

# World Cup Update

## MassDOT Board of Directors

*February 25, 2026*

Erika Mazza, Chief Enterprise Development Officer, MBTA  
Rod Brooks, Senior Advisor to the MBTA General Manager  
Amy Getchell, MassDOT lead for World Cup Coordination



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# Summer 2026

- **Unprecedented opportunity to showcase the Commonwealth and MassDOT/MBTA on a global stage.**
- Initial estimates upwards of **2M visitors** descending on the Boston area for **World Cup events**
- Additional visitors expected for **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities, Tall Ships, and summertime events (Red Sox, concerts, etc.).**



# Boston World Cup 2026













## Fact Sheet

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Current Actions</b>
Matches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6 of the 7 games are weekdays, 5 – group play, 1 round of 32, and 1 Quarter Final Match</li></ul>
Match Times/Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Match times are set for between 3pm and 9pm</li><li>Two teams will be practicing in New England – one (1) in Wellesley and one (1) in RI</li></ul>
General Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stadium seats ~65k with ~ 35k general purpose seats; parking from 20K to ~5K</li></ul>
Transit Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MBTA has committed to moving 20k passengers per match in and out of Foxboro Station</li></ul>
Match Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coordination with regional law enforcement offices, MassDOT, Gillette Stadium, municipalities, RTAs, and Healey-Driscoll Administration</li></ul>
Regional Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coordinating with our RTA partners, specifically GATRA on a proposed Hotel Shuttle, RTAs providing service to area hotels for stadium pick up</li></ul>
Fan Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fan Festival confirmed at City Hall Plaza (Government Center Station), possibly spanning the duration of the World Cup; Dates and times pending</li></ul>

# Boston World Cup Calendar – June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <b>NATIONAL WC BEGINS</b>	12	13 <b>Haiti v Scotland 9pm</b>  <b>Sox game 4:10pm</b> <i>Tent. Pride Parade</i>
14	15	16 <b>TBD v Norway 6pm</b>  <b>Sox game 6:45pm</b>	17	18	19 <b>Scotland v. Morocco 6pm</b>  <i>Juneteenth</i>	20
21	22	23 <b>England v. Ghana 4pm</b>	24	25	26 <b>Norway v. France 3pm</b>  <b>Sox v Yankees 7:10pm</b> <i>Concert at Xfinity</i>	27
28	29 <b>(R32 – Match 64) 4:30 pm</b>  <b>Sox game 7:10pm</b>	30				

# Boston World Cup Calendar – July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  <b>Boston Harborfest</b>	2  <b>Boston Harborfest</b>	3  <b>Boston Harborfest</b>	4  <b>Boston Harborfest</b>
5	6	7	8 Rest Day – No Matches	9 Match Day  QF- Match 96 4pm	10  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b>	11  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b>
12  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b> Rest Day	13  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b> Rest Day	14  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b> <b>Semifinal (Dallas)</b>	15  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b> <b>Semifinal (Atlanta)</b>	16  <b>Sail 250 Tall Ships</b> Rest Day	17 Rest Day	18 <b>BRONZE MATCH (MIAMI)</b>
19 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH NJ/NY</b> <b>Fan Festival Concludes</b>	20	21	22	23	24	25

# Approach

## External Coordination

- **Objective:** Ensure every moment of the customer experience and movement is accounted.
- **Approach:** Coordinate with cross-functional working groups
  - Local municipalities
  - Regional transit authorities (RTAs)
  - State agencies
  - Federal partners
  - Boston 26
  - Healey- Driscoll Administration

## Internal Coordination

- **Objective:** Ensure a seamless customer experience and a workforce ready for the challenges
- **Approach:** Internal MBTA teams creating **tailored operations playbook for each match**

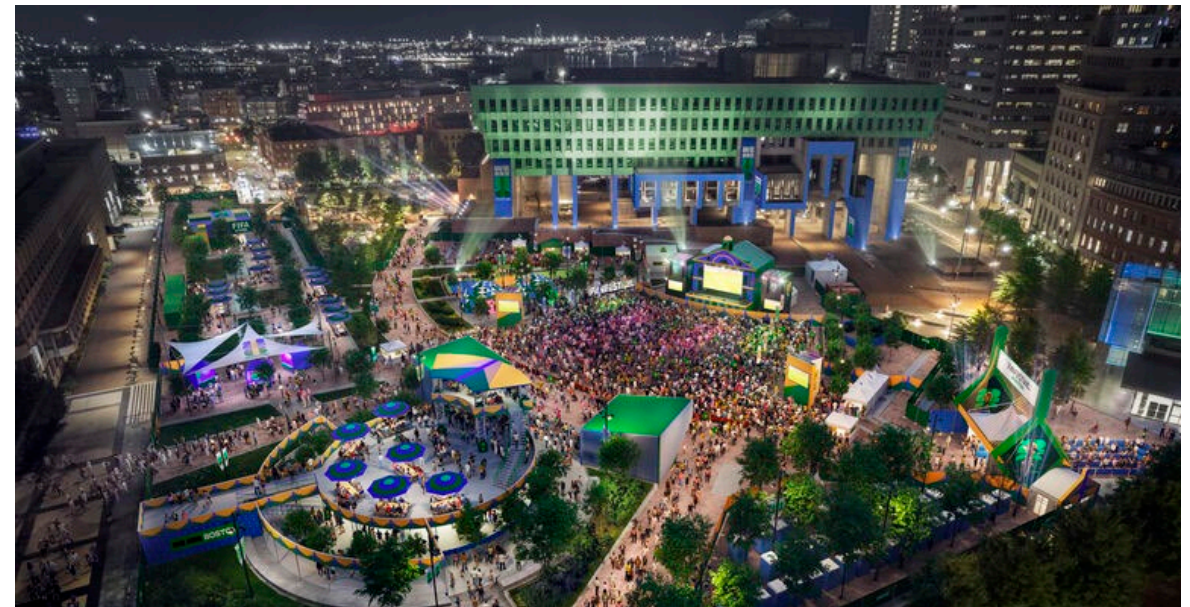
# World Cup Fan Festival and Fan Marches

## Fan Fest confirmed at City Hall Plaza

- Dates and Times – TBD

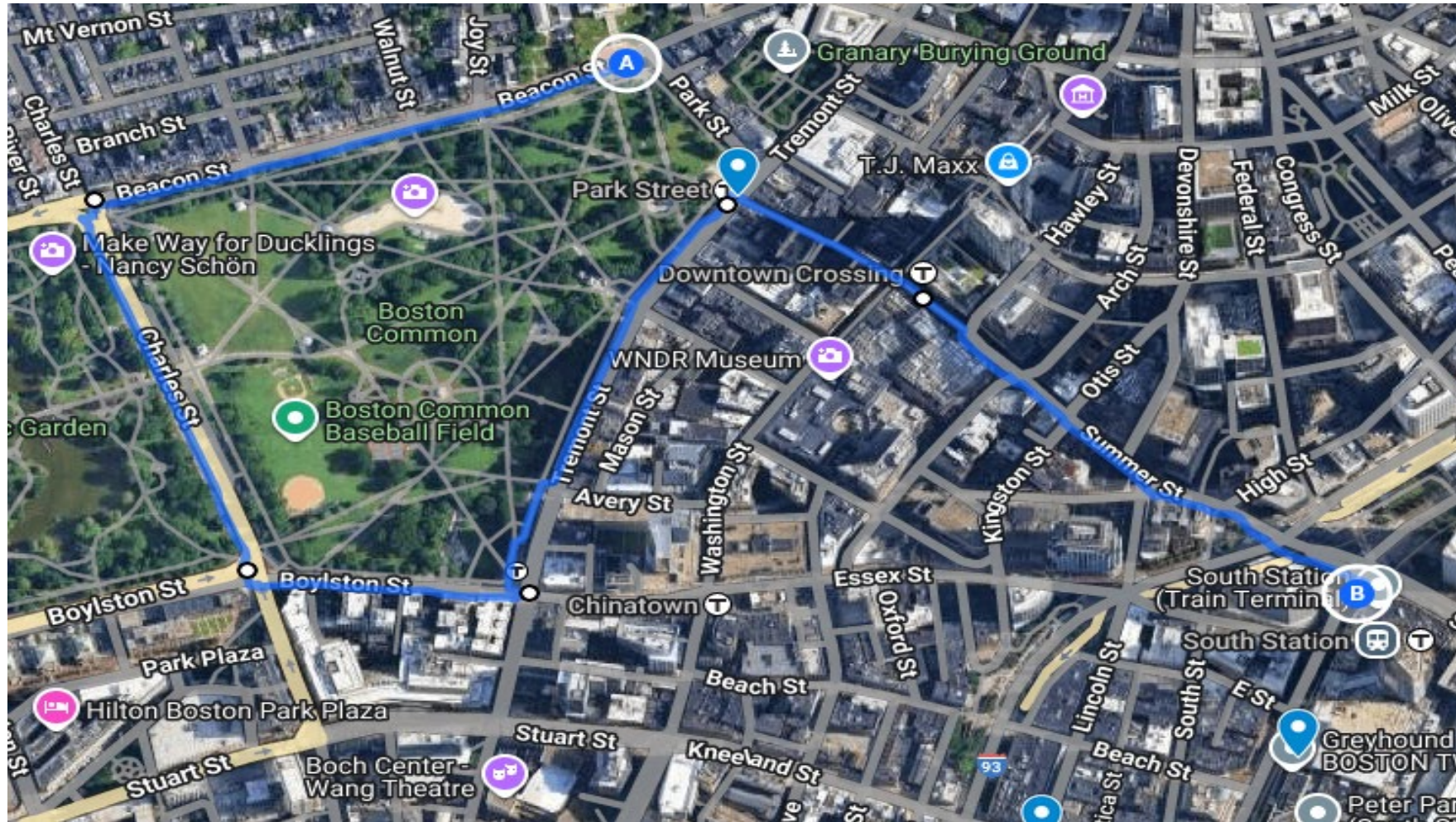
## Ongoing Coordination Efforts

- Partner with the City of Boston to align operational logistics for Fan Fest and Fan March logistics
- Impacts on MBTA stations – Government Center, Park Street, South Station
- Public space impacts and roadway closures for queuing operations surrounding South Station
- MassDOT Transportation Management Plan (TMP)



# Fan March Route 1A

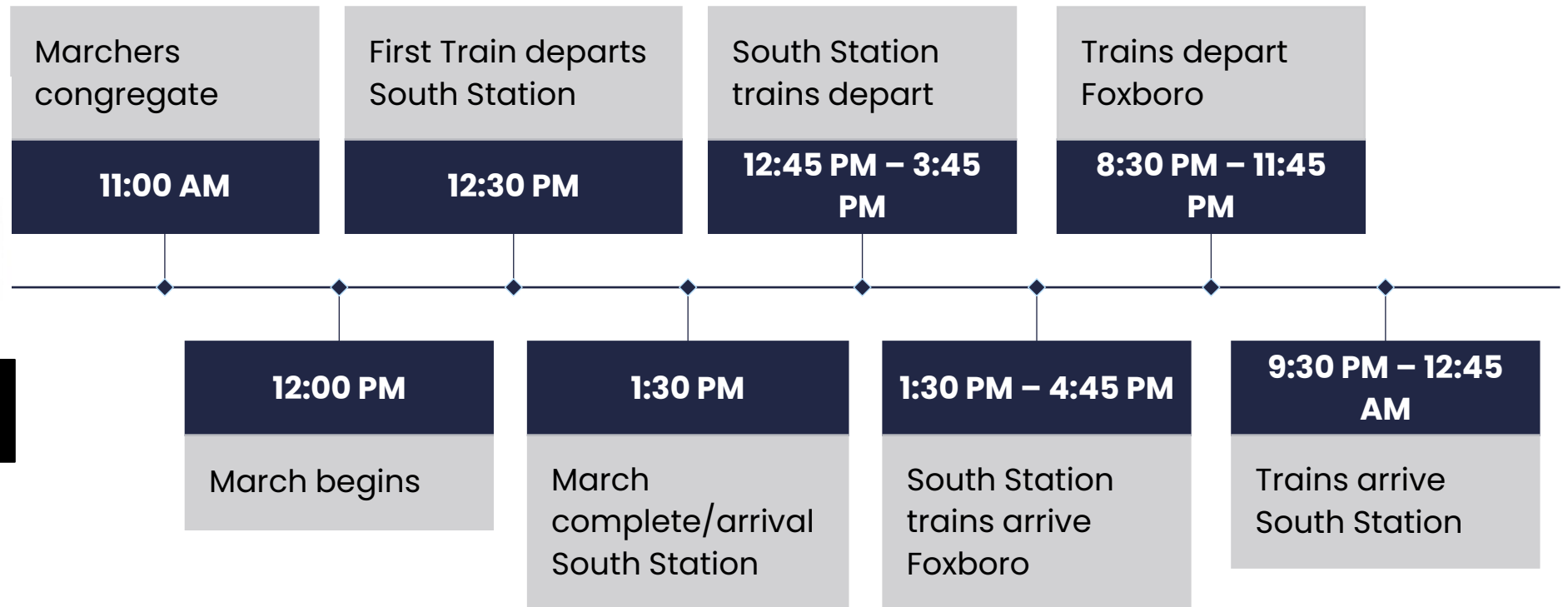
Boston Common to South Station



# Match 3: Scotland vs. Morocco 6pm



Scotland vs Morocco  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – 6pm



# MBTA Operational Overview



# Service Operations

## Objectives

- Direct transit service to Boston Stadium, which has constrained and limited parking and mobility options.
- Transport 20k customers via Special Event trains from South Station to/ from Foxboro Station.

## Approach:

- Create Daily Operations Plan for each match
- Direct, round trip, and non-stop service between South Station and Foxboro
  - Up to 14 trains will be used to transport match-goers
  - Extra trains consists ready for Special Event Train resiliency; egress buses for return trip support
- Support post-match service operations on other MBTA modes



# Practice and Preparation: Service Operations

*Friendly Match: Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm*

- Opportunity to test specific objectives, including:
  - Operating of four (4) trains to Foxboro via the Dorchester Branch (7 bi-levels each).
  - Testing of the plan to “recycle” one set via Mansfield to validate run times.



- Opportunity to practice and fine-tune queuing, station operations, wayfinding, and customer experience.
- **Feb/March Tabletop Exercise:** Test plans and coordination with stakeholders.



# Efforts to Date



# Stations Operations and Preparation

- **Objective:**
  - Crowd Management and Station Plans for high-traffic/impact stations (Park Street, Government Center South Station, etc.)
- **Approach:**
  - Station Prep:
    - Create SOPs for accessibility at high-trafficked stations.
    - Airport Station updates have been completed.



# Foxboro Station Upgrades



# Regional Bus Strategy



- **Objective:**
  - Holistic busing approach to provide regional access to Boston Stadium.
- **Approach:**
  - Coordination with MassDOT, MBTA, and RTAs on regional and Rhode Island transit to Boston Stadium.
  - Buses will be available at Foxboro for supplemental and emergency egress to South Station.

# MassDOT Operations Preview

## Divisional Updates

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### Highway

- Traffic Management Plan for Route 1, Foxborough
- Travel Time Coordination
- Park & Ride Opportunities
- Maintenance Activities – pothole repairs, restriping, tree trimming, litter pickup, street sweeping



### Aeronautics

- Coordination with Massport on airport overflow support



### Rail and Transit

- RTA support

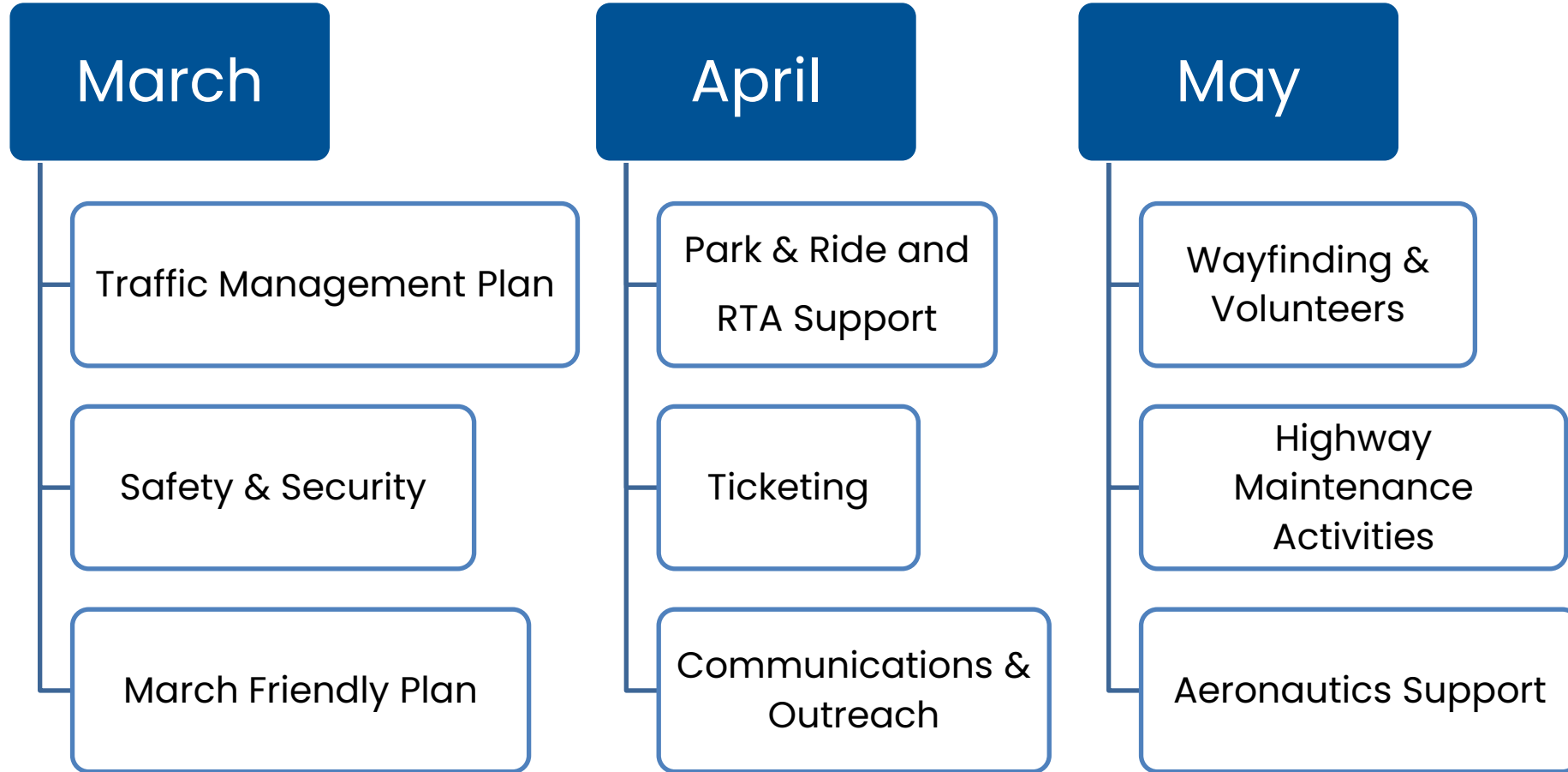


### RMV

- Service Center impacts

# Upcoming Board Updates

2026 Monthly Lookahead



Monthly updates may be adjusted based on available data

Thank You

