

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Better Bus Project Update

FMCB, March 25, 2019

Better **B**us Project.



Better Bus Project Process Map: Update

Continuous Change

Analysis

Proposed Near-term Changes

Multi-year Investment Strategy

Future Network Redesign

Phase 1

- ✓ Early Morning Pilot
- ✓ Late Night Pilot
- ✓ SL3 Service Expansion
- ✓ Dedicated Bus Lanes
- ✓ Transit Signal Prioritization
- ✓ Signal Optimization
- ✓ Addition Resources
- ✓ Dropped Trip Task Force
- ✓ Quarterly Goals

Phase 2

- ✓ 1st Round Public/ Stakeholder/Operator Outreach
- ✓ Review existing service
- ✓ **Jan 28:** Release State of the System Report
- ✓ **Jan 28:** Release Market Analysis

Phase 3

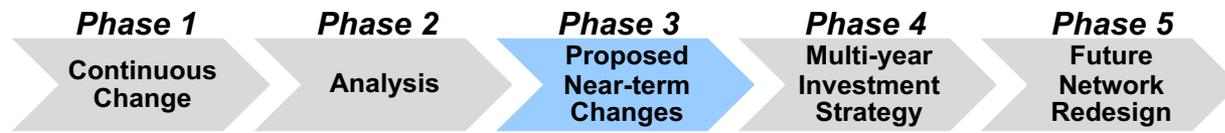
- ✓ **Ongoing:** Municipal and State Officials Outreach
- ✓ **Jan 28:** Release near-term service proposals
- ✓ **Jan 28 to Mar 13:** 2nd Round Public/ Stakeholder Outreach
- **Apr:** FMCB Vote: Go/No-Go
- **Early-May:** Build new schedules & routes
- **Fall:** Begin implementation

Phase 4

- ✓ **Jan 28:** Release Route Profiles
- ✓ **Feb 25:** Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20
- ✓ **Mar:** Finalize FY20 resource request
- **Apr:** Selection of FY20 investment level by the FMCB Board

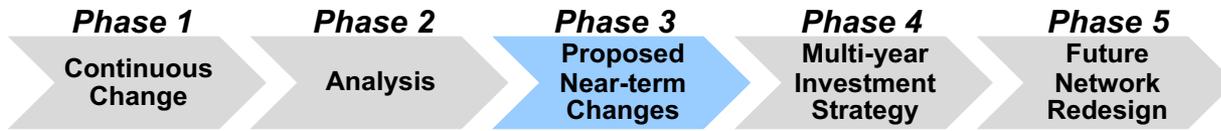
Phase 5

- ✓ **Nov:** RFP posted
- **Mar:** Consultant award (on track)



Executive Summary

- Completed 6 weeks of public engagement for near-term proposals:
 - >2,500 in-person interactions across ~75 meetings / briefings
 - >3,500 discrete comments for 47 near-term proposals
- Draft Equity analysis completed as of 3/20 and internal review with System-wide Accessibility
- Team is now reviewing all feedback and developing final recommendation on which proposals to be implemented based on feedback
- Proposals will then be finalized and sequenced for implementation based on downstream dependencies
- Goal of today is to review preliminary feedback with Board in anticipation of early April vote (pending finalized Equity analysis)



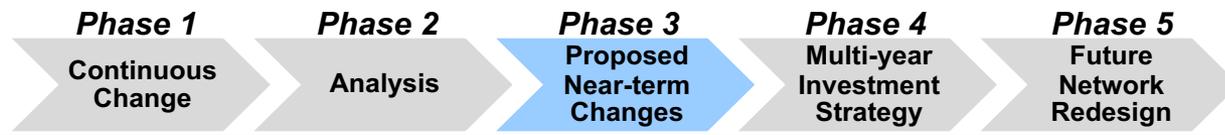
Outreach since January 28

Between Open Houses, Street Teams and MBTA Community Meetings, staff had over 2,500 in-person interactions

Type of Event	Number of Meetings
Community Meetings	8
Open Houses (at stations)	7
Street Teams (at stations)	6
Briefings	50+

Online Feedback

Type of Feedback	Number of Comments
Online Feedback Form	2,854
Emails/Letters	284



Feedback Analysis of Near-Term Proposals - Overview

- In addition to accepting general comments, the MBTA asked stakeholders to complete forms both online or in-person about the 47 proposals
- Individuals were asked to rate their level of support for each proposal on a 5 point scale – from “strongly support” (5) to “strongly oppose” (1)
- Results: ~30 proposals were rated neutral or higher

Survey Completion 0% 100%

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

English

Do you support this proposal?

SL2

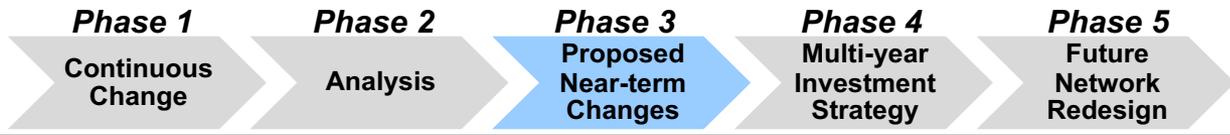
Strongly support

Somewhat support

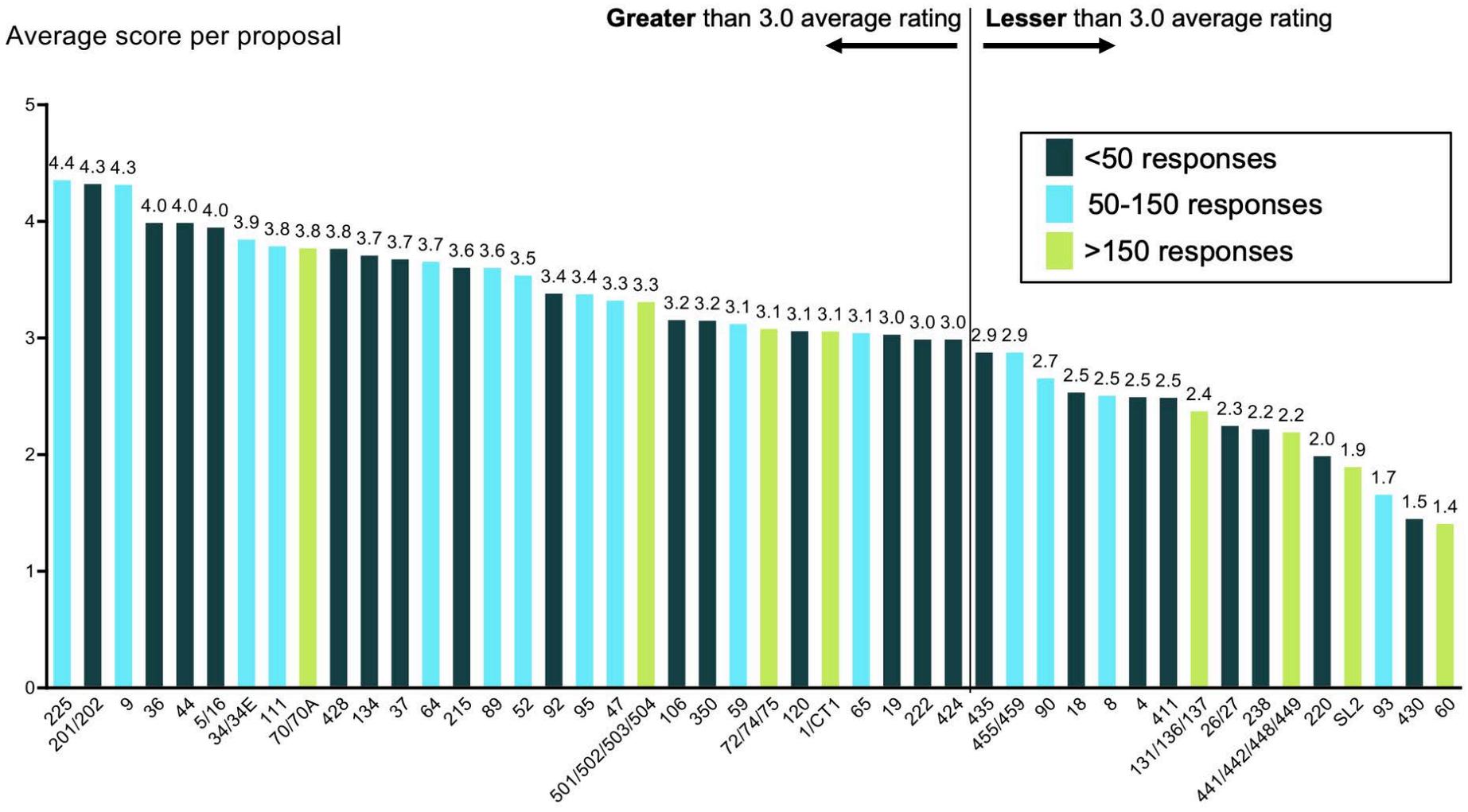
Neutral

Somewhat oppose

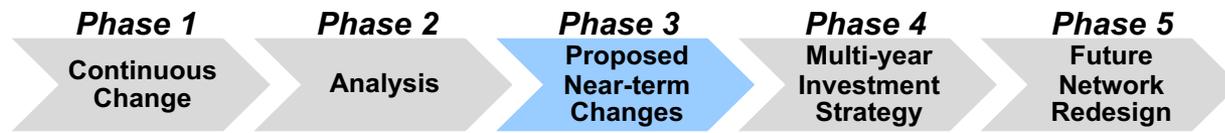
Strongly oppose



Over 3,500 discrete comments / ratings on proposals



Note: As of 3/13, based on ratings from online survey and in-person worksheets

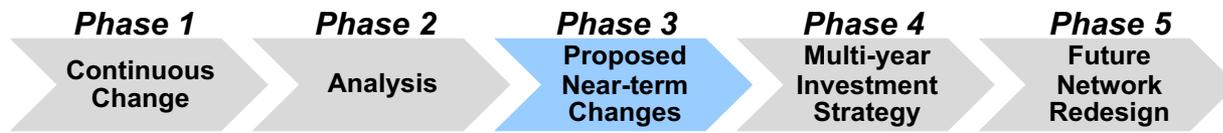


Reviewing Feedback Using Screening Principles

- Staff screening all open-ended comments for all 47 route proposals to understand feedback and form a recommendation, using following principles:
 - Net positive feedback (average score as well as distribution)
 - Ridership representation (ratio of commenters to route riders)
 - Safety considerations
 - Accessibility considerations
 - Loss of direct service
 - Equity and populations affected

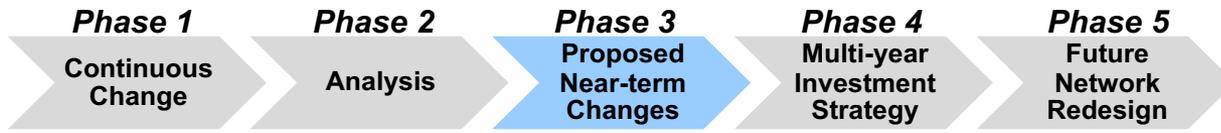


Each proposal evaluated along multiple criteria – feedback rating not taken alone without other considerations



Example Feedback from Public Engagement

- Maintain busway access as much as possible
- Ensure accessibility is not lost, but either met or improved
- In favor of additional connectivity or longer service, but not always at trade-off of less frequency
- Changes to be considered in awareness of key construction projects, school closures, housing developments



Preliminary Analysis – Deeper Analysis Underway

5/16	9*	34/34E
36*	37	44
52*	64	70/70A
92	106	111
120	134	201/202
222	225	350
428	424	

Likely to move forward (20)

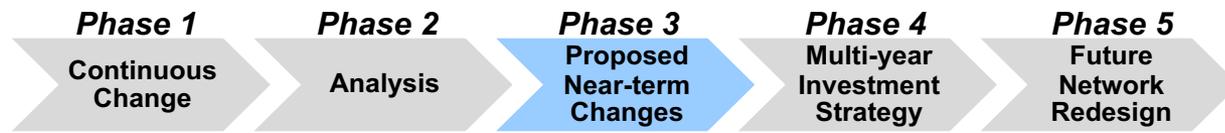
CT1/1	SL2
4	59
60	72/74/75
89	90
95	131/136/ 137
220	411
435	441/442/ 448/449
455/459	501/502/ 503/504

Under deeper review by team (16)

8	18
19	26/27
47	65
93	215
238	430

Requires further analysis, not likely in CY19 (10)

Final analysis targeted to be completed by April 8th



Implementation Criteria and Next Steps

Sort: Finalize which proposals recommended for implementation incl. any route revisions

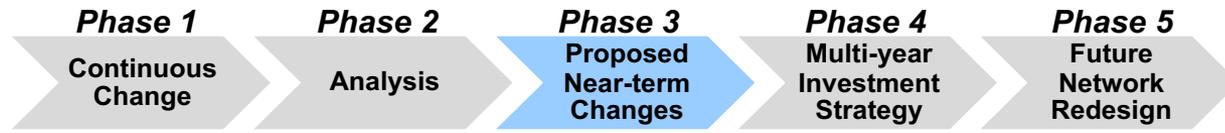


Sequence: Finalize dependencies for implementation and sequence implementation



Implement: Starting Fall 2019 (proposals w/ significant 3rd party dependencies may take longer)

- Finalize recommendations
- Finalize equity analysis based on final package
- Confirm any RIDE impact (ADA ⇔ Premium)
- New bus stops & turnarounds
- Accessible stops and path of travel
- Municipal & 3rd party engagement
- Schedule service changes
- Communicate changes to riders
- Conduct Fall Pick



Key Next Steps

Date	Meeting/Deliverable Release
✓ Dec 10	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 1 Work Plan Review, Overview of State of System and Market Analysis</i>
✓ Jan 14	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 2 Overview of Near-term Change Proposals</i>
✓ Jan 28 to Mar 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick off Round 2 of public engagement • Release Market Analysis • Release State of the Bus System Report • Release Near-term Change Proposals • Release Route Profiles
✓ Feb 25	<i>FMCB Presentation – Part 3 Discuss Multi-year Investment Strategies for FY20</i>
✓ March	Action: <i>FMCB Propose FY20 Budget</i>
April	Action: <i>FMCB Vote on Package for Near-Term change proposals</i>
May	<i>FMCB Presentation – Draft FY20-24 CIP</i>
June	Action: <i>MassDOT Board vote on FY20-24 CIP</i>

All proposals available online on at: mbta.com/betterbus