

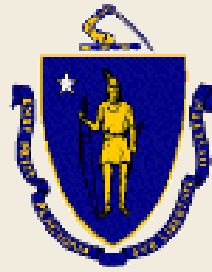


# Mount Auburn Street Corridor Improvements



February 4, 2020

**HAGGERTY SCHOOL**



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Charles D. Baker**

Lieutenant Governor

**Karyn E. Polito**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Kathleen Theoharides**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Acting Commissioner

**Jim Montgomery**



## **DCR Mission Statement**

To protect, promote, and enhance our  
commonwealth of natural, cultural,  
and recreational resources  
for the well-being of all.

# Agenda

## Presentation

- Introduction of DCR and Consultant Team
- The Mount Auburn Street Corridor Study
- Mt. Auburn Street Bus Priority Project

## Breakout Out Discussions

- Mt. Auburn/ Fresh Pond Construction
- Next Steps



# Quick Process Review



# Project Area – Mount Auburn Corridor Study



# Community Engagement Overview

- 3 Public Meetings: allowed the public at large an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns as the study progresses
- 7 Stakeholder Group meetings that advised DCR on neighborhood's goals and desires
- 2 Site Walks
- Wikimap: gave a means for feedback from folks that couldn't attend meetings
- DCR balanced community input with:
  - Environmental Review
  - Historic status
  - Funding Requirements
  - Regional Needs



# Shared Values (Approved by Stakeholders June 23, 2016)

- **Equity**
  - Design for everyone's needs, including the disadvantaged
- **Flexibility**
  - Designs responsive to:
    - Peak and off-peak
    - School pick up and drop off
    - Funeral processions
    - Emergency vehicle access
- **Balance**
  - Try to balance goals that may conflict



# Shared Goals (Approved by Stakeholders June 23, 2016)

1. Calm traffic, provide clarity, reduce crashes, and severity of crashes
2. Improve connectivity, air quality, and expand mobility choices by:
  - a. Measuring people, not cars
  - b. Reducing transit delays
  - c. Improving safety, access, parking, and comfort for bicycles.
  - d. Maintaining mobility for motor vehicles
  - e. Improving safety, attractiveness, noise, and comfort for pedestrians and residents
3. Address cut-through traffic in the Larchwood, Huron Village, and Coolidge Hill Neighborhoods
4. Offer short-term and long-term solutions
5. Acknowledge enforcement and special uses by BB&N, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Mount Auburn, Shady Hill, and Tufts Health Plan

# Mount Auburn Corridor Study



Mount Auburn Street  
Corridor Study  
Final Report | May 2018

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MOUNT AUBURN STREET CORRIDOR STUDY

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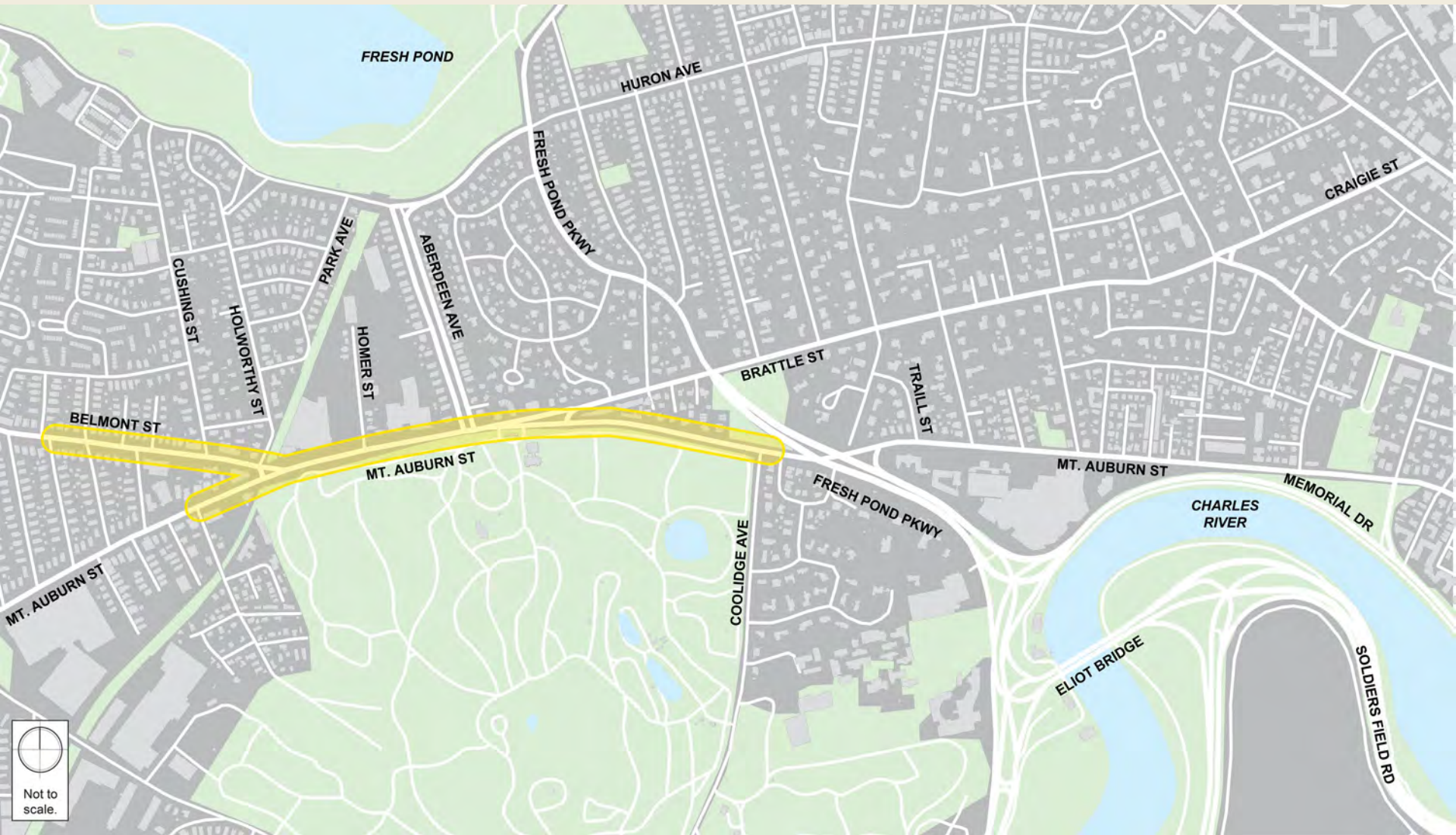
[www.mass.gov/dcr/mt-auburn-corridor-study](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/mt-auburn-corridor-study)

Mount Auburn Street Corridor Improvements



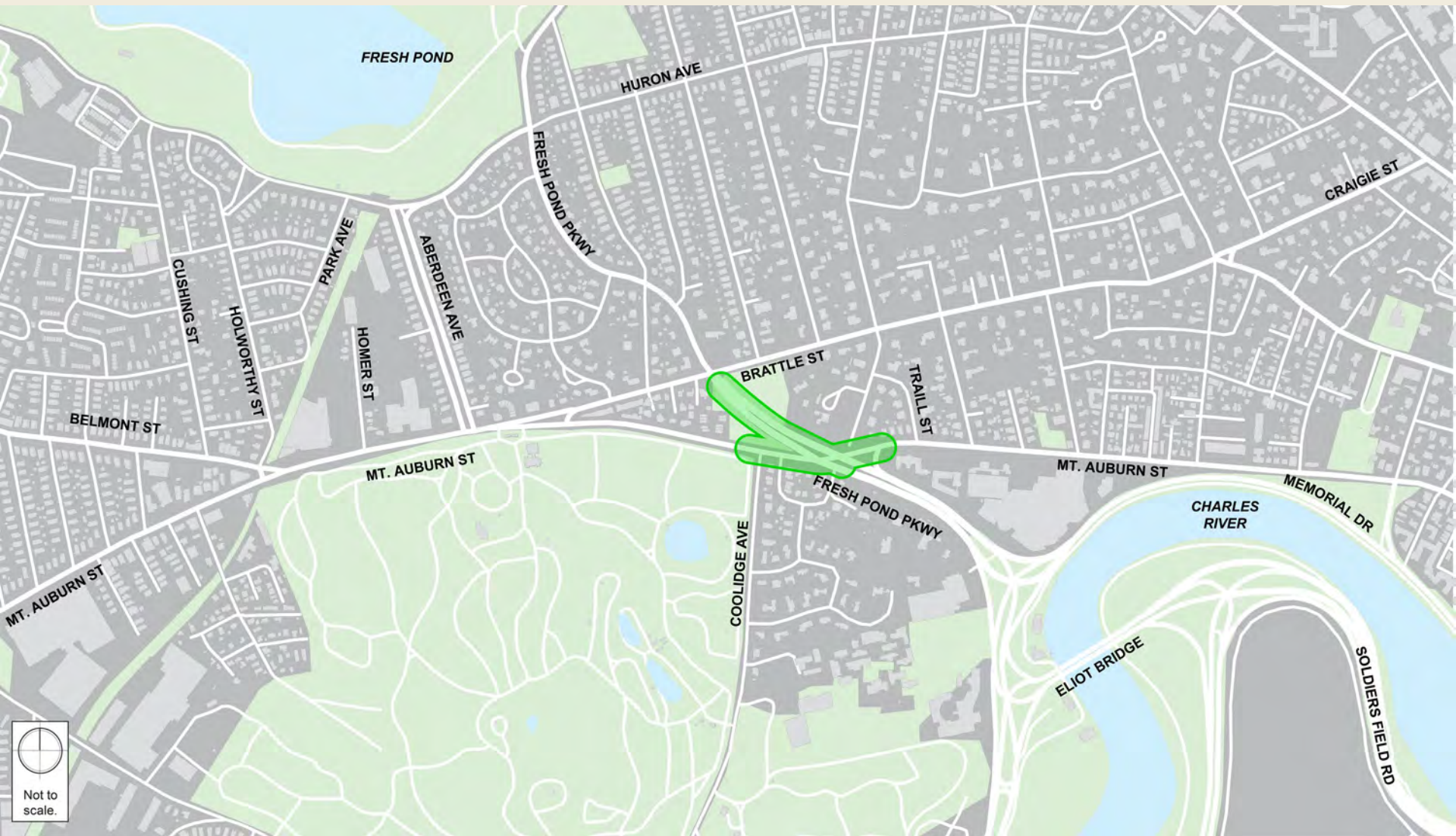


# Actions from the Study – Mount Auburn Bus Improvements



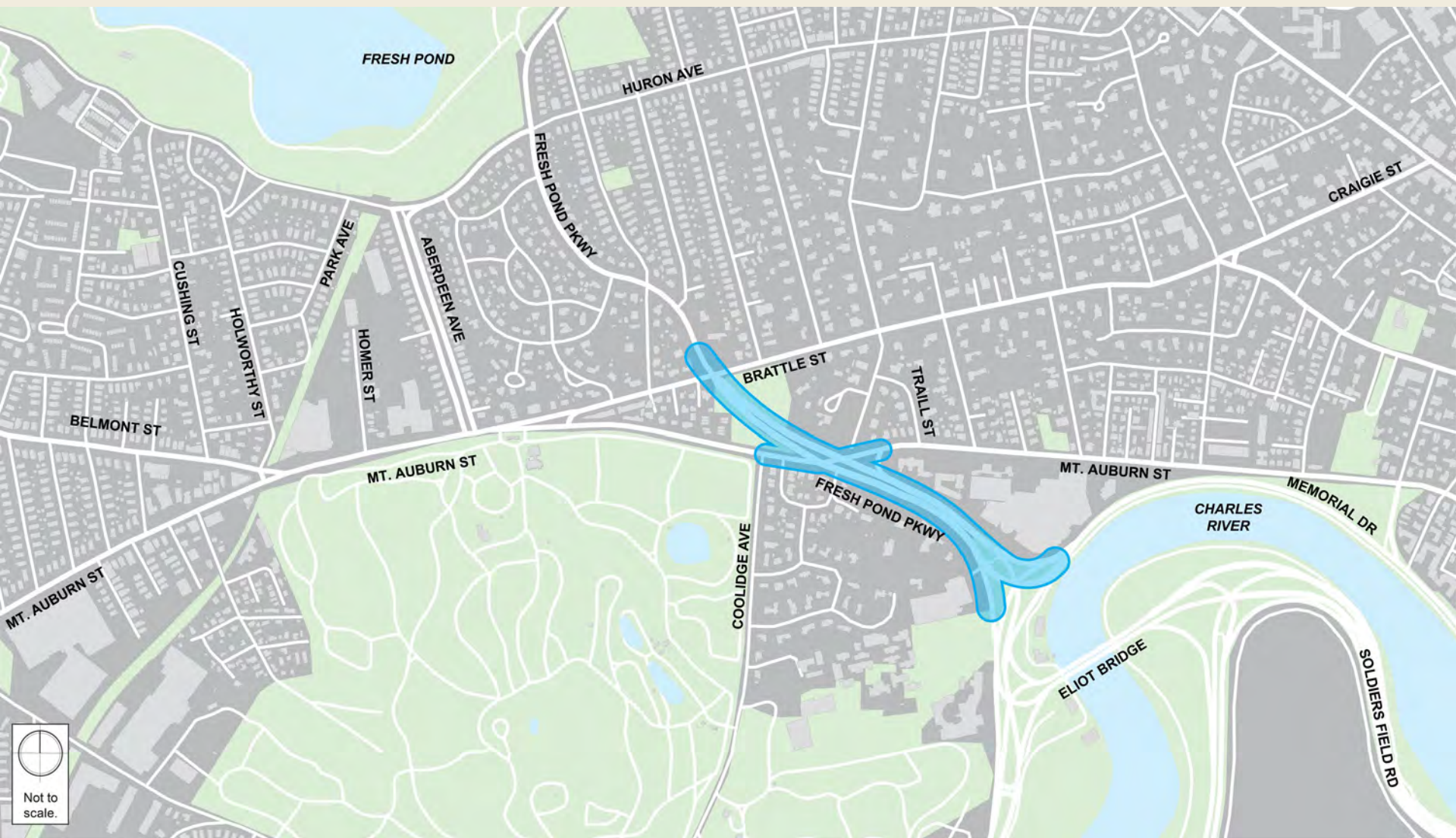


# Actions from the Study – Short Term Improvements





# Actions from the Study – Long-Term Improvements





# Mount Auburn Bus Improvements *Completed 2018*



# Mount Auburn Street Bus Priority Project

- Implemented by DCR and City of Cambridge fall 2018
- BRT pilot grant for 71/73 routes
- Dedicated lanes took bus riders out of general traffic for much of Mount Auburn Street between Belmont Street and Fresh Pond Parkway
- Inbound “queue jump” lanes gave buses and shuttles priority in intersections on Mount Auburn Street and Belmont Street near where they meet
- Re-timed traffic signals and transit signal priority implemented where feasible, so that buses get more green light time when needed and in order to improve traffic flow overall
- Improved ADA accommodations
  - **Source: Mt Auburn Street Bus Priority Pilot** <https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Transportation/mtauburnstreetbusprioritydemonstration>

# Mount Auburn Street Bus Priority

## Project Features

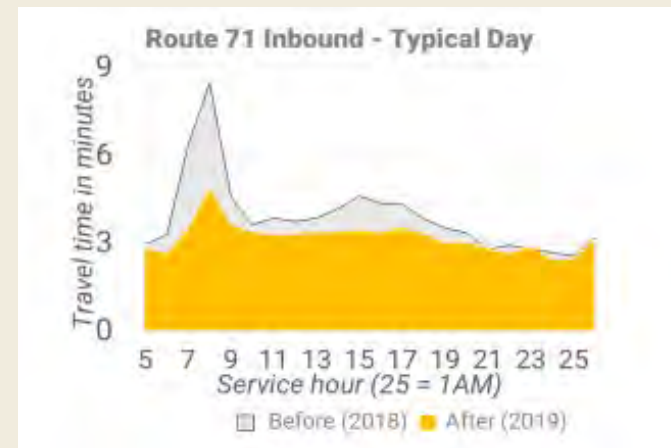
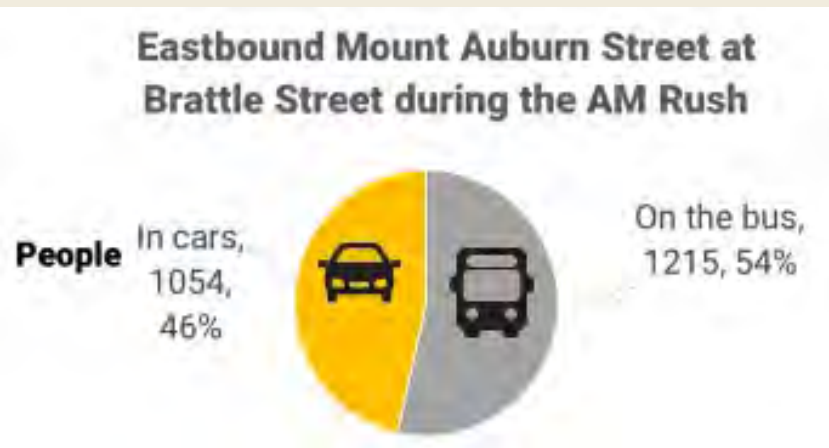


Source: Mt Auburn Street Bus Priority Pilot

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Transportation/mtauburnstreetbusprioritydemonstration>

# Mount Auburn Street Bus Priority Project (cont.)

- Focus on moving people
- 57% satisfied with the project
- Increased comfort for those walking and cycling
- Bus riders save 4-5 minutes on an average trip
- Travel times more consistent for drivers and bus riders



Source: Mt Auburn Street Bus Priority Pilot

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Transportation/mtauburnstreetbusprioritydemonstration>



## Mount Auburn Bus Priority – Looking East from Coolidge Avenue





## Mount Auburn Bus Priority – Looking East towards Brattle Street





# ADA Improvements at Mount Auburn/Coolidge Avenue







# Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Anticipated Short-Term DCR Construction: Spring/Summer 2020
- Long-Term
  - After construction on short-term improvements, begin design of long-term improvements, inviting citizen participations through a public process
  - Continue to coordinate with MassDOT and other state agencies to determine the best mechanisms to fund long-term improvements
  - As funding allows, make long-term improvements in measured increments to ensure that the successful transit improvements are held harmless



# Breakout Discussions

**7:25 p.m.- 8:25 p.m.**

- Mt. Auburn/ Fresh Pond Construction
- Next Steps

## For More Information:

- **Project Website:** [www.mass.gov/dcr/mt-auburn-corridor-study](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/mt-auburn-corridor-study)
- If you have comments on this project, please submit them online by visiting [www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment) or by writing to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114. Comments will be accepted through Tuesday, February 18, 2020.
- *Please note: Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no information, including personal information, will be redacted.*
- If you have question or concerns or would like to subscribe to a DCR project-specific or general information listserv, please email [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us) or call 617-626-4973.