



Public Informational Meeting #2

Future Conditions & Alternatives Development

Wednesday July 13, 2022, 6:00 PM



Route 128/I-95 Land Use & Transportation Study

Interactive Poll #1

In 1-2 words, what is your vision for the future of Route 128/I-95?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 64 39 66 9



Instructions

Go to
www.menti.com
Enter the code
64 39 66 9



Or use QR code

Zoom Controls



•Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



•Ask a question and share comments



•Raise your hand - *9 for users dialing in



•Closed captioning is generated by CART services

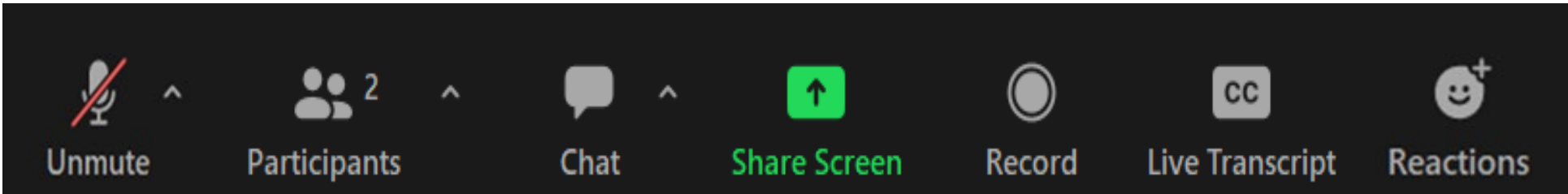


•If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 860 5813 0014



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

1-888-799-9666



Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

Notification of Recording

- This virtual public meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or transcript. By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you consent to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.
- Other Important Notes
- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering this meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey! Your feedback is important.

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

Notice Of MassDOT/MBTA Policy - Diversity and Civil Rights

All MassDOT/MBTA activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination. MassDOT/MBTA complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, and additional protected characteristics. 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> / www.mbta.com/titlevi to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

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

Agenda

- Welcome
- Public Meeting #1 Recap
- Future Conditions Review
- Issues, Opportunities & Constraints
- Alternatives Development
- Next Steps
- Public Comment

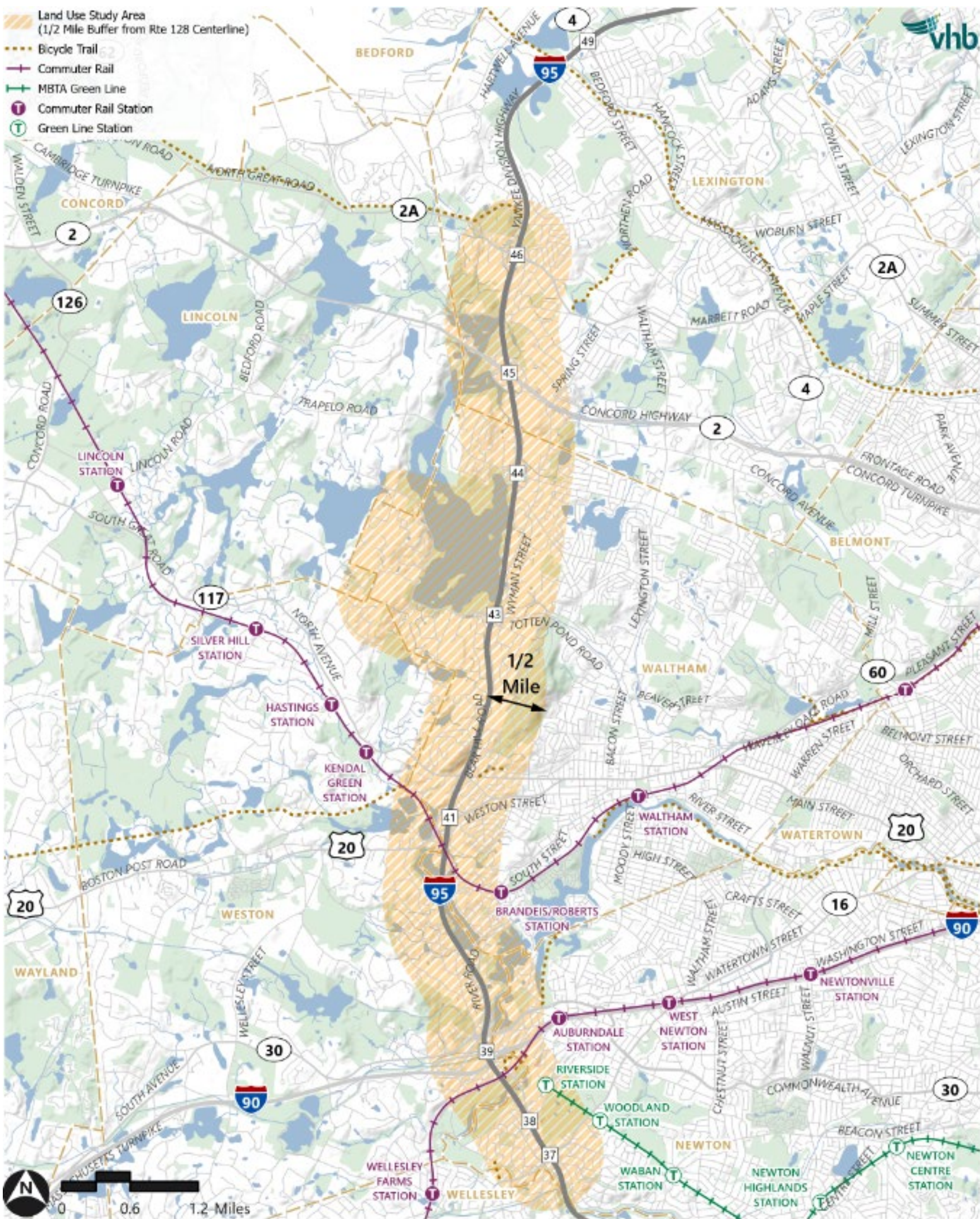


Project Overview

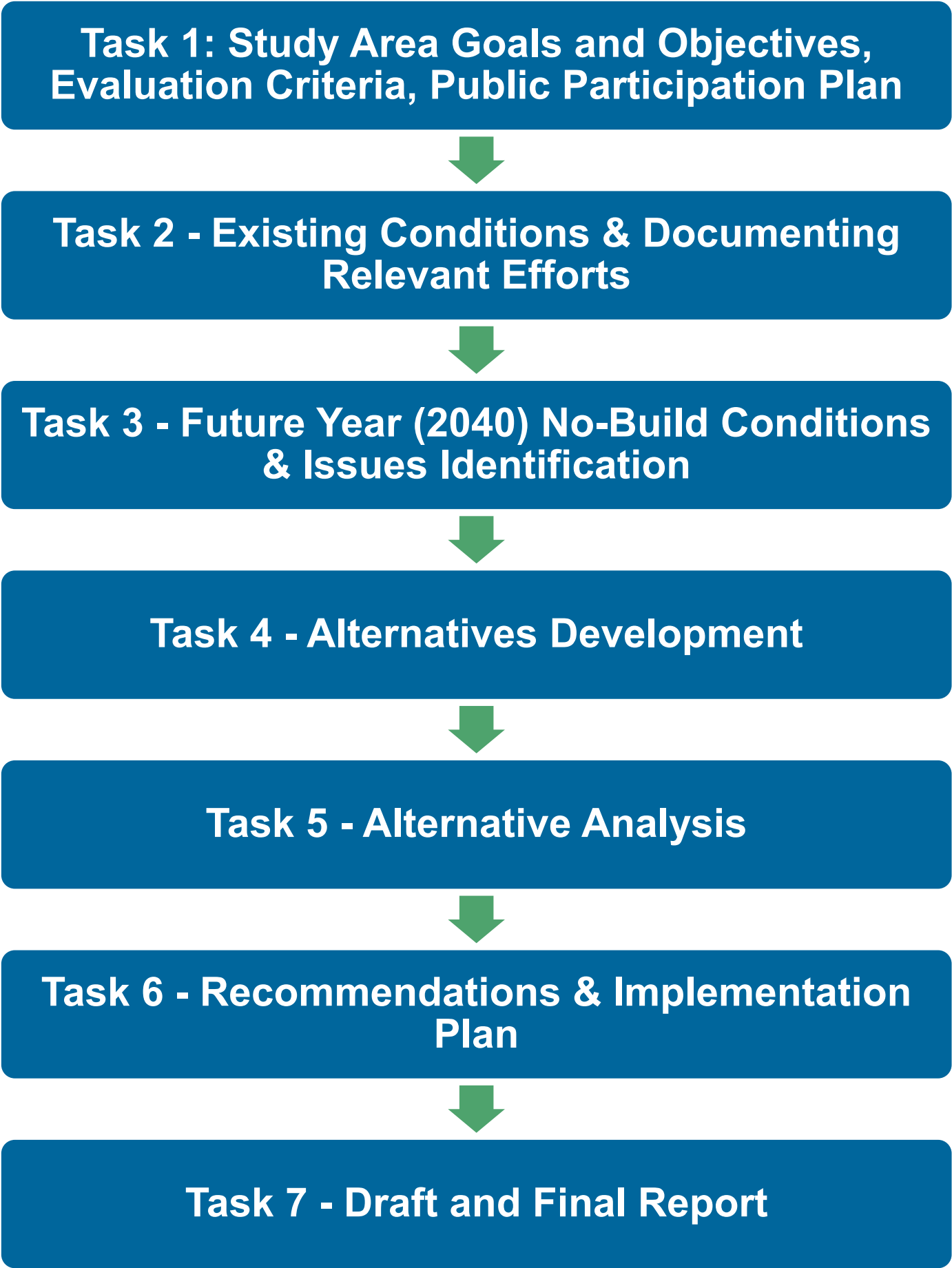
The Route 128/I-95 Land Use and Transportation Study will establish the future land use, housing, and economic development assumptions.

The study area includes Route 128/I-95 between Newton and Lexington.

The study will develop and analyze alternatives, present recommendations and develop an implementation plan.



Study Process



 **We are here**

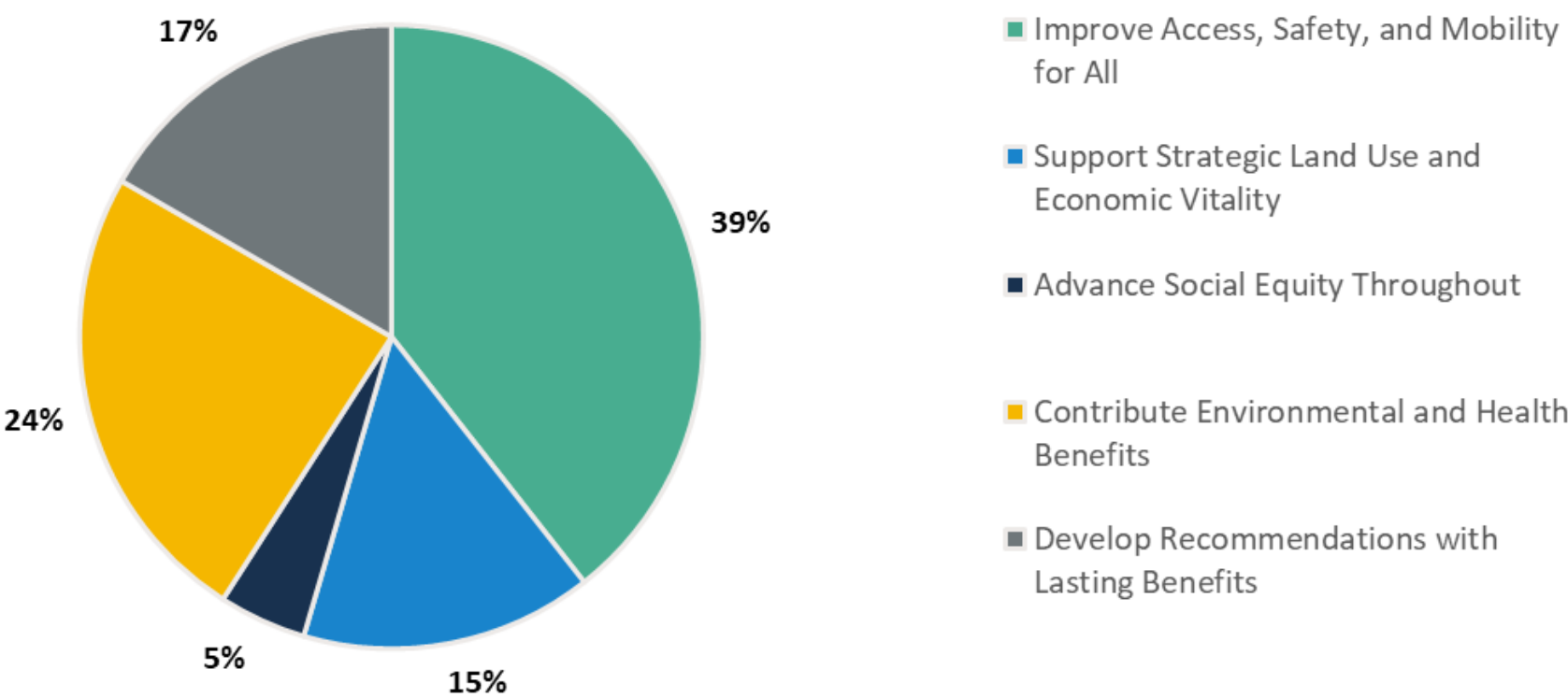


Public Meeting #1 Recap

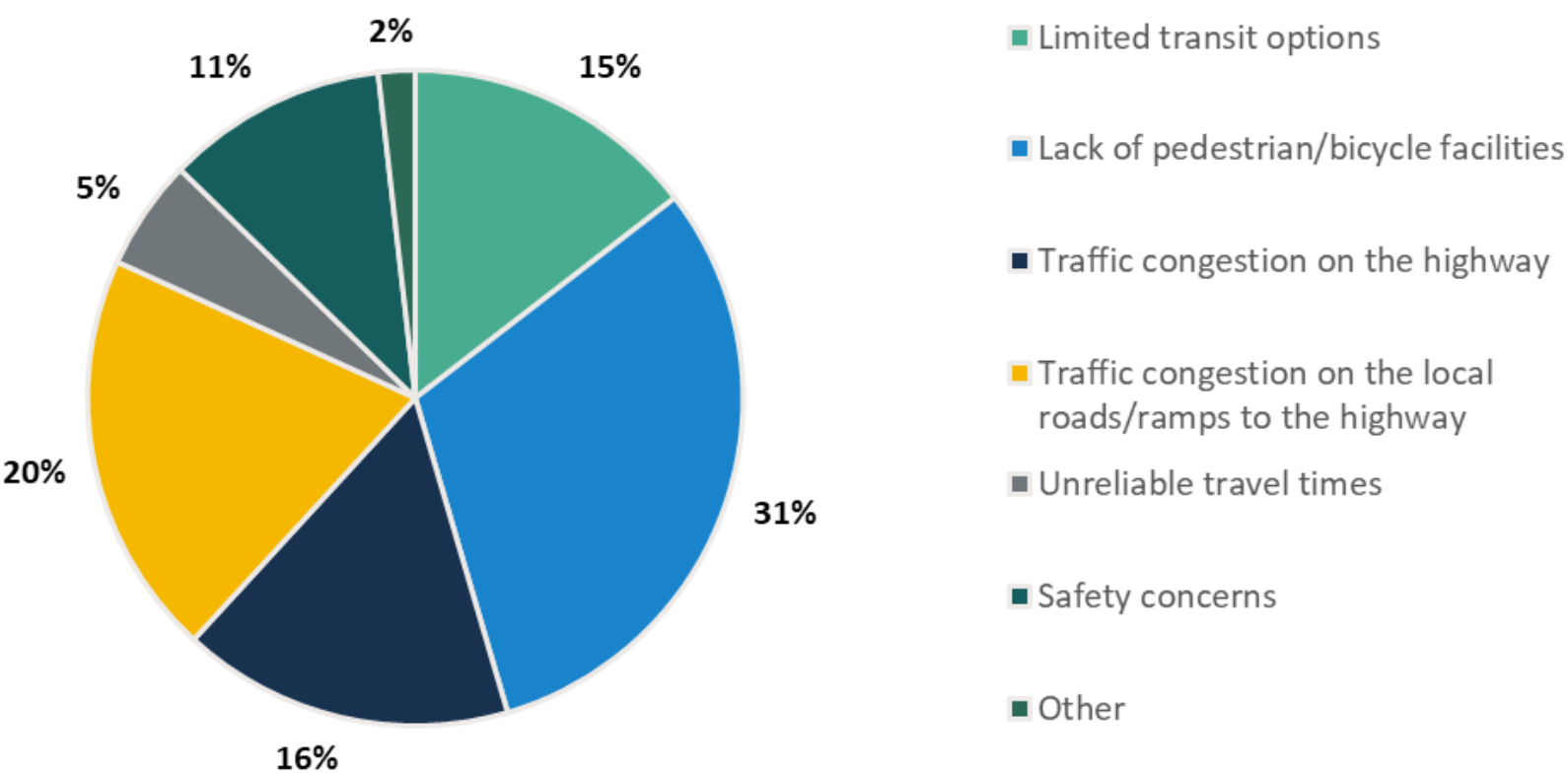
Meeting Summary

- Over 75 attendees
- Meeting Agenda
 - Project Overview
 - Goals, Objectives, & Evaluation Criteria
 - Existing Conditions
 - Next Steps
 - Public Comments
- Audience asked 2 poll questions
- Common Q&A with themes:
 - Active transportation – connectivity (north-south, MCRT), safety
 - Transit alternatives – bus, light rail, multimodal hub
 - Traffic – congestion, safety
 - Coordination with other on-going/planned projects

Question 1: Which of the study goals are most important to you?



Question 2: What is the biggest challenge to traveling in this area?

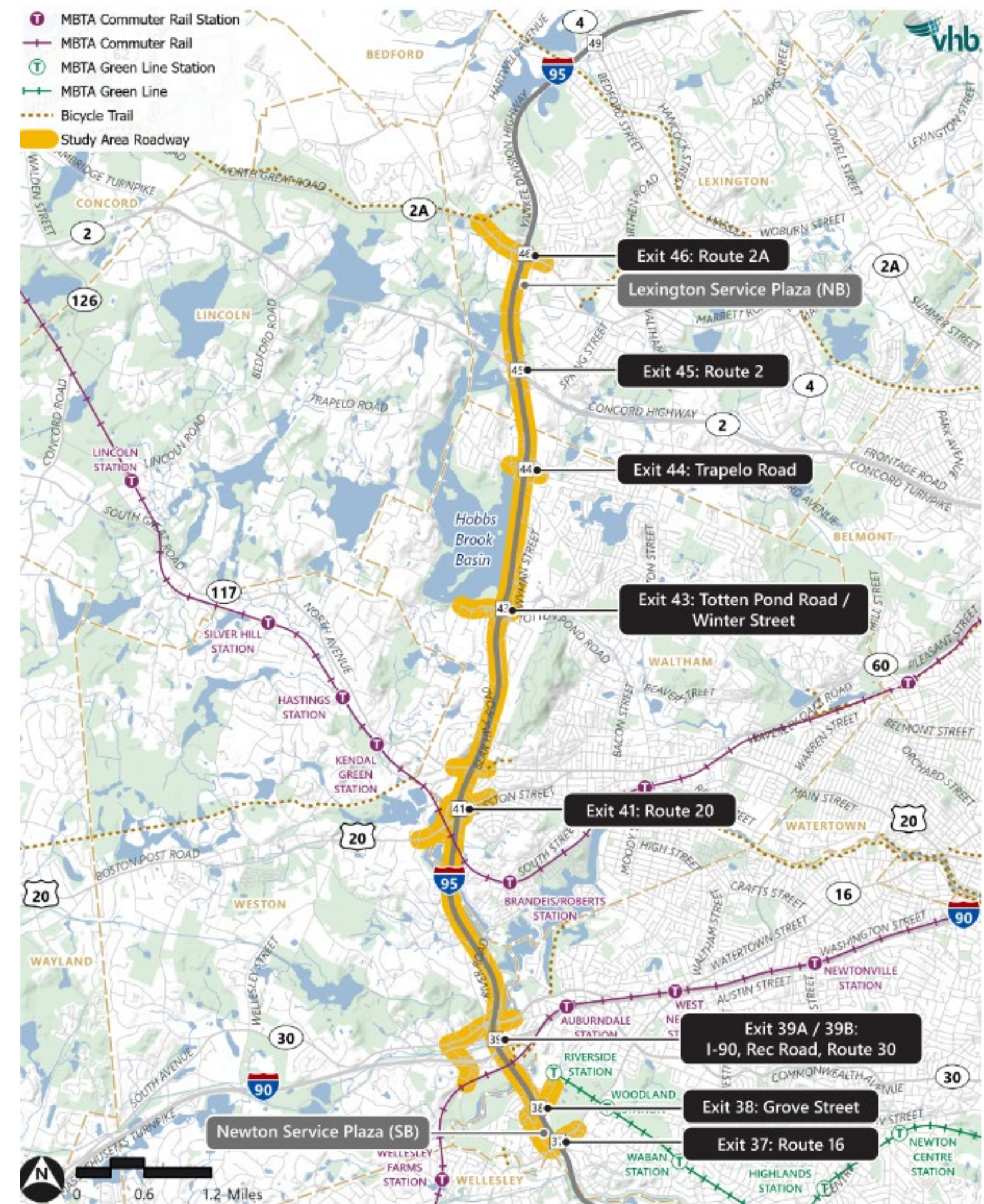




2040 Future Conditions Review

Task 3 Elements

- Land Use and Economic Conditions
- Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Travel Demand Forecasting
- Future Transportation Conditions
- Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints



Land Use and Economic Conditions

Setting the Stage

- Strong job growth projected to continue
 - Long-term impact of telework unknown
- Competition is strong
 - Boston area has “hot spots” have more amenities than the Study Area.
- Inflation may impact construction and development over the near term and slow longer-term growth
- Low housing production and increasing demand may constrain the Study Area’s economic growth.



Stakeholder Focus Group Feedback

Purpose & Key Takeaways

Purpose

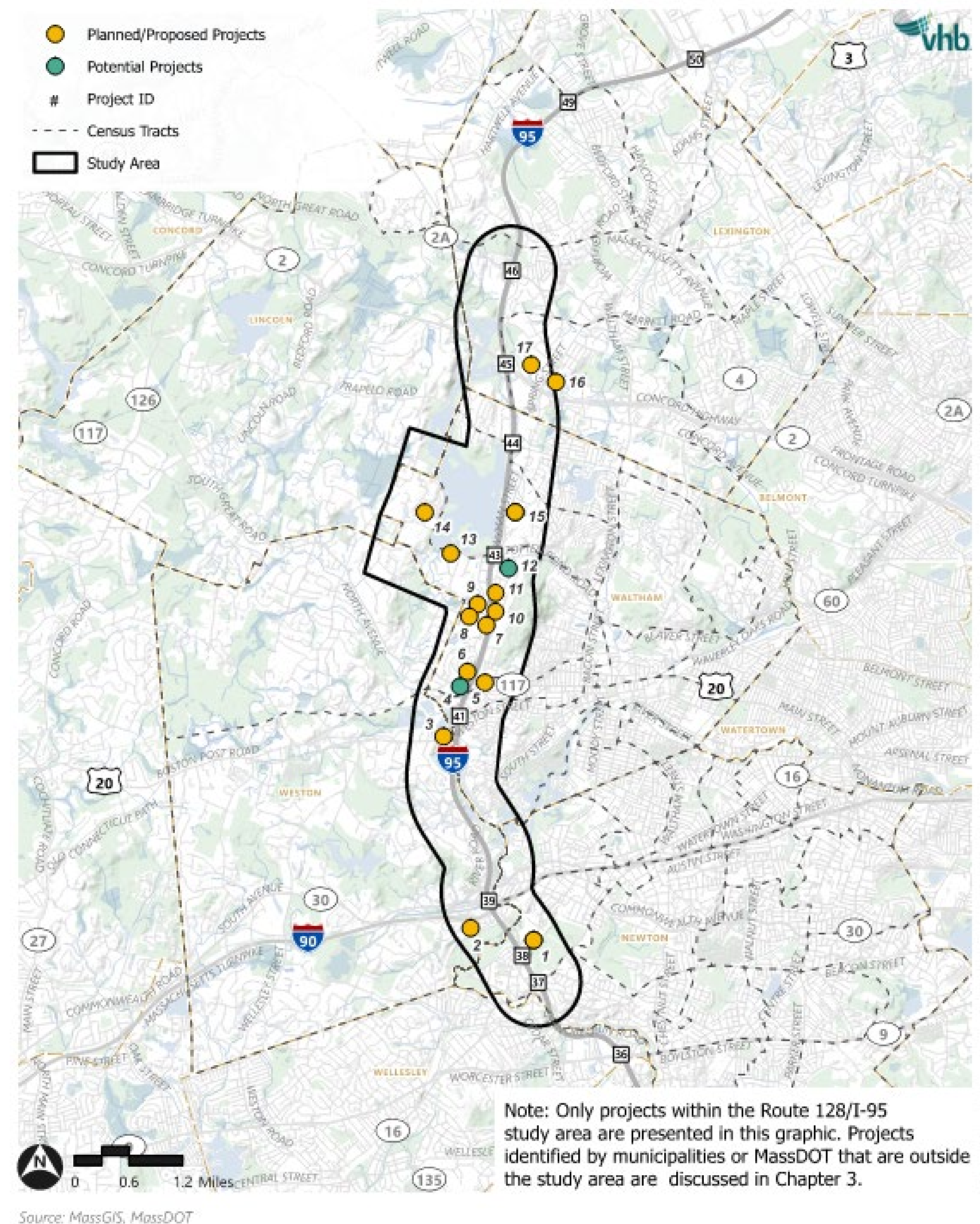
Targeted meetings with **private developers, study area municipalities, and housing research/advocacy groups** to understand factors influencing trends in residential development, especially multi-family housing, within the Route 128/I-95 study area municipalities.

Key Takeaways

- Universally recognized **unmet demand for new housing**
- Residential proposals often meet **strong community resistance** and have **high barriers to entry**
- Corridor more **vulnerable to shifts** in real estate market demand
- Perceived need to identify and address **specific housing needs** (unit type, unit size, etc.)
- **40B affordable housing** legislation has been helpful to a degree.
- Others suggested ways MassDOT could influence the creation of housing.

Land Use and Economic Conditions *Development Pipeline*

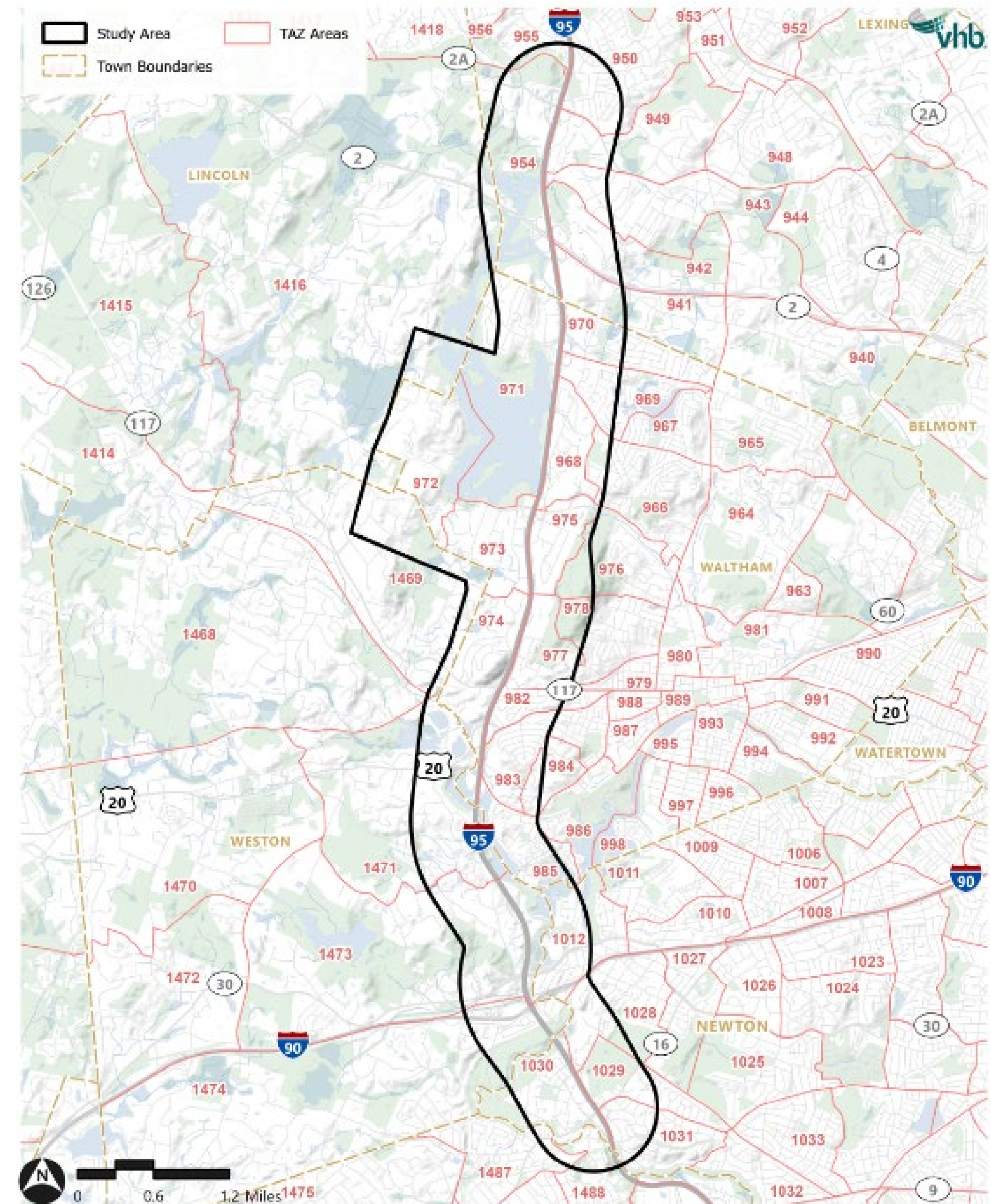
- Outreach to study area municipalities and MassDOT's Public/Private Development Unit (PPDU)
- More than **6 msf of space** is planned/proposed
 - Mostly **laboratory and/or office space**
 - Approximately 90-percent of growth clustered in **western Waltham**.
- **Additional 1 msf of space anticipated** to begin permitting process soon (western Waltham)



Travel Demand Forecasting

2040 Future Condition

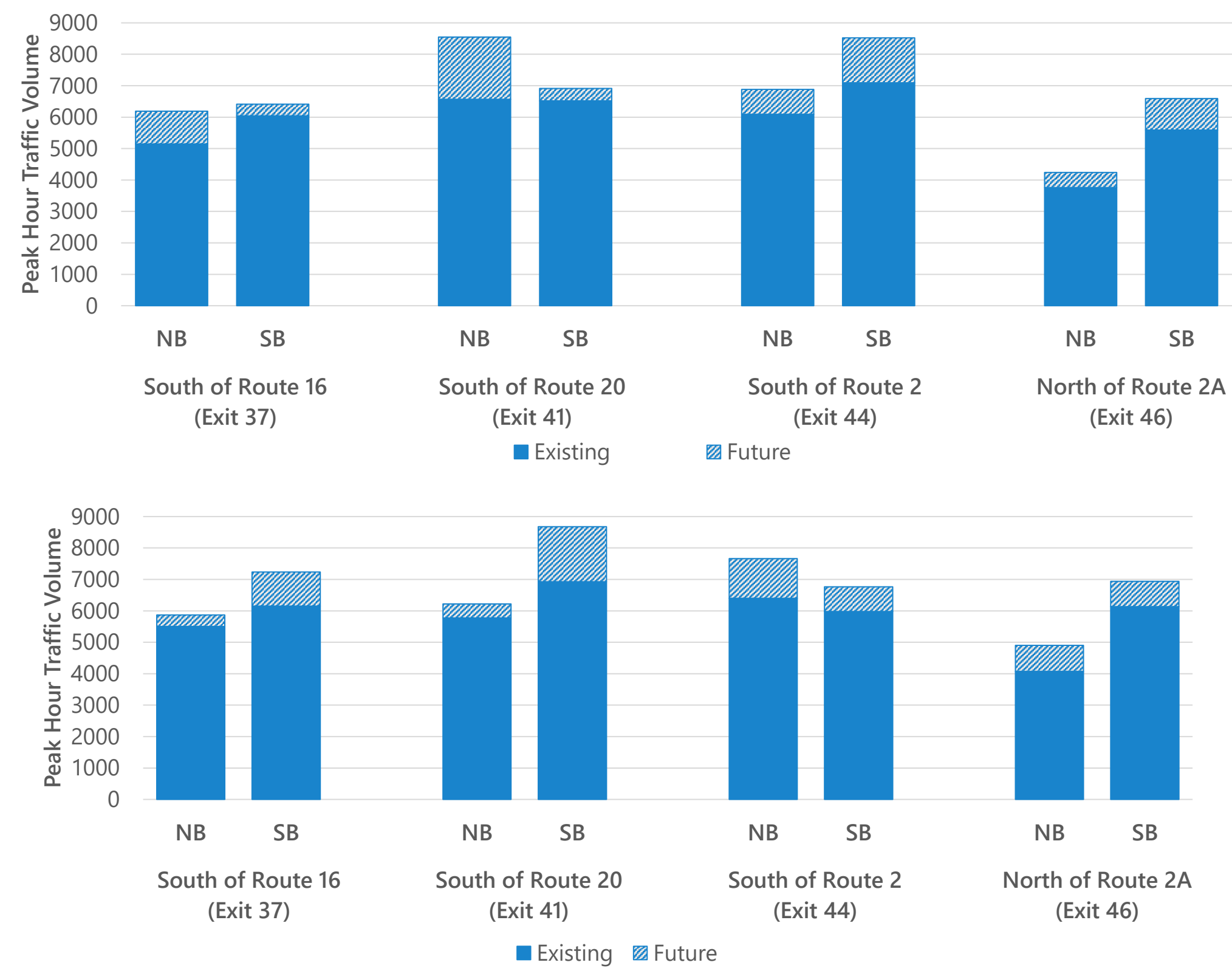
- Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Boston Region MPO maintain the statewide travel demand model
- Model forecasts interaction of transportation demand and supply
 - Demand: Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)
 - Supply: Road Network and Transit System
- Assumed approved 2040 land use growth and indicates study area town growth of:
 - Household growth: +16%
 - Employment growth: +4%



Source: MassGIS, MassDOT, CTP5

Comparison of CTPS Projections to Land Use Research

- CTPS forecasts were compared to data from the municipalities and MassDOT
- Model accounted for **1/3 of employment growth** in Waltham
- Manual adjustments applied to the CTPS projections to account for 8 proposed projects and 2 anticipated projects
- Results in traffic volume increases between **6-percent and 30-percent by 2040** on Route 128/I-95



Factors Affecting Traffic Projections

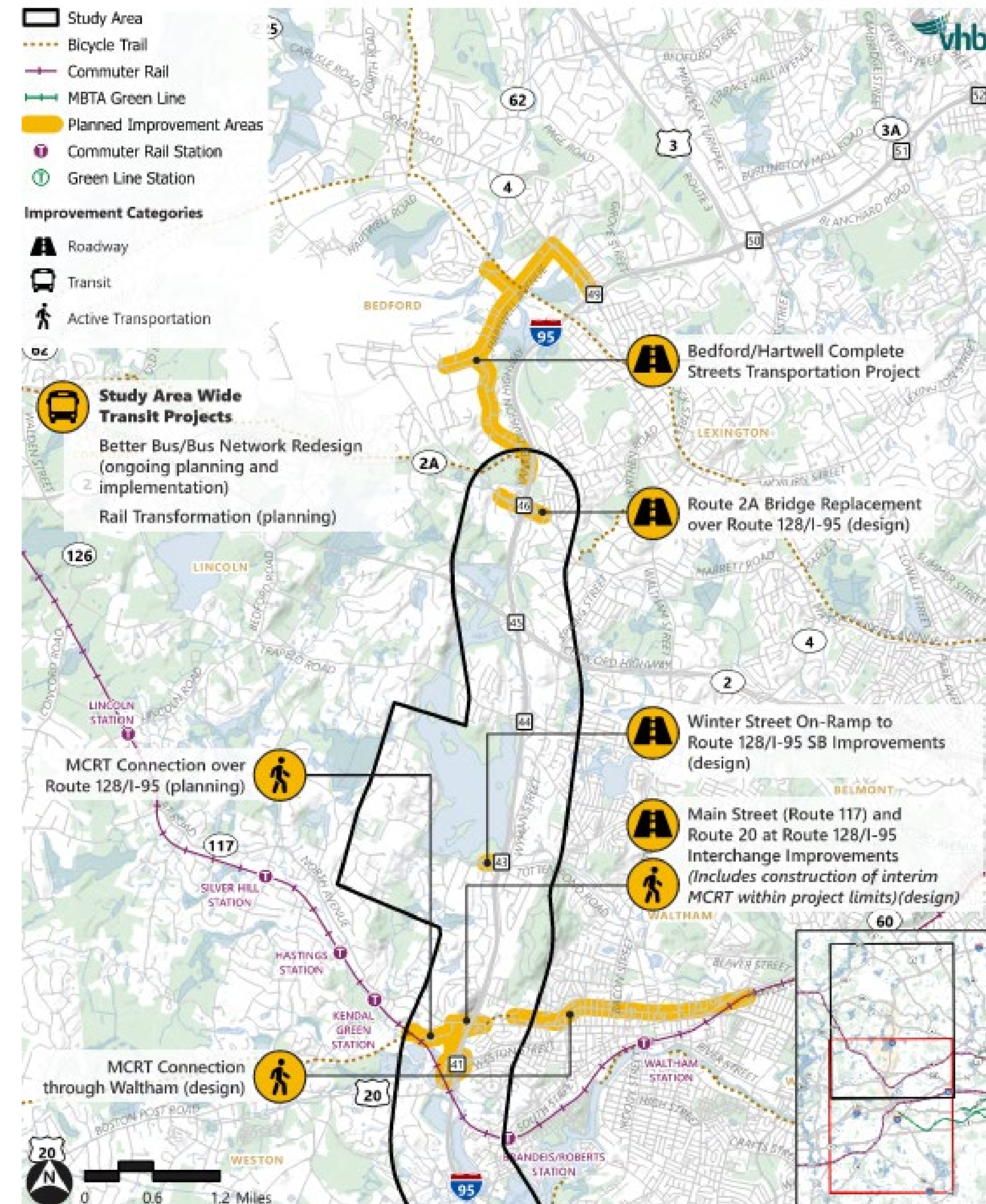
- Route 128/I-95 Mainline and Local Roadway Capacity
- Impact of telework
- Employment density shifts
- Regional housing production
- State and Federal policy (i.e. Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities)

Building a Flexible Plan

These factors underscore the need for a flexible plan for Route 128/I-95 that can respond to a variety of future outcomes.

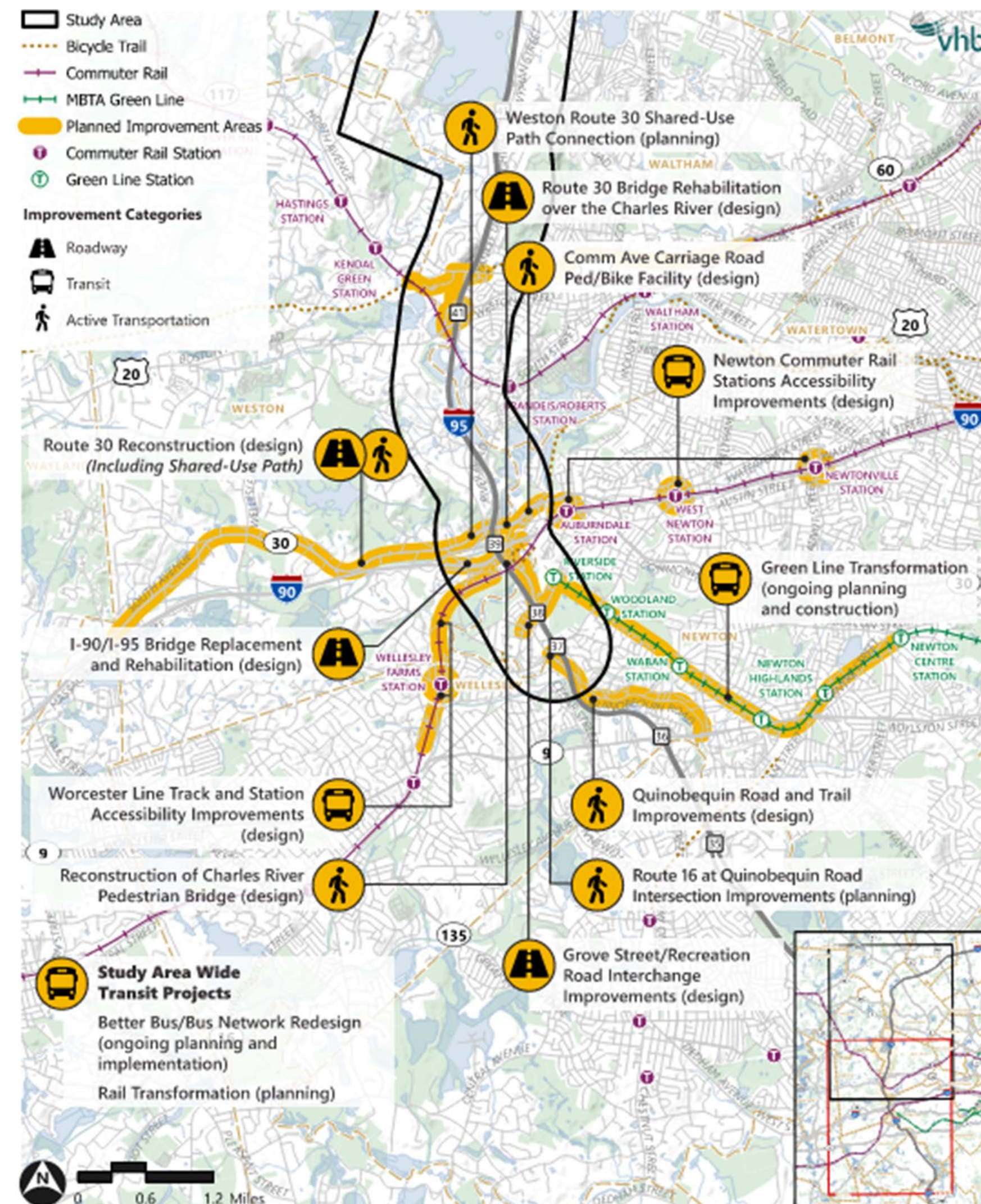
Infrastructure Investments (1 of 2)

- Projects planned within the 2040 horizon year – in varying phases of planning, design, and construction
 - Includes improvements to 6 of the 8 study area interchanges
- Pedestrian/bicycle improvements focused on closing gaps in existing network
- Transit improvements include both site-specific and study area wide
- Even with the significant amount infrastructure investments, the future growth will continue to strain the roadway system



Infrastructure Investments (2 of 2)

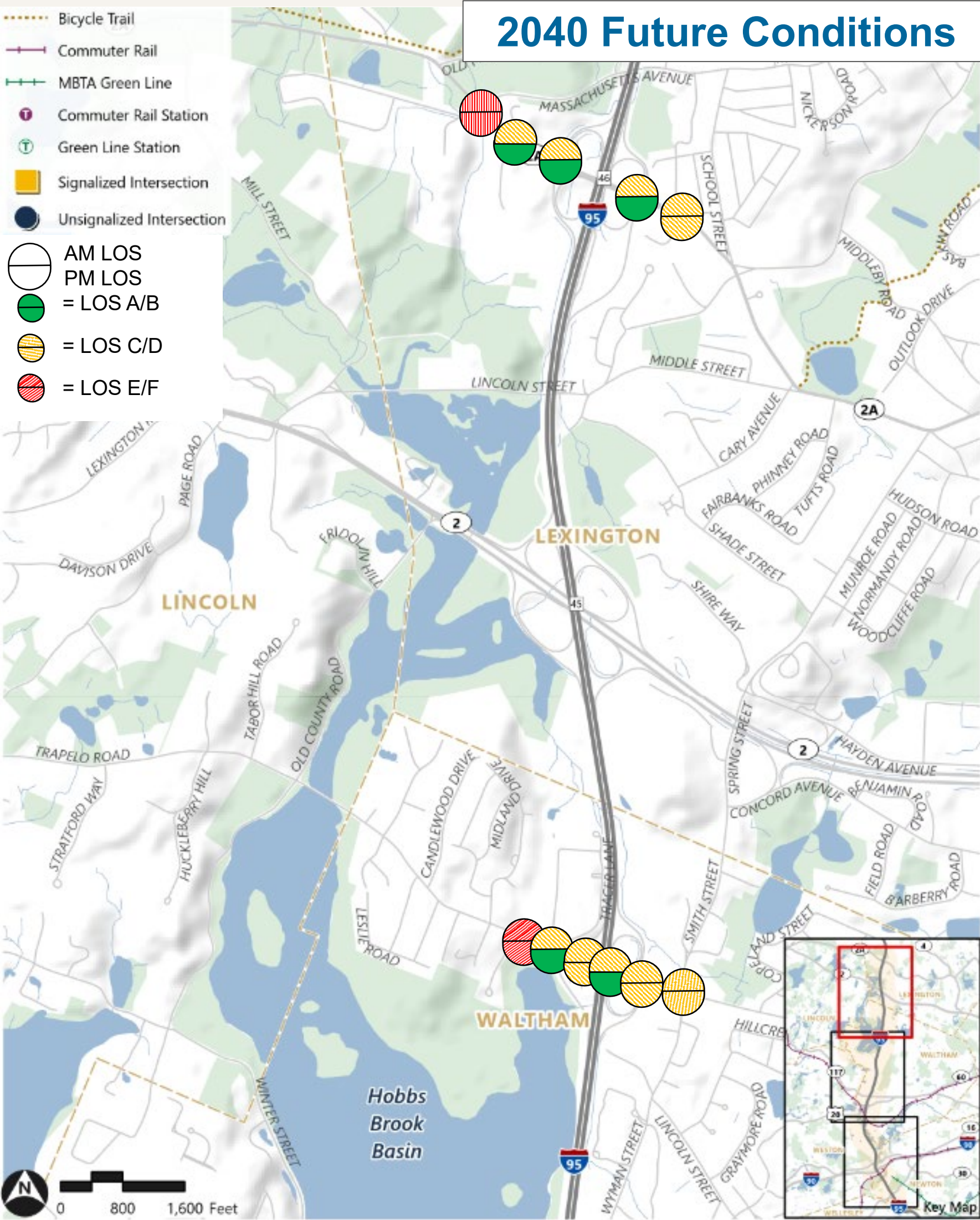
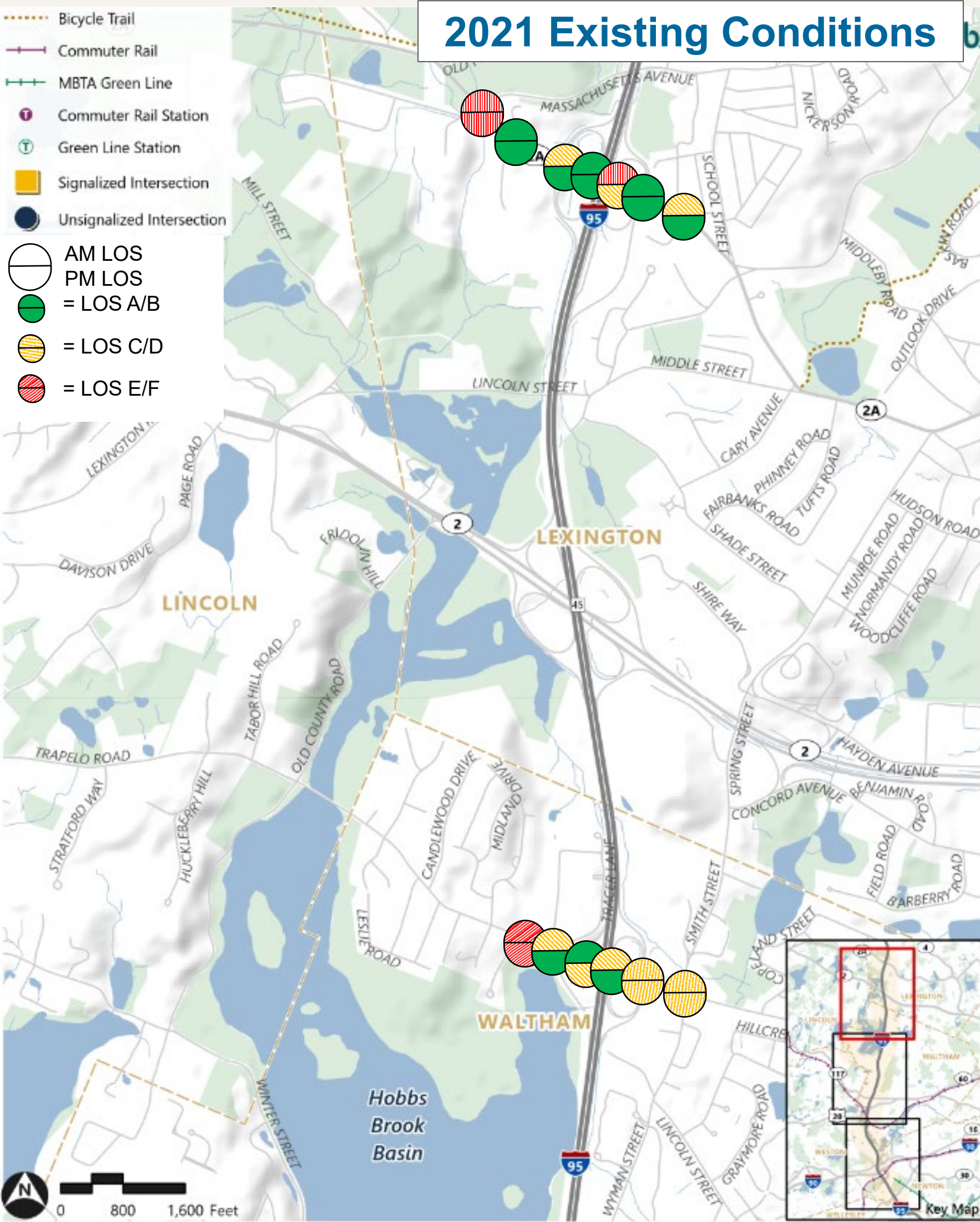
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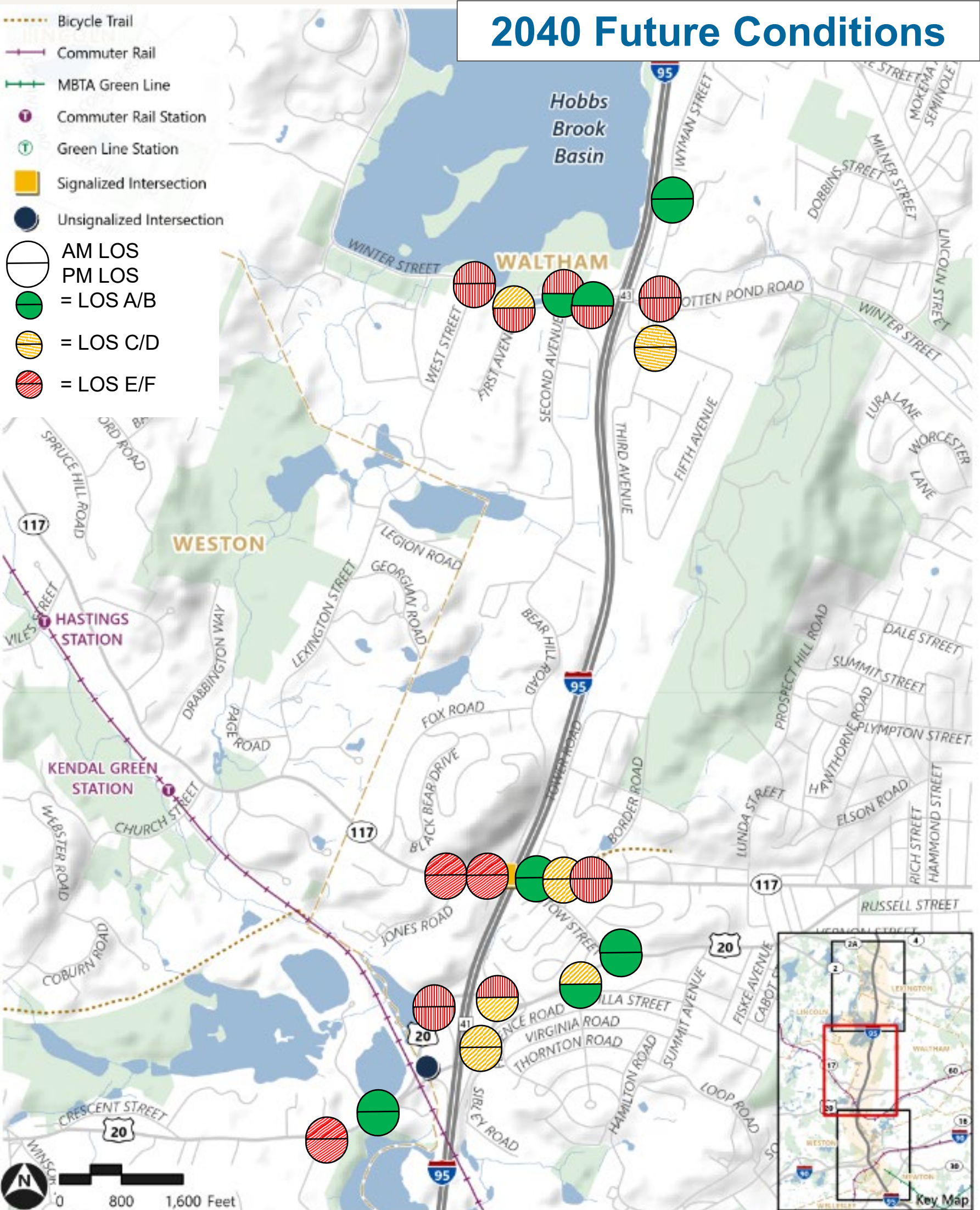
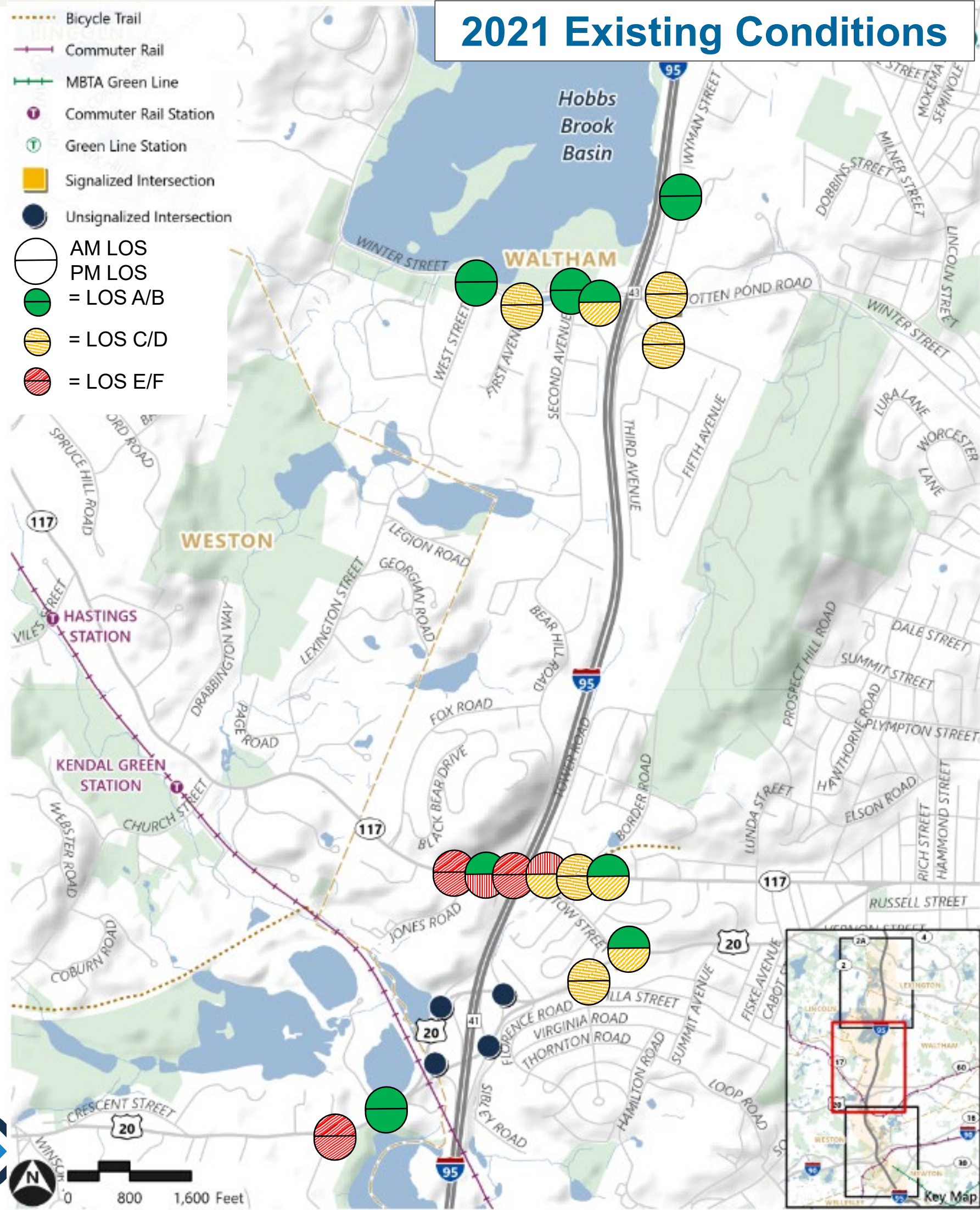
2040 Traffic Operations

- Analysis considers planned infrastructure improvements.
- Operations on the mainline and ramps are expected to degrade from Existing conditions, with **over half of all movements expected to operate at LOS E/F by 2040.**
- 20 study area intersections are projected operate at overall LOS E/F during at least one peak hour, indicating operational deficiencies at many locations.
 - Mostly located near the Winter Street/Totten Pond Road interchange (Exit 43) or on Route 117, near the high concentration of planned development projects
- Left unaddressed, this growth will impact reliability along the corridor and could lead to traffic congestion extending to the local roadway network or further lengthening of commuter “peak periods”.

Study Area Intersections (North)



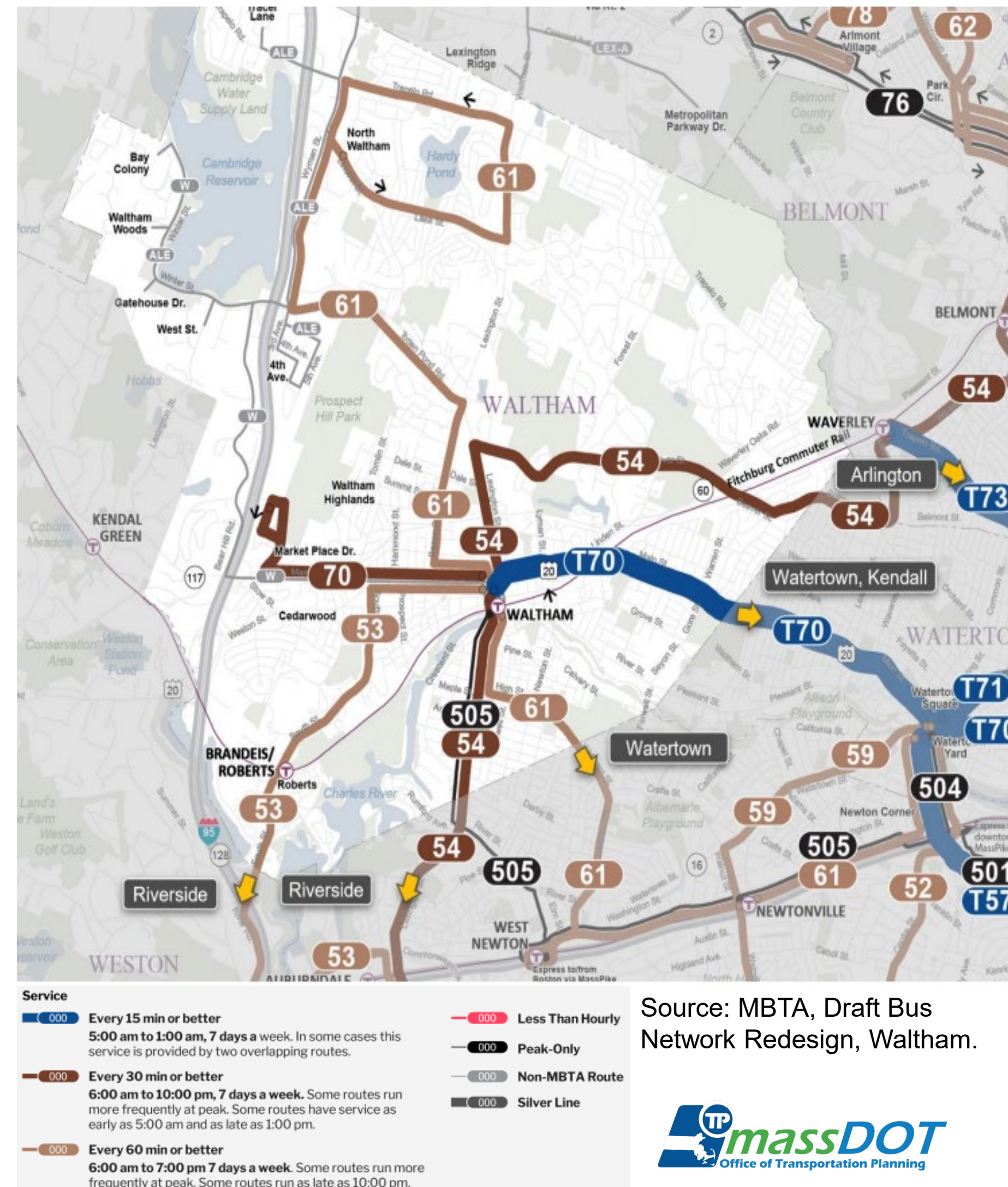
Study Area Intersections (Center)





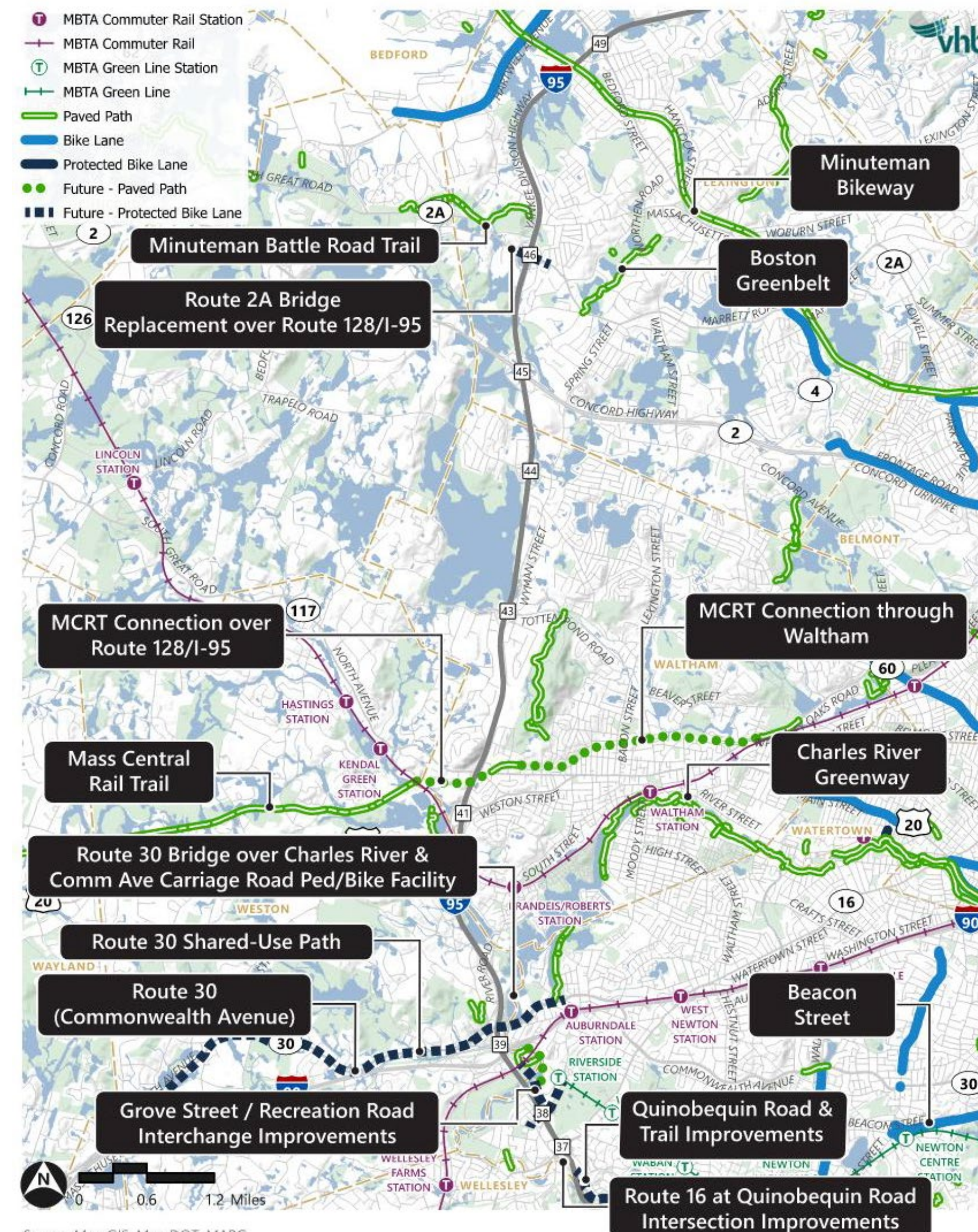
Future Transit Conditions

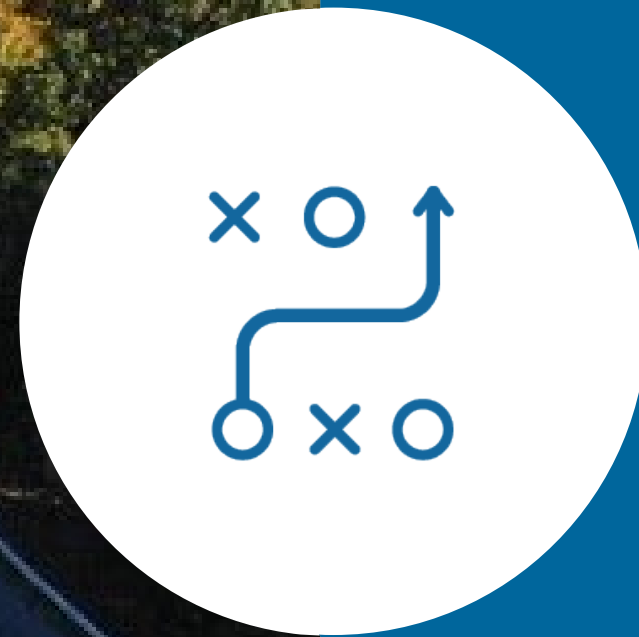
- Several anticipated public transit improvements that will improve transit service, accessibility and customer experience within the Route 128/I-95 study area
 - Newton Commuter Rail Stations Accessibility Improvements
 - Worcester Line Track and Station Accessibility Improvements
 - Green Line Transformation
 - Better Bus Project/Bus Network Redesign
- MassDOT's Bus on Shoulder Screening Study on-going and is evaluating the feasibility of bus on shoulder along Route 128/I-95 and other corridors



Active Transportation

- 10 planned improvement projects focus on closing gaps in existing east-west network
- Still expected to be significant gaps in the active transportation network within the study area
 - No dedicated north-south facilities provided for pedestrians and bicyclists

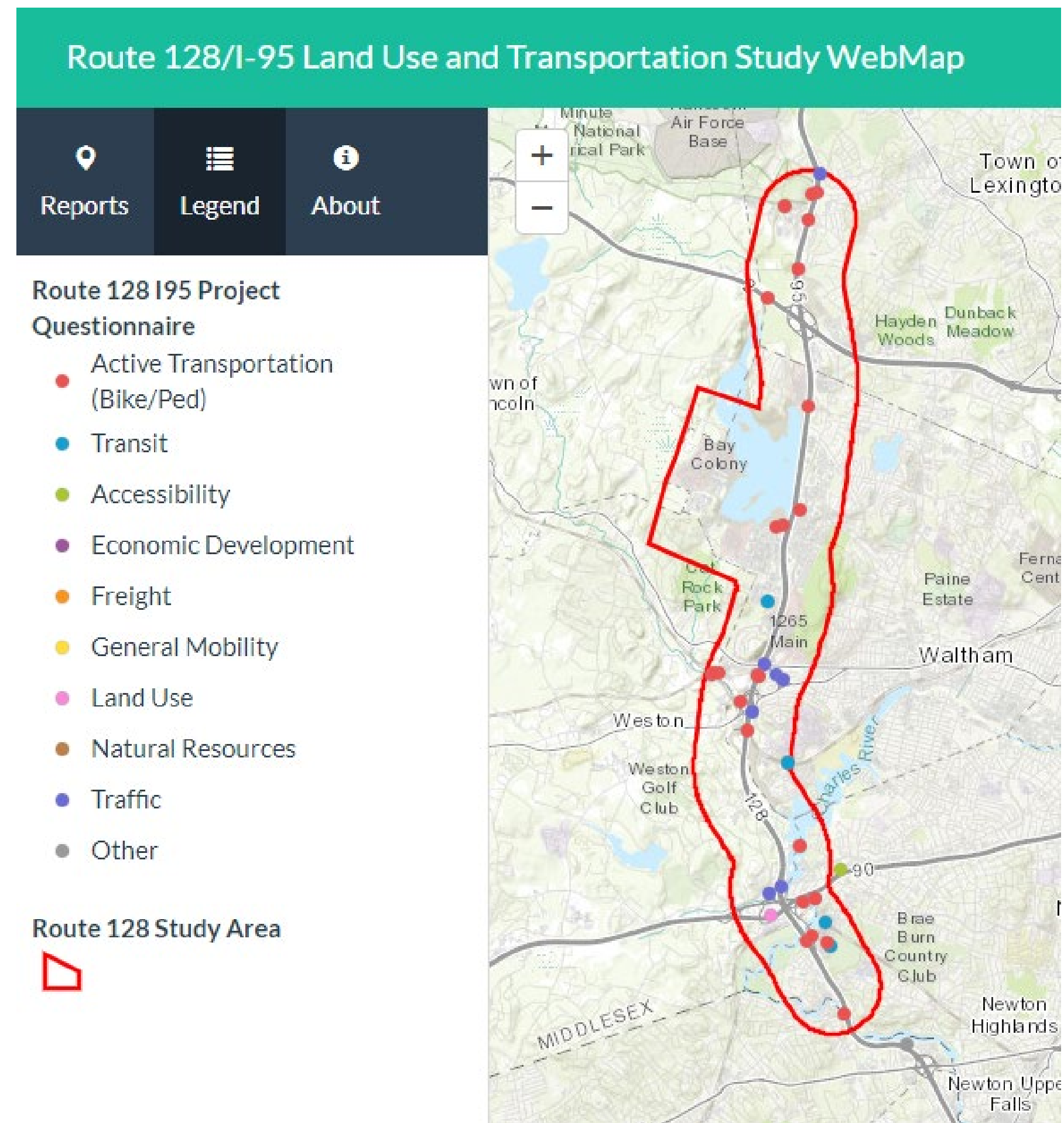




**Issues,
Opportunities,
& Constraints**

Sources

- Based on a review of:
 - Data
 - Input from project stakeholders
 - Public outreach process
 - Online mapping tool
- Summarized in site-specific and general/thematic conditions



Theme 1: Reliance on Vehicles

- Issues
 - Operational and safety issues
 - Limited non-auto mode options/facilities
 - Impacts to public health outcomes
- Opportunities
 - Enhancing transit service/frequency
 - Improving pedestrian/bicycle connections
 - Supporting programs to encourage non-auto modes

Issues, Opportunities, & Constraints Categories



Equity



Vehicular



Transit



Active Transportation



Safety



General Transportation



Land Use/Economic Development



Environmental

Theme 2: Land Use Evolution

- Issues
 - Significant increase in the number of job offerings
 - Disproportionate increase in housing options
- Opportunities
 - Influence policy/zoning
 - Identify the appropriate type of housing
 - Siting/connecting housing to job centers and open space to limit transportation demands

Issues, Opportunities, & Constraints Categories



Equity



Vehicular



Transit



Active Transportation



Safety



General Transportation



Land Use/Economic Development



Environmental

Route 128/I-95 Land Use & Transportation Study

Interactive Poll #2

How would you rank the study area goals in order of importance?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 64 39 66 9



Instructions

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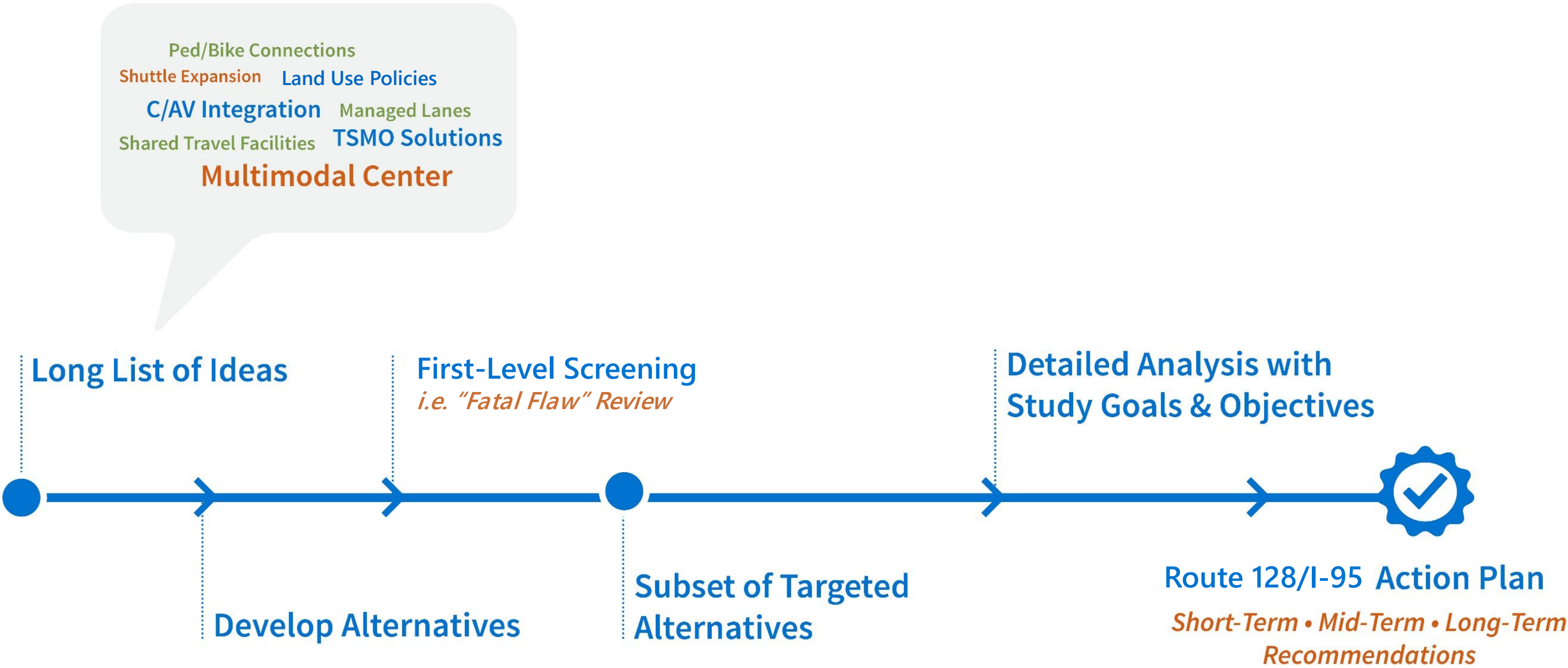


Or use QR code



Alternatives Development

Alternatives Process



Alternatives Categories

- Land Use/Economic Development
- Transportation
 - Vehicular
 - Transit
 - Active Transportation
 - Safety
 - General
- Environmental

100+ ideas generated

**80+ alternatives
developed from these**

Preliminary Land Use/ Economic Development Alternatives

Access to Jobs

- Market analysis to determine potential to capture new land uses
- Opportunities for affordable and workforce housing
- Mixed-use development strategies
- Vacant or underperforming parcel strategies
- Protection against local resident and small business displacement
- I-90/I-95 interchange opportunities

Mobility Support

- Local parking policy review
- Coordinated transit-oriented development (TOD)

Open Space/Placemaking Strategies

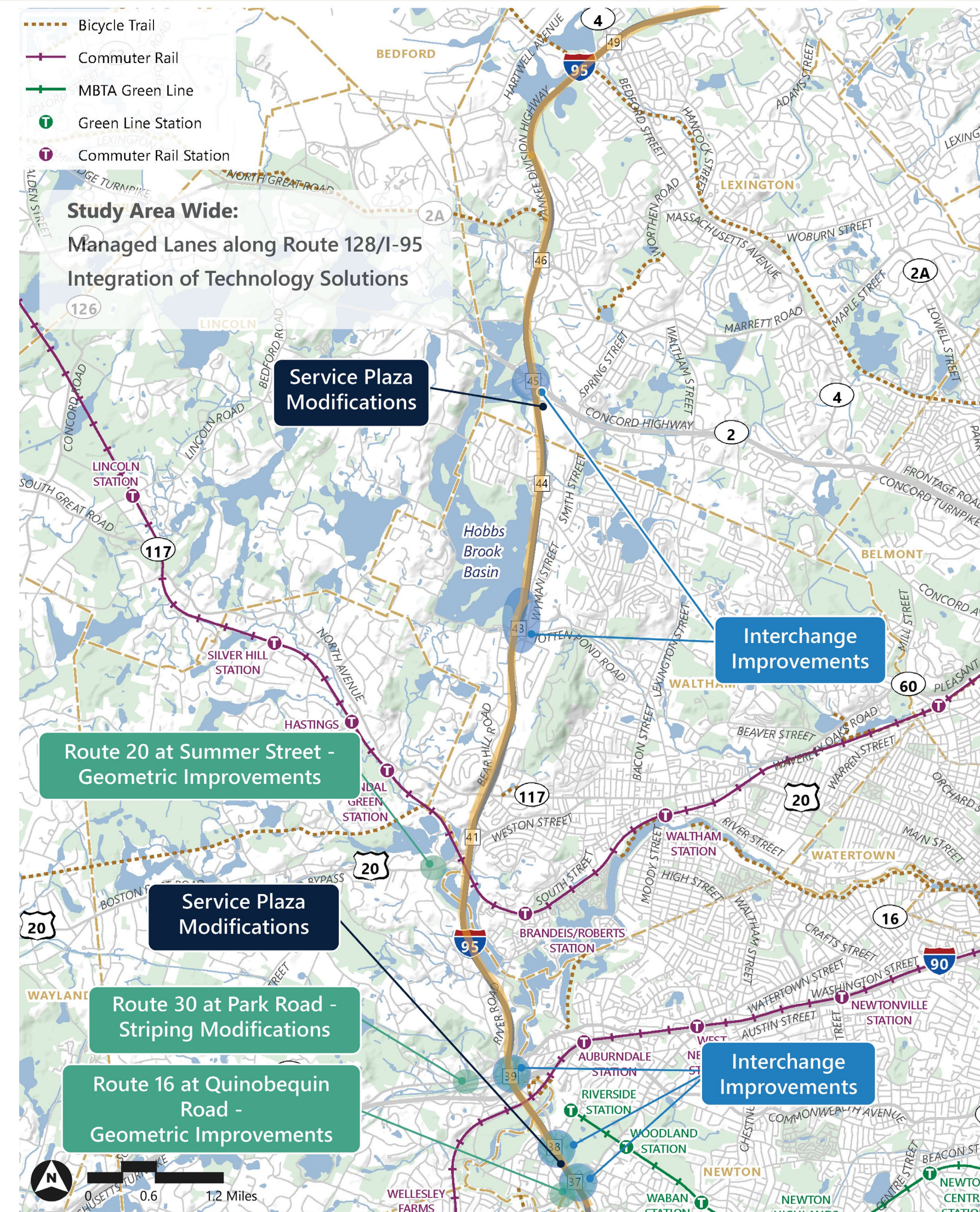
- Accessibility of open spaces
- Public gathering spaces
- Public access to the Cambridge Reservoir

Other

- Solar Energy Program Expansion

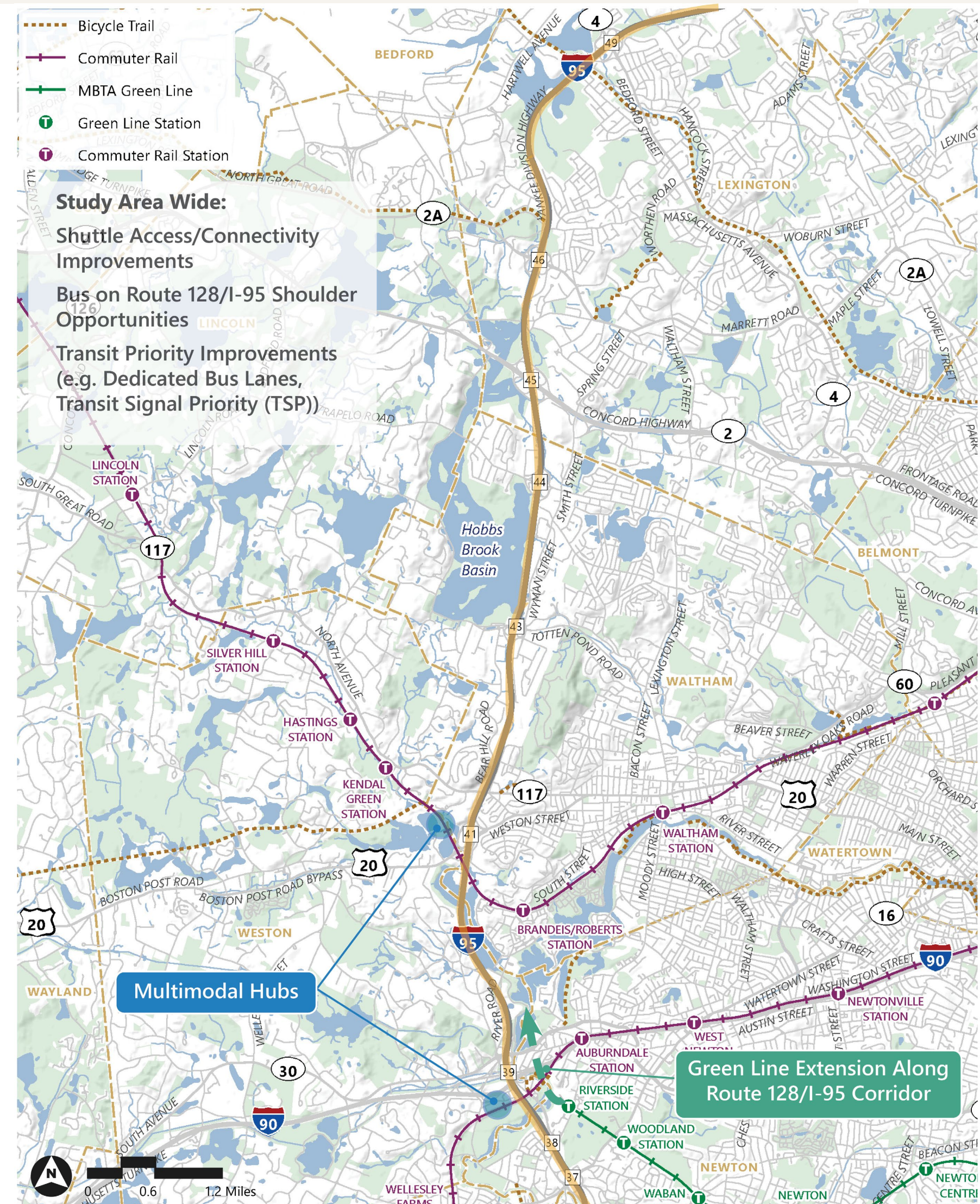
Preliminary Vehicle Alternatives

- Interchange Improvements
 - Exits 37/38 – modifications to ramps/Quinobequin Road
 - Exit 39 – extension of NB Collector-Distributor (C-D) road
 - Exit 43 – modifications to ramps and/or Winter Street “goose pond”
 - Exit 45 – construction of NB and/or SB C-D roads
- Service plaza access and parking modifications
- Managed Lanes along Route 128/I-95
- Intersection traffic control, geometric, and/or safety modifications
- Integration of technology solutions



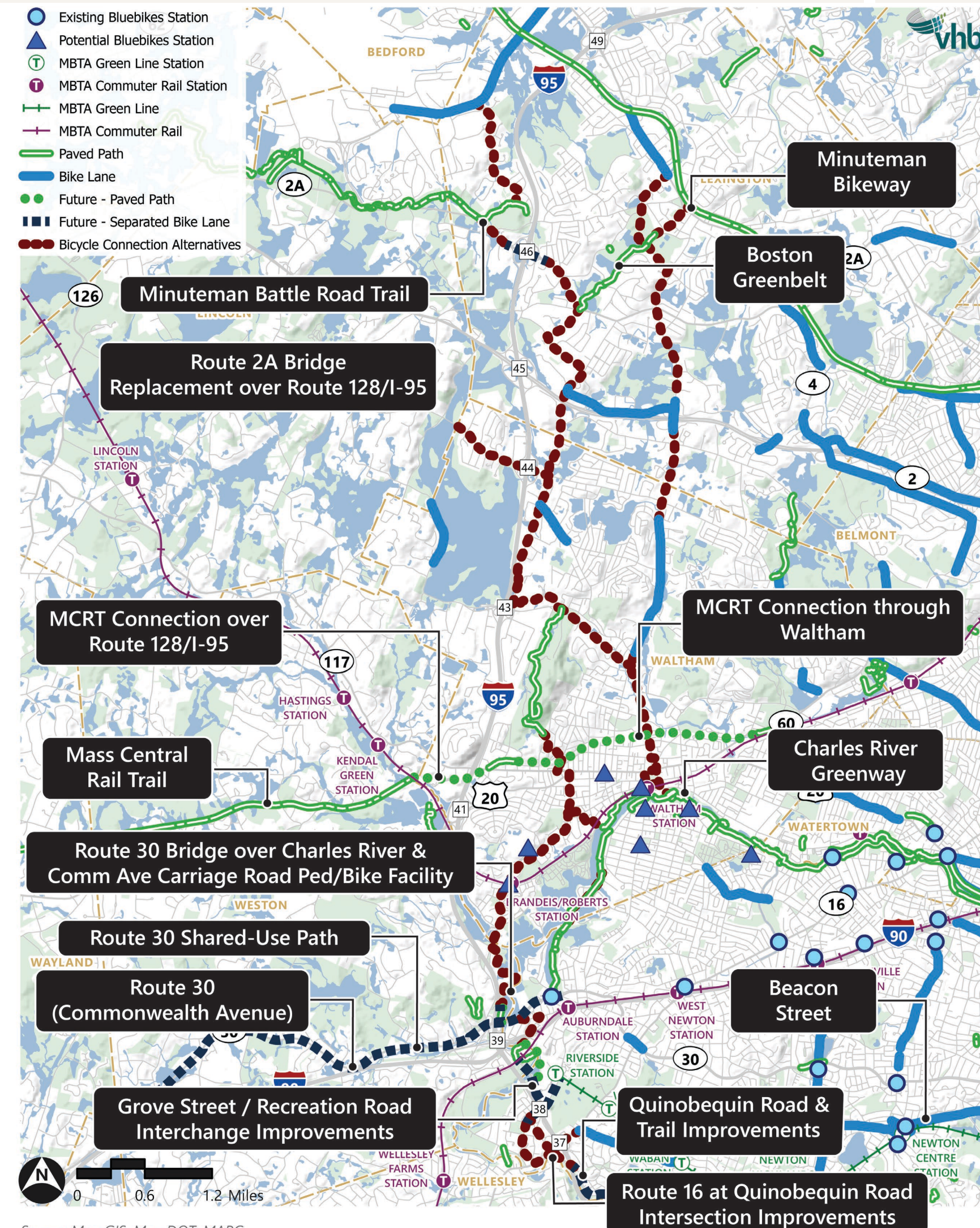
Preliminary Transit Alternatives

- Service/frequency improvements:
 - East-west connections
 - Off-peak service
 - Additional transit in northern study area
 - Additional transit in West Waltham
- Shuttle access/connectivity improvements
- Multimodal hubs:
 - Fitchburg Line in Waltham
 - Worcester Line in Weston
- Green Line extension along Route 128/I-95 corridor
- Bus on Route 128/I-95 shoulder opportunities
- Transit priority improvements:
 - Dedicated bus lanes
 - Transit signal priority (TSP)



Preliminary Active Transportation Alternatives

- Public bike share program expansion within the study area
- Bicycle connectivity improvements:
 - Northern Study Area
 - Connections across Route 2 / Route 2A
 - Waltham North-South Bicycle Connections
 - Fill Gaps in Newton Bicycle Network
 - Route 16
- Maintenance of crosswalk striping (various locations)



Preliminary General Transportation Alternatives

- Regional TDM plan
- Modified/new connections:
 - Winter Street between Waltham and Lexington
 - Over Route 128/I-95 between Interchanges 41 and 43 (Waltham)
- Route 128/I-95 corridor improvements:
 - Drainage
 - Shoulders
 - Closure of gaps in guardrail
 - Sound barriers, as appropriate
- Connectivity and access improvements to transit stations



Preliminary Environmental Alternatives

- Hobbs Brook Reservoir water quality improvement
- Reduction of impervious areas within the study area
- Preservation of properties and review of development within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, as appropriate



Alternatives Next Steps

- First-Level Screening based on established goals and objectives
 - Where applicable, based on a high-level assessment of feasibility given the physical constraints of the area.
- For each preliminary alternative, the study team will recommend
 - As an immediate/near-term improvement
 - Advancing for further study
 - Discarding
- Immediate/near-term improvements include
 - Signal timing adjustments
 - Signage
 - Striping
- Alternatives packaging for analysis

Route 128/I-95 Land Use & Transportation Study

Interactive Poll #3

How important are the following modal investments in this corridor?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 64 39 66 9

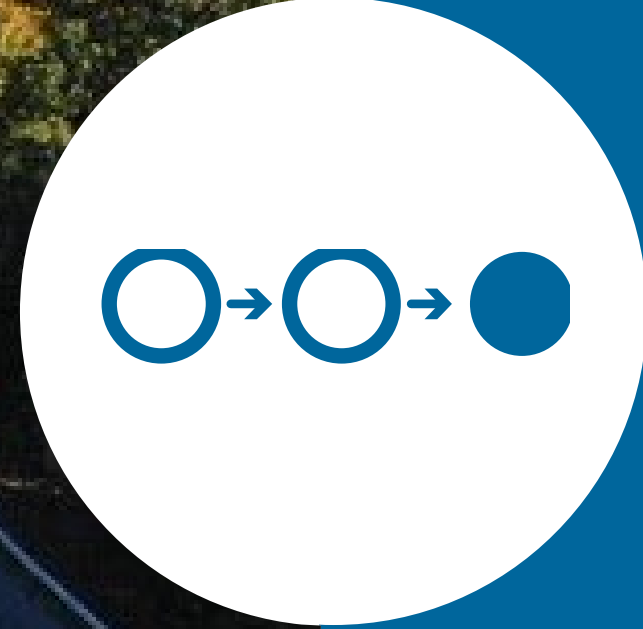


Instructions

Go to
www.menti.com
Enter the code
64 39 66 9



Or use QR code



Next Steps

Our next steps



Finalize Alternatives
Screening and
Packaging
Start Alternatives
Analysis



Working Group
Meeting #4:
Alternatives
Packaging and
Preliminary Analysis
(late Summer 2022)

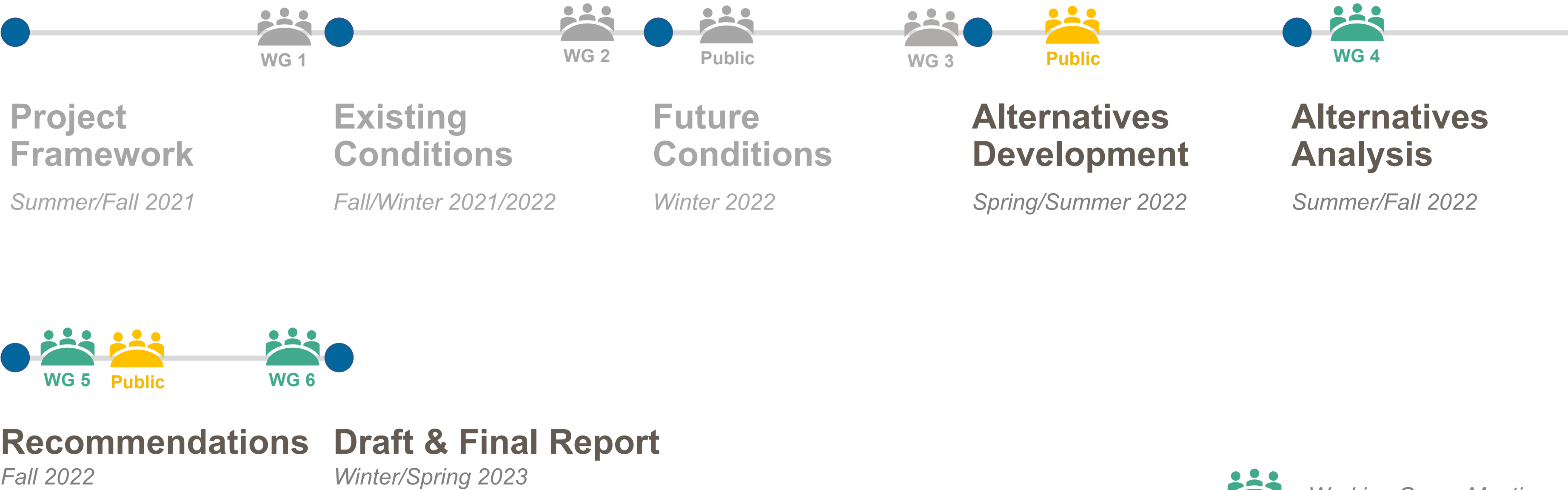



Complete Alternatives
Analysis
(Fall 2022)




Working Group Meeting #5
and Public Meeting #3:
Alternatives Analysis and
Draft Recommendations
(late Fall 2022)

Schedule




WG

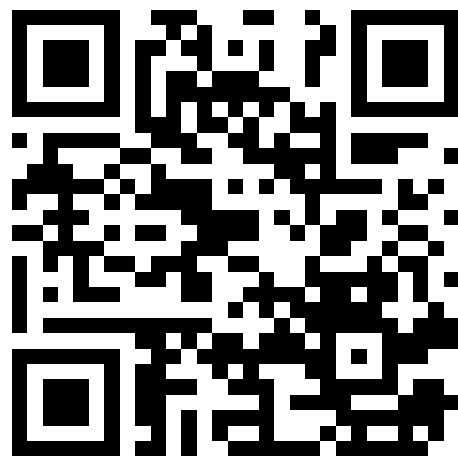
Working Group Meeting


Public

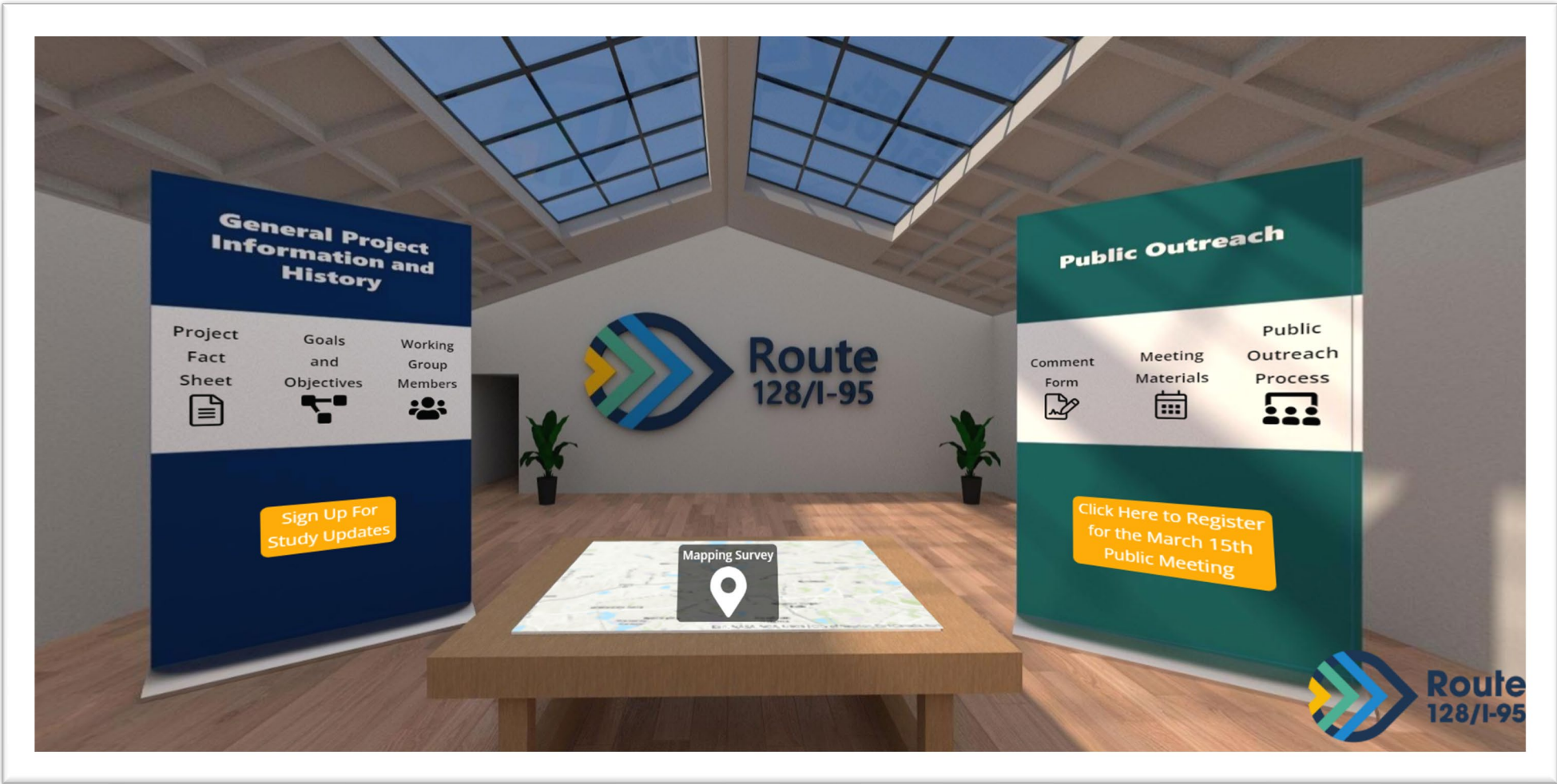
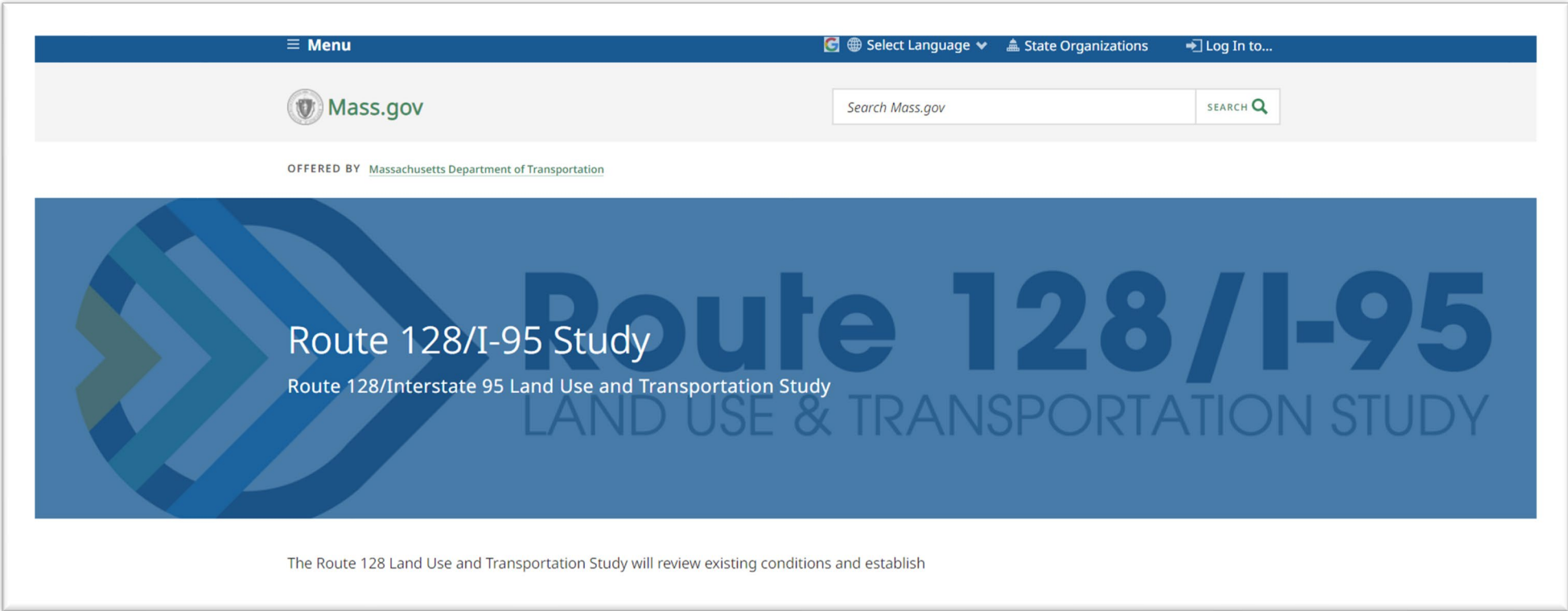
Public Meeting

Online Engagement

- MassDOT Project Website
<https://www.mass.gov/route-128i-95-study>
 - Sign up for Study updates
 - General project information
- Virtual Room for online engagement
 - Linked from MassDOT Project Website
 - Comment form and mapping survey
 - Project information, documents, and materials



Virtual Room
QR Code





**Public
Comment**

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.



Thank You

Project Website

<https://www.mass.gov/route-128i-95-study>

Liz Williams – Project Manager

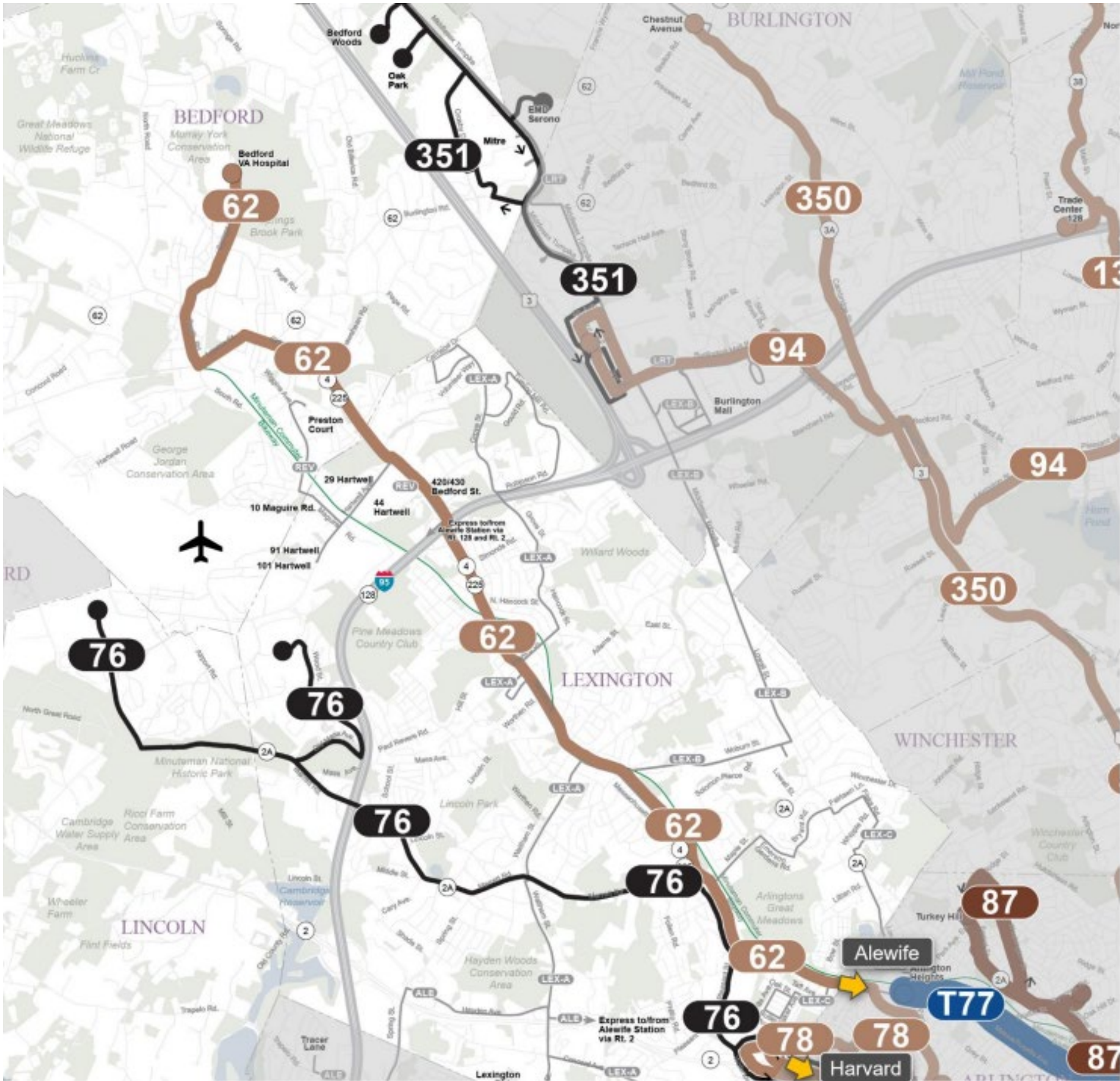
liz.williams@state.ma.us



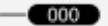


Draft Bus Network Redesign

Lexington Routes

- **Route 62/76** operates as **Rt. 62** and **Rt. 76**
 - **Route 62** route does not change from the Rt. 62/76 routing
 - **Route 76** converted to peak only service, running from Lincoln Lab to Alewife via a new more direct route along Marrett Rd.

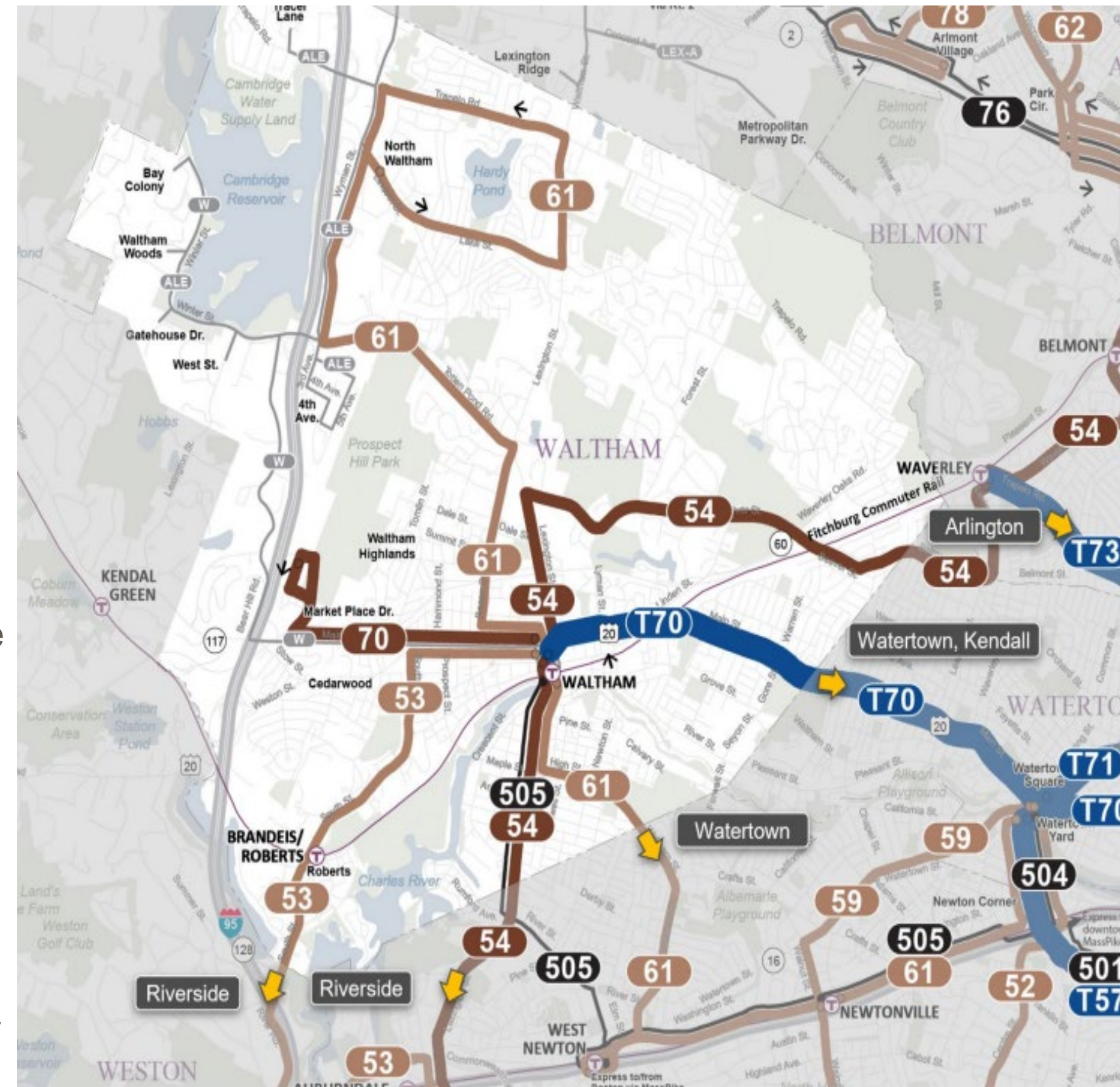


Service		
 Every 15 min or better 5:00 am to 1:00 am, 7 days a week. In some cases this service is provided by two overlapping routes.	 Less Than Hourly	
 Every 30 min or better 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, 7 days a week. Some routes run more frequently at peak. Some routes have service as early as 5:00 am and as late as 1:00 pm.	 Peak-Only	
 Every 60 min or better 6:00 am to 7:00 pm 7 days a week. Some routes run more frequently at peak. Some routes run as late as 10:00 pm.	 Non-MBTA Route	
	 Silver Line	

Draft Bus Network Redesign

Waltham Routes

- **Route 61** extended to West Newton and Watertown Yard via Washington St.
 - Replace Routes 553, 554, 556, 558
- **Route 70** split into **Route 70** and **Route T70**
 - **Route 70** runs from Waltham Square to Market Place Drive
 - **Route T70** runs from Waltham Square to Kendall Square
- **Route 553** eliminated - split into **Route 53** and **Route 505**
 - **Route 53** runs from Waltham Square to Riverside, with a stop at Brandeis/Roberts
 - **Route 505** runs from Waltham Square to Downtown Crossing via River St., Washington St., and Newton Corner

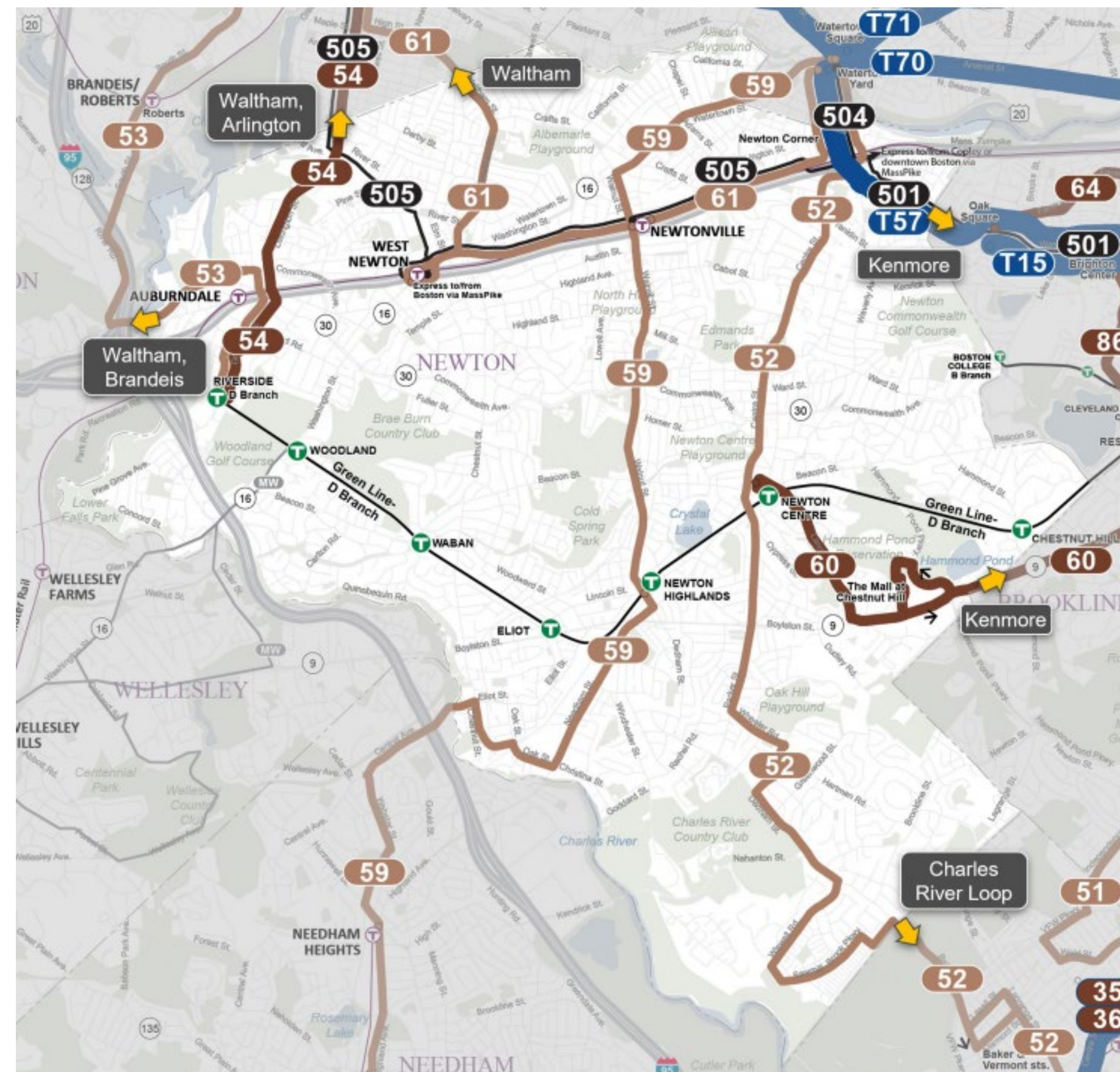


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000 Every 60 min or better 6:00 am to 7:00 pm 7 days a week. Some routes run more frequently at peak. Some routes run as late as 10:00 pm.	000 Silver Line	

Draft Bus Network Redesign

Newton Routes

- **Route 553** eliminated - split into **Route 53** and **Route 505**
 - **Route 53** runs from Waltham Square to Riverside, with a stop at Brandeis/Roberts
 - **Route 505** runs from Waltham Square to Downtown Crossing via River St., Washington St., and Newton Corner
- **Route 558** eliminated - primarily replaced as the new **Route 54**, which runs from Arlington Center, through Waltham, to Riverside
 - **Route T70** replaces Rt. 558 River St. & Pleasant St. stops
 - **Route 59** replaces Rt. 558 Nonantum stops



Service	
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000	Peak-Only
000	Non-MBTA Route
000	Silver Line