

**Crosstown**

# Improved Silver Line: Dudley to Downtown

Better rapid bus service and terminals on the Silver Line from downtown to Dudley

### Project Score

- Access 1
- Access 2
- Safety 1
- Safety 2
- Reliability
- Affordability
- Sustainability/Resiliency 1
- Sustainability/Resiliency 2
- Governance

Identified on the ballot as an Early Action commitment

## Project Description

Today the Silver Line between Dudley and downtown along Washington Street has protected bus shelters and an exclusive red bus lane. In the next five years, the width of the lane will be increased, physical buffers and stronger enforcement will ensure that it is not used for double parking, an off-board payment system will allow for all-door boarding and prevent long passenger queues from delaying stops, automated signal priority will avoid red-light delays, and raised, accessible platforms will make it safer and easier for passengers of all abilities to board. An *improved Dudley Station* will be paired with *improved termini at Downtown Crossing and South Station*, where new in-street platforms will enable faster transfers to the Orange, Red, and waterfront Silver Lines.

## Benefits and Issues Addressed

The evolution of bus rapid transit (BRT) technologies since the creation of the Silver Line nearly two decades ago allows for the Washington Street line to finally be upgraded to gold-standard BRT and provide streetcar-quality service into the heart of the South End, Roxbury, and Dudley Square. With faster and more frequent service, residents of Roxbury and several neighborhoods whose buses feed into Dudley would have better access to Downtown, to health care at Boston University and Tufts Medical Centers, and to transfers to other rapid transit lines, driving up transit ridership to meet Go Boston 2030's targets. Visitors could travel to Dudley, expanding commercial activity and contributing to the vitality that evolves around transit hubs elsewhere in Boston.

## Implementation

**Approximate Cost:** \$22 million for capital improvements  
**Potential Funding Sources:** MassDOT/MBTA, City capital program, and FTA  
**Who's responsible:** BTS, PWD, and MassDOT/MBTA  
**Time Frame:** Design and initial improvements within five years

## Best Practices

The GRTC Pulse is under construction in Richmond, VA. This BRT project will be a mix of bus-only lanes and mixed-traffic with queue jumps. Level boarding will speed the boarding process. [www.ridegrtc.com/brt](http://www.ridegrtc.com/brt)

## Public Input

"Boston already has the Silver Line, but why not create a true BRT that runs from Egleston all the way to Downtown? One with prioritized lanes AND prioritized traffic signals AND limited access boarding? Roxbury needs better transit connections."  
 —02130

