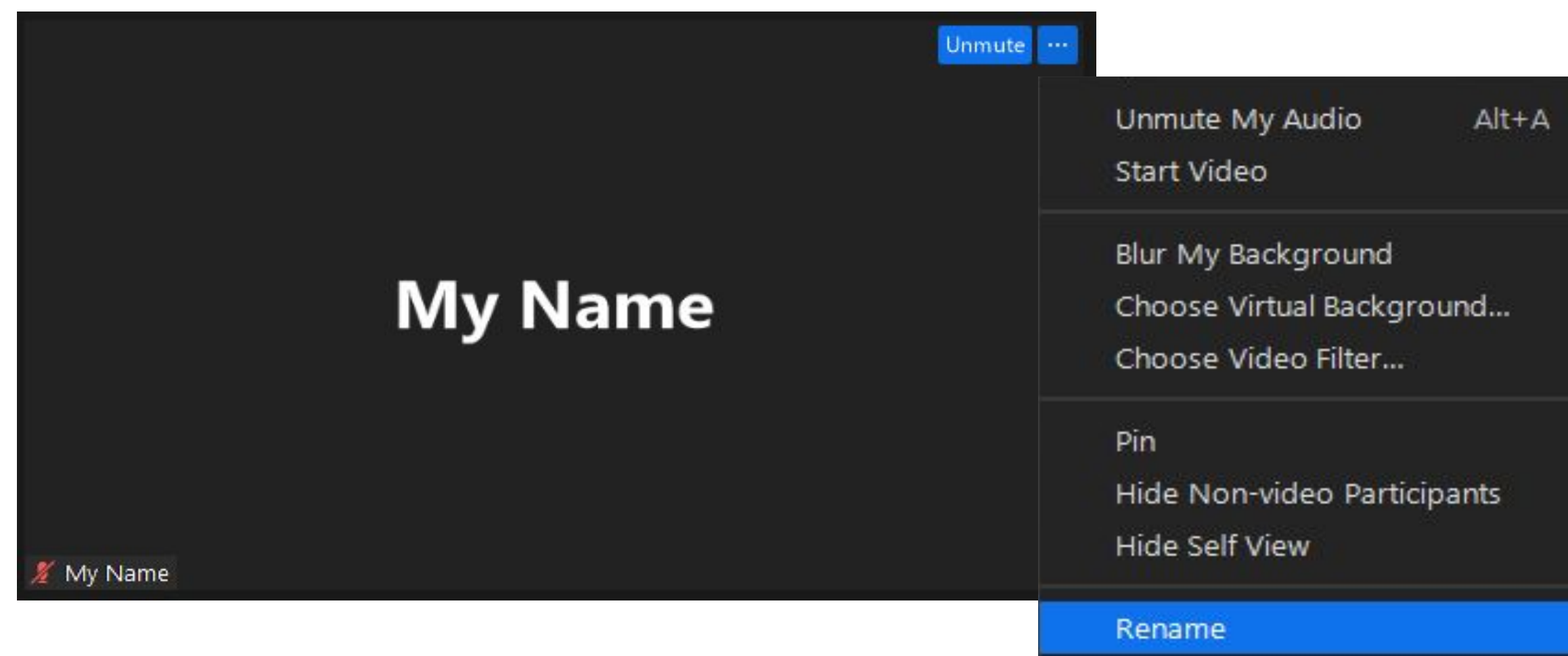


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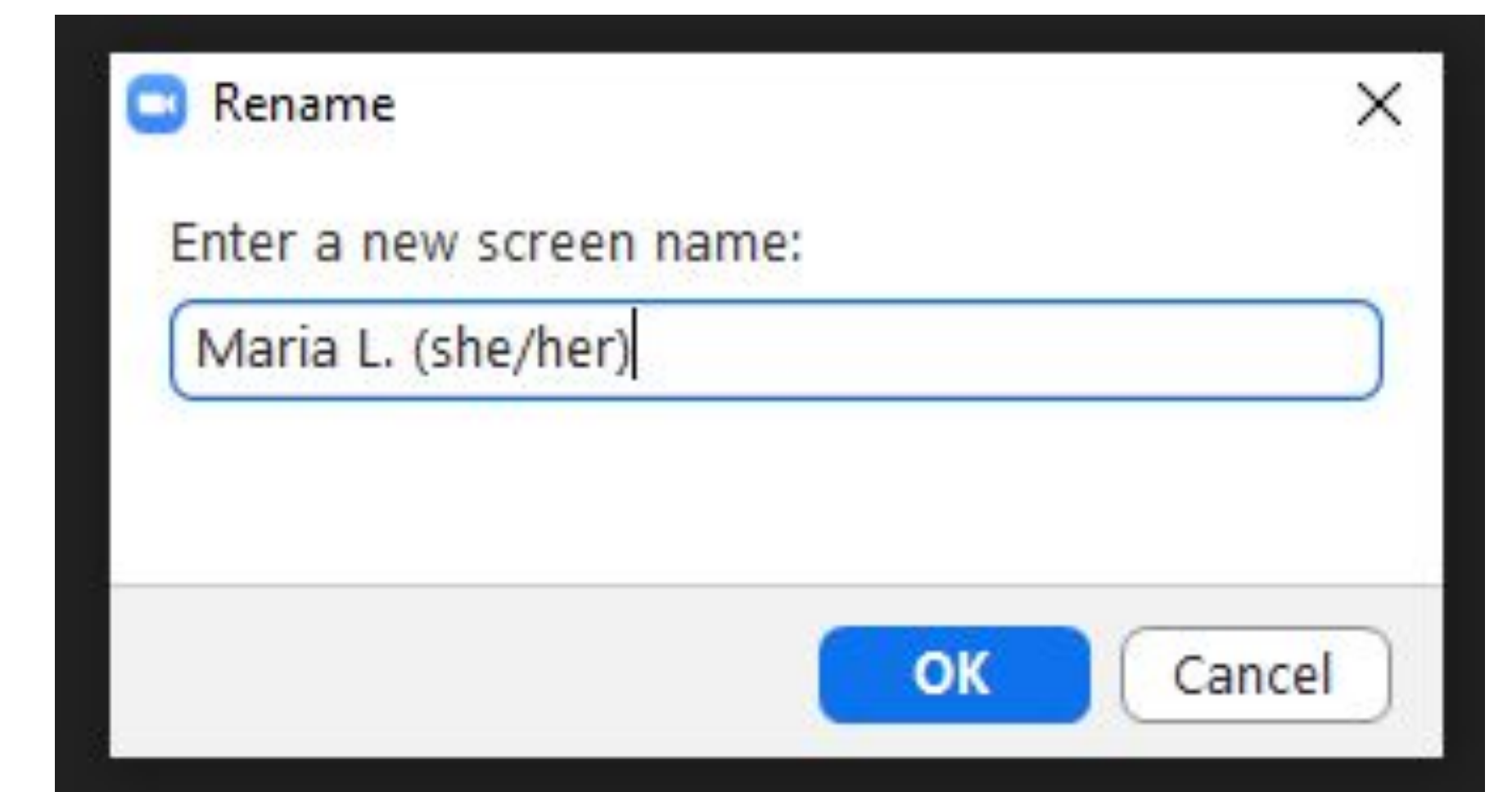
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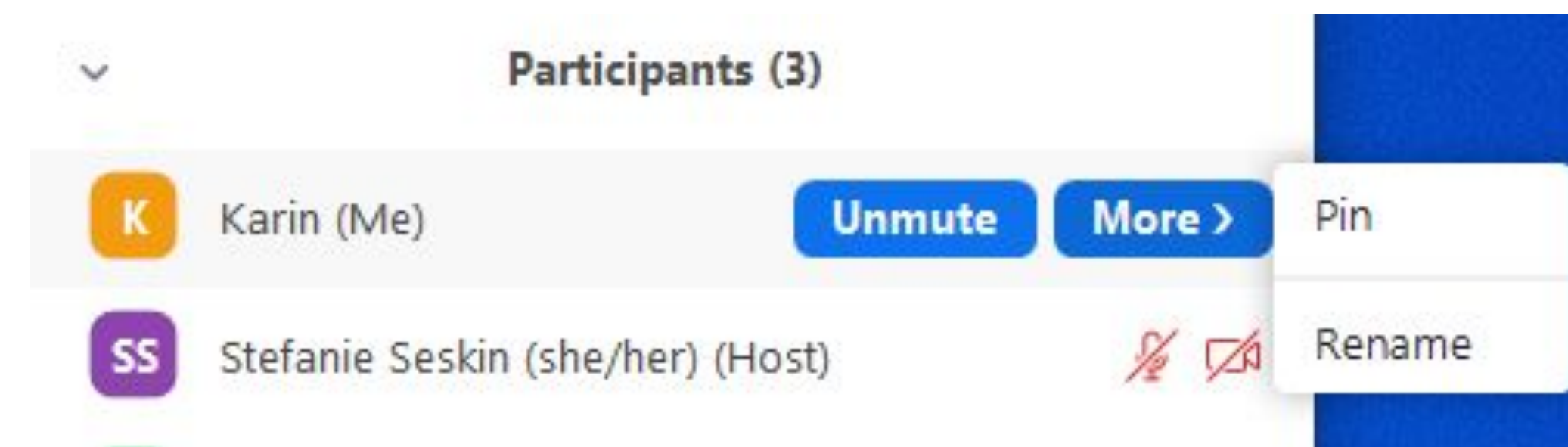
- This meeting will be recorded and put up on the City of Boston's website for anyone unable to join us tonight.
- Please update your name in Zoom and include your organization and/or pronouns, if you would like.



*Click the three dots in the top right of your video*



**OR** next to your name in the "participants" list





# WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S MEETING!

CITY of BOSTON



- Your microphones are turned off for the main presentation to reduce background noise.
- Participants will have the opportunity to speak after the main presentation, to provide feedback and ask questions.
- You may also ask questions in the chat at any time! These will be visible to all, and we will ask these questions of the presenter during the Q&A portion of tonight's meeting.



# OUR AGENDA FOR TONIGHT



**WHO**  
is working on  
this project?



**WHAT**  
is this project  
(and **WHERE**  
is it)?



**WHEN**  
is the  
project  
happening?



**WHY**  
are we  
doing the  
project?



**HOW**  
can we  
provide  
feedback?



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## Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue E-Branch Accessibility Project

# Who is working on the project?





# WHO IS WORKING ON THE PROJECT?

This project is a collaboration between the City of Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Along Huntington Avenue and South Huntington Avenue:

The City is responsible for the streets

The MBTA is responsible for transit service

Tonight, you will hear from both the City of Boston and MBTA:

- . Matthew Petersen, BTD
- . Matt Conover, MBTA
- . Ben Weinstein, MBTA





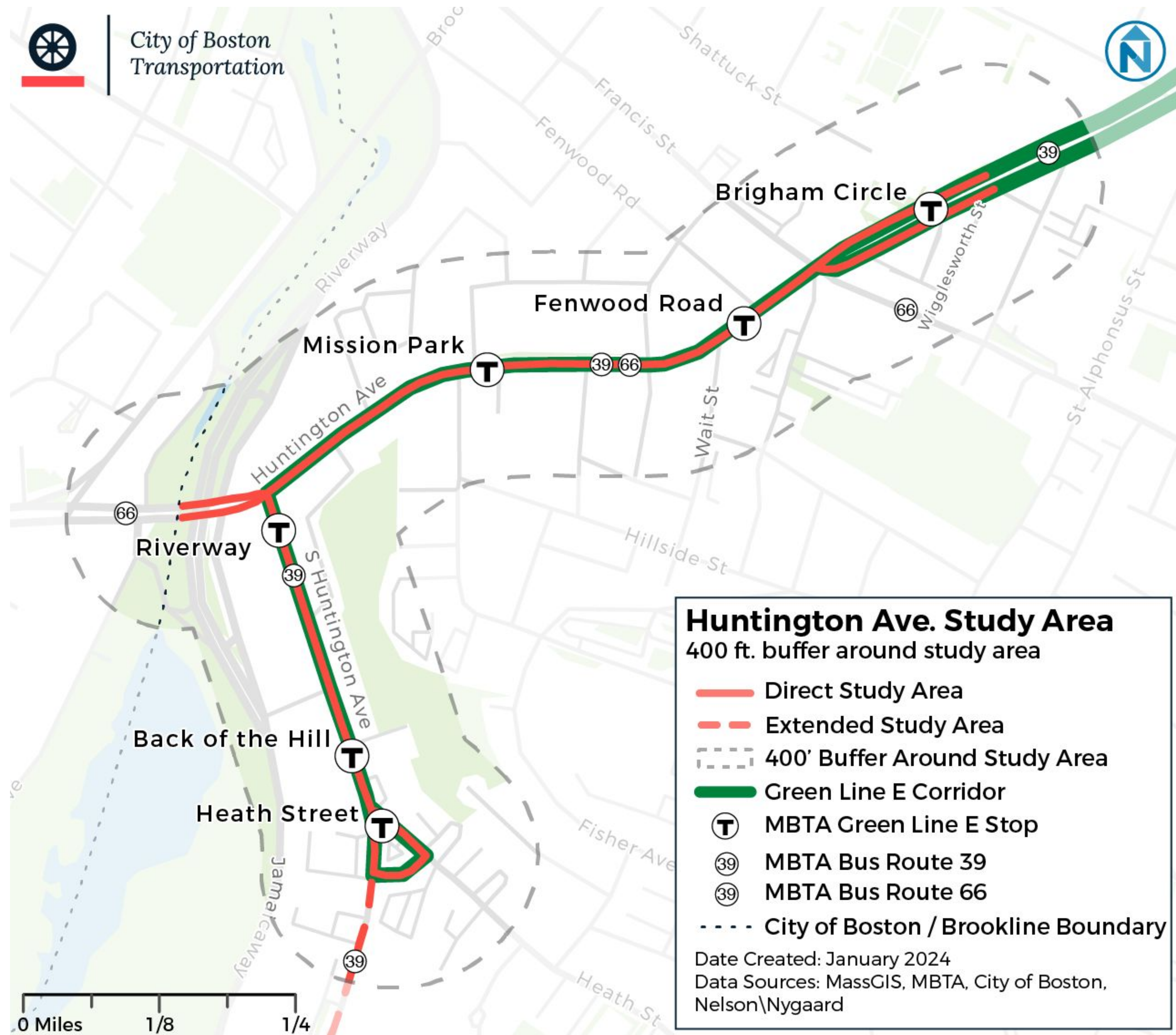
Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue  
E-Branch Accessibility Project

What is this project?



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Boston and MBTA are beginning a redesign process to address safety and accessibility issues between Brigham Circle and Heath Street Stations.



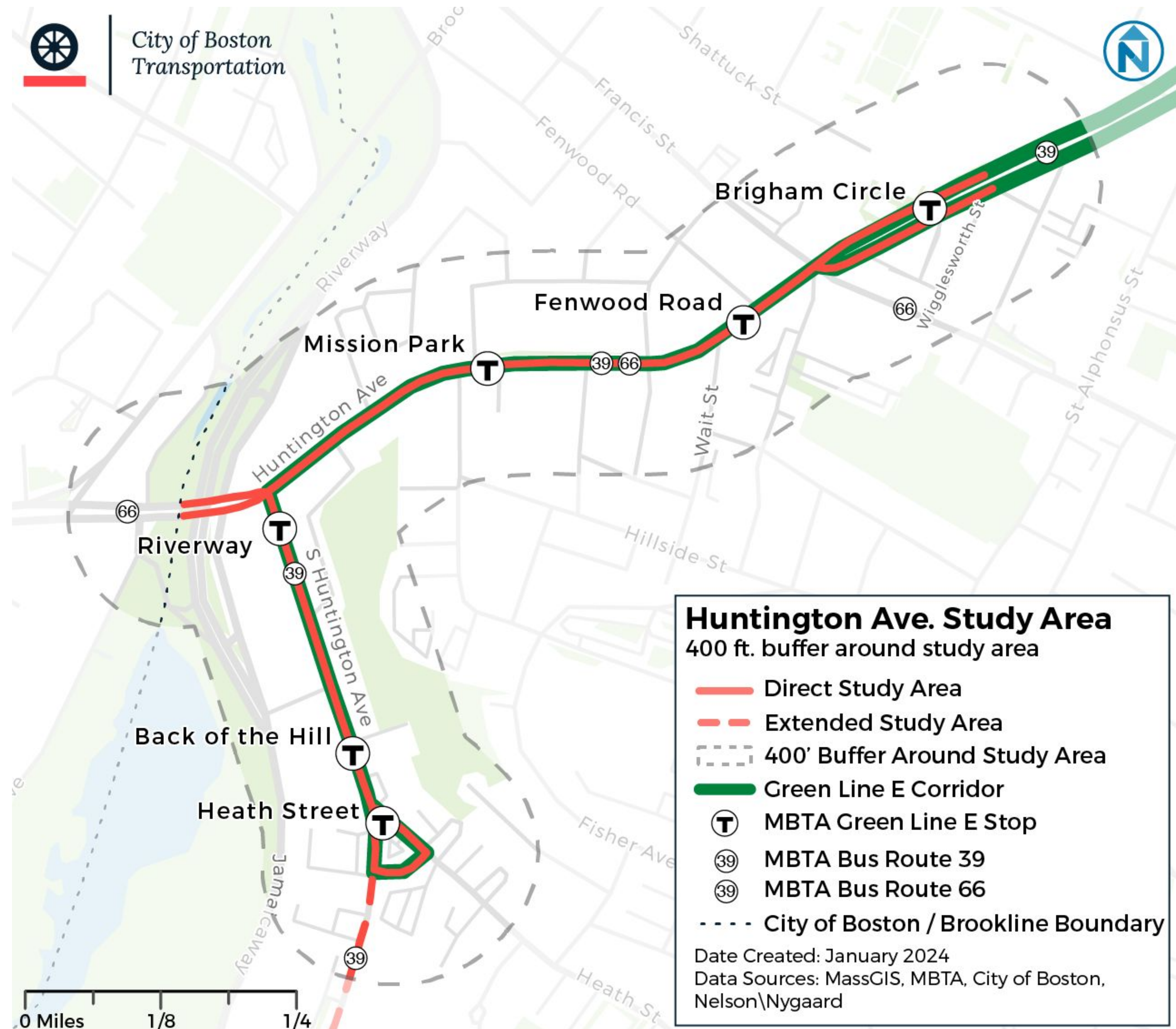


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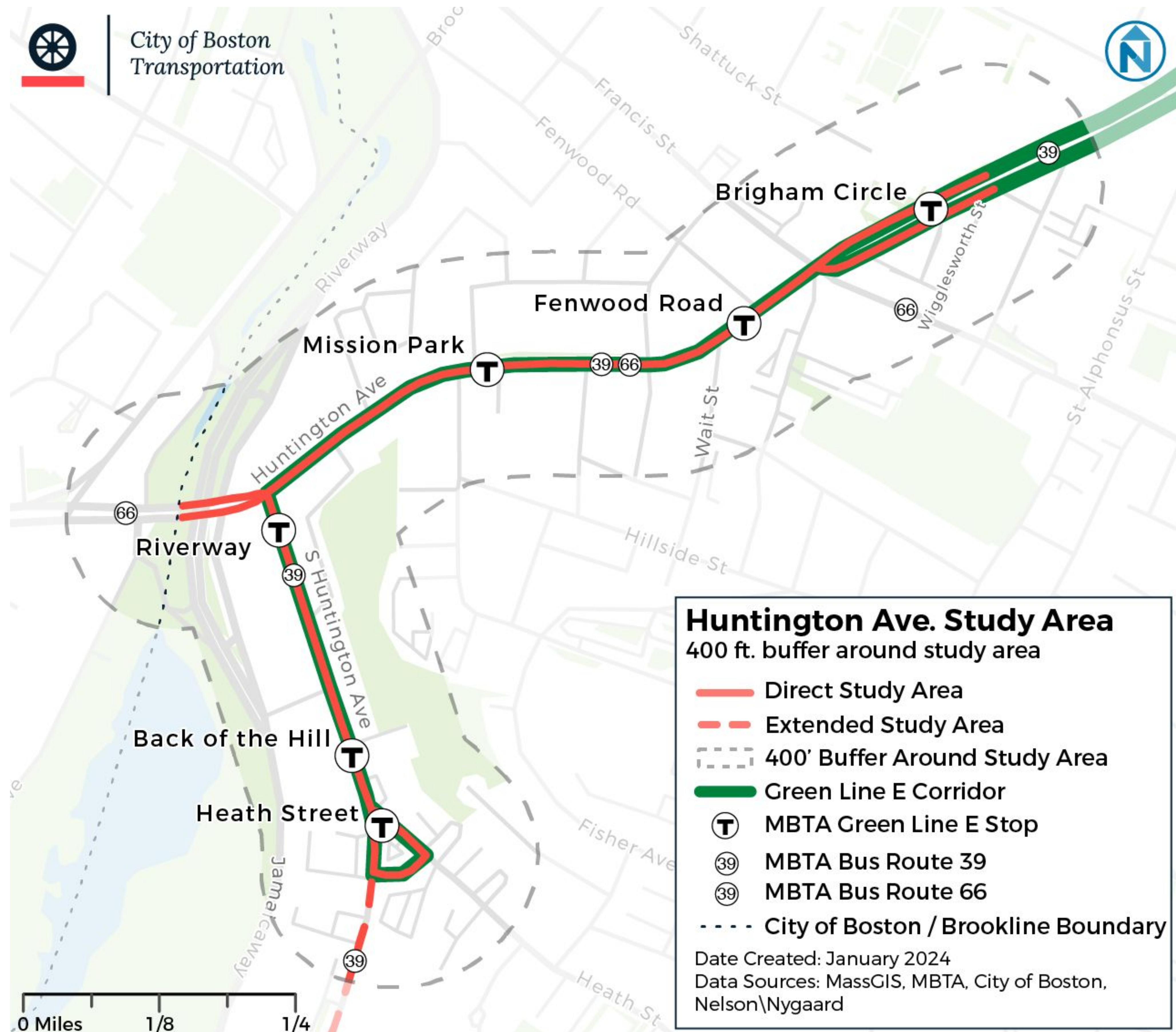


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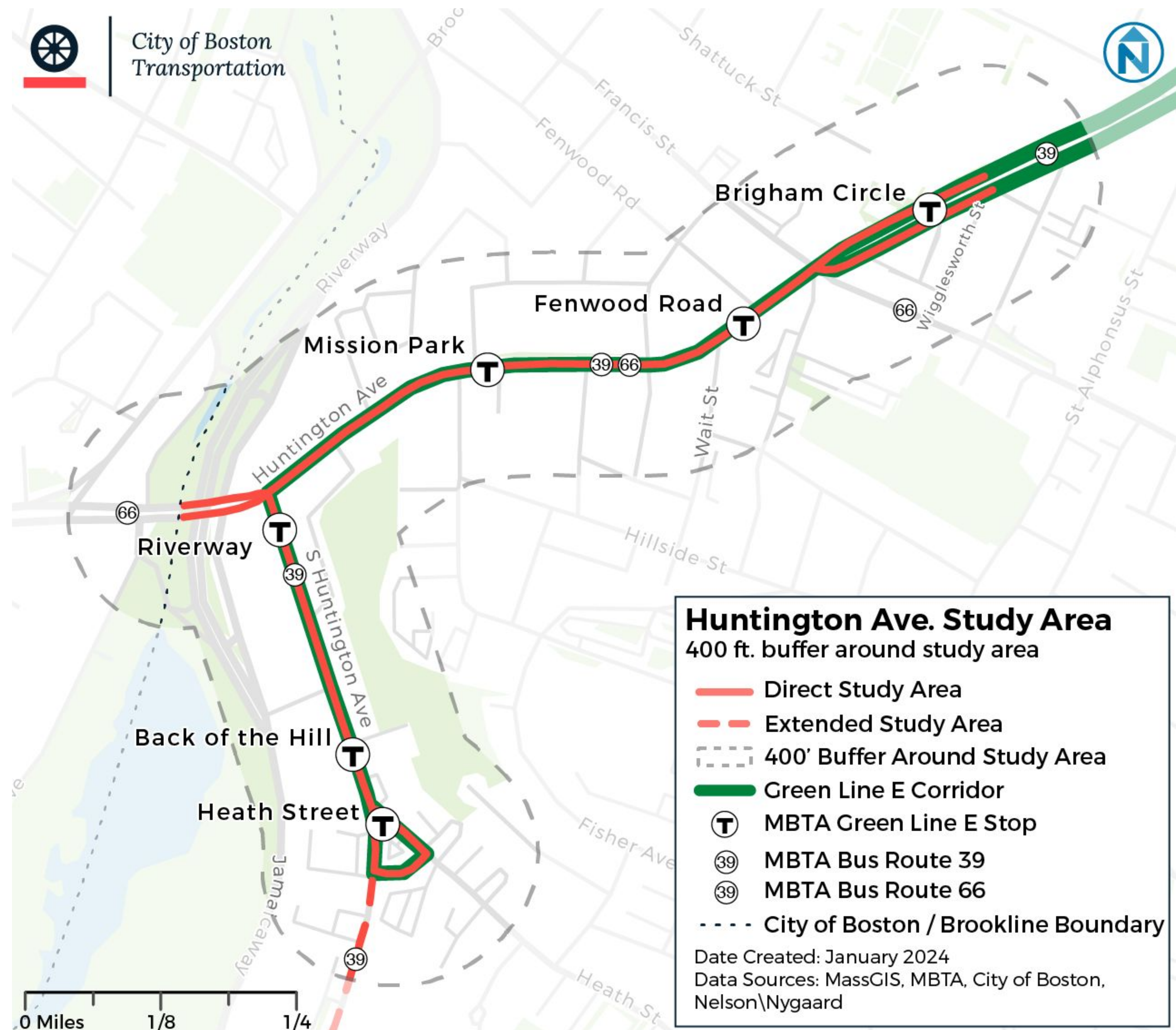


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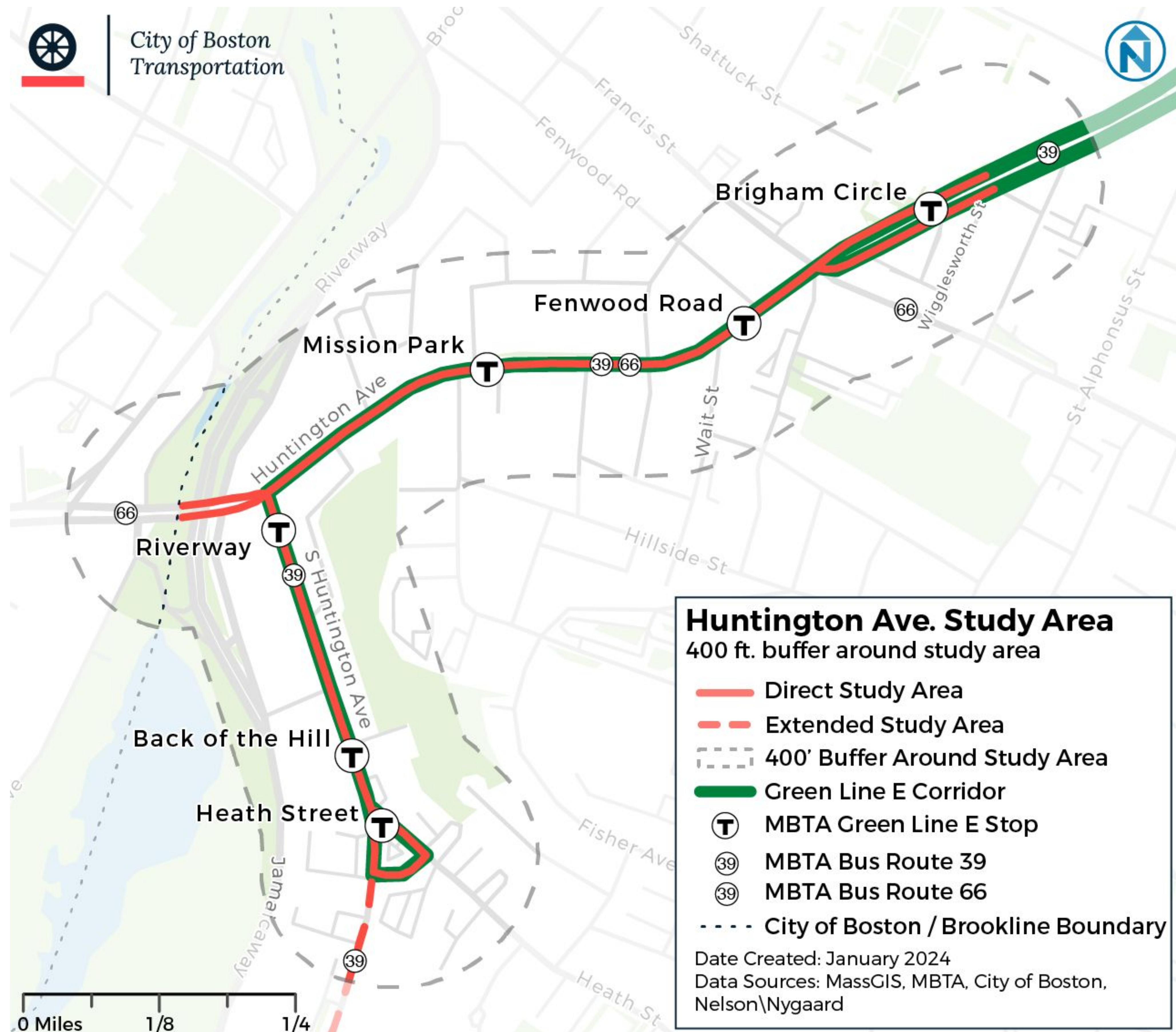


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- Creating a less chaotic experience for all travelers



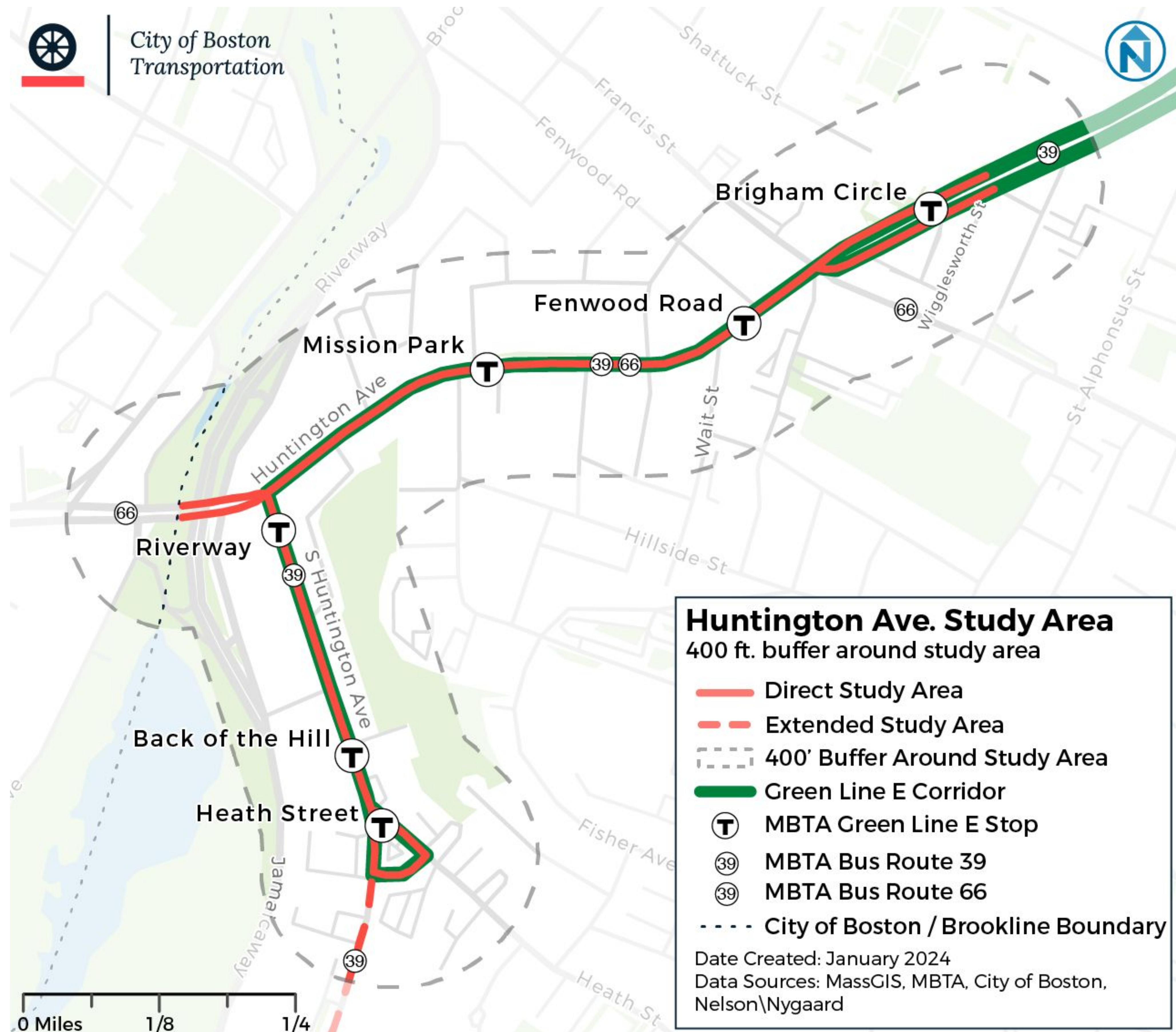


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- Preserving the ability to extend the Green Line south in the future



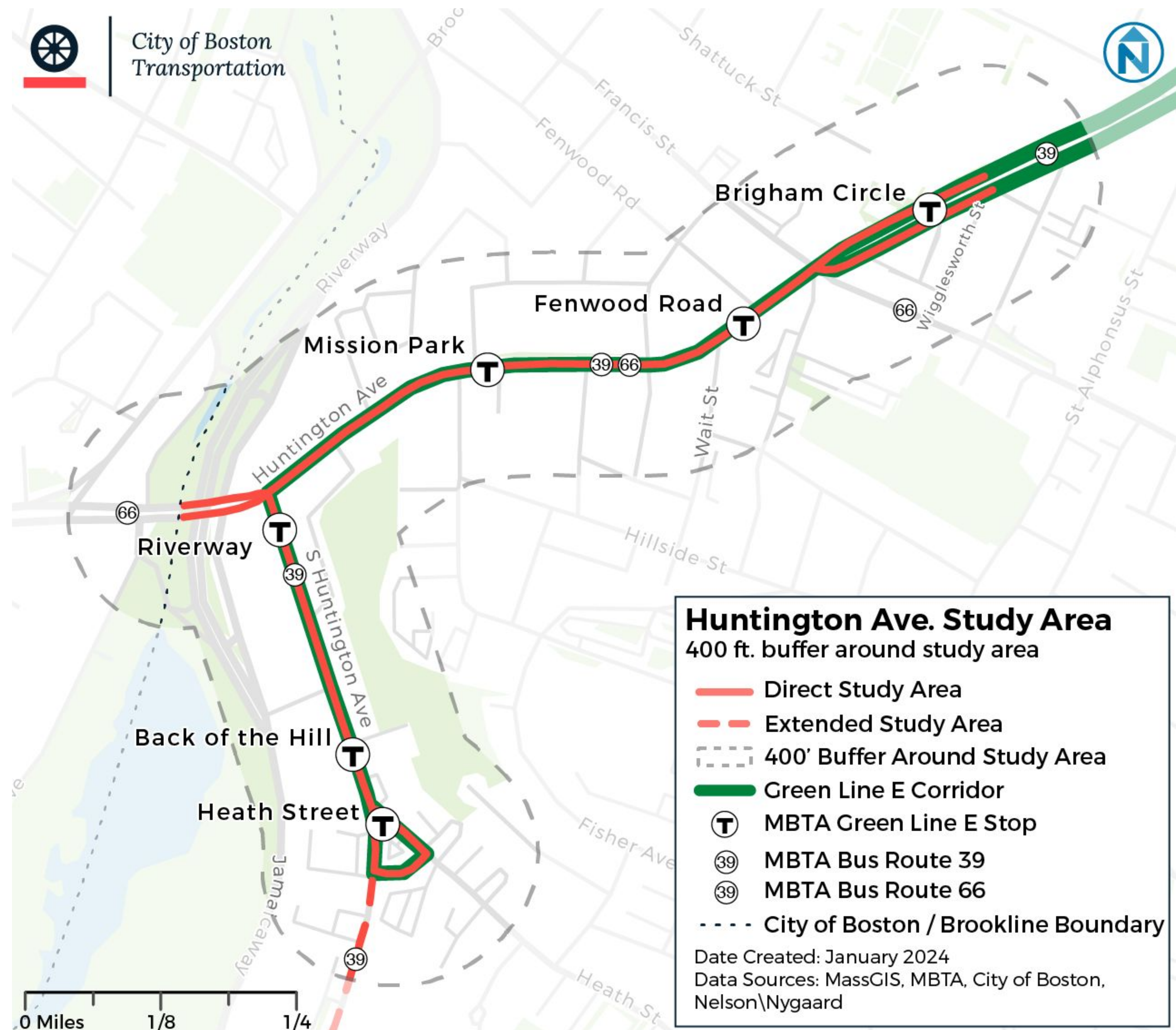


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- Preserving the ability to extend the Green Line south in the future
- Getting ready for construction to be **complete by 2027**



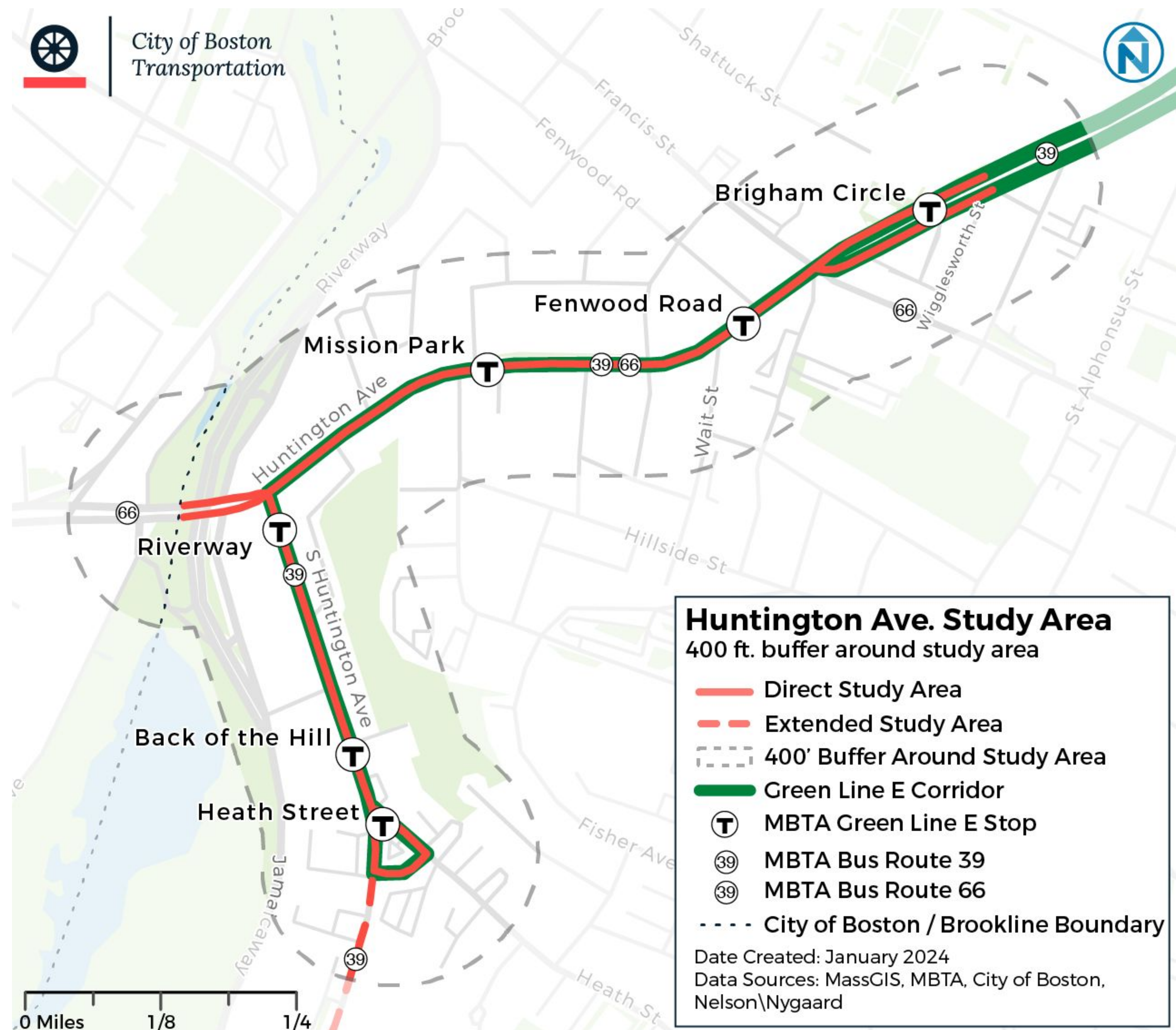


# OUR STUDY AREA

Our study area is along Huntington Avenue and South Huntington Avenue, between the Brigham Circle and Heath Street Green Line stations.

For our work, we are looking at a buffer of about 400' on each side of the street (about one block).

We're also looking at key connected roadways in the vicinity.





# PLANNING BACKGROUND

**There have been consistent calls for improvements to Huntington Ave:**

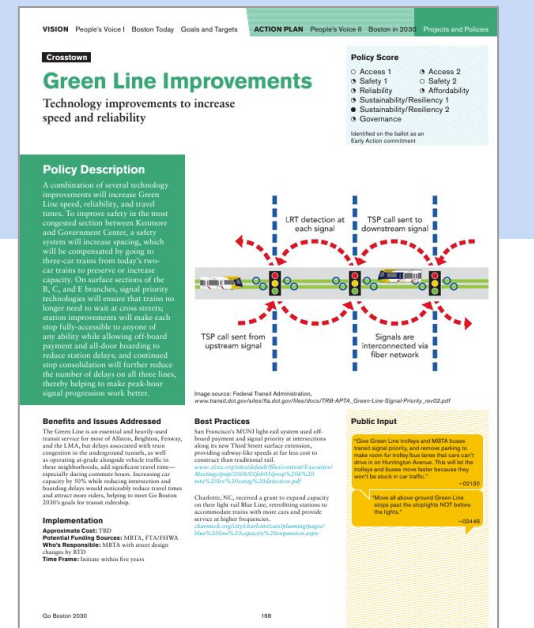


# PLANNING BACKGROUND

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## GoBoston 2030

- Completed in 2017; included two-year public process receiving thousands of comments
- Plan describes new high quality crosstown bus connections to a Longwood Transit Hub



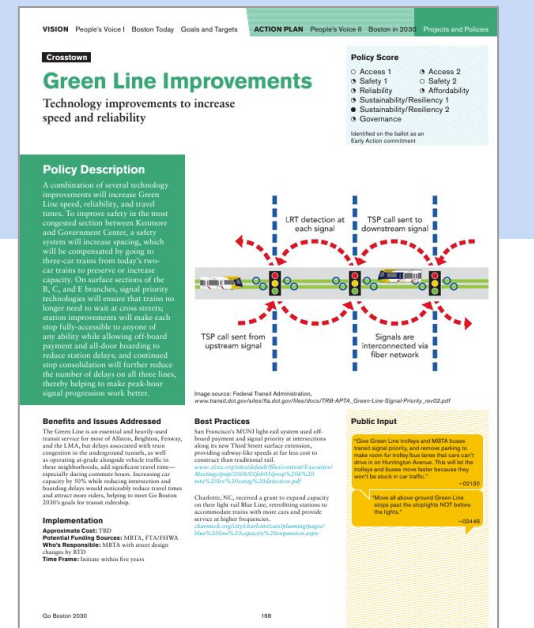


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### MBTA Accessibility Initiatives Report



- Developed in 2021 by MBTA's System-Wide Accessibility Department and rider feedback
- Projects include pilot projects, full accessibility upgrades for stations, and Type 10 trains to address accessible boarding along E Branch

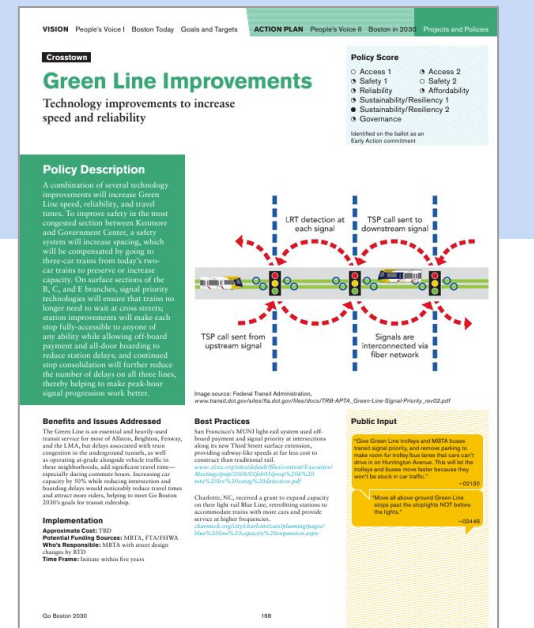


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### Route 39 Transit Priority Corridor Speed, Reliability, and Access Needs Report

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- Identified key challenges: high crash volumes, pedestrian conflicts with other modes, transit accessibility

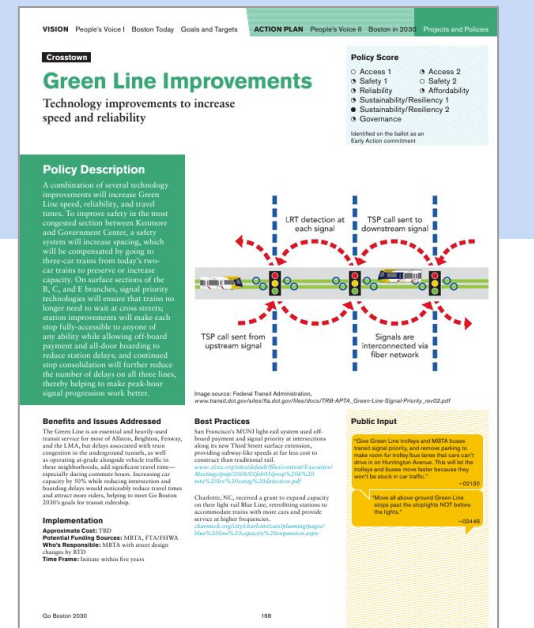


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### South Huntington Better Bike Lane

- Conducted in 2022 by BTD; identifies high-crash area for cyclists; importance for commuters in LMA and Mission Hill
- Addresses gaps in the surrounding study area's bike network and connections to Emerald Necklace



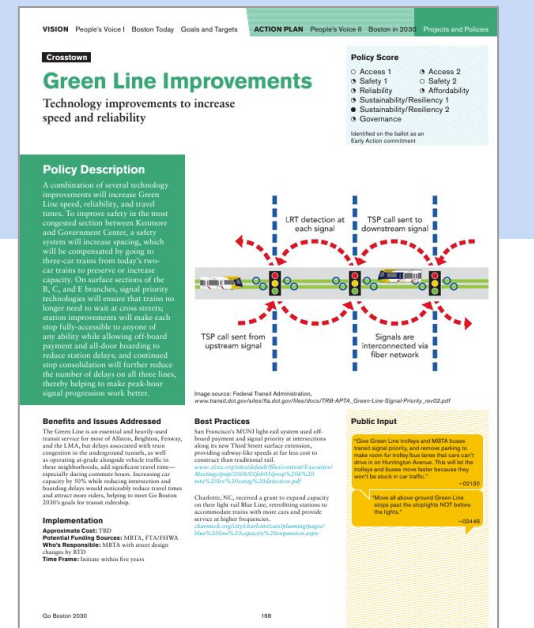


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### Focus40

- Conducted in 2019 by MBTA; systemwide 25-year capital improvement plan through 2040
- Discusses a dedicated right-of-way for the Green Line, Route 39, and Route 66 on Huntington Ave between Brigham Circle and South Huntington Ave



# MBTA/CITY COLLABORATION

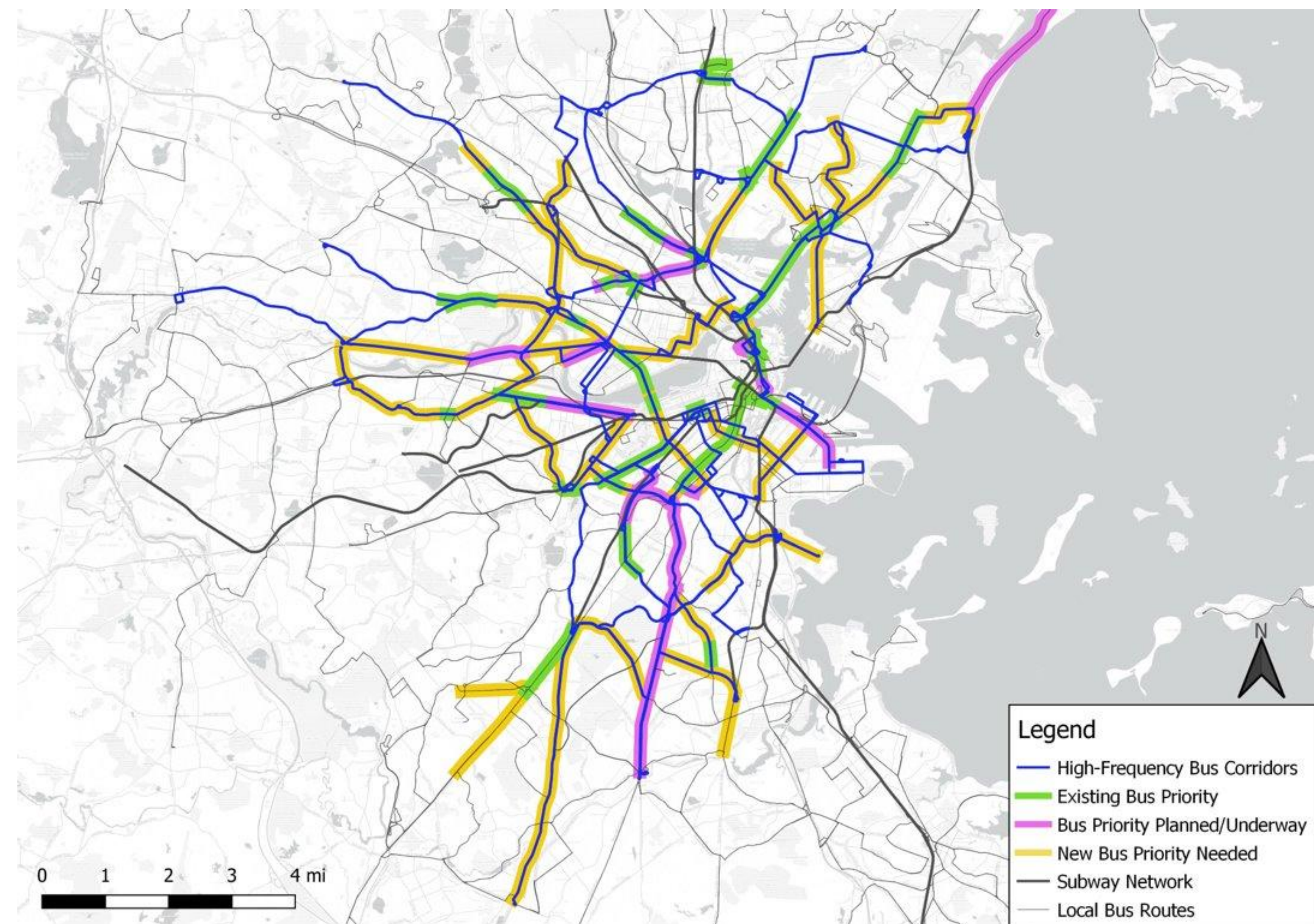
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The MBTA is now working with municipal partners to implement the Bus Network Redesign service plan, which depends on a robust network of transit priority



Source:  
<https://cdn.mbta.com/sites/default/files/2023-04/2023-04-18-bnrd-final-report-accessible.pdf>



**MBTA's Bus Priority Plan - 26 Corridors Systemwide**



# A NEW GREEN LINE FLEET

## *Designing future infrastructure needs for the type 10 arrival*

Example Type 10 Rendering



### *Vehicle Improvements*

- ✓ 100% low floor in passenger area
- ✓ 32-inch clear aisle width throughout vehicle
- ✓ Bridge plates at all double-leaf doors
- ✓ 4 priority areas for passengers using mobility devices
- ✓ Audiovisual passenger information system

Accessible Bridge Plate

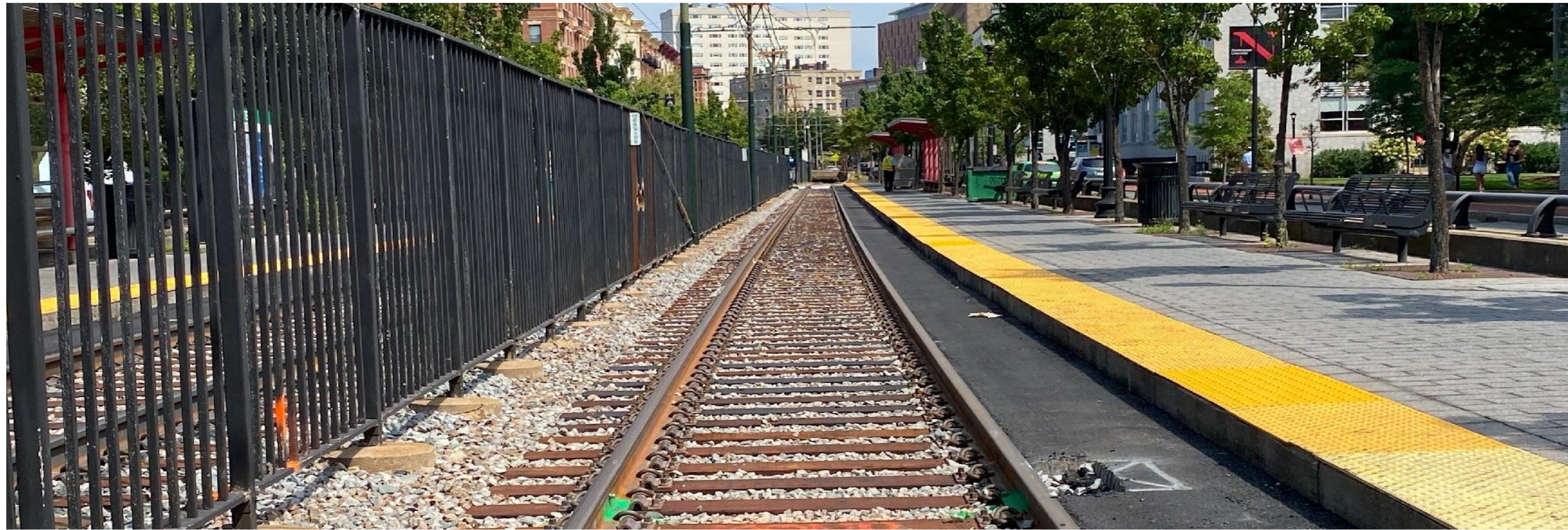


### *Infrastructure Improvements*

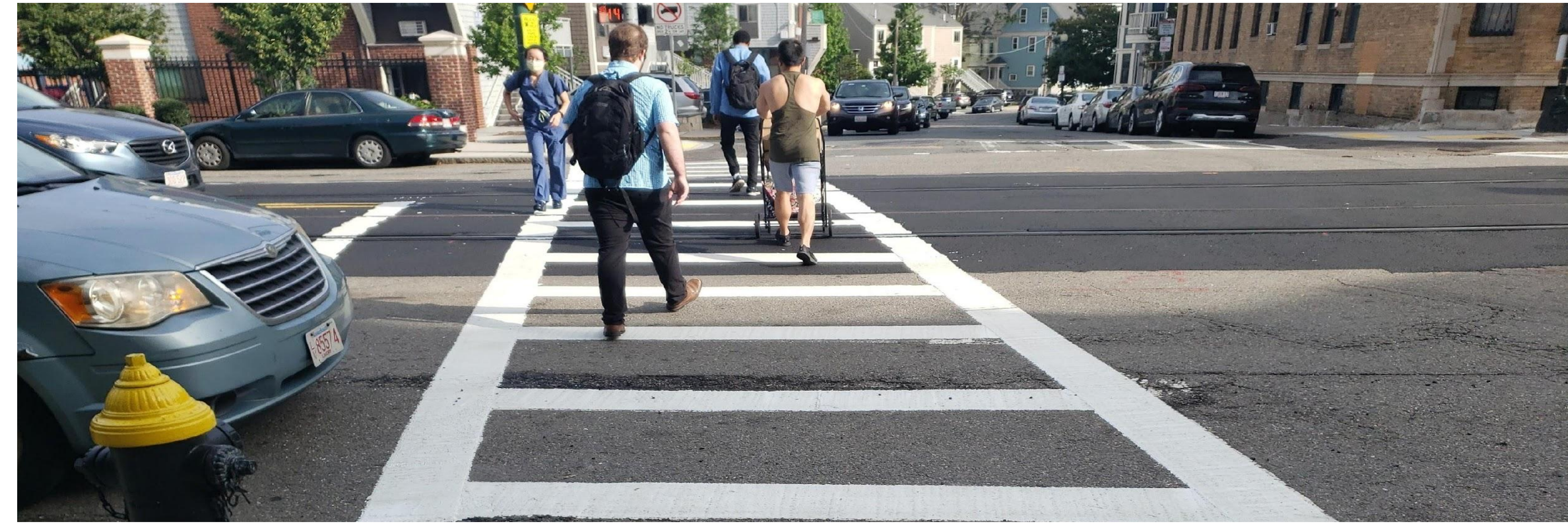
- ✓ Dedicated stations with barriers from road traffic
- ✓ Raised platforms for accessible bridge plate boarding
- ✓ Accessible crossings
- ✓ Improved amenities and wayfinding
- ✓ Allows for future level boarding



# MBTA ACCESSIBILITY GOALS



**Raised Platforms**



**Crosswalks**



**Solar Powered e-Ink Signs**



**Wayfinding/Station Amenities**





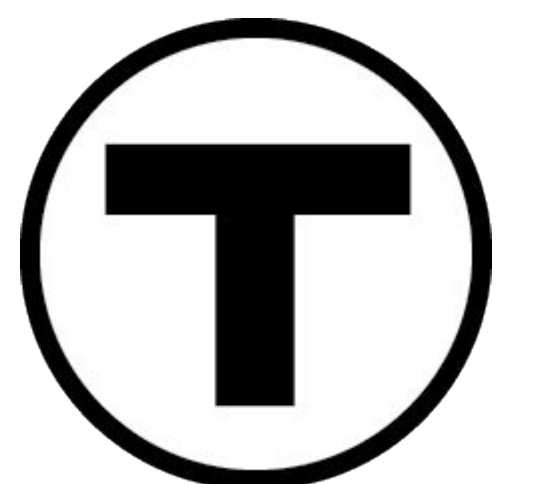
# TRANSITWAY



Dedicated Transitway (Example MUNI San Francisco)



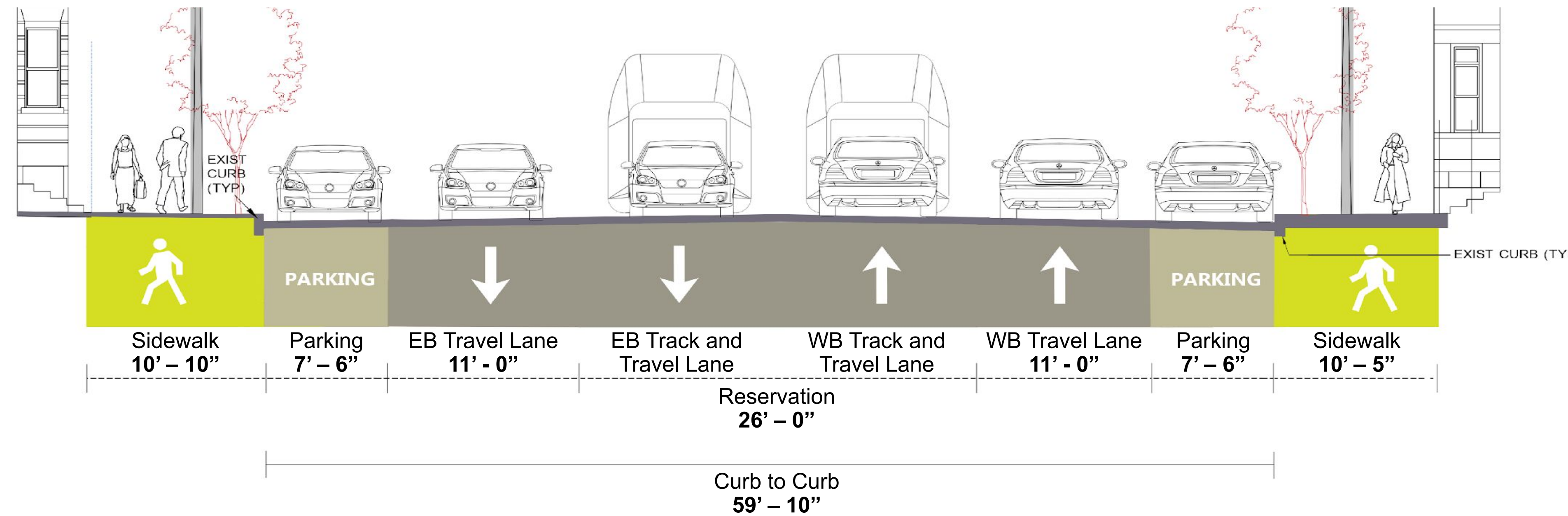
Dedicated Transitway (Columbus Ave)





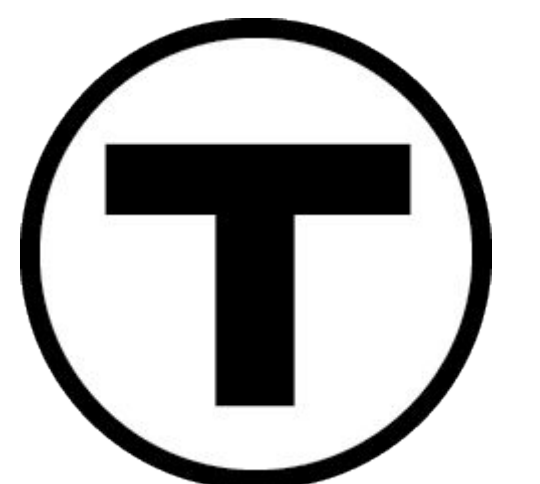
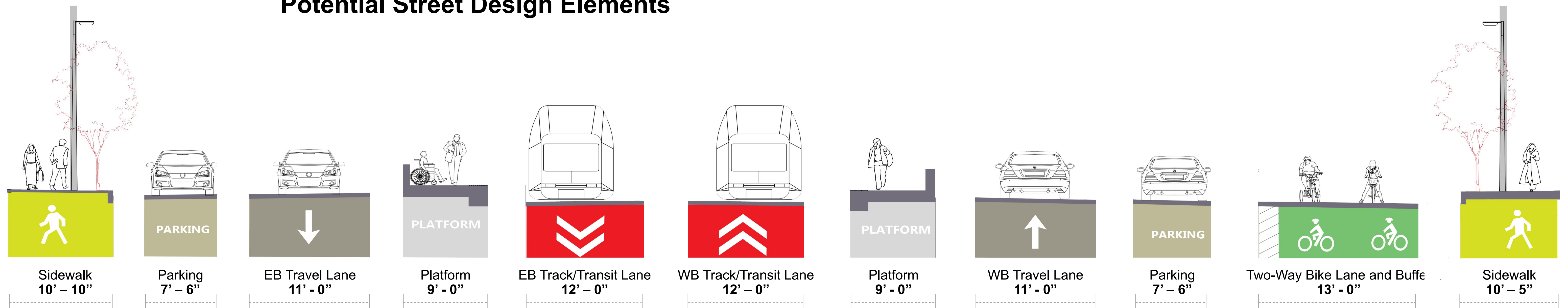
# STREET DESIGN ELEMENTS

## Existing Street



*Limited space on Huntington and South Huntington Avenues will require tradeoffs to create a safe, accessible environment*

## Potential Street Design Elements





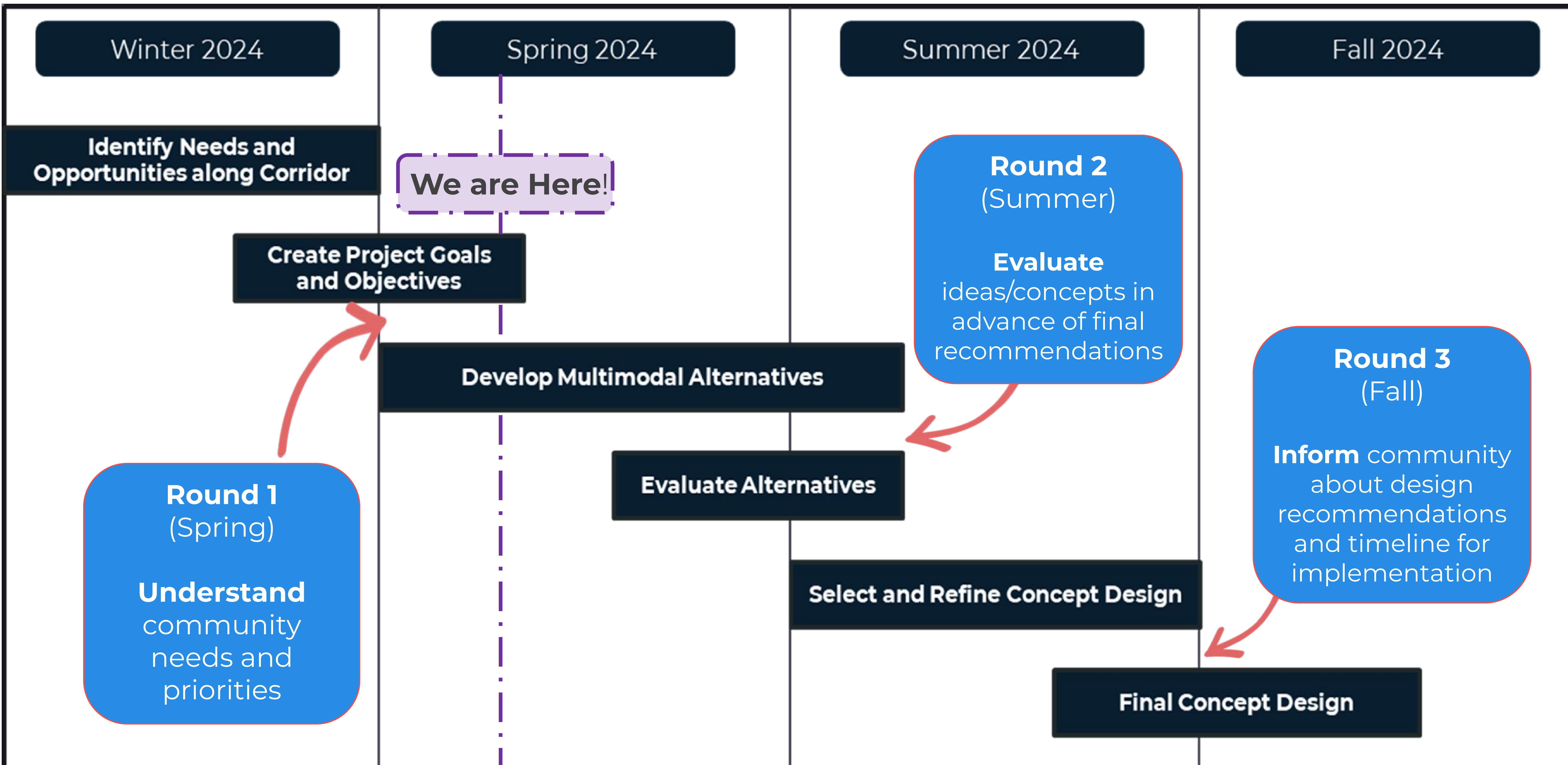
# Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue E-Branch Accessibility Project

# When is the project happening?



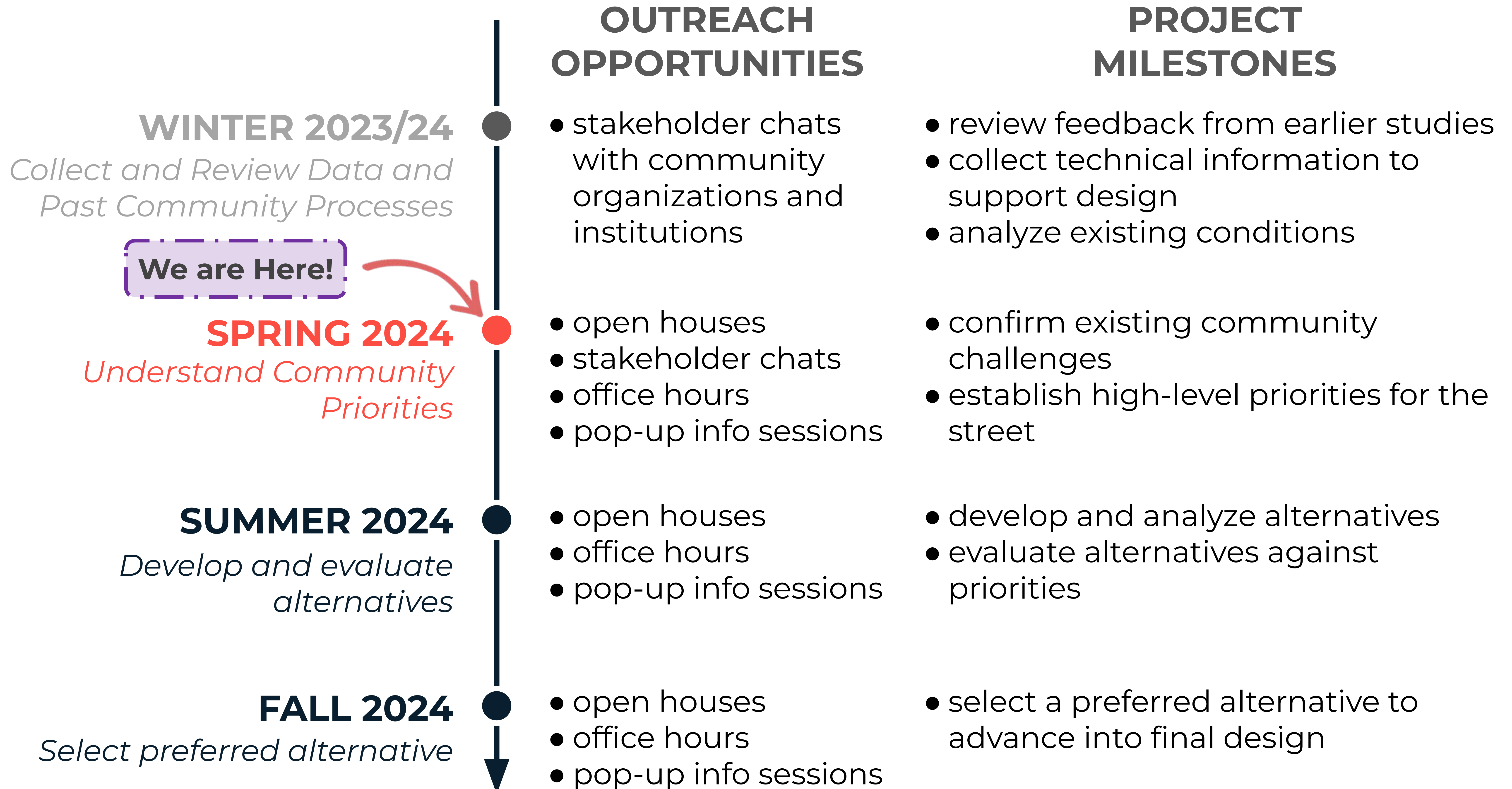


# The Timeline of This Project





# Outreach Opportunities





# Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue E-Branch Accessibility Project

## Why are we doing this project?





# TODAY'S CHALLENGES

## SAFETY

Today, trains share lanes with cars and bikes and people must enter the street to board. As a result, Huntington and S. Huntington are chaotic, with a higher rate of crashes for all modes.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Green Line E Branch does not have accessible stations. People must get on and off the train alongside moving traffic making these stations inaccessible and unsafe for all passengers. Sidewalk conditions are also often inadequate.

## RELIABILITY

Tens of thousands of bus and Green Line passengers experience slow trips caused by mixed traffic of vehicles and transit.



**“It's SO hard to get on with a stroller when the bus can't stop at the curb. Most often, it's a parked car in the way.” - 02130**



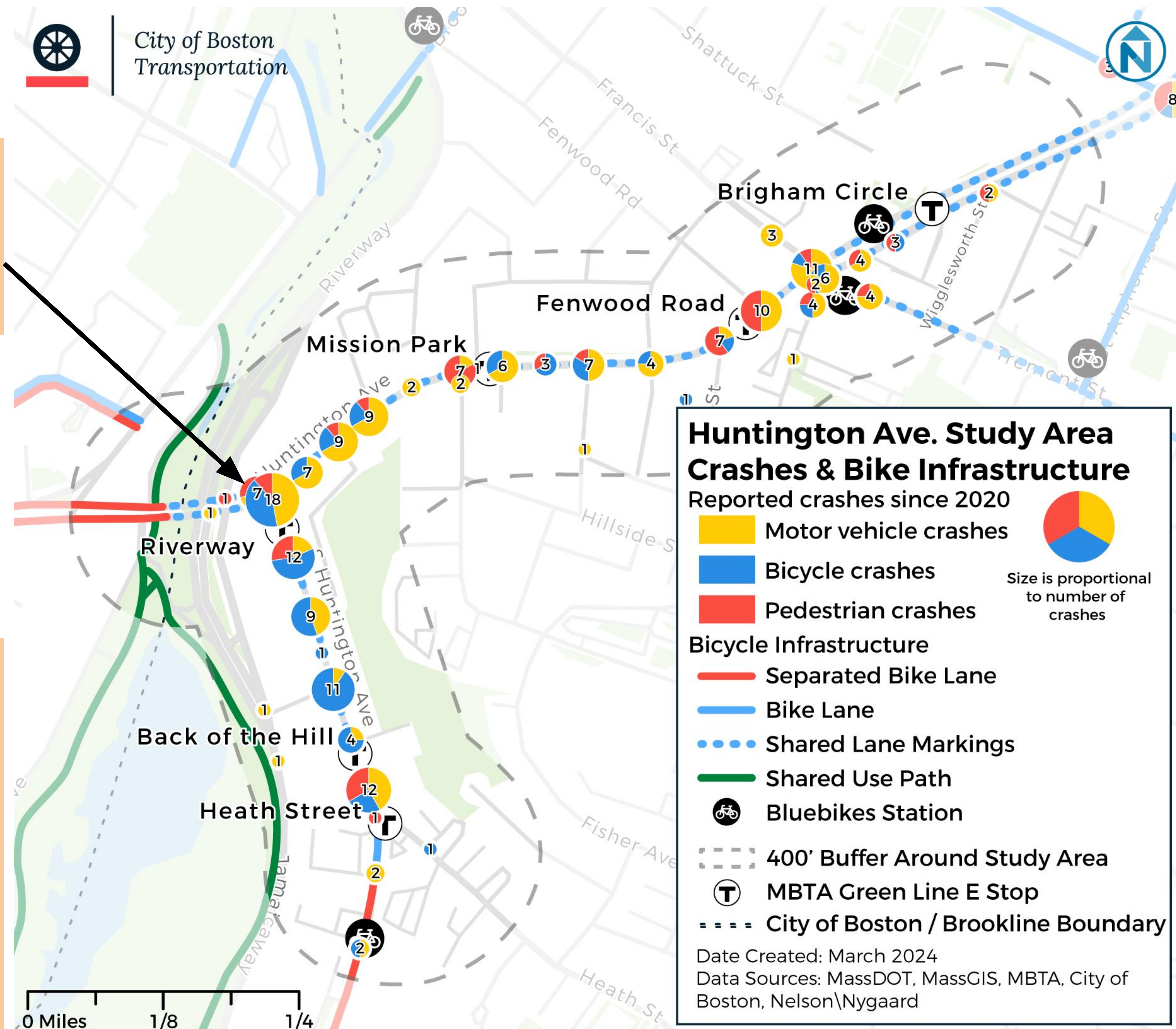
# SAFETY

206 crashes occurred within the study area between 2020 and 2023

“Riding around this intersection is dangerous. The curve, train and buses make it very intimidating when I bike in this area (S. Huntington Ave) and there's no room to take it safely.” - 02135

- The Corridor is part of City’s VZ High Crash Network
- Pedestrian crashes are more common near Green Line stations, where people must walk in the center of the street to get on and off the train

“ The city has built fantastic new bike lanes on the southern portion of S Huntington, but they abruptly end at the Heath St stop...Overall, I hope you keep the bike network effort in mind while reconfiguring things. The street gets fairly heavy bike traffic from Longwood Medical Area workers despite being very dangerous for them. ” - 02130

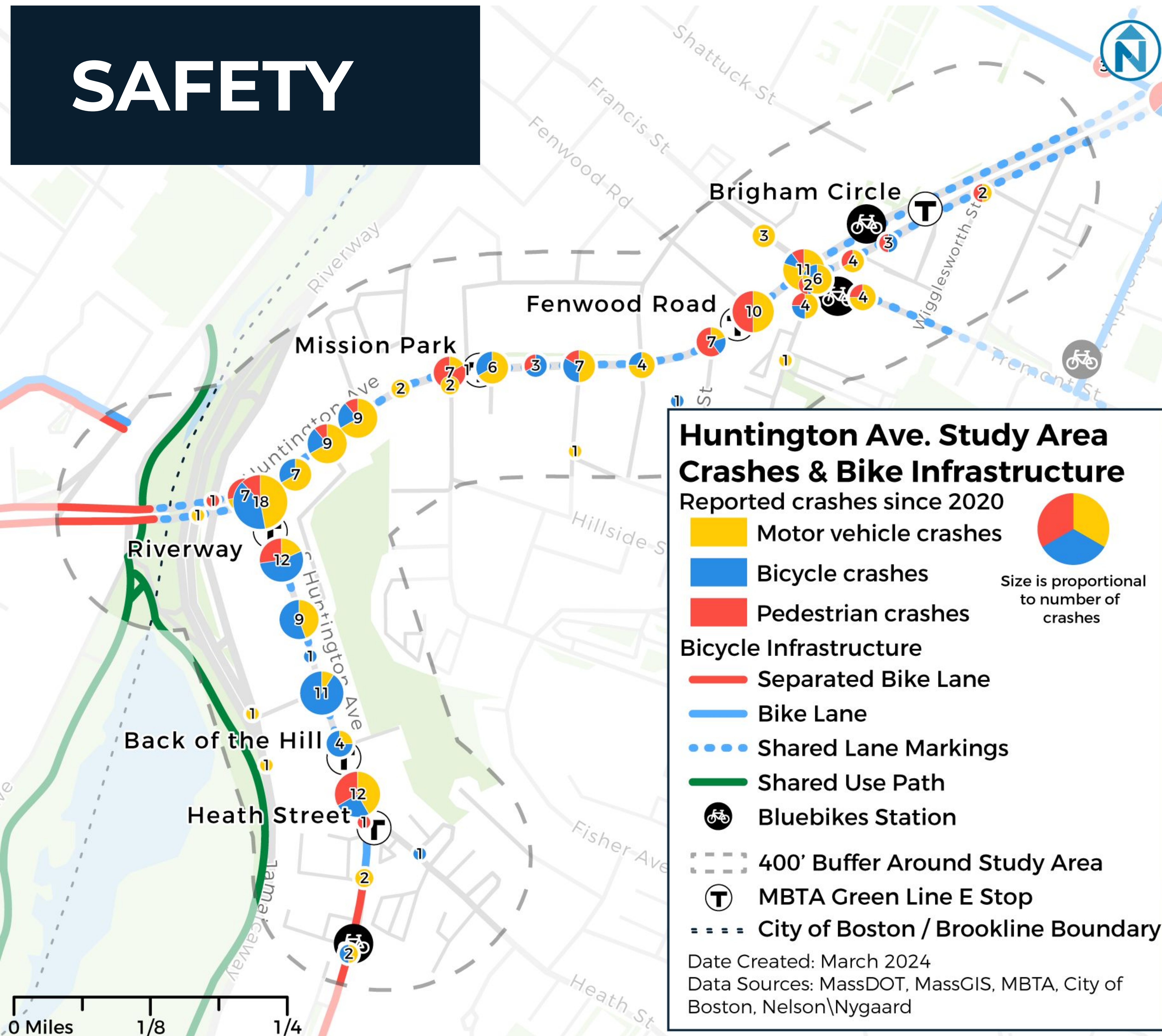




# SAFETY

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**206 crashes** occurred within the study area between 2020 and 2023

These streets are in the **top 3% of Boston streets for crashes**



# ACCESSIBILITY

AMENITIES

NO AMENITIES

BENCH ONLY

AMENITIES

CITY of BOSTON

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

All stations between **Fenwood Road** and **Heath Street** are currently **inaccessible**

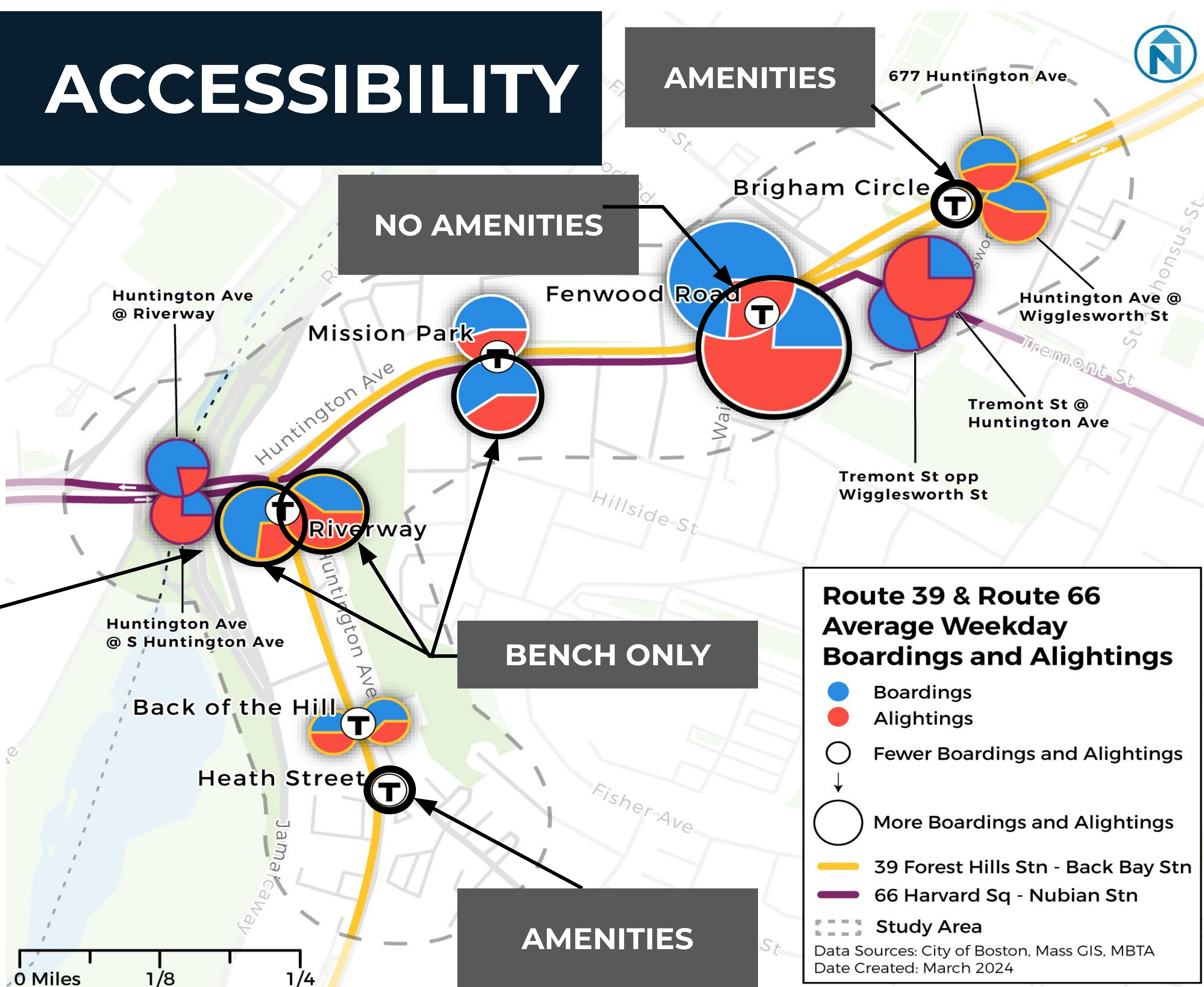
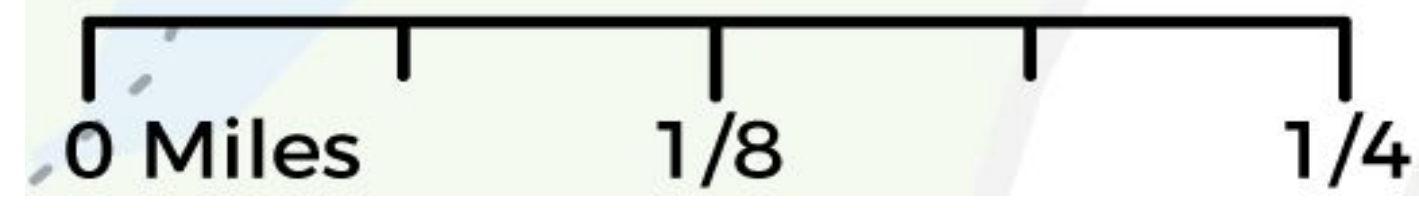
Several stations lack amenities like **benches and shelters**

## Route 39 & Route 66 Average Weekday Boardings and Alightings

- Boardings
- Alightings
- Fewer Boardings and Alightings
- More Boardings and Alightings
- 39 Forest Hills Stn - Back Bay Stn
- 66 Harvard Sq - Nubian Stn

Study Area

Data Sources: City of Boston, Mass GIS, MBTA  
Date Created: March 2024

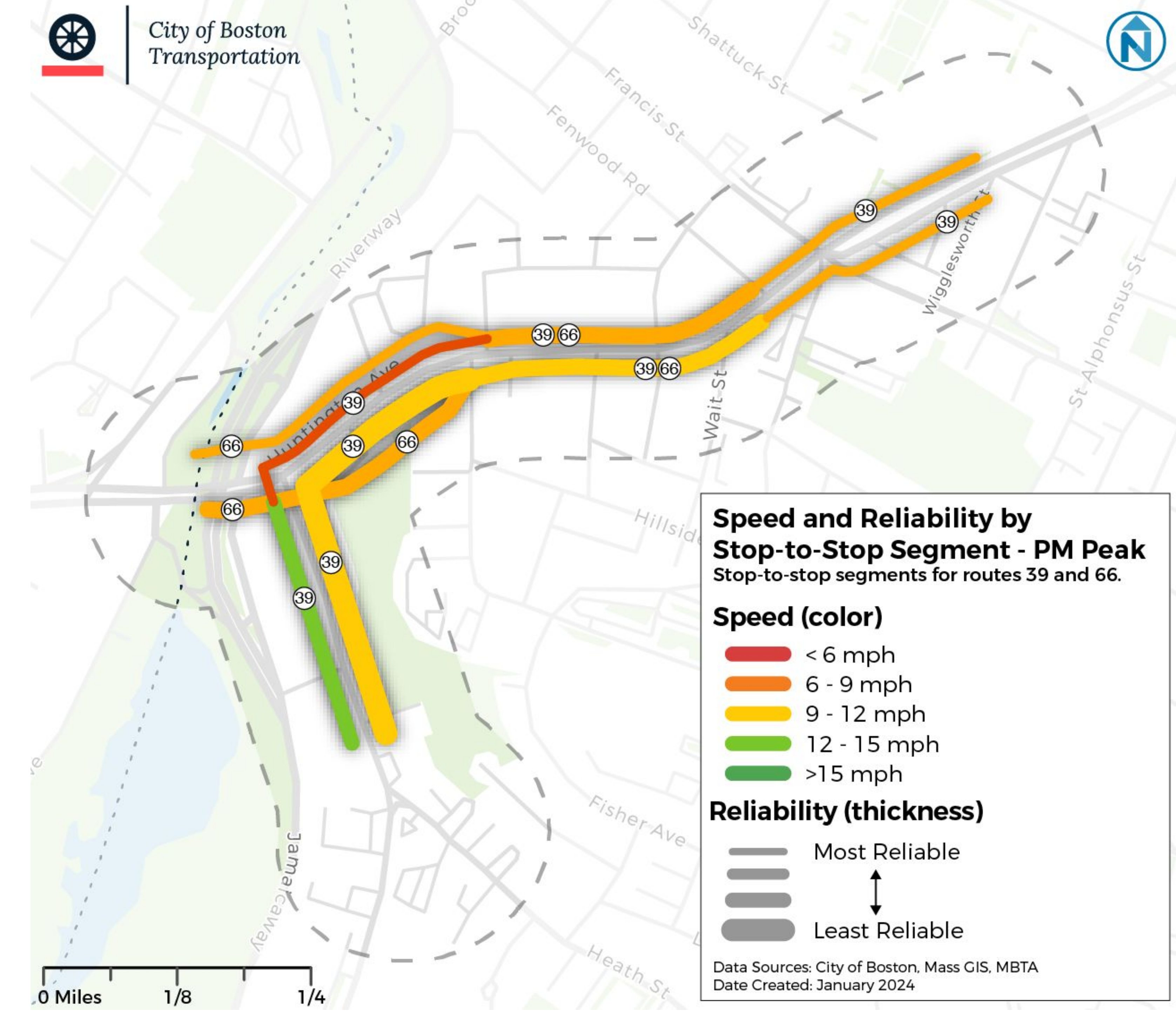
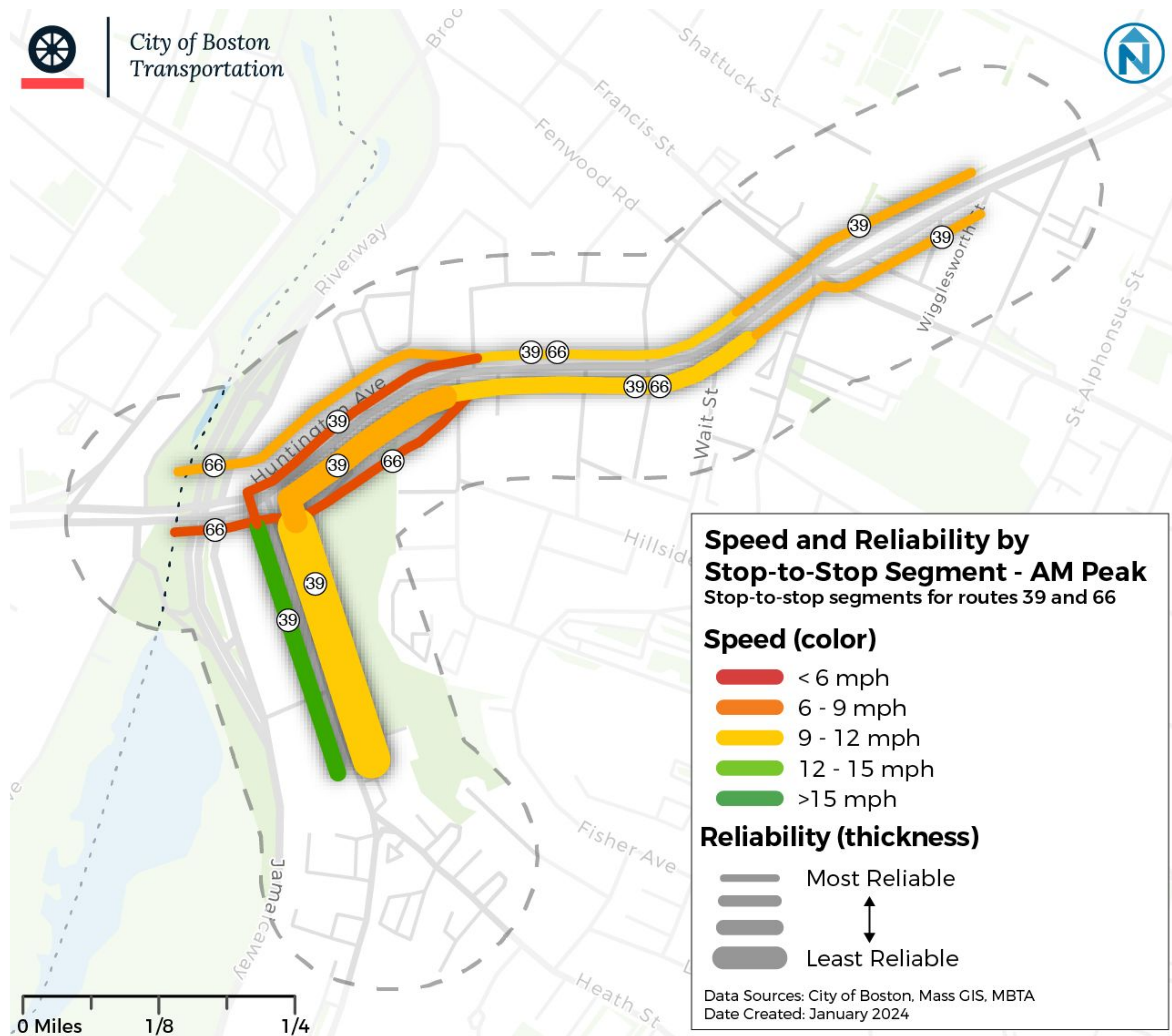




# RELIABILITY

## Bus Reliability - AM PEAK

## Bus Reliability - PM PEAK





# CURBSIDE USES



- Curb space in the study area is used for many things
- **Double parking** and parking in **bus stops** is a common issue today.
- There is only **one accessible parking space** available within the study area
- **4%** of parked vehicles along Huntington belong to Mission Hill residents



# TRAFFIC & CIRCULATION

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- Huntington Avenue often sees traffic congestion in the morning and afternoon rush hours
- Congestion along Huntington Avenue is often due to double-parking, confusion, and **trolleys in mixed traffic**, not due to road capacity or traffic signal design



# WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM YOU

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## Safety

**“Riding around this intersection is dangerous. The curve, train and buses make it very intimidating when I bike in this area (S. Huntington Ave) and there's no room to take it safely.”**

## Accessibility

**“Many of the bus stops on the 39 do not have seating or any kind of shelter. It is hard for me to stand for long periods of time so the addition of seating would be helpful.”**

## Reliability

**“Without accessing the app on a phone, could there be boarding and status updates as in subway stations?”**

## Circulation

**“Trucks or cars parked at the bus stop forcing the bus to discharge passengers in the middle of the road. I then have to walk with my toddlers between the bus and 18-wheeler, hoping neither moves before we get to the sidewalk.”**



# Huntington Avenue/South Huntington Avenue E-Branch Accessibility Project

## And What's Next?





# WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NEXT

Winter 2024

Spring 2024

Summer 2024

Fall 2024

Identify Needs and Opportunities along Corridor

Create Project Goals and Objectives

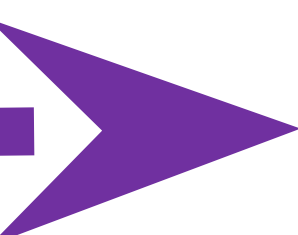
Develop Multimodal Alternatives

Evaluate Alternatives

Select and Refine Concept Design

Final Concept Design

Type 10 Train Cars Arrive by 2027





# ELEMENTS OF MULTIMODAL ALTERNATIVES

Here are the kinds of improvements we will be exploring along Huntington and South Huntington Avenue

## Safety

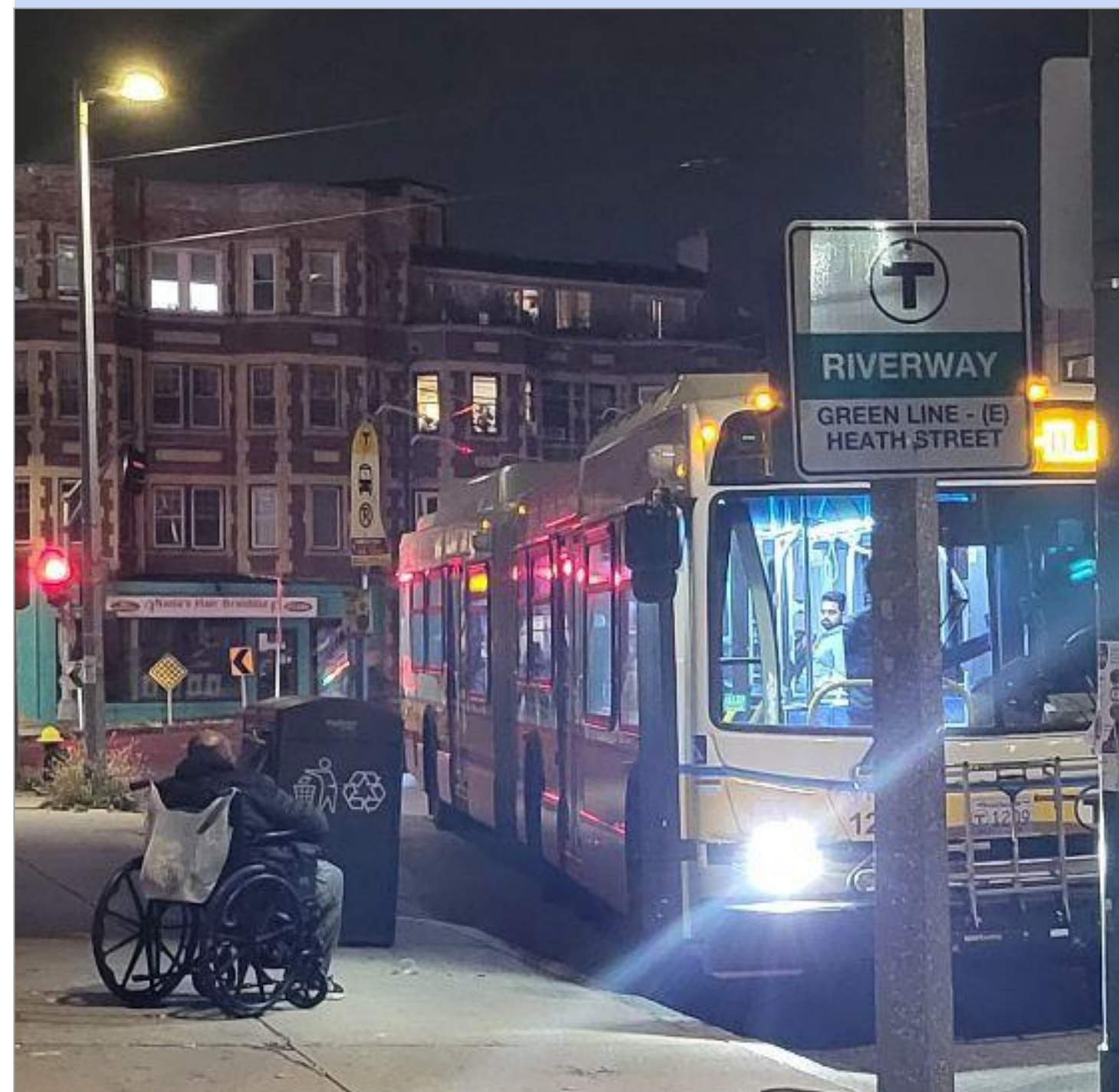


Image source: Nelson\Nygaard

## Station Accessibility



Image source: Nelson\Nygaard

## Intersections



Image source: City of Boston

## Green Infrastructure

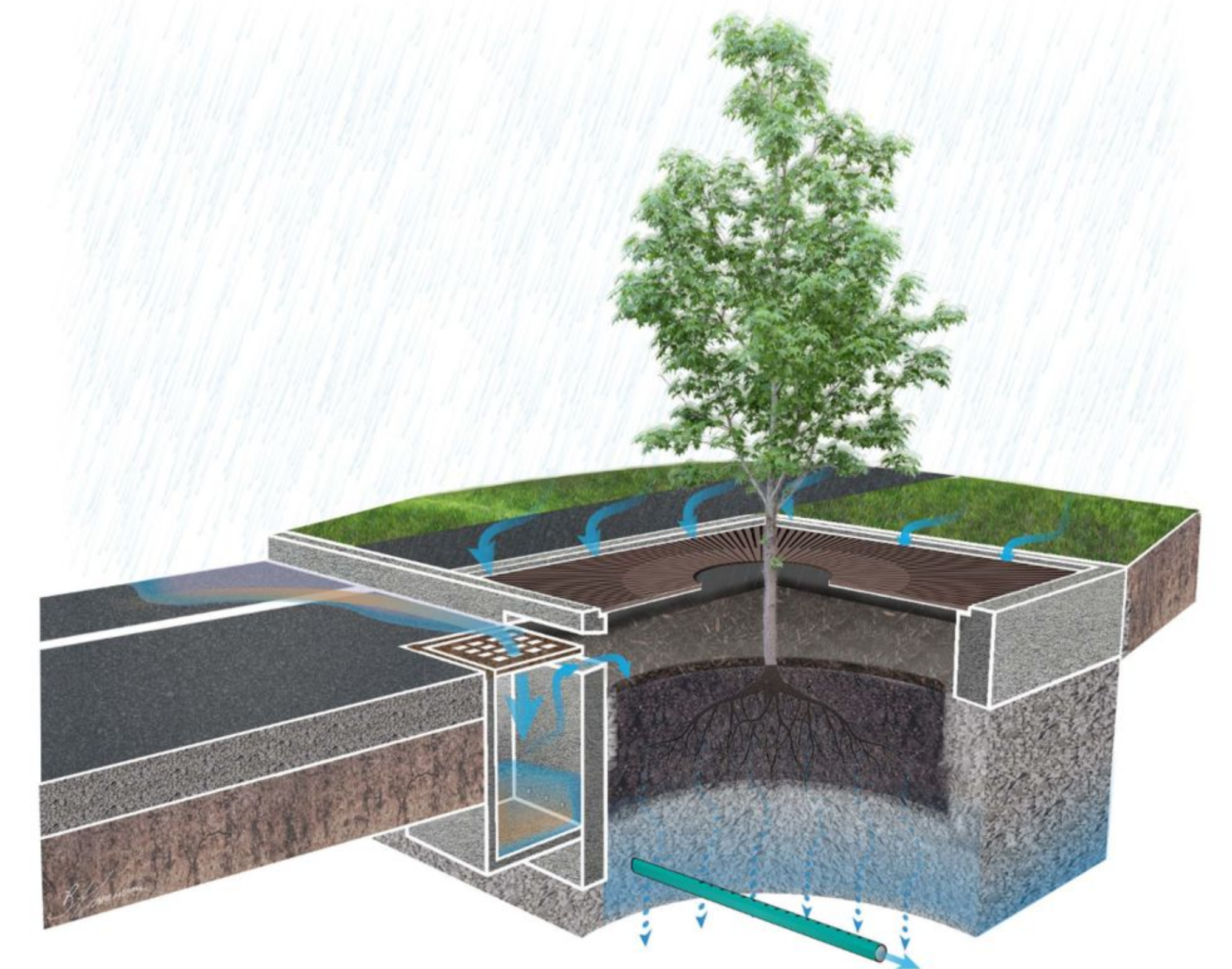
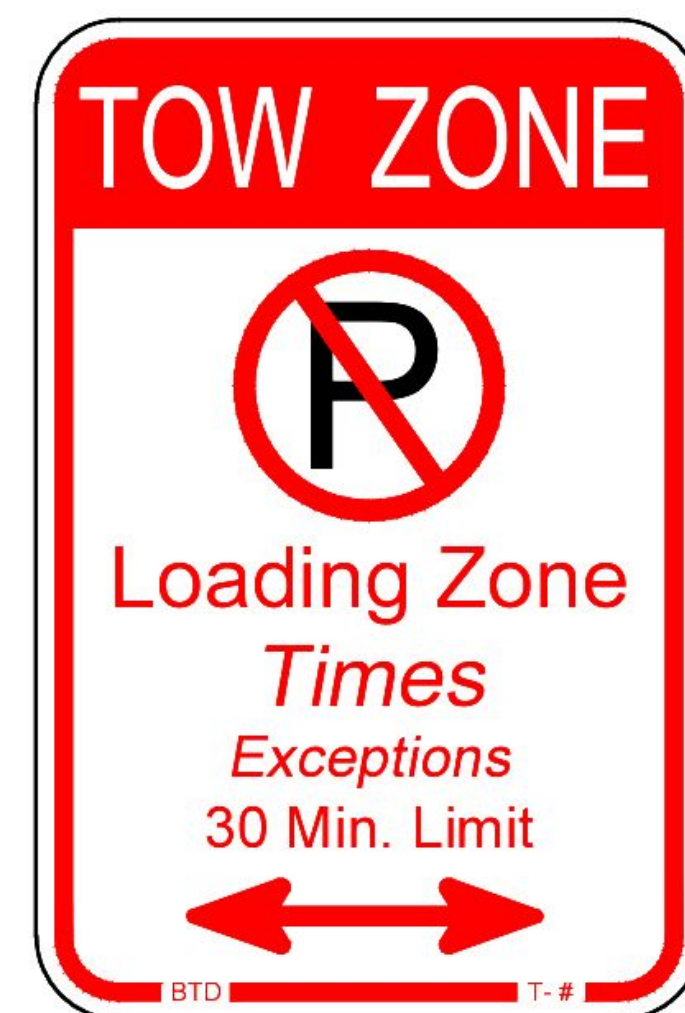


Image source: City of Boston

## Curb Management



## Connectivity



Image source: City of Boston

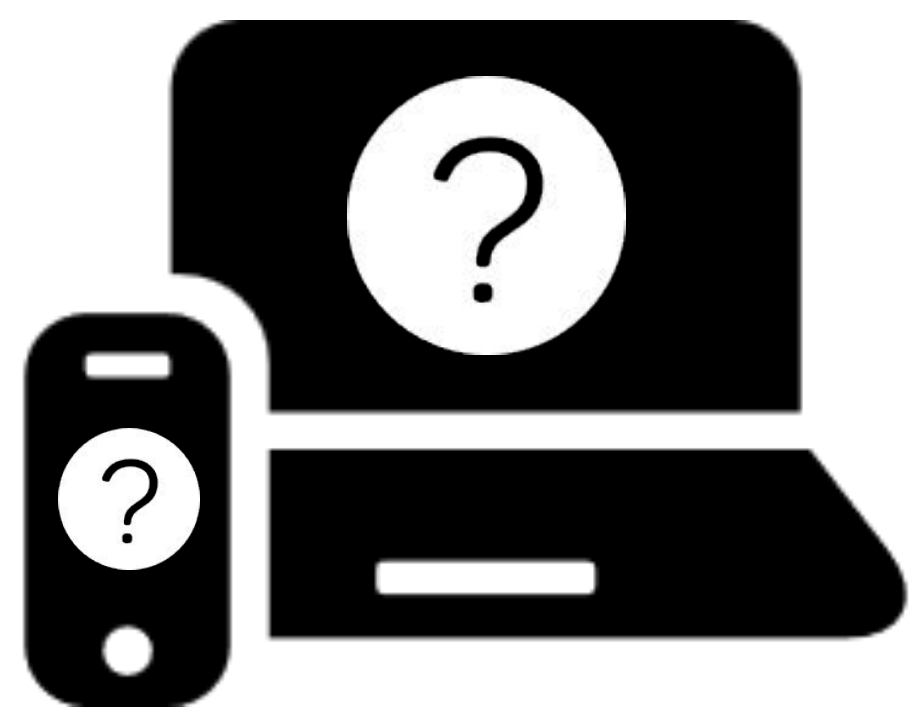


# How can you provide feedback?

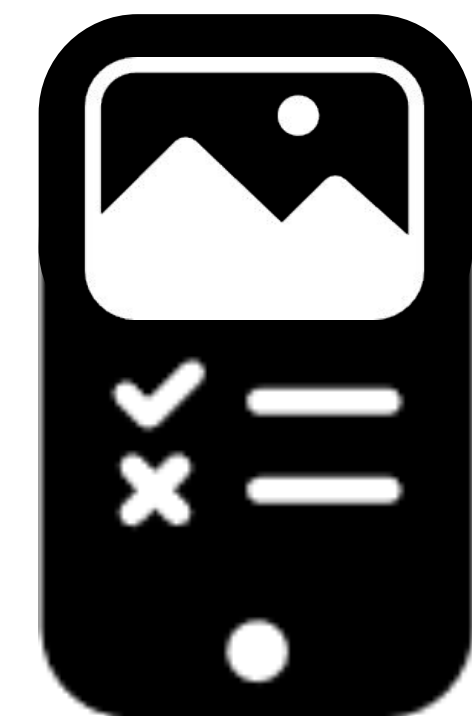




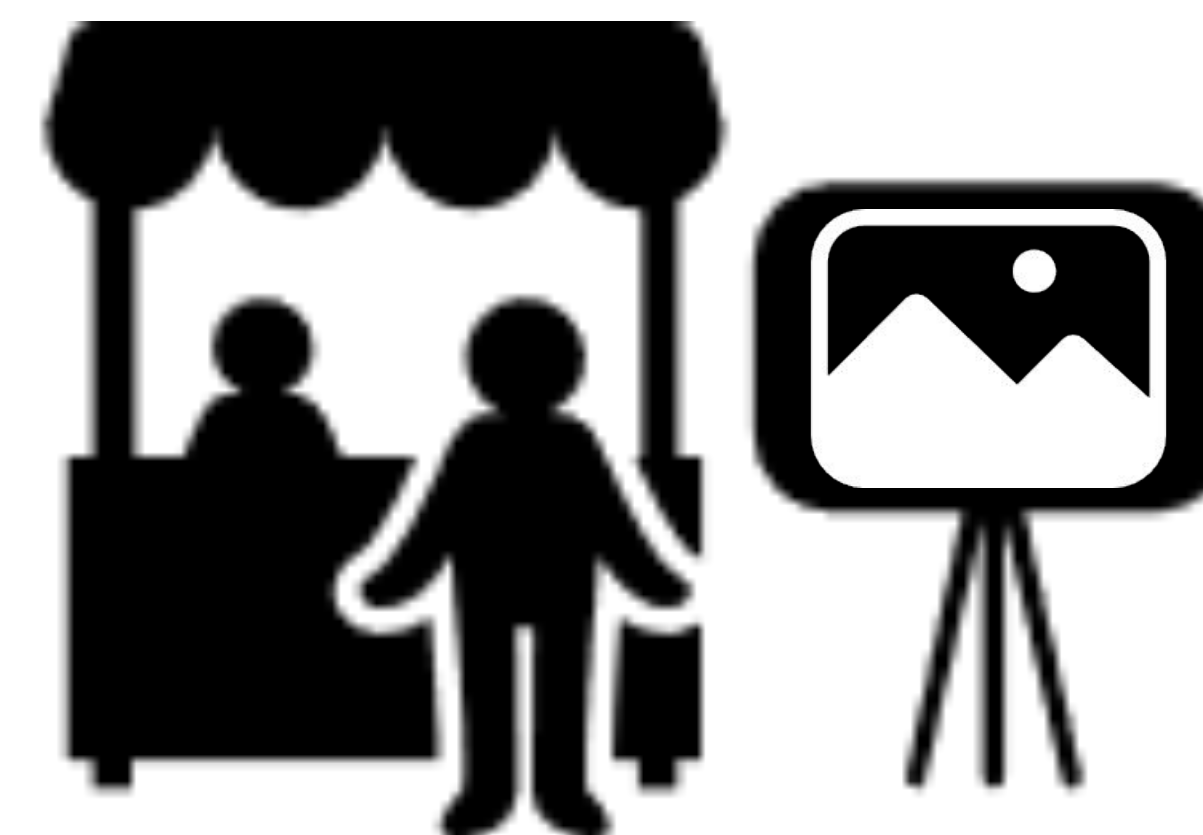
# WAYS TO DELIVER FEEDBACK



Project  
Website



Public  
Survey



Open Houses  
(in-person and virtual)



Pop-Up Events  
and Office Hours



# LET'S HEAR FROM YOU



Project  
Website



Public  
Survey



Open Houses  
(in-person and virtual)



Pop-Up Events  
and Office Hours



# LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

- Please post questions in the chat, if you haven't already. Our moderator will read questions for our speakers to address.



Project  
Website



Public  
Survey



Open Houses  
(in-person and virtual)



Pop-Up Events  
and Office Hours

- If you would like to ask your question live you should! Just raise your hand, and our moderator will invite you to come off mute to ask your question or provide your comment.



**The meeting has now ended.**

*Project website:*

**[boston.gov/huntington-ebranch](https://boston.gov/huntington-ebranch)**

**Stay involved, learn  
more, and sign up  
for updates!**

