
MBTA Route 90 Changes in East Somerville

Somerville PTAC, 5/15/25

Route 90 changes in East Somerville

- MBTA Bus Route 90 currently uses Tufts St (outbound only), Cross St, and Broadway to serve East Somerville Station in both directions.
- Under the Somerville Bicycle Network Plan, Tufts St is slated for conversion to a neighborway facility, which will not be compatible with bus / large vehicle operation. Construction is slated to begin this summer.

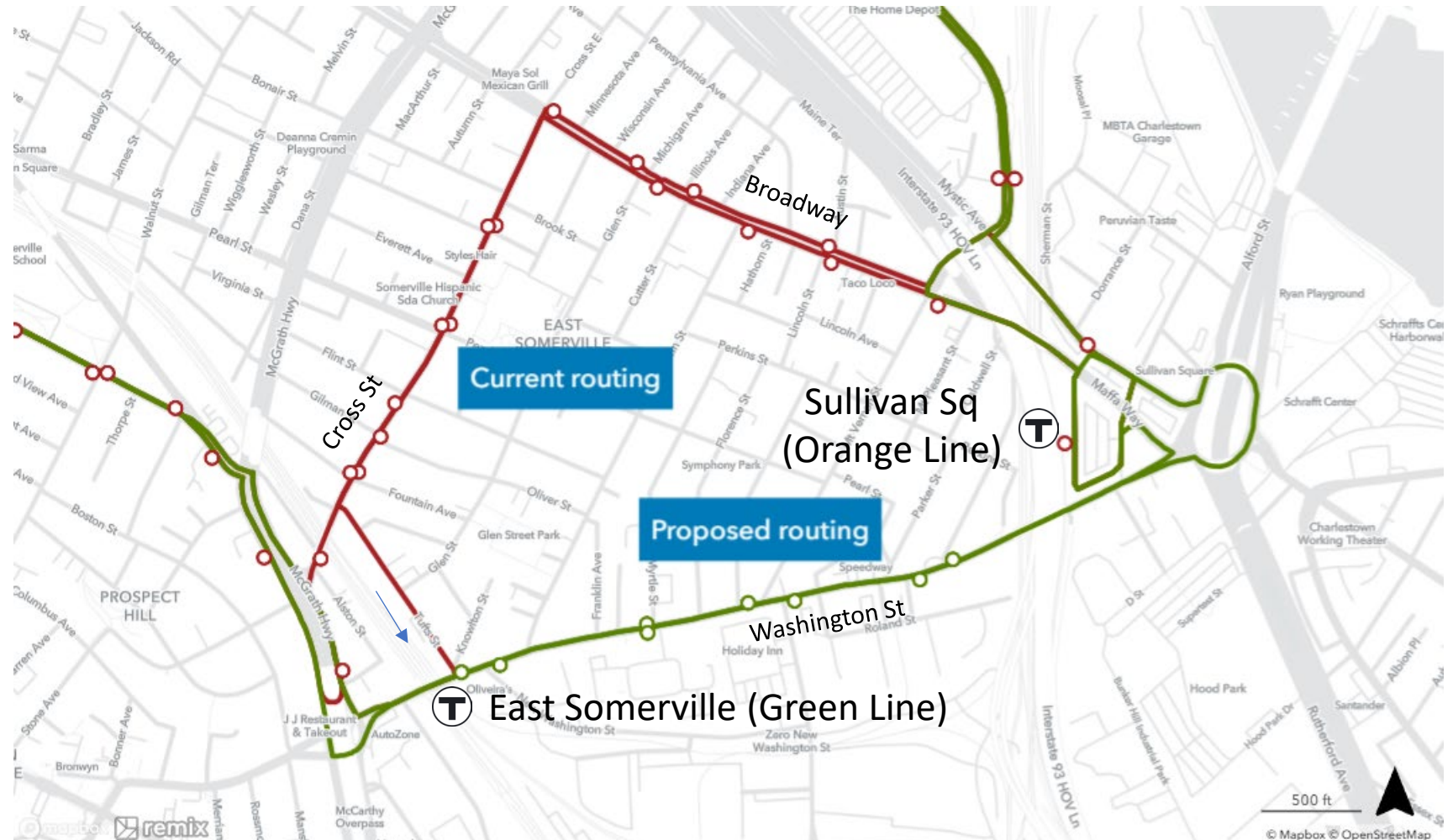


Neighborway: Streets designated as Neighborways in the network are walk-and-bike friendly streets that run parallel to larger main streets, creating a low-stress alternative biking experience on residential streets. These streets are designed to lower volume and speeds for vehicles with measures like speed humps or narrowing the entrance to the street to discourage people using the street as a cut through. Neighborways will always provide a two-way connection for people biking even if the street is one-way for vehicular traffic.



Current and Planned Route 90 routings in East Somerville

Given the conversion of Tufts St to a neighborway, the MBTA plans to reroute the 90 onto Washington St instead.



Passenger impacts to riders along Cross St and Broadway:

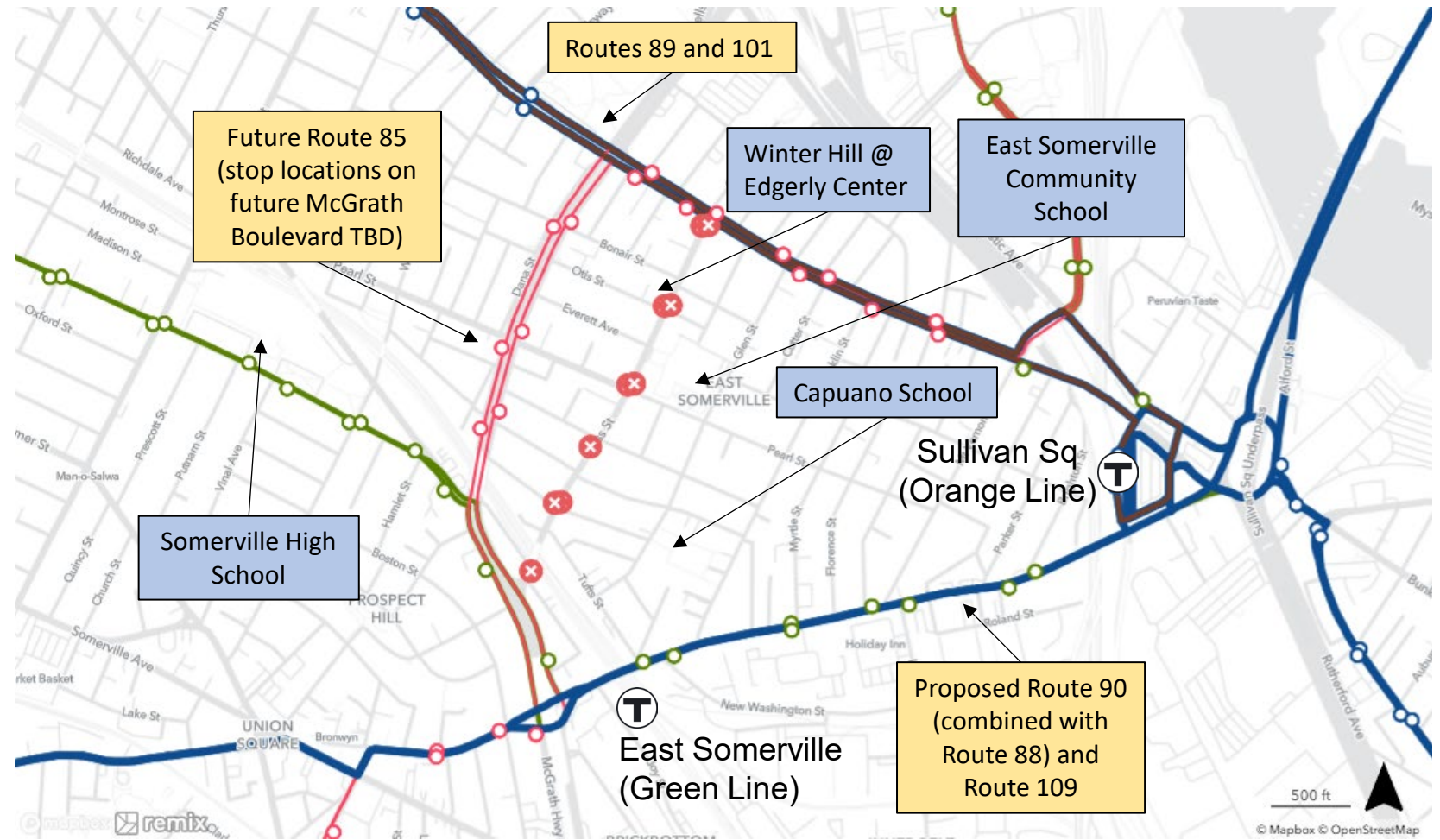
Total ridership between McGrath Hwy and Sullivan:
55 inbound, **102** outbound*

Most riders will be within ½ mile of the new Washington St stops.

Riders at or near Broadway can use Broadway bus Routes 89 or 101 to connect to Route 90 at Sullivan.

Capuano, ESCS, and Winter Hill @ Edgerly all remain within 0.25mi of bus service

*APC data, composite weekday 2024



Connection to the Green Line

Without Tufts St, outbound Route 90 buses are unable to connect to the Green Line (today on McGrath Blvd @ Alston St).

The MBTA has built new floating bus stops on Washington Street for better access to East Somerville Station; these stops also calm traffic and narrow the street, making it easier to cross.

This will be important in future Bus Network Redesign when the 88 and 90 are combined into one route: with this change, East Somerville will be Highland Ave's Green Line connection. The future route will run every 20 minutes or better for most of the day, seven days per week, with some 30-minute service in evenings when implemented (TBD).



Feedback and Questions

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