



CHARLESTOWN TRANSPORTATION

With substantial developable land along the Rutherford Ave corridor and the waterfront, Charlestown is anticipating significant growth. The Boston Transportation and Public Works Departments are supporting the neighborhood during this time of change, working in close collaboration with the Boston Planning and Development Agency on PLAN: Charlestown. Our goal is a transportation system that provides reliable, convenient mobility options for current and future residents, supports new jobs and housing, and enhances green space and the safety of the street network. With existing congestion, road space that cannot be expanded, and limited parking, we must plan for new growth while working to minimize the number of new car trips to and through the neighborhood. We aim to have:

- Better connectivity within, to, and from the Charlestown neighborhood via transit, foot, and bike
- Improved connections to and enhancements to open space that includes the addition of a linear park along Rutherford Ave
- Traffic engineering investments in Charlestown to deter neighborhood cut-through traffic
- Safer crossings for pedestrians along Rutherford Avenue at existing and new locations
- Improved access to the Orange Line from Charlestown and improved bus connectivity to key destinations, such as Downtown Boston and Kendall Square
- A more human scaled street network where all users feel safe
- Increased resiliency, especially in areas prone to flooding
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and local pollution by encouraging transit use and active transportation

To pursue these goals, the Boston Transportation and Public Works departments are partnering with the BPDA to focus on reducing traffic and parking stress on local streets in Charlestown. BTD is collaborating with the PLAN:Charlestown team to make the following assumptions for their planning efforts:

- The Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square project's design discussions with the community will be restarted in Fall 2023. Federal/State funding for the project remains secure.
- For purposes of the PLAN Charlestown future conditions transportation analysis, we assume a roadway network that includes replacement of the Sullivan Square Rotary with a traditional street grid (as has been consistently planned), and for the Rutherford Avenue corridor we assume 2 lanes of general traffic in each direction and 1 bus-only lane in each direction.
- Tighten the boundaries of Charlestown's Resident Parking Permit program to reduce parking spillover from new developments on local streets. Permits will be limited to addresses in the neighborhood's original peninsula, essentially the area between Rutherford Avenue, Medford Street, and the waterfront, as well as the residential areas in the Lost Village north of Cambridge Street. This program modification is intended to be implemented in 2023.



- Limit parking in developments to reduce the number of new car trips. Maximum parking ratios will be in effect for all new projects.
- Install bus lanes on Rutherford Avenue to enable high-frequency and reliable bus service to maximize the number of development-related trips that take place by transit. These will connect with Everett's proposed bus lanes and reduce traffic impacts from their proposed new developments as well.
- Prioritize safe, comfortable bike facilities within Charlestown and on bridges connecting to other neighborhoods, enabling more short trips to be taken by bike
- Propose engineering solutions to limit cut-through traffic on local Charlestown streets to complement the redesign of Rutherford Avenue
- Operationalize Charlestown LINK, a privately funded, public shuttle service connecting job centers and housing in Charlestown to the Orange Line.
- Improve bus stops and reliability for the Route 93 bus, which serves as a vital connection for Charlestown residents to Downtown Boston.
- Expand the public bike share network in Charlestown to better meet both existing needs and future demand

The Boston Transportation and Public Works departments will continue to stay engaged in the PLAN: Charlestown process as the recommendations are finalized. This work will be coordinated with ongoing transportation projects such as the Charlestown / North Washington Street Bridge, Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square redesign, the extension of the Silver Line, and the creation of new parks in the neighborhood.