

# FOCUS40

---

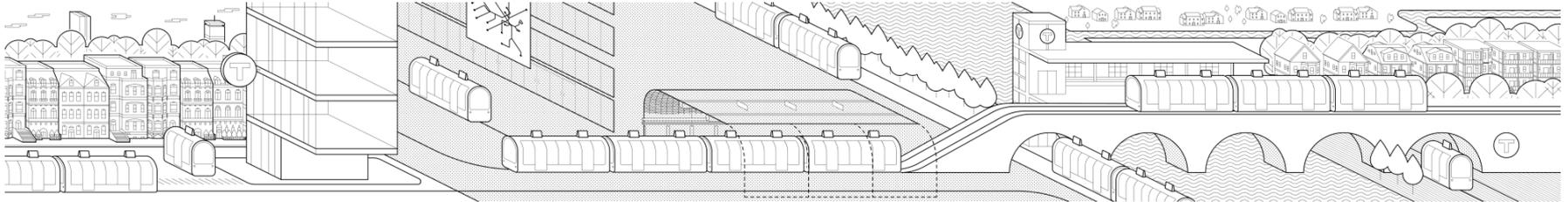
# Strategic Framework

December 2017

# Focus40 Overview

**A 25-year plan for how the MBTA can meet the needs of Greater Boston in 2040.**

- Required by the MBTA enabling legislation
- A road map of investments to feed future MBTA Capital Investment Plans



- **Programs:** Highlight the key investments that will allow the existing system to best serve the region over the long-term
- **Places:** Identify where new or expanded service may be necessary to support the economic competitiveness of the region in 2040
- **Policies:** Articulate how system expansion and resiliency should be pursued in order for the MBTA to most strategically support the needs of the region over the long-term

# STRATEGIES

---

# Decision-Making Using Scenarios

Which strategies to consider?	Lower risk	Higher risk
Strategy works in all futures	Immediate <i>current or near-term need</i>	
	Robust <i>no-brainers</i>	
Strategy works in some futures	Deferred <i>no regret</i>	Hedging <i>potential regret</i>
		Shaping <i>influence the future</i>
Strategy works in no futures	Dropped	

Think Big!

# Proposed Investment Programs

## System-Wide

- Customer Experience
- Climate Resiliency
- Green Fleet

## Bus

- Silver Line 2040
- Bus Network Redesign
- Better Bus Infrastructure

## Water Transportation • Paratransit • Commuter Rail

- Water Transportation 2040
- Paratransit 2040
- Commuter Rail Connections

## Rapid Transit

- Red Line 2040
- Orange Line 2040
- Green Line 2040
- Blue Line 2040
- Rapid Transit-wide

# Places and Policies: Where and How

At the same time that Focus40 seeks to emphasize the importance of a well-functioning core system, it should also recommend an increased focus on improving transit services **where more and better service is necessary to support the economic competitiveness of the region in 2040, under plausible future scenarios.**

**Through the Places Typologies and an Expansion Policy, Focus40 hopes to release a clear framework that explains where, what, and how the MBTA should think strategically about investing in expanding the MBTA's existing footprint.**

# Places

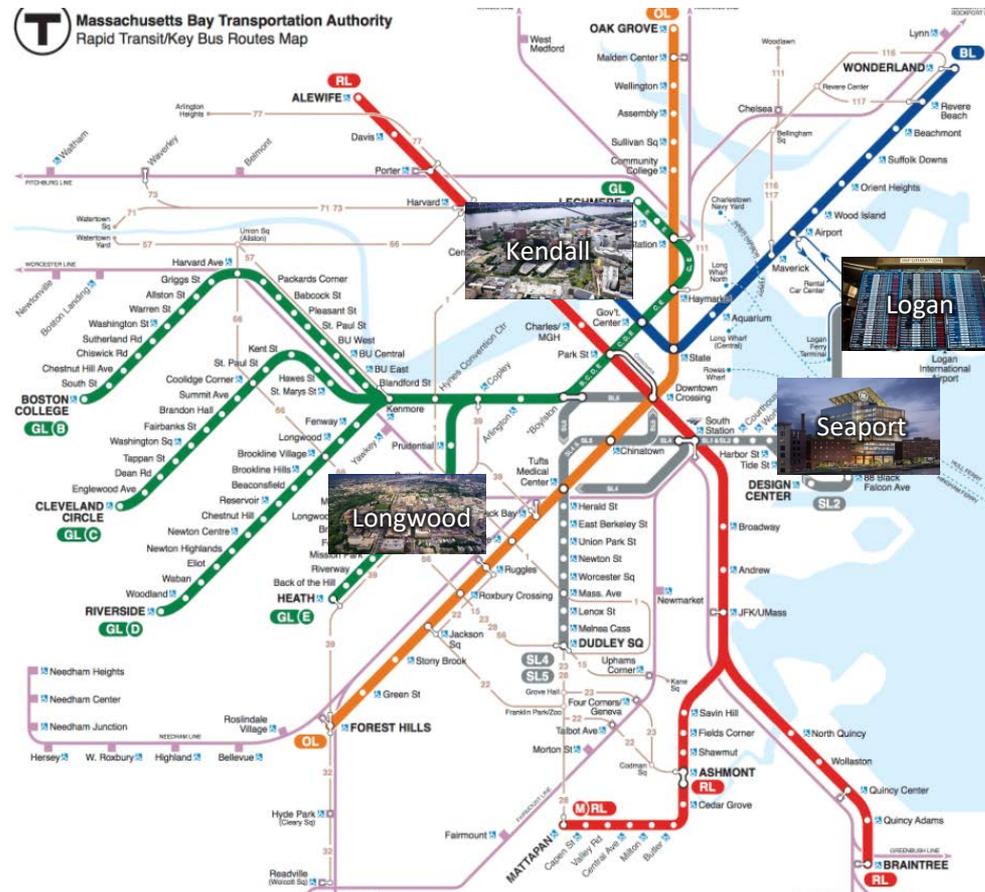
## Typology Approach - Focus on Categories of Places Where:

- Improved service could address a clear transportation need and help support broader goals for the region.
- Many elements indicate that they can support higher quality transit
- There is a demonstrated transportation need today that is likely to grow.

Using a scenario planning framework, these are the least risky places to invest in better transit and also have the greatest potential benefits

# Major Employment/Destination Districts

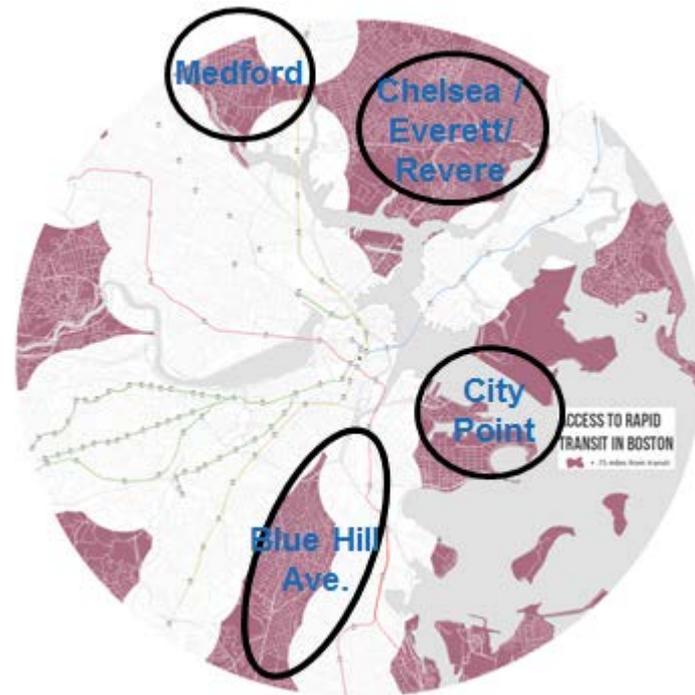
A growing region will need business districts well served by multiple transit options in order to widen the labor pool that can access jobs by transit. Today, there are several growing business districts that are just beyond the densest part of the rapid transit network, resulting in longer commutes, the overloading of existing MBTA services, and the presences of multiple shuttle providers.



# Dense Inner Core Neighborhoods Not Adequately Served by Existing Transit

In 2040 the region will need more affordable residential areas with direct and frequent connections to the inner core's major employment centers and destinations

- Many nearby residential areas lack direct access to rapid transit and are served only by bus or Commuter Rail.
- Many are lower-income communities
- Better transit and affordability would improve access to job opportunities and livability

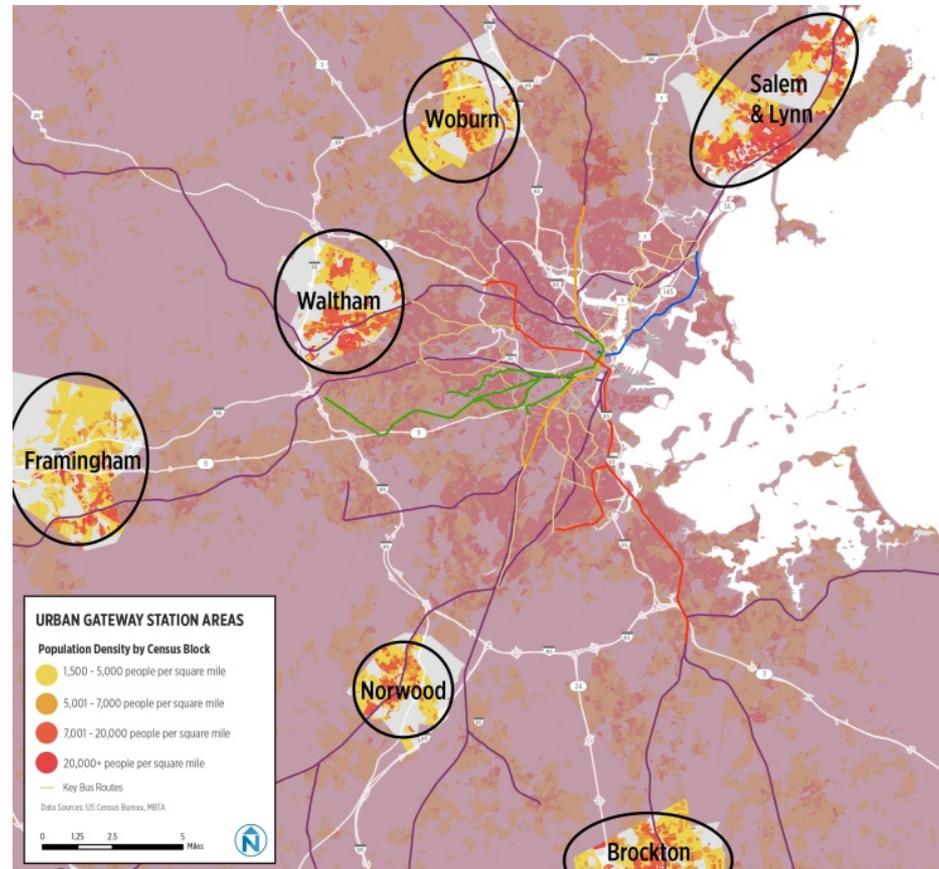


Silver Line Gateway, coming next year to Chelsea, will greatly increase accessibility of Chelsea to the airport and jobs in the Seaport.

# Urban Gateways

Meeting regional affordability and GhG reduction goals will require further integration of denser, more urban communities just beyond the reach of the rapid transit system and frequent bus network. This typology includes:

- Moderate-intensity balance of residential and commercial development either built or permitted
- Large population of low-income residents
- Served by commuter rail and often functioning as a hub for local MBTA or regional transit authority bus service.
- ❖ Many of these areas are actually denser than areas with rapid transit access and appear to have a higher transit propensity than what is currently provided



# Expansion Policy

- Through the Places Typologies and a new Expansion Policy, Focus40 hopes to establish a clear framework for where, when, and how the MBTA would consider potential system and service expansions.
- In the places identified by the Focus40 process as the best suited to benefit from and leverage higher levels of investment in public transit, potential expansions will be reviewed and evaluated within the framework of the principles laid out on the next two slides.
- For the purposes of this policy, ‘expansion’ means an increase in the size, scope, or reach of the physical MBTA system and the services it provides, and not an expansion in capacity that can be generated by greater efficiency or modernization of the current system.

# Expansion Policy

## Proposed Policy Elements:

- **Are there willing and capable partners ready to collaborate with the MBTA on the expansion effort?**

The MBTA cannot work alone to expand its physical footprint. Municipalities and/or developers must be partners in expansion by contributing street space or funding, and/or implementing transit-supportive policies.

- **Is there a clear transportation need that can be effectively served by more or better public transit of the type that the MBTA is able to provide?**

Going forward, all expansion projects will begin with the articulation of a defined transportation need – a significant regional mobility gap that that MBTA is well-positioned to fill, or a corridor in which the demand for transit is overwhelming available services – that has been identified through data-driven analysis.

- **Does the expansion proposal have a clearly defined scope, with easily explained objectives?**

From the earliest stages of planning, all MBTA expansion projects will have a clear, straight-forward, and easy to explain mission statement. Large and complex projects can only be successful with a shared understanding of their underlying purpose; projects cannot advance efficiently and cost-effectively if they are trying to address a disparate list of goals and needs.

# Expansion Policy

## Proposed Policy Elements:

- **Has the expansion proposal been subjected to a rigorous cost-benefit analysis, one that has demonstrated that the anticipated mobility benefits can be gained for a cost that makes sense?**

In keeping with the Focus40 goal of investing in places where public transit can produce the greatest benefits – both for mobility and for other policy goals – the MBTA will focus its efforts on service/system expansions that can move the greatest numbers of people for the lowest cost.

- **Have other, simpler, lower-cost solutions been tried, prior to considering an expansion of service or infrastructure? Have they proven sufficiently successful that a higher level of investment by the MBTA would provide measurable benefits?**

The MBTA should always seek to address identified transit needs with the lowest-cost effective solutions, and should build in flexibility to allow for further expansion only if and when the initial solutions prove themselves overmatched by the demonstrated demand for transit capacity.

- **Can the proposed new service or infrastructure provide important co-benefits that can meet other policy goals?**

In places where corridor municipalities can be willing partners to expand housing, encourage job growth, increase density, or build infrastructure that supports walking, bicycling, and transit use, the MBTA should evaluate whether a higher level of transit service could energize regionally beneficial growth.

# Next Steps

**Late 2017**

Continue stakeholder engagement and finalize programs, places, and policies

**Early 2018**

Solicit public feedback on draft plan: web, survey

**Spring 2018**

Final public event & release