



Technical Memorandum

DATE: October 1, 2026

TO: Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board

FROM: Boston Region MPO Staff

RE: *Destination 2050* Amendment Two

This memorandum summarizes a proposed amendment to the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Long-Range Transportation Plan (the Plan), *Destination 2050*. The primary reason for this amendment is to include a line item in the Recommended Projects list to reflect the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan, which is anticipated to be funded through a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

1 Background

The Boston Region MPO is responsible for the development and maintenance of a Long-Range Transportation Plan for the 97 cities and towns within the MPO's borders. The Plan is required to have a planning horizon of at least twenty years, outline a vision and goals for the region's multimodal transportation system, and document a fiscally constrained list of large-scale, "regionally significant" projects for which federal funding is being pursued. The region's current Plan, *Destination 2050*, was endorsed in July 2023 and was amended in November 2024. The MPO's Public Engagement Plan requires a 30-day public comment period for amendments to the Plan.

2 Amendment Two

Amendment Two to *Destination 2050* would add a single line item to the Plan's Recommended Projects list to program funding for the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan. (See Item 10 in Table 1.) Table 1 reflects the proposed amendment, which would be a revision to Chapter 5 of the Plan.

Table 1
Proposed Revision to Recommended Projects List

#	Proponent	Project	ID	Current Cost	FFYs 2024–28	FFYs 2029–33	MPO Funding	Other Funding (Non-MPO Funds)
1	MPO	Norwood: Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street	605857	\$26,573,400	\$26,573,400		\$26,573,400	
2	MPO	Wrentham: Interstate 495/Route 1A Ramps	603739	\$17,994,890	\$17,994,890		\$17,994,890	
3	MPO	Boston: Reconstruction of Rutherford Avenue from City Square to Sullivan Square	606226	\$197,759,449	\$42,100,000	\$155,659,449	\$197,759,449	
4	MPO	Somerville: McGrath Boulevard	607981	\$98,840,000	\$65,000,000	\$33,840,000	\$98,840,000	
5	MPO	Framingham: Intersection Improvements at Route 126 and Route 135/MBTA and CSX Railroad	606109	\$115,000,000		\$145,500,000	\$145,500,000	

#	Proponent	Project	ID	Current Cost	FFYs 2024–28	FFYs 2029–33	MPO Funding	Other Funding (Non-MPO Funds)
6	MPO	Lexington: Route 4/225 (Bedford Street) and Hartwell Avenue	NA	\$45,000,000		\$57,000,000	\$57,000,000	
7	MassDOT	Boston: Allston Multimodal	606475	\$675,500,000				\$675,500,000
8	MassDOT	Hopkinton: Interstate 495 and Interstate 90 Interchange	607977	\$300,942,836				\$300,942,836
9	MBTA	Green Line Projects	NA	\$3,014,041,336				\$3,014,041,336
10	MBTA	Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan	NA	\$164,500,000				\$164,500,000

FFY = federal fiscal year. MPO = metropolitan planning organization.

2.1 Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan

The Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan focuses on comprehensive roadway and streetscape improvements on a 3.1 mile area extending from Grove Hall south to Mattapan Station in Boston. The improvements will include significant renovations to Mattapan Square to improve safety, transit operations, the rider experience, and the overall transportation network. The project would improve transit speed and reliability; create safer, more attractive walking and biking facilities; and improve bus stops with amenities including shelters and real-time information displays.

The project's improved pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities and operations will enhance safety and support transit and active transportation travel choices. The resulting decrease in vehicle-miles traveled will reduce criteria air pollutant emissions.¹ Improvements to transit speed and reliability will move people through

¹ The Clean Air Act requires the US Environmental Protection Agency to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six commonly found air pollutants, known as criteria pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

the corridor more efficiently. Emergency vehicles will also have a faster and more reliable path of travel. Furthermore, bus stop upgrades, along with mixed-use development along Blue Hill Avenue, will provide the necessary infrastructure to foster increased transit ridership and nonmotorized access.

To address environmental impacts, the project will upgrade traffic signals and street lighting with new, energy-efficient LED fixtures. A key focus of the project is the preservation and addition nearly 200 new trees to mitigate the urban heat island effect and sequester carbon dioxide, complemented by green infrastructure designed for improved stormwater management.

2.2 Funding Source

The primary reason for this proposed amendment is to comply with federal requirements for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 5309 Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Small Starts Program, an anticipated source of funding for the MBTA's Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan. Before entering the Small Starts Grant Agreement phase, the project proponent must complete a series of actions associated with project development. One key element of project development includes the adoption of the proposed project in the "fiscally constrained long range transportation plan."

The funding plan for this project includes \$80.3 million requested from the FTA's 5309 CIG Small Starts grant, \$15 million obligated from the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant, and \$69.2 million from a combination of state, local, and MBTA capital revenues and bonds.

The inclusion of this project in the fiscally constrained Plan does not impact the funding availability of the Boston Region MPO's discretionary Regional Target funds.

3 Requested Action

MPO staff request that the MPO board votes to release the *Destination 2050* Amendment Two for a 30-day public comment period to enable the MBTA to move to the next phase of the 5309 CIG Small Starts grant for the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Action Plan.

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