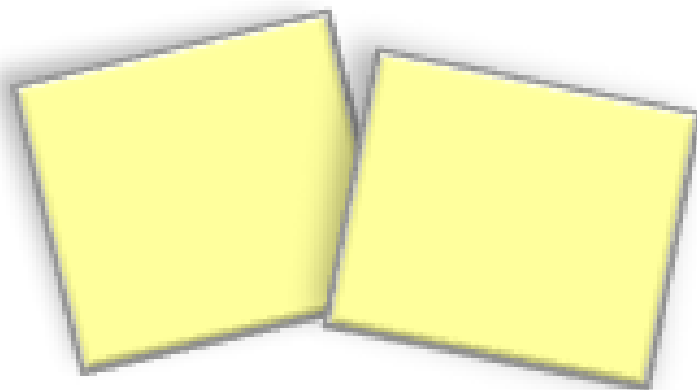


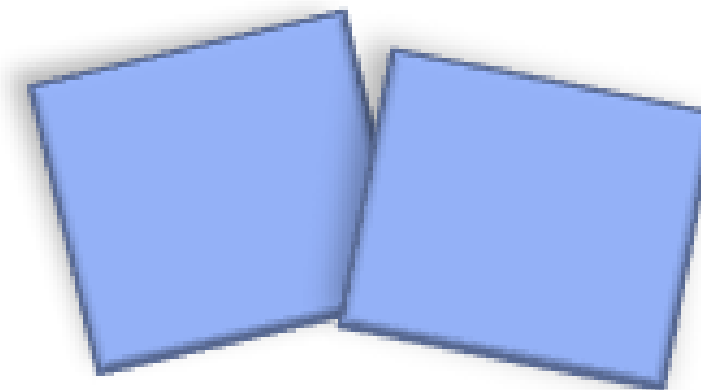
Welcome!

- Please take a moment to share what you believe some of the biggest issues and opportunities are for the Tobin Bridge
- If you're in person, please use the sticky notes provided
- If you're joining us on Zoom, please enter your answers in the Q&A box
- We will discuss your answers later in the presentation

Issues



Opportunities





Tobin Bridge Long-Term Strategic Planning Study Public Meeting #2

Knights of Columbus | April 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
and virtual via Zoom



TOBIN BRIDGE
PLANNING STUDY



Zoom Controls



- Listen in Spanish, Mandarin



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand



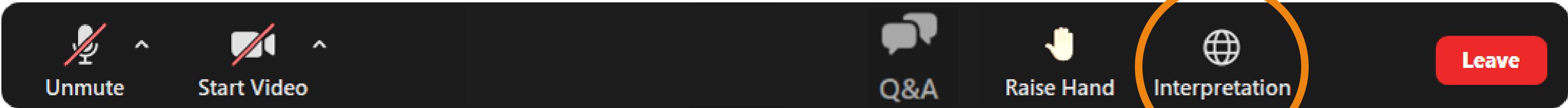
- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at +1 309 205 3325, Webinar ID: 808 2511 8748, Passcode: 994536



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

1-888-799-9666

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



In-Room and Zoom Polls

- Throughout the presentation, we will ask some polling questions. Online participants will be able to answer questions through Zoom polls.
- In room participation will operate by raised hands.

Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

Notification of recording

- This hybrid public meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or chat transcript.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- All recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, keep your microphone muted, and refrain from chatting in the transcript box. Otherwise, you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

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

Agenda

- 1 Welcome and Introduction**
- 2 Study Overview**
- 3 Public Meeting #1 Summary**
- 4 Existing Conditions**
- 5 Future Conditions Preview**
- 6 Discussion of Issues and Opportunities**
- 7 Public Comment**
- 8 Schedule and Next Steps**



Meeting With You Today

- **MassDOT**
 - Patrick Snyder (Project Manager)
 - Makaela Niles
- **Consultant Team**
 - Michael Regan (VHB – Project Manager)
 - Niki Hastings (VHB – Mobility)
 - Erica Blonde (HNTB – Public Engagement)





Study Overview

Study Context

- This conceptual planning study will **develop and evaluate long-term replacement options** for the Tobin Bridge connecting Chelsea and Boston
- In addition to exploring replacement alternatives for the Bridge, the study will **focus on ways to reconnect surrounding communities** in Chelsea and Charlestown and **build upon area sustainability goals**

Study Goals and Objectives

Improve Access, Safety, and Mobility for Local Communities

Enhance Sustainability of Corridor Infrastructure and the Surrounding Area

Improve Regional Connectivity

Develop Actionable Next Steps



Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria are the standards by which the alternatives will be measured against the goals and objectives

Social Equity

Mobility and Accessibility for Transportation Modes

Safety for Roadway Users

Economic and Land Use Impacts

Climate Change Resilience and Mitigation

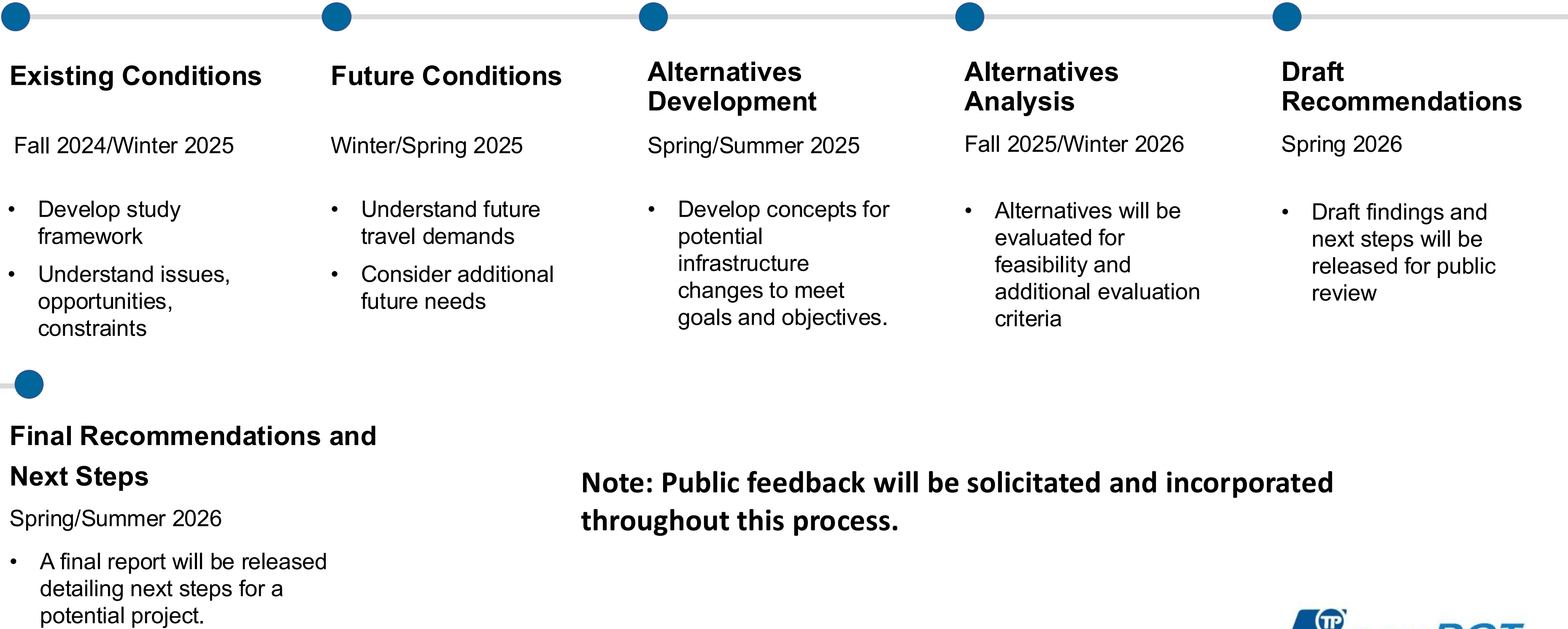
Health Effects

Environmental Effects

Cost and Cost Effectiveness

Feasibility of Construction

Study Process





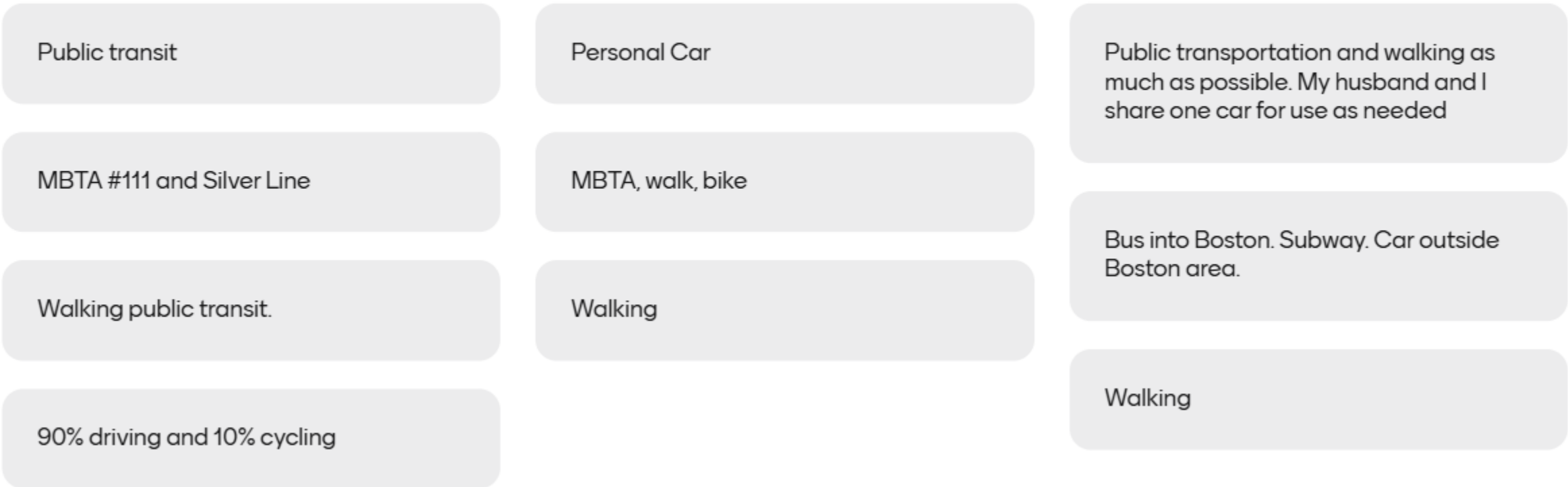
Public Meeting #1 Feedback Summary

Public Meeting #1 Discussion Results

- Audience asked poll question:
What is your main source of transportation?
 - Public transit and walking are most popular
- Common themes during the Q&A included:
 - Community engagement during the process
 - Improving public health, mobility, and social equity
 - Public transportation improvements

What is your main source of transportation? ¿Cuál es su medio de transporte principal?

10 responses

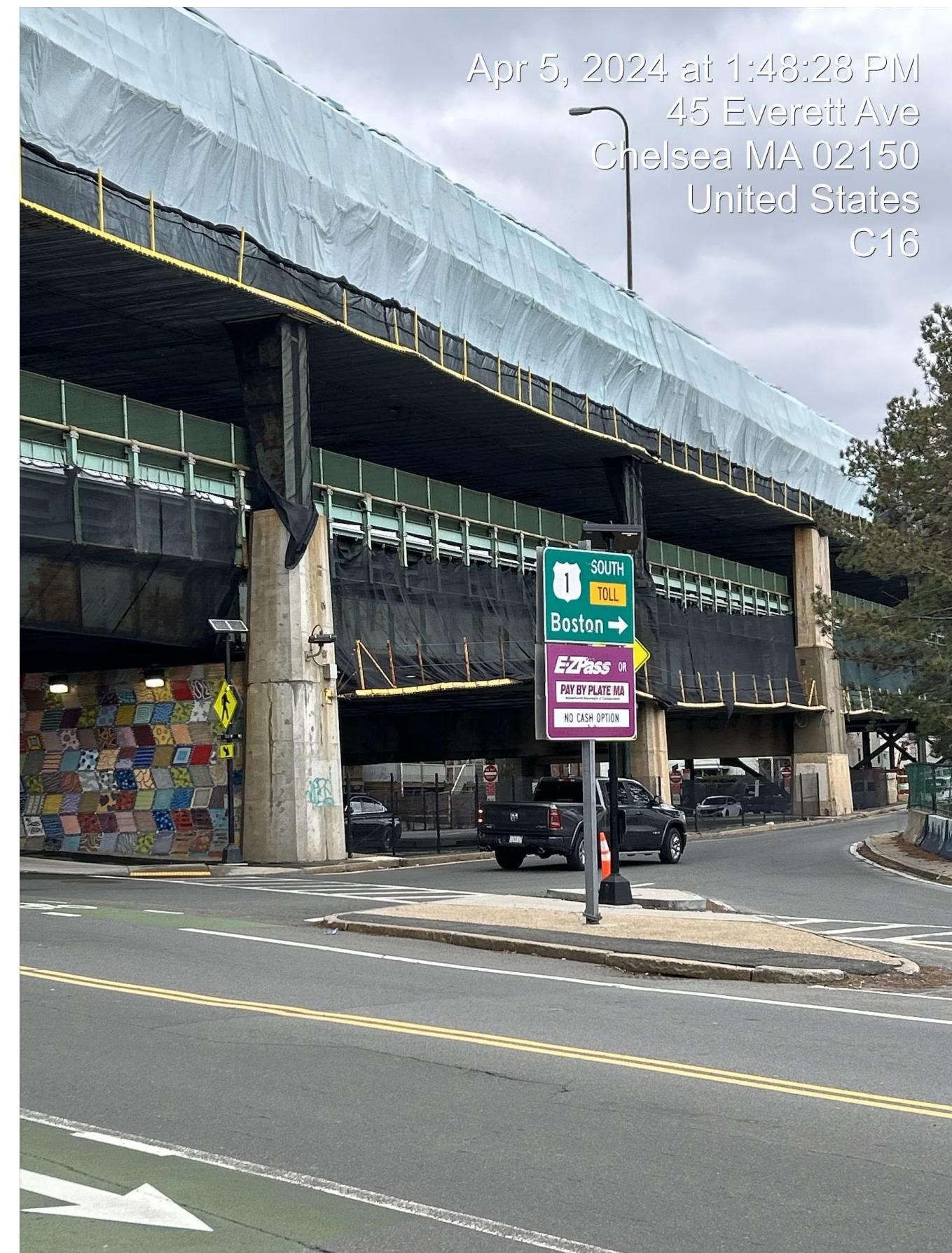




Existing Conditions

Purpose of Existing Conditions

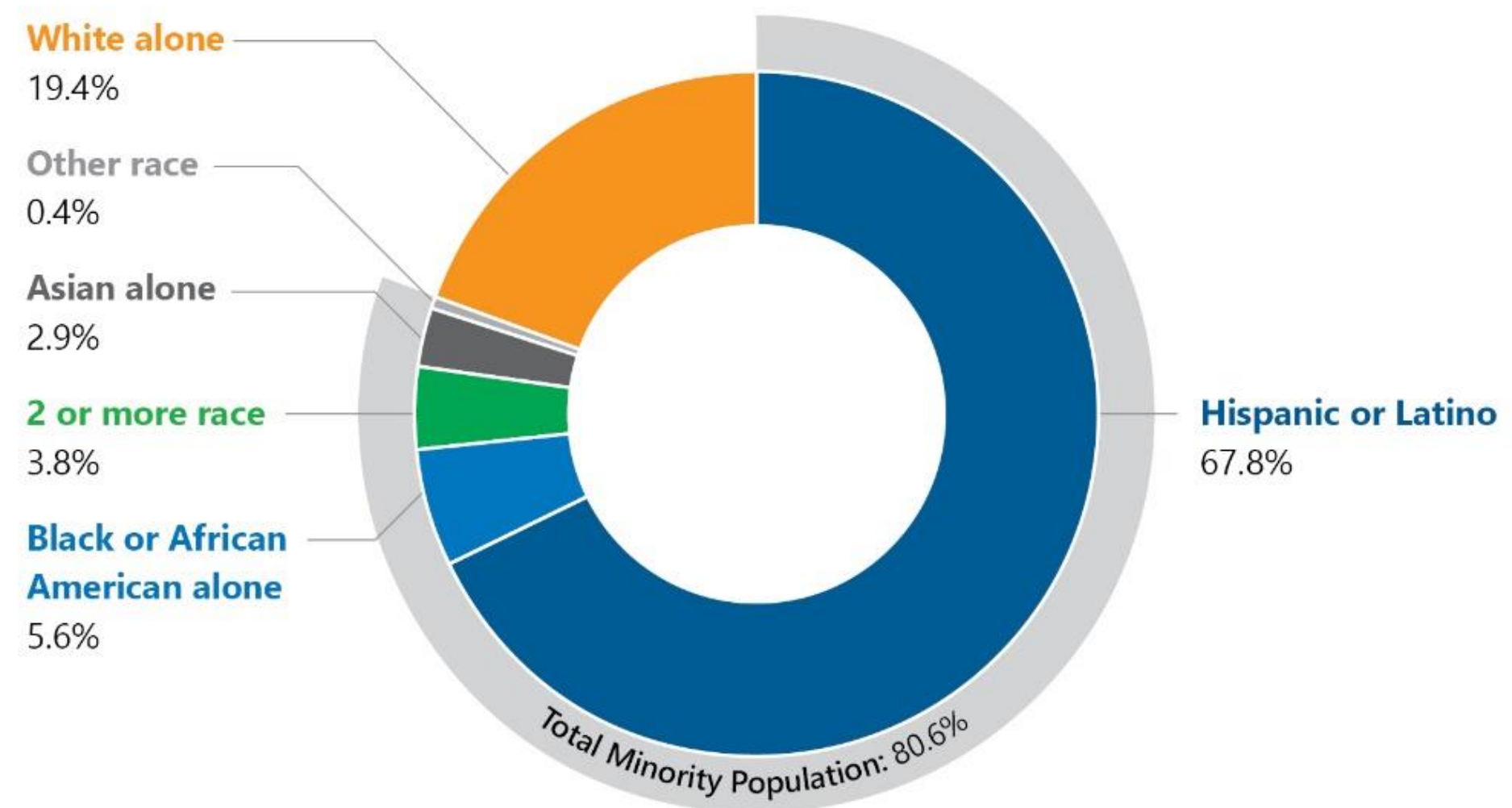
- Set up framework for rest of study
 - Review additional context beyond infrastructure
 - Align with goals and objectives
- Evaluate data on the wider transportation network, public health, environment, land use, demographics, and additional information
- Understand issues, opportunities, and constraints
- Inform the development of alternatives



Chelsea Demographic and Community Summary

- **Cultural Diversity:** Chelsea's population is predominantly Hispanic or Latino (67.8%)
- **Economic Challenges:** Approximately 21.4% of residents live below the poverty line, significantly higher than the state average of 10.4%
- **Housing Under Pressure:** 48% of Chelsea households are cost-burdened (more than 30% of income spent on housing), with 72.6% living in renter-occupied housing
- **Transit Reliance:** With a substantial portion of households with no access to a vehicle (28.8%), many residents depend on public transit options
- **Environmental Justice (EJ):** Massachusetts EJ data reports minority, income, and language isolation census tracts.

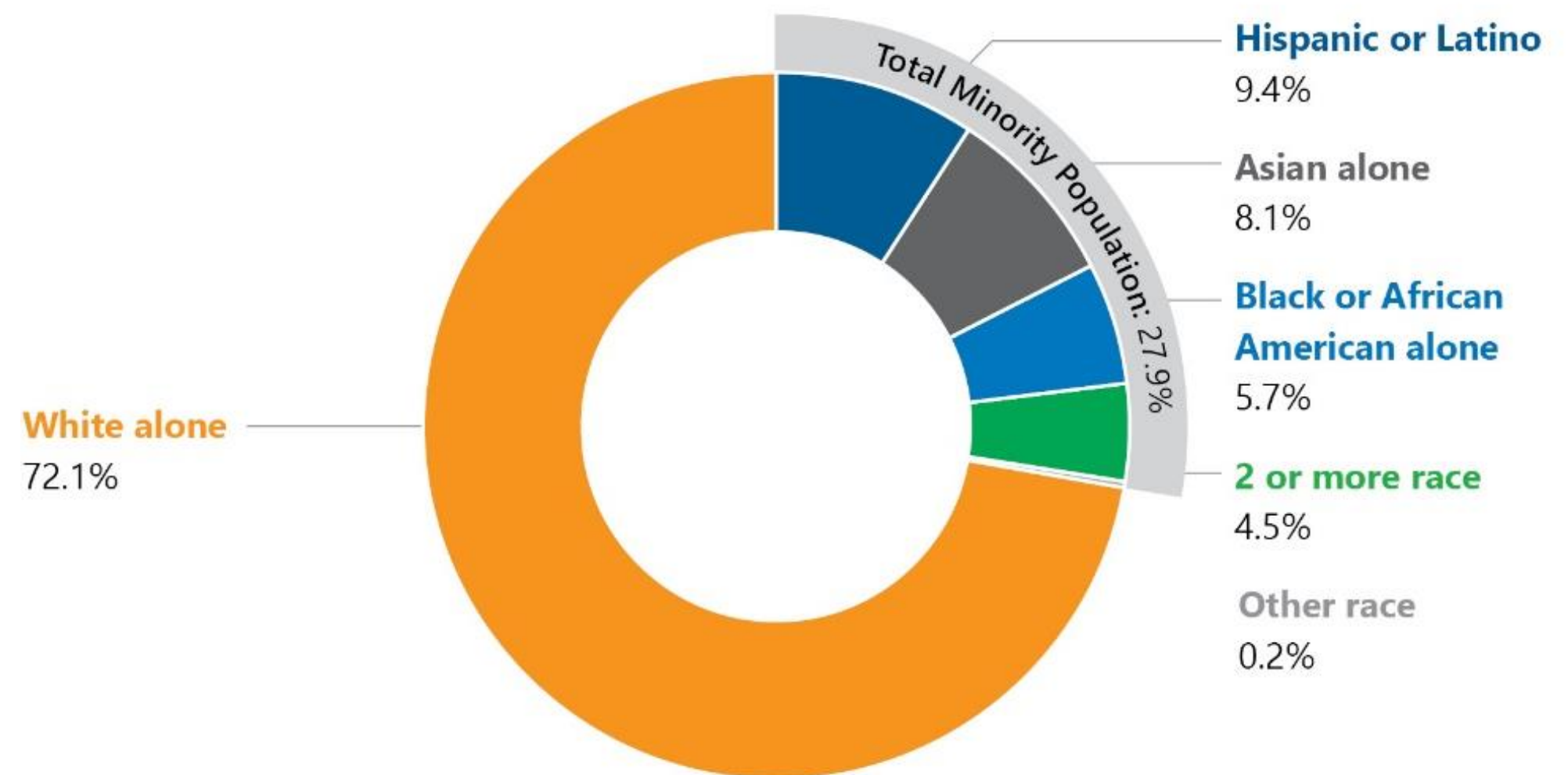
Chelsea's Demographics



Charlestown Demographic and Community Summary

- **Economic Revitalization:** Neighborhood transformation has introduced new investments and amenities
- **Persistent Cost Burdens:** 29% of Charlestown households remain cost-burdened, highlighting continued affordability challenges.
- **Transit Access:** Access to the Orange Line and multiple bus routes facilitates connectivity within Boston
- **Environmental Justice:** Massachusetts EJ data reports minority and income census tracts

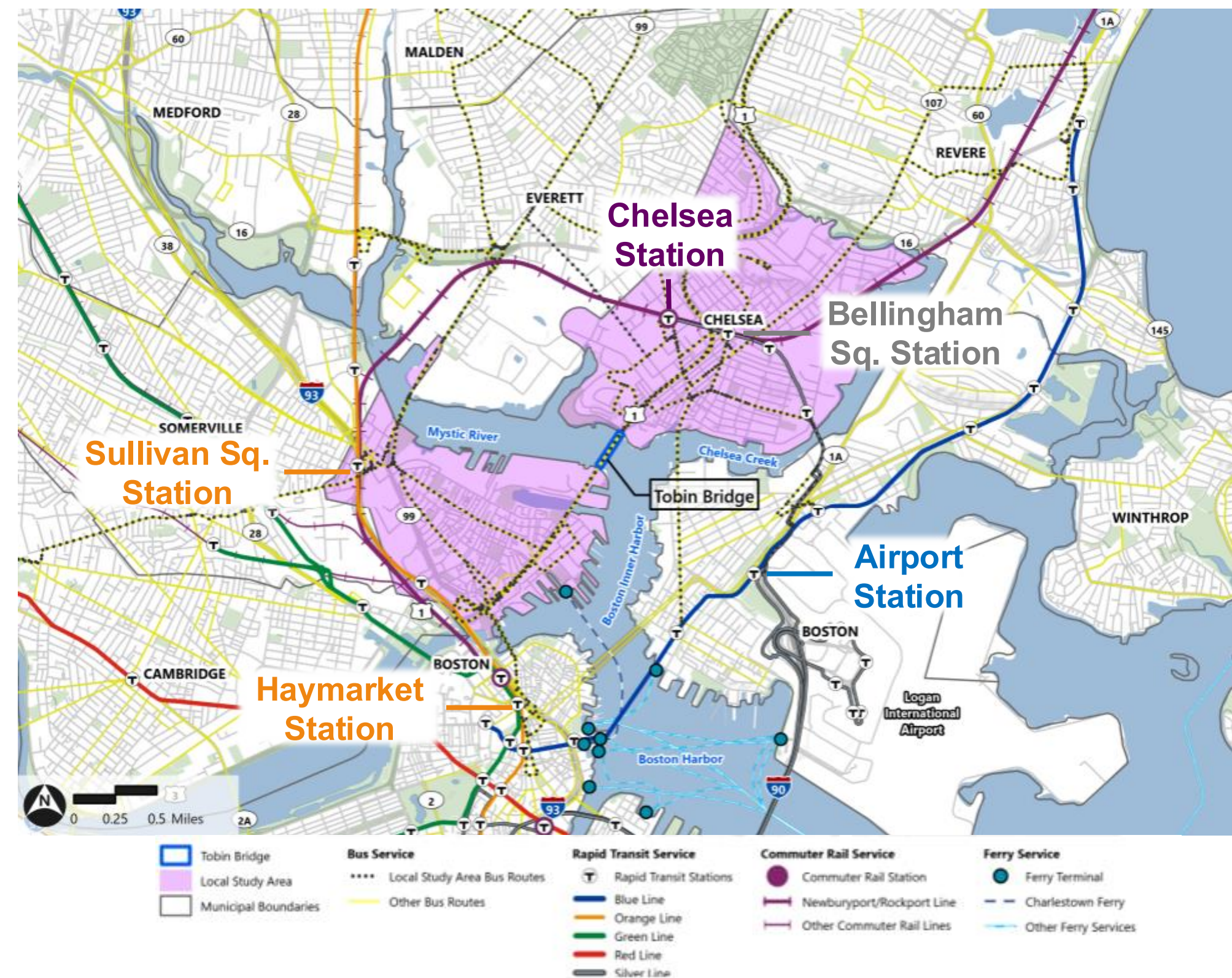
Charlestown's Demographics



Mobility: Transit and Active Transportation

- MBTA Bus Routes 111, 426, and 428 cross the Tobin Bridge with dedicated bus lane southbound
- MBTA SL3 and Commuter Rail provide additional transit connections
- Tobin Bridge lacks sidewalks and bicycle facilities and is a significant gap in the regional pedestrian and bicycle networks
- Active transportation facilities within Chelsea and Charlestown are limited and do not extend to neighboring communities
- Several Local Study Area corridors are risk sites for pedestrian and/or bicycle crashes

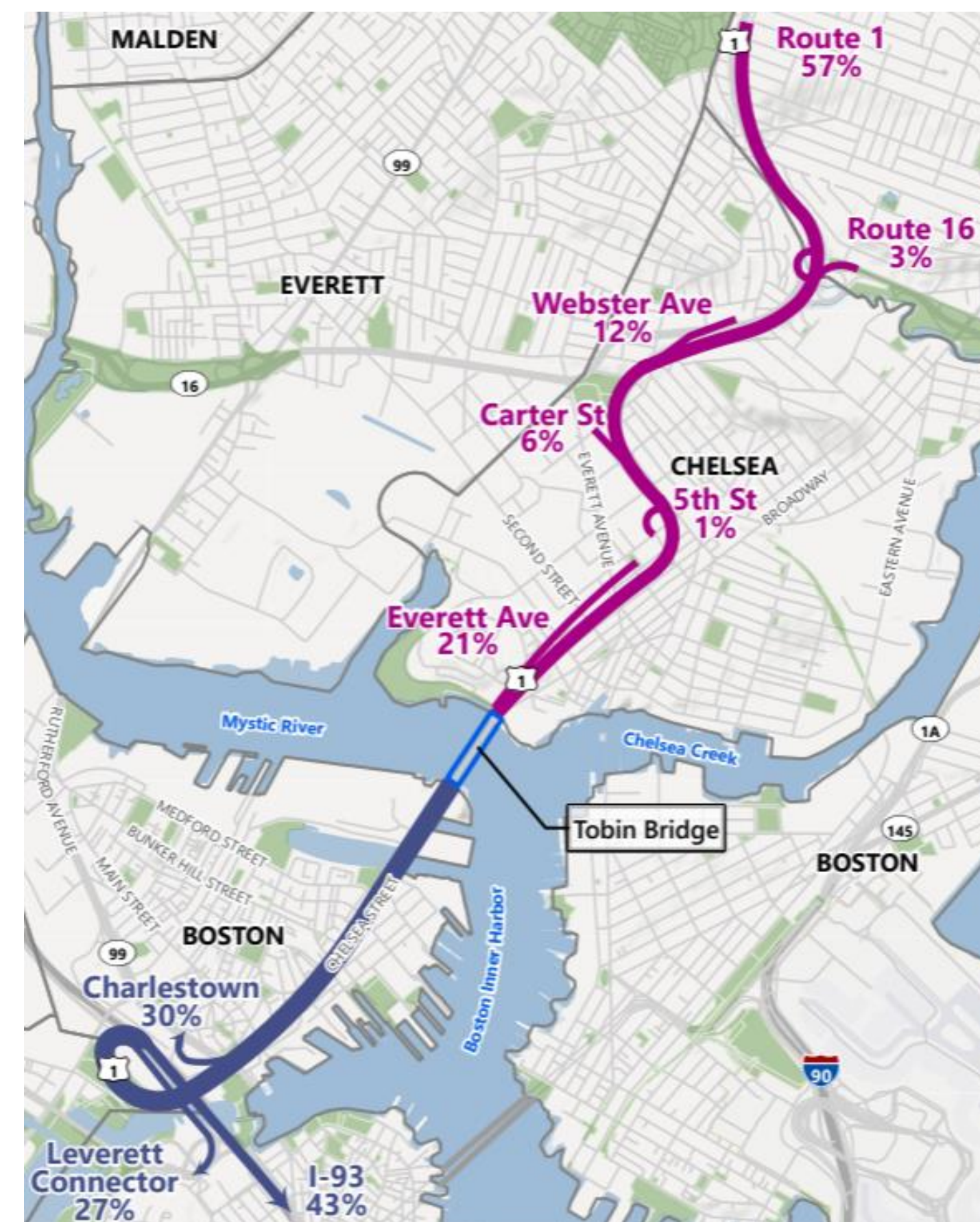
Local Study Area – Transit Services (Winter 2025)



Mobility: Vehicle Connectivity, Reliability, and Safety

- Vital regional corridor and part of a larger system facilitating travel through the local study area
- Serves commuter populations between the North Shore and Boston: 60 percent of vehicle trips from/to Route 1 north of Route 16
- Southern portion lacks direct connection to I-93 North
- Congestion and travel time reliability issues, especially southbound, where 43% of trips from the Tobin Bridge are destined for I-93
- Much of the Local Study Area in Chelsea experiences higher crash rates in comparison to the region
- Crash data was reviewed for Route 1, Road Safety Audits in Chelsea and Charlestown, and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) clusters

Daily Ramp Origins/Destinations: Tobin Bridge Southbound Vehicles



XX% Percent of Trips to Tobin Bridge

XX% Percent of Trips from Tobin Bridge

Zoom Poll 1 – Mobility Issues and Concerns

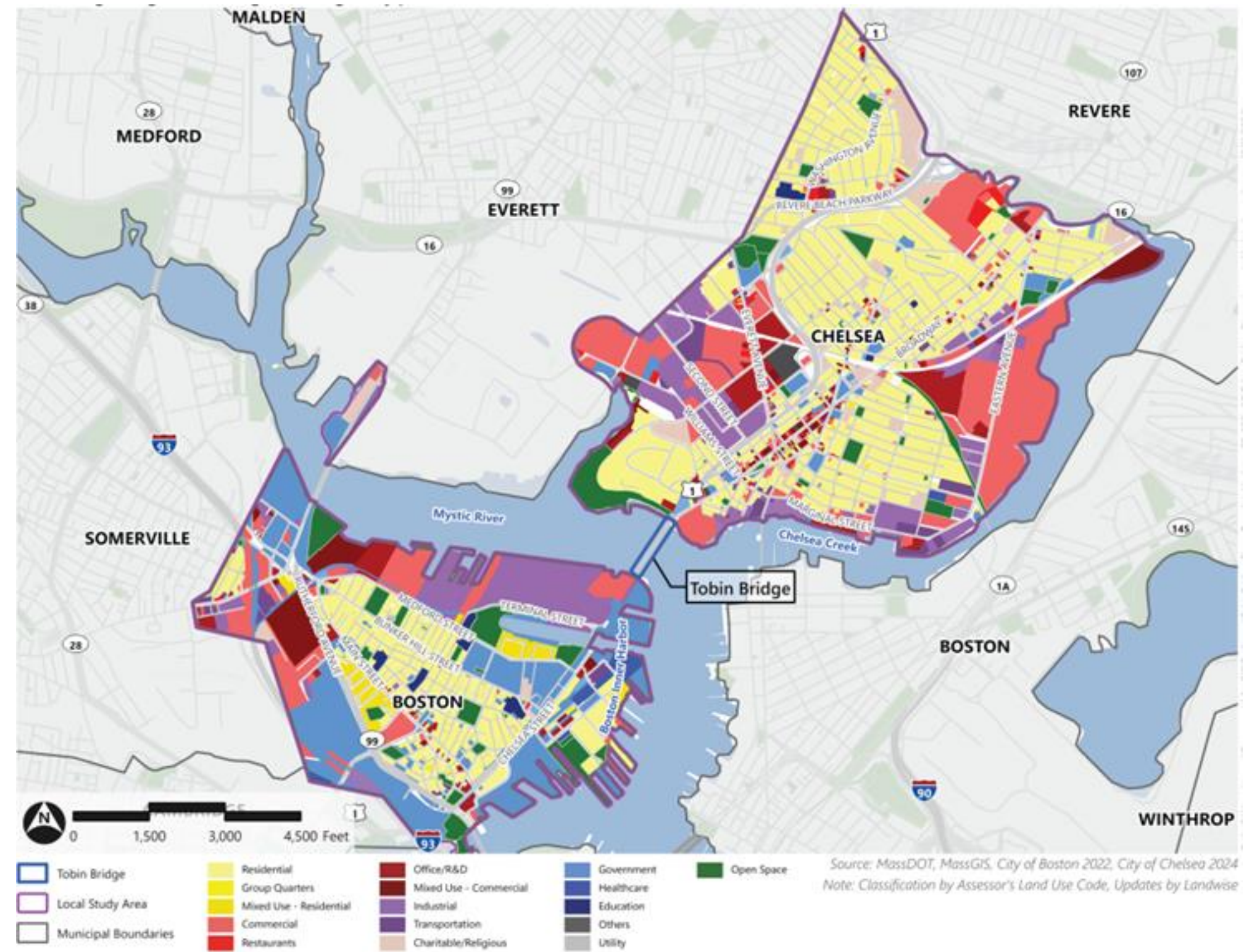
What is your biggest mobility concern related to existing Tobin Bridge crossing?

1. Traffic congestion and delays
2. Roadway and intersection safety
3. Lack of pedestrian and bike accommodation
4. Lack of direct and reliable public transportation connections
5. Lack of access to riverfront and water transportation options

Economic and Land Use Conditions

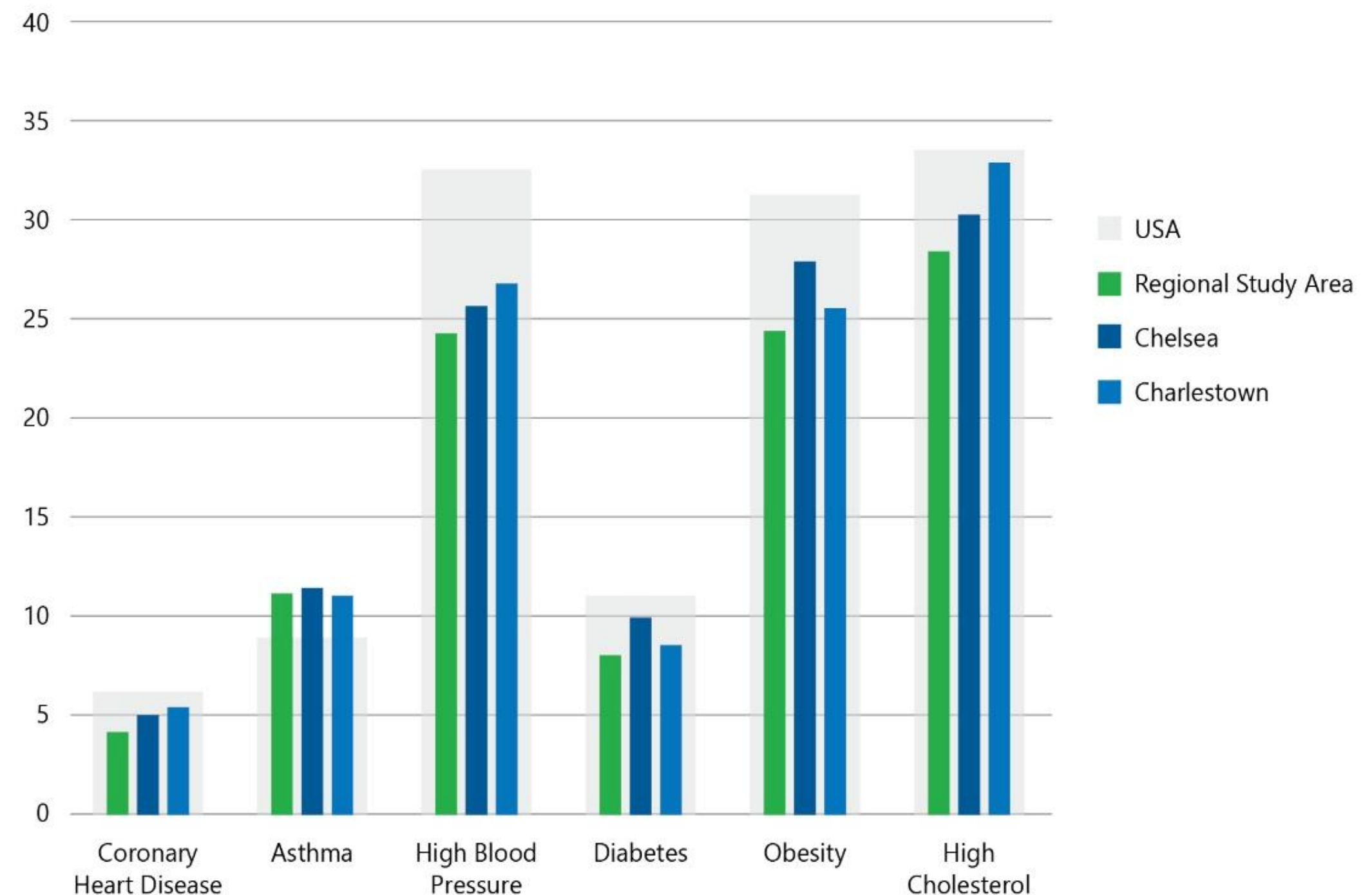
Local Study Area Existing Land Uses

- **Connectivity:** the Tobin Bridge connects the communities to major employers and schools, and additional regional resources.
- **Designated Port Area:** Vital for port industries & freight movement
- **Housing Production:** There are approximately 6,800 units planned or in construction within the Local Study Area
- **Evolving Land Use:** Highlighted by critical need for housing, a pandemic-weakened office market, oversupply of lab space, and mixed-use urban development around transit hubs



Public Health Conditions Summary

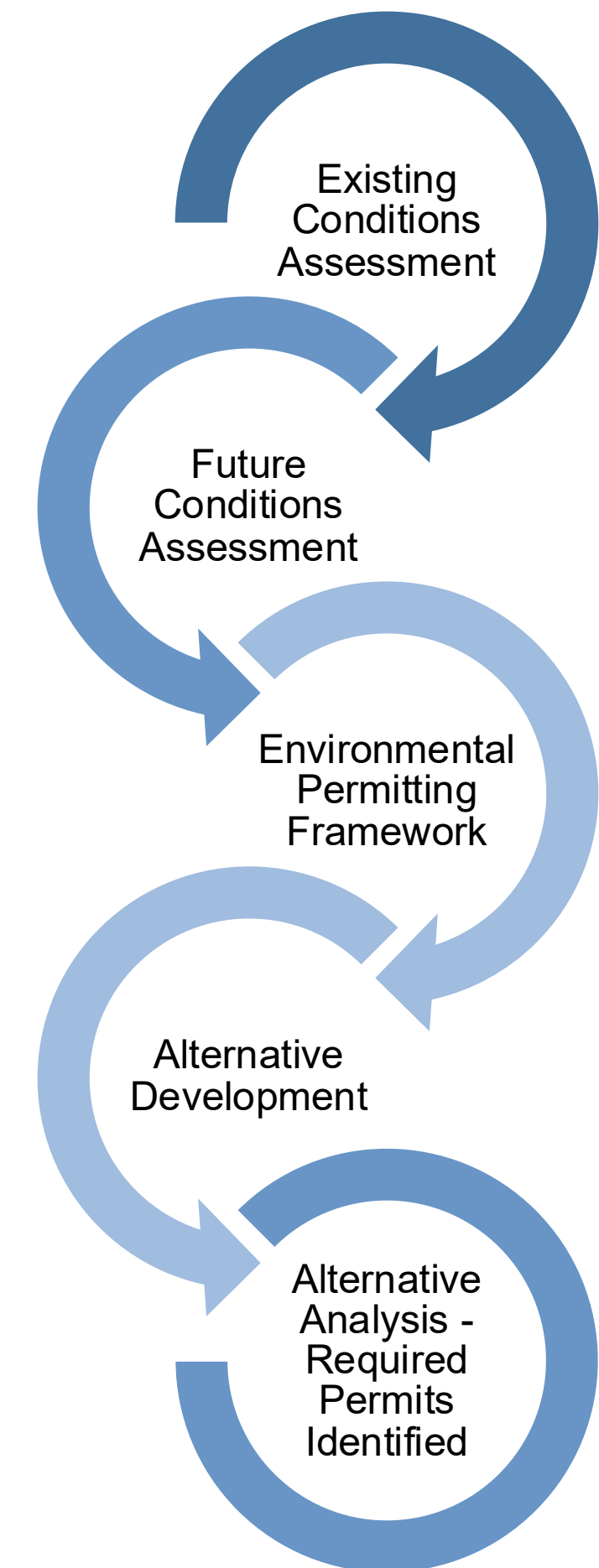
- **Overall Risk:** The Local Study Area has a similar average risk to the Regional Study Area and the Boston Metro Area
- **Chronic Health Conditions:** The Local Study Area has approximately a 0.5 – 2.5 percent higher prevalence of chronic health conditions compared to the Regional Study Area



Source: [CDC's PLACES dataset](#)

Environmental Conditions Overview

- Comprehensive assessment of the environmental resources in the Local Study Area was completed. Resources inventoried include:
 - ✓ Cultural Resources
 - ✓ Natural Resources
 - ✓ Open Space
 - ✓ Hazardous Materials
 - ✓ Navigable Waterways
 - ✓ Chapter 91
 - ✓ Designated Port Area
 - ✓ Floodplain
 - ✓ Air Quality
 - ✓ Noise
- This information helps determine the environmental review and permitting process as project alternatives are identified and evaluated



Zoom Poll 2 – Environment Opportunities

What would improve your quality of life near the bridge the most?

1. More green spaces and community areas
2. Reduced air pollution and noise from traffic
3. Safer walking and biking routes
4. Reduced traffic congestion
5. Reliable transit options



In-Progress: Future Conditions

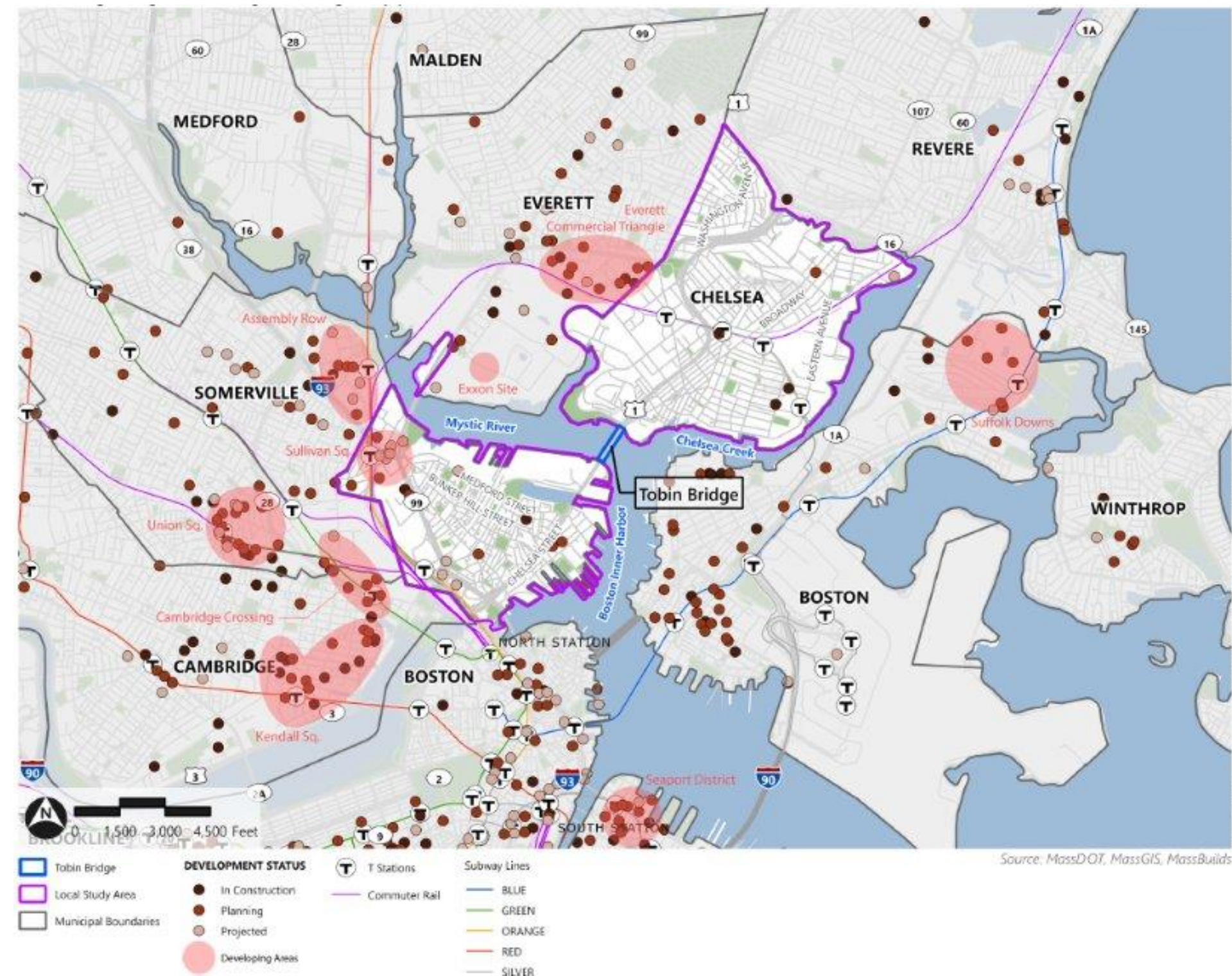
Future Conditions Development

- As a long-term strategic planning study, the key next step is to project our existing conditions to a 2050 future condition
- This includes future land use and demographics, transportation conditions, and environmental projections
- These are used to understand future mobility demand and patterns
- Alternatives will be evaluated using these 2050 future conditions as a comparative baseline

Future Mobility: Land Use and Demographic Projections

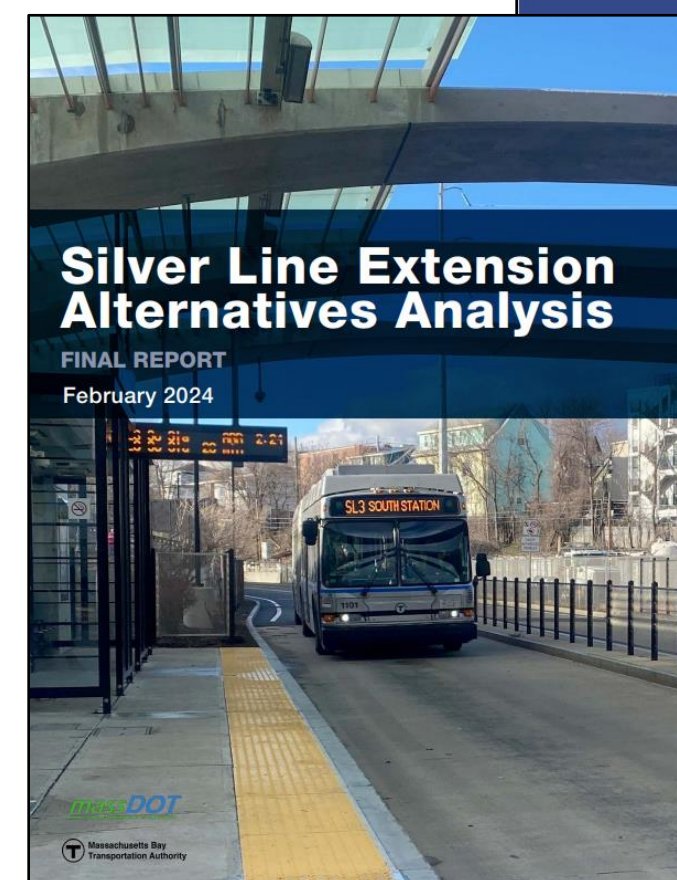
- Growth based on both Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) Statewide Travel Demand Model, regional development trends and pipeline development projects.
- Estimates land use growth via changes to the following demographics:
 1. Population
 2. Households
 3. Employment
- Includes 9.5 million square feet of known development projects, including 6,800+ planned residential units.

Future Development Projects



Future Mobility: Roadway and Transit Conditions

- Identify planned major infrastructure projects and transit service improvements in place by 2050 based on available documentation
- These projects set the baseline from which alternatives will be analyzed and coordinated
- Coordinating with agencies (e.g., MBTA, City of Chelsea, City of Boston) to confirm and adjust future assumptions



Future Mobility: Volume Growth

- CTPS Statewide Travel Demand Model used to estimate volume growth between 2019 and 2050 with current year adjustments.
- The 2050 model incorporates identified transit and roadway infrastructure projects and projected land use growth.
- Output from the model will be calibrated based on known development projects and demographic projections.
- Based on model output, future roadway, intersection, and transit ridership volumes will be developed and analyzed for the study area

Everett Street Southbound On-ramp (Tobin Bridge)



Future Environmental Considerations

- The Tobin Bridge study area faces significant risks from extreme temperature fluctuations, increased precipitation, and flooding along the Mystic River, Island End River and Chelsea Creek.
- By 2050, the area will see significant temperature increases with fewer cold days and more hot days, and rising precipitation and sea levels.
- Resilience and Mitigation Strategies:
 - Enhance infrastructure with heat-resistant materials.
 - Factor sea level rise into alternative development
 - Integrate green infrastructure to manage stormwater.



Zoom Poll 3 - Future Considerations and Priorities

What improvement is most important to you in a new crossing?

1. Reduced congestion and improved travel times
2. Enhanced safety measures
3. Enhanced public transportation options
4. Improved pedestrian and bicycle access
5. Climate resilience and environmental protection
6. Improved green space



**Upcoming:
Issues and
Opportunities**

Example Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- **Safety** – Risk sites for multimodal crashes
- **Mobility and accessibility** – Gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network
- **Regional Connectivity** – difficult I-93 Northbound access
- **Public Health Effects** - higher prevalence of chronic health conditions compared to the Regional Study Area
- **Climate Change Resilience** - Portions of the Local Study Area are within the designated 100-year floodplain



Opportunities

- **Safety** – Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
- **Mobility and accessibility** – Add sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure
- **Regional Connectivity** - Evaluate direct I-93 Northbound connection and consolidate access points to Route 1 and the Tobin Bridge
- **Public Health Effects** – Include green space low noise generating materials into concepts
- **Climate Change Resilience** – Design to mitigate impacts of flooding



Public Comment

Public Comment: Hybrid Meeting Process

- In-Person and Virtual moderators will work together to ensure that attendees in both spaces can share their questions and comments
- Moderators will take a few comments at a time in one space and then switch throughout the public comment period
- If multiple people ask the same question, moderators will inform the audience how many asked and answer the question once

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

Public Comment: In-Person Attendees



- Use microphone provided by staff
- Please state your name before your question or comment
- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate



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



Public Comment: Virtual Attendees



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- "Raise your hand" to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Please state your name before your question

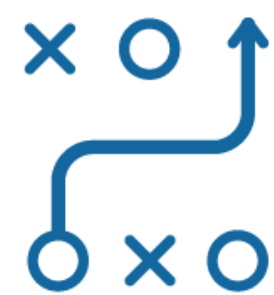


- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate



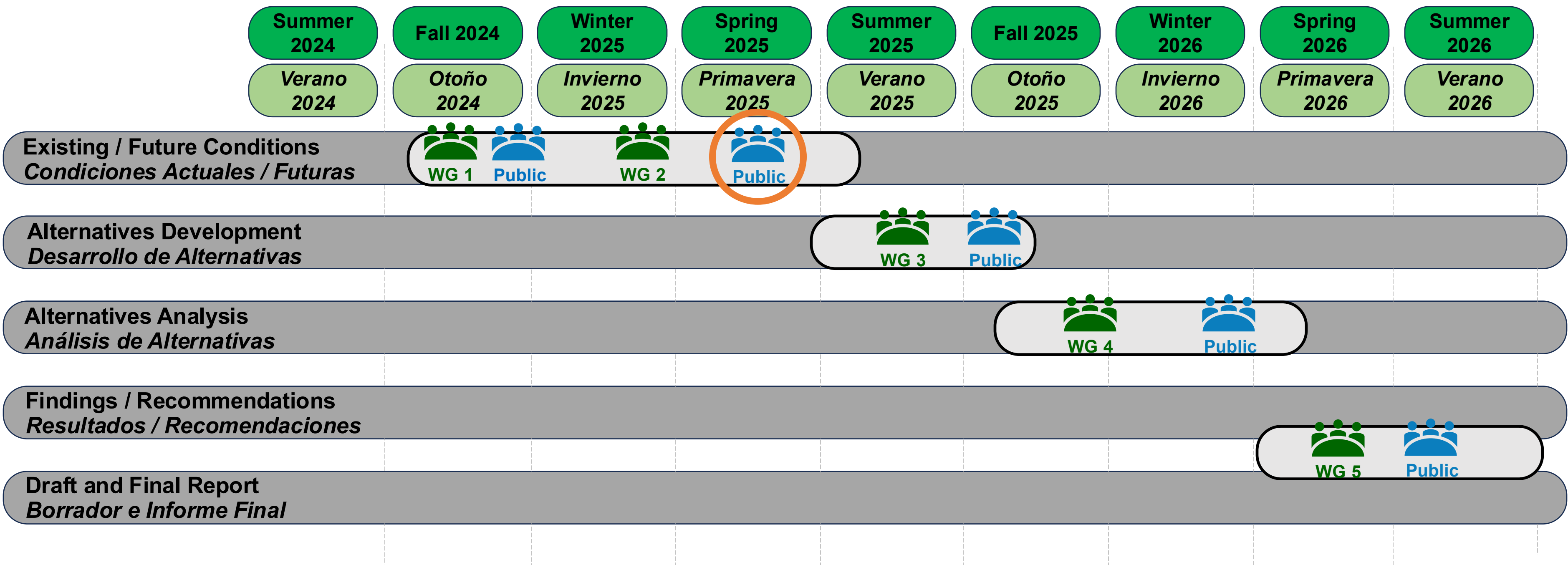
- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn

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



Schedule and Next Steps

Study Schedule (anticipated)/Cronograma de Estudios (previsto)



5 Working Group meetings and 5 Public meetings across duration of study
5 reuniones de Grupos de Trabajo y 5 reuniones Públicas a lo largo de la duración del estudio



- Working Group Meeting
Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo
- Public Meeting
Reunión Pública



Public Involvement Plan

Outreach Approach and Methods

- Working Group meetings (5)
- Public Information meetings (5)
- Equity Focus Group meetings (3)
- Online engagement



Study Website / Contact Information:

Patrick L. Snyder, Project Manager

Address: 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4150, Boston, MA 02116

Email: planning@dot.state.ma.us



<https://www.mass.gov/maurice-j-tobin-bridge-long-term-strategic-planning-study>

Next Steps

- Tonight's meeting materials will be posted on the study website
- Based on input received, study team will summarize Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints and finalize Future Conditions
- Once Future Conditions are complete, the initial alternatives development phase will begin
- Working Group Meeting #3: Future Conditions & Alternative Development (Summer 2025)
- Public Meeting #3 (Summer/Fall 2025)



Thank You



Study Website:

<https://www.mass.gov/maurice-j-tobin-bridge-long-term-strategic-planning-study>

Patrick L. Snyder, Project Manager

planning@dot.state.ma.us

