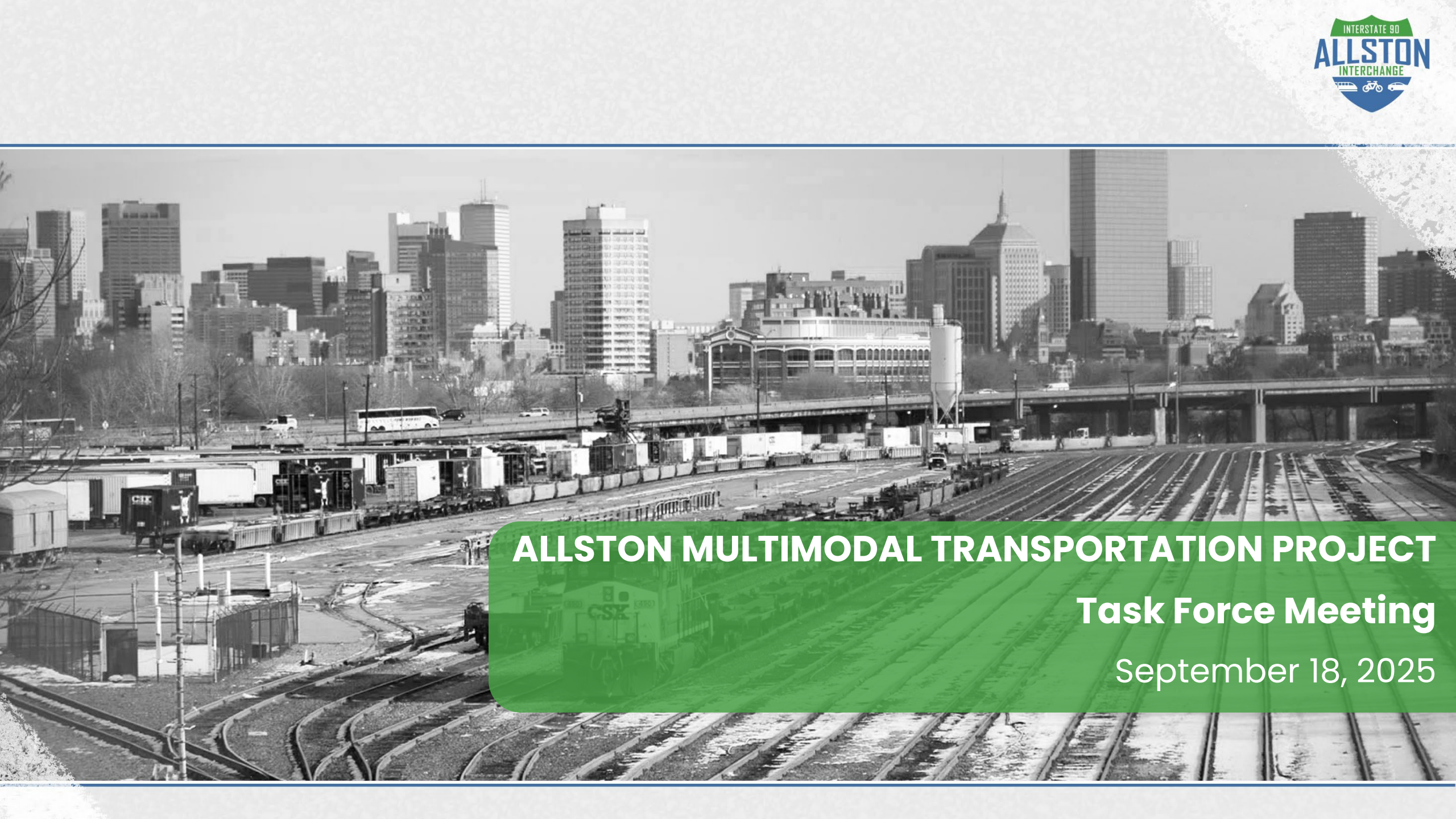


A black and white photograph of the Allston Interchange construction site. In the foreground, there are multiple sets of railroad tracks. To the left, a large area is filled with shipping containers and trailers, some with "CSX" logos. In the background, a multi-lane highway bridge spans the scene, with a city skyline of various skyscrapers visible behind it.

ALLSTON MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Task Force Meeting

September 18, 2025

Zoom Controls



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments; Alt+H



- Raise your hand – *9 for users dialing in; Alt+Y



Live Transcript

- Closed captioning is automatically generated by ZOOM



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 305-224-1968, Meeting ID: 889 3699 8149



- Ask for support from the Virtual Public Involvement team



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666



Unmute



Start Video



Q&A



Participants



Chat



Live Transcript



Reactions

Public meeting notes and procedures:

Notification

- While this virtual public meeting is not being recorded, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute images, reports, and/or the Q/A transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- If you are not comfortable being part of the official record, please refrain from utilizing the Q/A feature, turn off your camera, and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important notes

- Your microphone is automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation, with opportunities to ask questions after each of the updates as well.
- Task Force members will be prioritized for questions and comments

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.

Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights:

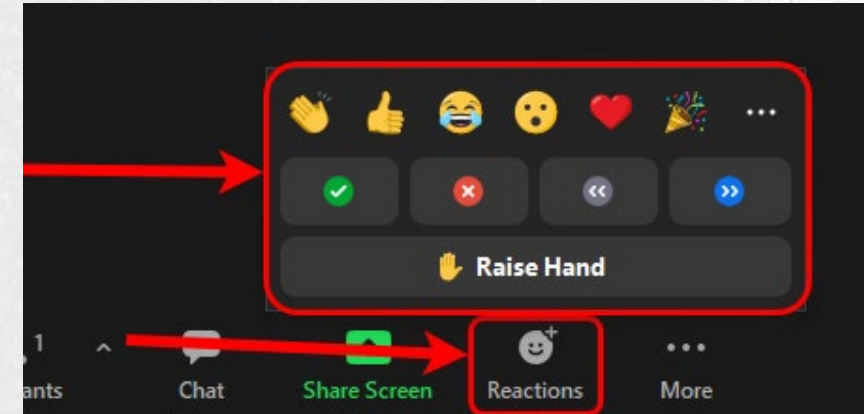
- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!

Share Your Questions and Comments



- Submit your questions and comments
- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions
- Please state your name before your question
- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate.
- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.



Please be advised that all comments are subject to disclosure for public records, therefore use these functions for project-related business only.

Today's Agenda pt 1



- **Welcome/Introductions**
- Project Update
- Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input
- Next Steps

Today's Agenda pt 2

- Welcome/Introductions
- **Project Update**
- Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input
- Next Steps

Project Update



- Layover
- Grand Junction
- Cambridge Street Bridge Preservation
- Strategic Review

Project Update – Layover

- MassDOT and the MBTA continue to work with the City of Boston to identify alternate locations within the City to offset layover currently proposed at Beacon Park Yard.
 - Evaluation of alternative locations in proximity to South Station for storage of up to eight trains for layover
 - Compilation of data including new sites and previous site study documentation, and sites undergoing current planning
 - Feasibility based on operational requirements, storage criteria, access, environmental considerations and order of magnitude costs
 - Comparison of defined alternatives.

Project Update – Grand Junction

- MassDOT consultant team is developing alternative staging strategies, originally introduced by ABC and Harvard, to reduce construction period Grand Junction outage duration.
 - Evaluation of accelerated construction methods
 - Engagement with ABC and Harvard for feedback on concepts
 - Evaluation of potential risks and impacts to project cost and schedule
- MassDOT consultant team is continuing to evaluate strategies to address Southside rail operational needs during a Grand Junction outage.

Project Update – Cambridge Street Bridge Preservation



- MassDOT is implementing preservation work on the Cambridge Street bridge which will bring the bridge to improved condition and restore pedestrian access.
 - Pricing is being finalized, and work has begun with substructure repairs
 - Structural preservation scope includes bridge substructure repairs, joint replacement, bearing repairs or replacement, full and partial deck repairs, steel repairs, cleaning and painting, etc.
 - Work will restore and/or replace sidewalks, curbing, pavement, metal railing and street lighting
 - All work to be performed within, and accessed by, existing State or City roadway layouts.

Project Update – Strategic Review

- MassDOT is seeking an independent review of the I-90 Allston Multimodal Transportation Project to ensure the project's cost, scope, and delivery strategy are aligned with available resources and policy objectives.
 - Continued Engagement with Task Force, Project Partners
 - Commitment to Transportation Improvements in Allston
 - Pause Environmental Filings
 - One procurement to encompass an In-depth Cost Analysis and Independent Engineering Review
 - MassDOT is preparing procurement documents and will conduct a consultant procurement process.

Today's Agenda pt 3

- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Update
- **Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input**
- Next Steps

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input



- Priorities
- Focus Areas/Scope Input
- Transportation Goals/Benefits
- Suggestions/Recommendations

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (PRIORITIES)



- For the people of Allston to be able to get around safely
- Improved frequency, speed, and reliability of commuter rail
- Expedite the Independent Review (3 months suggested)
- File the SDEIR and DEIS by the end of 2025
- Quickly reestablish a project schedule that takes the project to groundbreaking
- Make good decisions quickly to deliver the full range of long-discussed benefits
- Fully embrace transformational goals and scope
- Advance Early Action projects

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (FOCUS AREAS/SCOPE INPUT) 1 of 3



- Clearly articulate/refine the overall project goals at the start of the process
- Clearly delineate the roles and tasks assigned to the various consultant project teams
- Work with the Task Force to define transportation benefits
- Define what evaluation metrics will be used
- Prioritize review of key project elements that have been points of contention

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (FOCUS AREAS/SCOPE INPUT) 2 of 3



- Reconsider current project scope items
- Present various scenarios for consideration, not a singular prescribed recommendation
- Consider the various analyses already underway for layover, track configuration/station design and access via GJR
- Consider evaluating continuous decking across the I-90 Interchange and track area for users accessing West Sta.
- Identify Early Action projects

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (FOCUS AREAS/SCOPE INPUT) 3 of 3



- Evaluate phasing the project in one or more parts
- Evaluate tradeoffs between extending the overall project implementation vs. proceeding with the current project design
- Include measures that will mitigate construction impacts on the community
- Consultant deliverable should include a public report
- Review outcome should inform the development of a feasible pathway for investments in infrastructure improvements

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (TRANSP. GOALS/BENEFITS) 1 of 2



- A set of project benefits were documented in the USDOT grant application
- Transportation benefits should include: reduced vehicle delay; walksheds created by reconnected communities and new bridges; access improvements for transit riders and walkability improvements
- Transformational project goals should include: improving highway safety, reducing delays, renewing regional infrastructure, lowering life cycle highway costs, expanding transp. choice, improving quality of life, reconnecting communities and powering economic growth

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (TRANSP. GOALS/BENEFITS) 2 of 2



- The scope of transportation benefits should be broad and holistic. Transportation benefits are inextricably linked with additional benefits such as housing availability, business opportunity, recreation access, environmental protection and climate resilience. Also reference ABC/AECOM 2022 report and supplemental technical memo.
- Should be considered in terms of overall timeline, not just post-construction
- Should be analyzed in the context of fulfilling the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solutions Act Climate Targets and all applicable federal, state and local environmental protection laws

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS)

1 of 2



- Reconsider advancing projects previously put on pause
- Select a consultant with expertise evaluating a range of project benefits that transp. projects can deliver
- Ensure Task Force feedback and engagement
- Convene a Steering Committee of select TF members and project team members to advise and oversee the selected consultant's work

Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input (SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS)

2 of 2



- Avoid revisiting settled design decisions
- Strongly encourage the independent review team to seriously consider building a layout similar to the four-track, two platform station layout prepared by Harvard
- The determination of "available resources" should produce multiple financing plans with varying assumptions regarding the state of construction material pricing and state funding sources

Today's Agenda pt 4

- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Update
- Independent Engineering Review – Summary of Task Force Input
- **Next Steps**

Next Steps

- Proposed Upcoming Task Force Meeting Dates:
October 16, November 13, December 11
- Potential Topics at Upcoming Task Force Meetings
 - Project Update
 - Rail Operations Analysis
 - Grand Junction Rail Temporary Outage/Mitigation
 - City of Boston BPY Regional Framework Plan
 - Environmental Process Overview
- Other Suggested Topics for Upcoming Task Force Meetings?

Thank You!

