

Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan

Boston, Massachusetts

Small Starts Project Development

Information Prepared March 2025

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) proposes to implement bus rapid transit along Blue Hill Avenue in Boston between Warren Street and Mattapan Square. The Project involves construction of three miles of exclusive, center-running bus lanes using existing median on the Blue Hill Avenue, with implementation of transit signal priority along with other safety and accessibility improvements at the intersections along the corridor. The Project also includes installation of curbside bike lanes and construction of 9 to 12 stations with shelters, comfortable seating, real-time information, improved lighting, security cameras, and emergency call boxes at each station. MBTA intends to use existing fleet inventory for this Project. The Project's current estimated cost is \$152.65 million, with the CIG share to be determined.

Despite being a high transit ridership corridor today, buses along Blue Hill Avenue are subject to substantial delay due to the high motor vehicle traffic on the roadway. Lack of accessibility and safety features on the corridor renders the transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians vulnerable to dangerous conditions. The Project is expected to provide reliable and accessible transit along with improved safety to benefit all roadway users in the corridor.

MBTA completed the environmental review process in November 2022, receiving a categorical exclusion for the Project. MBTA selected a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in February 2024 and anticipates adopting the LPA into the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in June 2025. MBTA anticipates receiving a Small Starts Grant Agreement in June 2026 and beginning revenue service in May 2029.

Fig. 1 Blue Hill Ave Transit Corridor activity centers

