



City Update

February 2024 PTAC Meeting

Agenda

- Davis Square Commercial Area Plan (35 Minutes)
- MBTA Means Tested Fares Update- Fare Change Proposal (20 Minutes)

Davis Square

COMMERCIAL AREA PLAN

Davis Square Commercial Plan



Introduction

- Various forms of a guiding planning document for the Davis Square area have been in the works since 2013.
- The current process started in 2017-2019 but was put on hold in 2020.
- Since restarting, the plan has been refocused on the commercial area of Davis Square rather than the broader neighborhood.
- The goal of this process is to set forth a broad vision for the commercial area to guide future development, creation of new civic spaces, and renewal and reconstruction of streetscapes.
- Policy recommendations fall within these same categories – economic development, civic spaces/streetscapes, and mobility/curb use. We will focus on the latter two tonight.



Mobility Recommendations Summarized

1. Prioritize Mass Transit

- Bus Network Redesign
- Bus priority with lanes, signals, and routing
- Comfortable stops with shelters

2. Encourage Electric Vehicles

- Add charging locations; upgrade Day St Lot chargers

3. Reprioritize Curb Space

- Consistency with Parking Study
- Less emphasis on vehicle storage
- More emphasis on short term uses, active use, and mobility use

4. Parking Management

- Expand commercial loading opportunities
- Better manage ride hail and food delivery
- Demand based meter pricing
- Leverage side streets for shorter term parking
- Leverage private off-street parking lots

5. Implement signal improvements

6. Implement Bike Network Plan

7. Improve sidewalk conditions

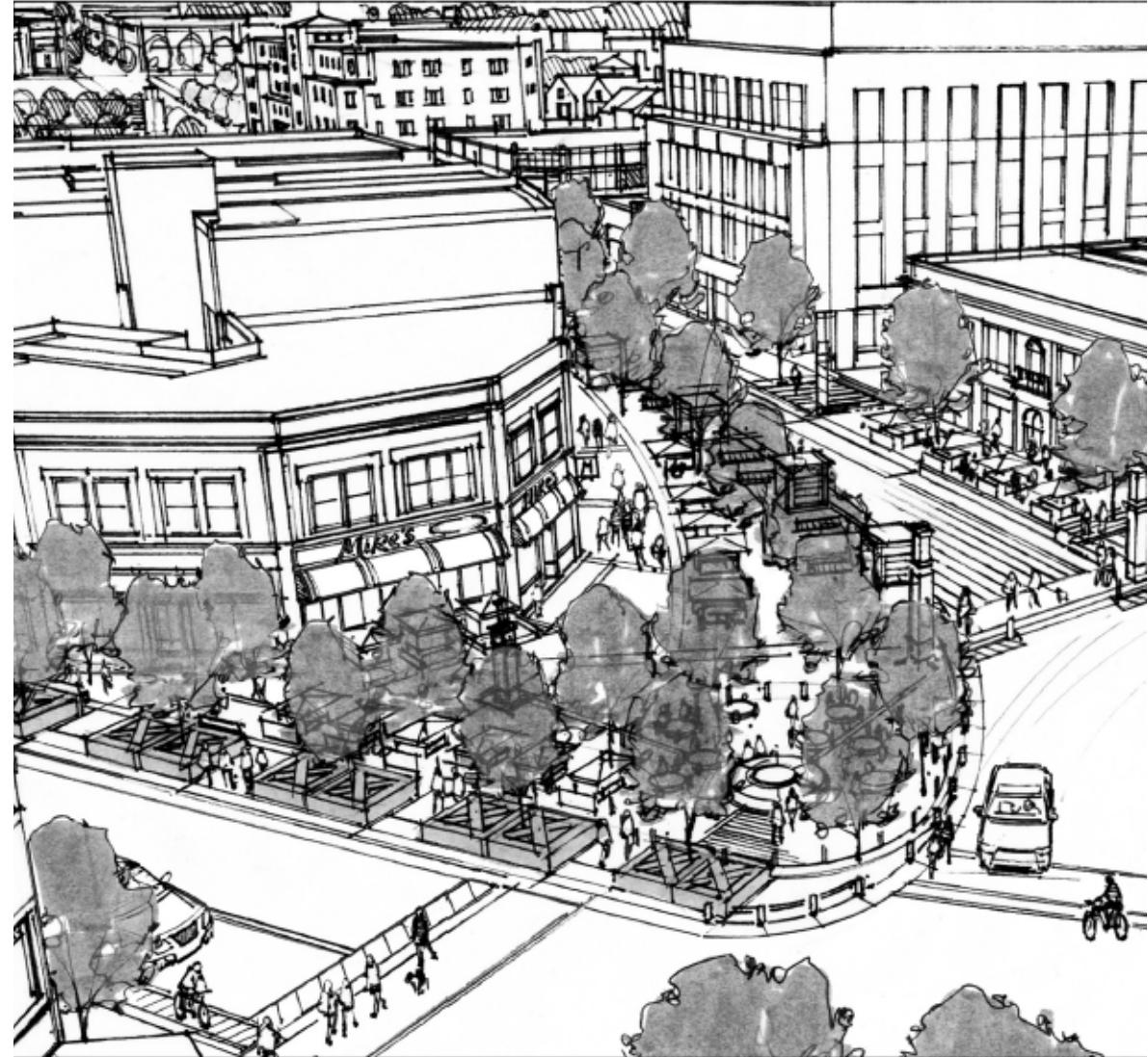
1. Concrete w/ brick accent standard

Civic Spaces – Big Picture



Civic Spaces – Davis Plaza

- Permanent removal of slip lane and reconstruction as a welcoming plaza that can serve as an extension of the popular Statue Plaza across the street
- Permanent public seating and tables
- Dense tree canopy



Conceptual illustration – not a proposed design

Civic Spaces – Elmway

- Convert a section of Elm Street from the main intersection to Bowers Ave and Grove Street for primarily pedestrian use.
- Commercial loading could be accommodated during off-peak hours.
- Bicycle access could be permitted without a dedicated facility.
- Transit access TBD.



Conceptual illustration – not a proposed design

Civic Spaces – Cutter Plaza

- Conversion of small parking lot into a civic space that could serve as a gateway into Davis Square.
- Could incorporate the first block of Summer St where Elm St splits.
- This space could be more of a pocket park and offer a more open area with some permanent seating.



Conceptual illustration – not a proposed design

Discussion

- Initial thoughts?
- Priorities for the area?

Davis Square Signal Improvements



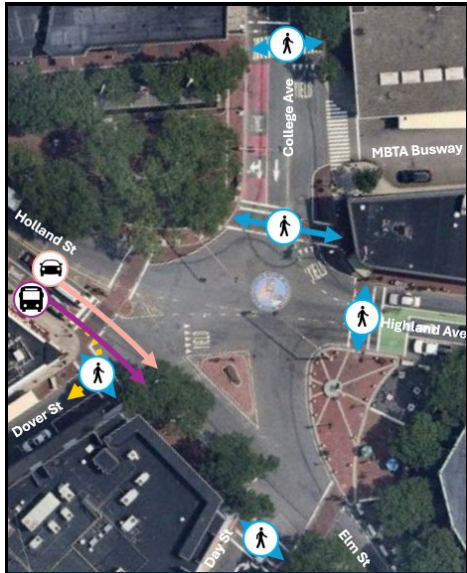
Davis Square Signal Improvements - Summary

- Traffic signal phasing (when each street gets a green light)
 - Removed the condition where the walk sign was on for pedestrians to cross Dover St at the same time that drivers had a green light to turn from Highland Ave onto Dover St
 - Removed the condition where the walk sign was on for pedestrians to cross College Ave (closest to Highland Ave) at the same time that drivers were allowed to turn right from Highland Ave onto College Ave
 - Removed the condition where the walk sign was on for pedestrians to cross College Ave (closest to the MBTA Busway) at the same time that buses got the green light to turn right from the Busway onto College Ave
- Traffic signal equipment
 - Added flashing yellow arrows for the right turns from College onto Holland and Holland onto Dover
 - Add a flashing yellow arrow for the left turn from Highland onto Elm
- Street markings
 - Reduced the Highland Ave approach from 3 to 2 lanes and created a protected bike lane on the approach to the intersection
 - Moved the crosswalk across Elm St from in front of the former Oath Pizza to in front of CVS, which allows pedestrians to use this crosswalk without having to worry about drivers turning right from Day St onto Elm St
- Still to come
 - Transit signal software that will be able to make small changes to the timing to get approaching buses through the intersection with as little delay as possible
 - Section of Highland Ave closest to the intersection will be paved and restriped in the spring
 - New crosswalk across Elm St will be striped in higher quality paint
 - Yield markings will be added in front of the crosswalks that correspond with flashing yellow arrows
 - New lane assignment signage will be installed on Highland Ave

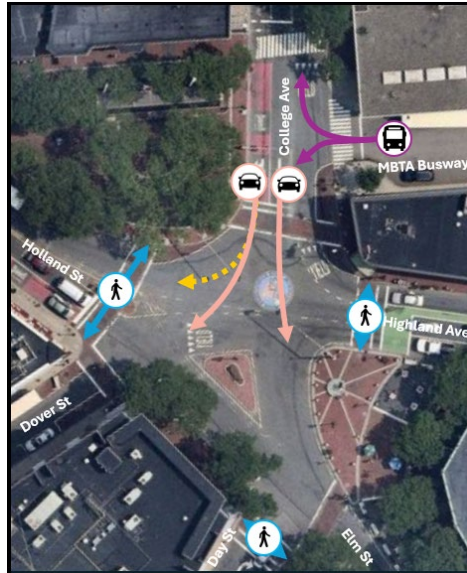


Davis Square Signal Improvements – Phasing Plan

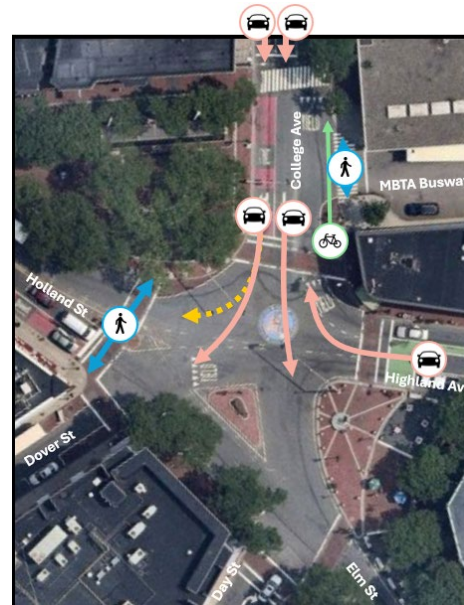
**Phase 1:
Holland St**



**Phase 2:
Busway**



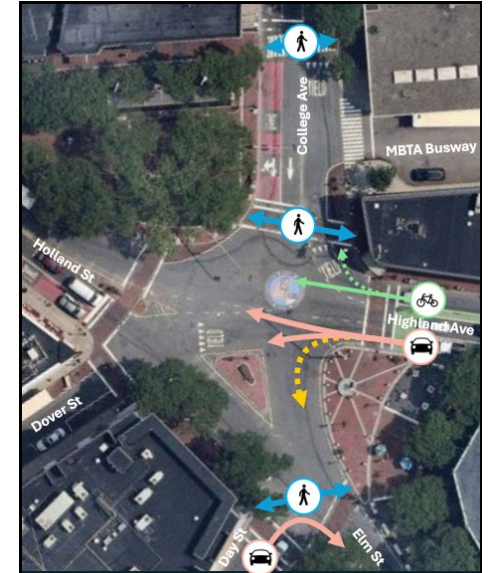
**Phase 3:
College Ave**



**Phase 4:
Highland (All)**



**Phase 5:
Highland (No Right)**



21 sec

14 sec

18 sec

23 sec

24 sec

100 second cycle

(Timing shown here is in place at busiest times of day)



MBTA Low Income Fare Proposal



2024 Fare Package Proposed Changes

The MBTA is committed to providing reliable, accessible, affordable transportation to all.



New Expanded Reduced Fare Eligibility for Income-eligible Riders

- The MBTA proposes implementing a new reduced fare program that will make all MBTA transportation available to Income-eligible individuals.
- Eligible riders include those who are 26 - 64, participate in income-qualified state benefit programs such as SNAP and MassHealth, and are not currently covered by the MBTA's existing reduced fare programs.



'Change Tickets'

- The MBTA proposes replacing current 'change tickets' on the Bus, Green Line, and Mattapan Line and transitioning riders to utilizing CharlieCards as a primary payment source.
- To facilitate the change, the MBTA will begin stocking blank CharlieCards onboard buses and at more locations around the network to encourage riders to load their cash onto CharlieCards.

Commuter Rail Weekend Pass Holiday Expansion

- The MBTA proposes making permanent the expansion of the \$10 Weekend Commuter Rail pass to include federal holidays.



Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority

[MBTA.com/2024farechanges](https://www.mbta.com/2024farechanges)

MBTA Fare Proposals 2024

- A new program would provide riders who are aged 26-64, non-disabled, and have low income with reduced fares of approximately 50% off on all MBTA modes (or \$30 month passes)
- The proposed program is a multi-secretariat effort with the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV).
- The MBTA will partner with third-party Community-Based Partners to manage in-person customer service and eligibility verification.
 - These efforts include providing physical in-person locations where people can receive support with their applications
- Program participants will demonstrate eligibility via existing enrollment in programs with a cutoff of 200% of the federal poverty line (or lower)

MBTA Reduced Fares Overview

- Applies to ALL MBTA modes (including the RIDE and Commuter Rail)
- Existing MBTA reduced fare programs include the Senior CharlieCard program for riders 65+, the Transportation Access Pass for riders with a disability and the YouthPass for young adults with low income.

Reduced One-Way Fares

Subway



Subway One-Way

\$1.10

with reduced fare card

Bus



Local Bus One-Way

\$0.85

with reduced fare card



Express Bus One-Way

\$2.10

with reduced fare card

Express Bus Routes: 354, 424, 426, 428, 450, 501, 504, 505



Commuter Rail One-Way

\$1.10 – \$6.50

with CharlieTicket or mTicket App

[Find your Commuter Rail fare](#)



Ferry One-Way


\$1.10 – \$4.85

with mTicket App or paper ferry ticket

[Find your ferry fare](#)

Next Steps

- Upcoming Public Meetings
- Public comment open until Thursday, February 29, 2024, to publicengagement@mbta.com.
- Title VI analysis will be shared at March MBTA Board of Directors meeting
- MBTA is seeking one or more Community-Based Partners to manage in-person customer service and eligibility verification.



2024 Fare Package Proposed Changes *Public Meetings*

January 29 6:30 – 8:30 PM Pollard Memorial Library 401 Merrimack St, Lowell	February 12 6:00 – 8:00 PM Mildred Avenue Community Center 5 Mildred Ave, Mattapan
February 1 6:00 – 8:00 PM Cristo Rey High School 100 Savin Hill Ave, Boston	February 13 6:00 – 8:00 PM Worcester Public Library 3 Salem St, Worcester
February 5 6:00 – 8:00 PM Dewitt Center 122 Dewitt Dr, Boston	February 20 6:00 – 8:00 PM La Colaborativa 318 Broadway, Chelsea
February 7 6:00 – 8:00 PM Brockton Public Library 304 Main St, Brockton	February 27 6:00 – 8:00 PM via Zoom