

# Water Transportation Study Project Update

March 2026

# Agenda

**01** | Project Purpose and Goals

**02** | Overview of Existing  
Conditions Analysis

**03** | Fall 2025 Feedback  
Summary

**04** | Project Schedule and Next  
Steps

# Project Purpose and Goals

*What is this project and why are we doing it?*

# Goals Overview

## Water Transportation Study

- Develop a plan that **strengthens long-term resiliency** and **supports a future-ready ferry system**
- Identify **upgrades to improve the ferry experience** for all riders
- Identify **multimodal access improvements** to current and potential future ferry dock locations
- Identify **route expansion opportunities** in busy neighborhoods

# Overview of Existing Conditions Analysis

# What We've Been Working On: Existing Conditions Analysis

Water Transportation Study

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The project team has been analyzing the **Existing Conditions** of the ferry system

- Ensures we understand how the system is used today so that our recommended changes are truly improvements.
- Contextualizes where our work is in relation to all the work that has been done before.

# What We're Looking At

## Water Transportation Study

- **Ferry Terminal Infrastructure** – Docks, gangways, passenger shelters, passenger information, life-safety elements, and vessel/shore power/pump out capability
- **Transportation Network and Conditions** – areas served by other transportation (including other MBTA services)
- **Travel Demand and Trip Activity** – travel flows between and to areas with ferry terminal access
- **Land Use and Socio-Demographic** – existing and future development, changes to population and employment, population characteristics



# 2025 Sites Survey

## Water Transportation Study

Total sites: **42**

Total sites surveyed: **24**

Desktop assessment analysis: **18**

### Site survey objectives:

1. Measurements
2. Resiliency
3. Accessibility
4. General Condition



# 2025 Sites Survey

## Water Transportation Study

### Site survey objectives:



#### Measurements

Document main structural elements including ramps, gangways, platforms, and transition plates.



#### Resiliency

Assess resiliency by evaluating existing structures to inform future design and financial planning.



#### Accessibility

Assess accessibility based on current tidal ranges, and gangway and ramp slopes.



#### General Condition

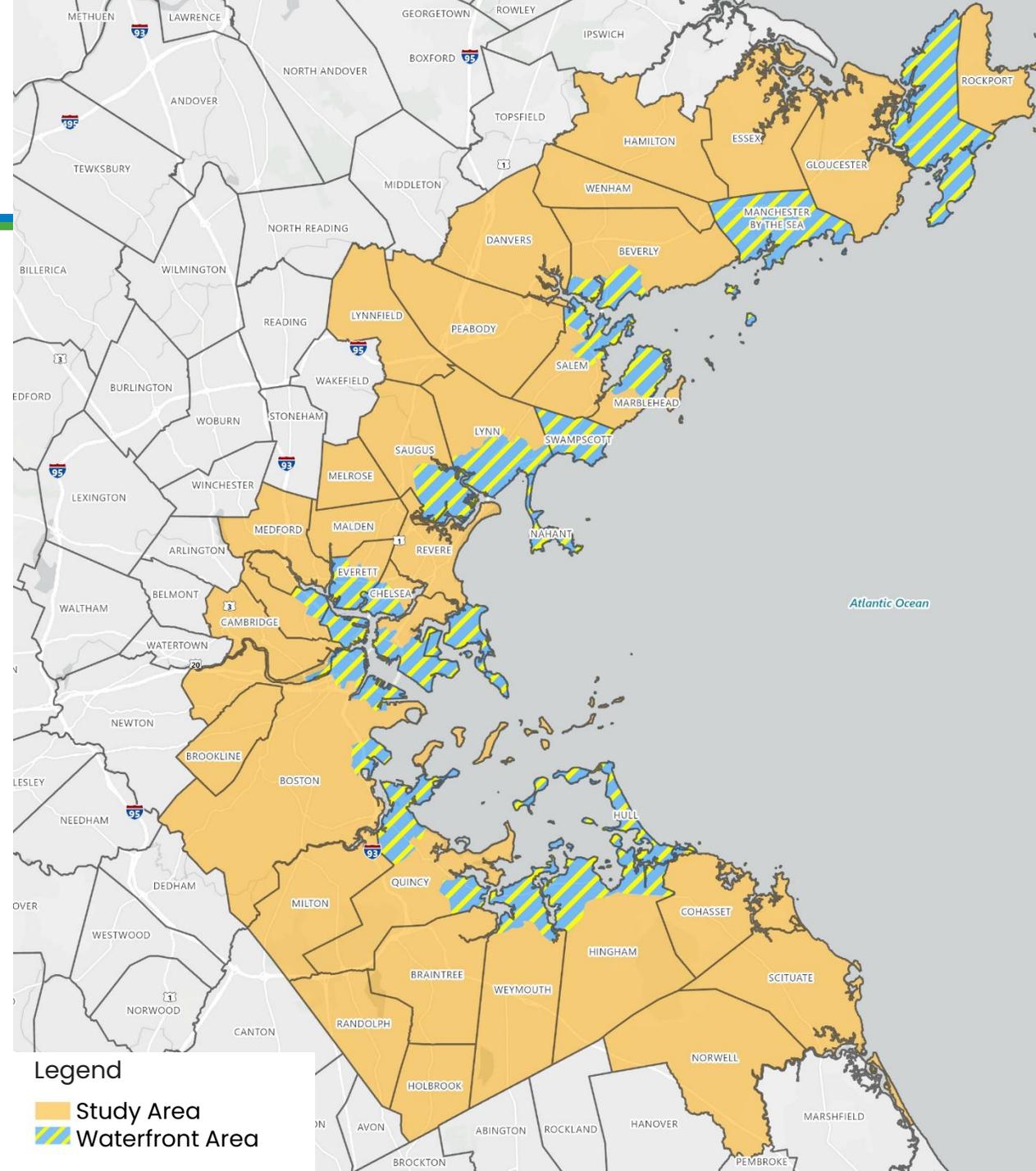
Evaluate the general condition using information from the preceding categories.

# Travel Demand Evaluation

## Water Transportation Study

We looked at how many trips are made in the region on a typical weekday, using the **Boston Region Travel Demand Model**.

- The analysis considers trips from **2019 (baseline)** and **2050 (future projections)**
- The study area was categorized by:
  - Proximity to the waterfront
  - Areas with ferry service
  - Areas with ferry terminal access
  - How people in each area can access a ferry terminal (via walk, bike, drive, transit connection)
- We explored the travel demand between these areas, understanding where there is potential for new or enhanced connection via ferry transit service



# Fall 2025 Feedback Summary

# Purpose of Fall Outreach

## Water Transportation Study

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- **Introduce the project**
- **Solicit feedback** about
  - Barriers to using ferry service
  - Improvements that would encourage individuals to take the ferry as a mode of transportation
  - Destinations or connections of interest
- **Understand current and prospective riders' priorities** for ferry service

# What We Heard – Online Survey & Events

Water Transportation Study



Access to  
Ferries

- More frequent and closer multimodal connections
- Accessibility and resiliency improvements

Access to  
New  
Destinations

- New or improved access to Seaport
- New or improved access to Logan

Extended  
Service

- Later evening service, more frequent weekend service, and year-round service

Fares/  
Information

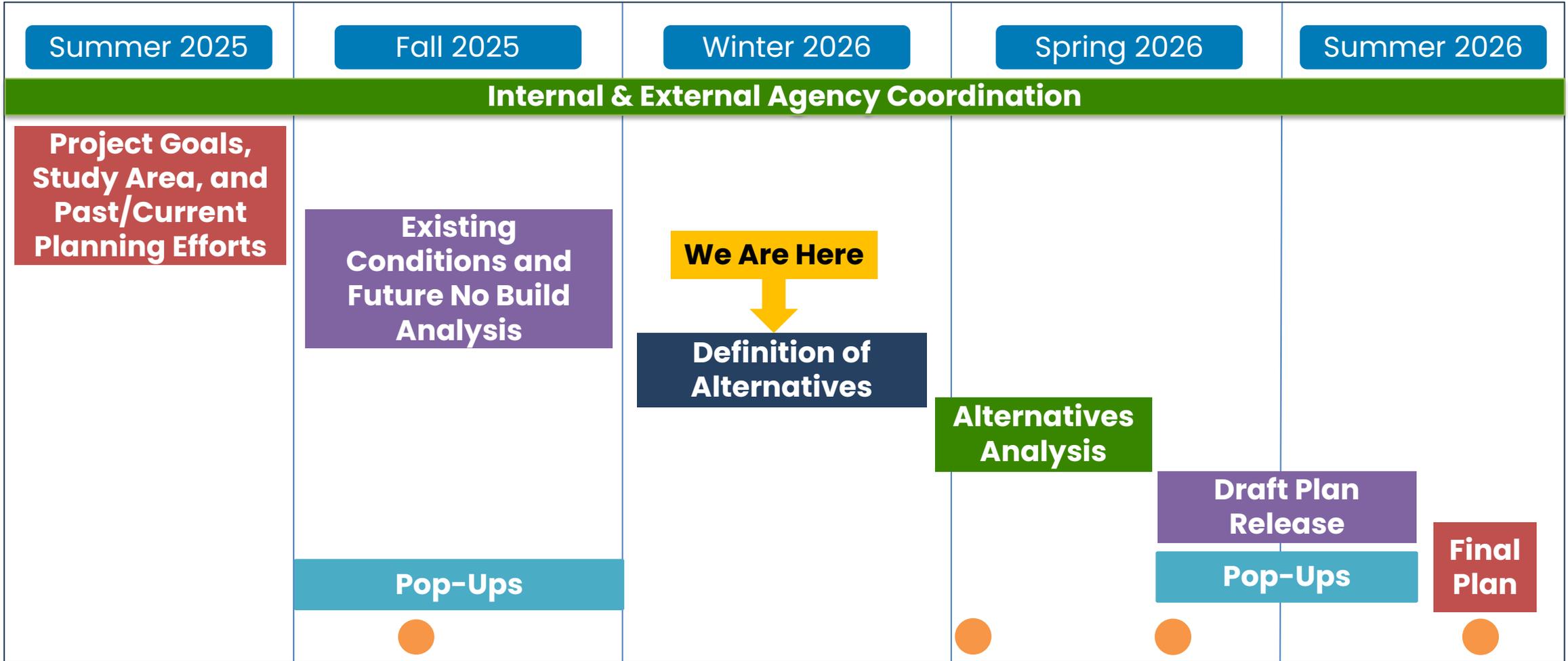
- Improved information about ferries – wayfinding, fares, schedules

# Next Steps

# Project Schedule

## Water Transportation Study

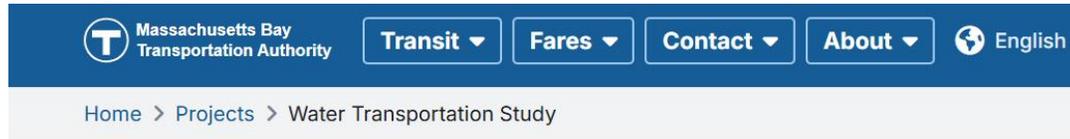
 Project Updates  
 Public Engagement



# How Can You Stay Involved?

## Water Transportation Study

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## Water Transportation Study



★ **Timeline:** Summer 2025 – Summer 2026

★ **Status:** In progress

**Right now – on the project website!**

**[mbta.com/watertransportationstudy](https://mbta.com/watertransportationstudy)**

Sign up for updates

Email us: [watertransportationstudy@mbta.com](mailto:watertransportationstudy@mbta.com)

## Future Opportunities

- Attendance at online public meetings
- In-person engagement at ferry terminals and in study communities

# Thank you!

For questions and comments, please email  
**[watertransportationstudy@mbta.com](mailto:watertransportationstudy@mbta.com)**