



BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO and MPO Chair
Karl H. Quackenbush, Executive Director, MPO Staff

WORK PROGRAM

THE FUTURE OF THE CURB

MARCH 7, 2019

Proposed Motion

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) votes to approve this work program.

Project Identification

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Classification

Boston Region MPO Planning Studies and Technical Analyses

Project Number 14361

Client

Boston Region MPO

Project Supervisors

Principal: Katie Pincus Stetner

Manager: Andrew Clark

Funding Source

MPO Planning Contract #105757 and MPO §5303 Contract #106374

Schedule and Budget

Schedule: Seven months after work commences

Budget: \$35,000

Schedule and budget details are shown in Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively.

Relationship to MPO Goals

The Boston Region MPO elected to fund this study with its federally allocated metropolitan planning funds during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019. The work completed through this study will address the following goal areas established in the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan: capacity management and mobility, clean air and clean communities, transportation equity, and economic vitality.

Background

The curbside lane in urban areas has traditionally been used for parking. However, current trends in transportation and efforts to support nonmotorized modes have caused increasing and changing demands on the curbside lane. The popularity of ride-hailing services has risen in recent years, autonomous vehicle technology continues to evolve, and an increasing reliance on e-commerce has resulted in a greater need for loading zones. In the Boston region, the number of dedicated bus lanes is increasing, as is the demand for bike lanes. This study will explore current demands on the curbside lane, the ways other regions are repurposing the lane, and potential considerations for the curbside lane in the future.

Objectives

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To explore current demands on the curbside lane and identify strategies for repurposing and managing the curbside lane in the Boston region
2. To identify expected future demands on the curbside lane and consider how the curbside lane could be repurposed and managed to accommodate these new demands

Work Description

This study will be completed according to the following tasks:

Task 1 Conduct a Literature Review

Staff will review current literature about new demands on the curbside lane and how those demands may compete or conflict with existing curb lane usage. The new demands may include dedicated bus lanes to improve transit service; new technologies and services, such as ride-hailing pickups and drop-offs; and infrastructure to support active transportation modes, such as bicycle racks or increased pedestrian space. Staff will summarize the problems caused by the new and competing demands for the curbside lane and the strategies used to address them. Staff will consider the types of locations in which curb lane competition is greatest, such as high-density central business districts. Staff will also note the time of day during which conflicts are present, and whether strategies for curbside management include a time-of-day component. To the extent possible, staff will document the effectiveness of the various strategies in solving each of the problems identified. Staff will also examine how other regions are planning for future transportation technologies and trends in relation to the curbside lane.

Task 2 Evaluate the Applicability of Curbside Repurposing Strategies to the Boston Region

Staff will determine whether the demands on the curb lane and problems identified in other regions are present in the Boston region, and whether the strategies used to solve them might be appropriate for the Boston region. Staff will also identify local examples of repurposing curbside lanes (for example, dedicated bus lanes, bicycle parking or bike share docking stations, informal public spaces such as parklets, or elimination of the curb as part of a shared street implementation). Staff will consider the competing demands and conflicts that each example of curbside management intended to solve. Staff will use the results of the *Transportation Access Studies of Central Business Districts* study to help understand existing demands on the curbside lane, and will synthesize these needs with the best practices of other regions that have responded to similar demands on the curbside lane.

Task 3 Produce a Final Report

Staff will document the findings of Tasks 1 and 2 in a final report, highlighting the changing demands on the curbside lane and the transportation challenges created by the competing demands for limited space. The report will include examples of repurposing the curbside lane for uses other than parking to address those challenges, and the results observed after the reconfiguration. The report will detail the ways curbside lane demand and usage has been changing in the Boston region and will evaluate the applicability of national best practices to the Boston region. Finally, the report will include findings about expected future demands on the curbside lane in Boston and elsewhere and summarize potential solutions to accommodate these future demands.

Product of Task 3

Final report

Task 4 Present Findings to the Boston Region MPO

Staff will present the findings of the study to the Boston Region MPO board.

Product of Task 4

Presentation to the MPO board

Exhibit 1
ESTIMATED SCHEDULE
The Future of the Curb

Task	Month						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Conduct a Literature Review	█						
2. Evaluate the Applicability of Curbside Repurposing Strategies to the Boston Region			█				
3. Produce a Final Report				█			A
4. Present Findings to the Boston Region MPO							B

Products/Milestones

- A: Final report
- B: Presentation to MPO

Exhibit 2
ESTIMATED COST
The Future of the Curb

Direct Salary and Overhead									\$35,000
Task	Person-Weeks					Direct Salary	Overhead (99.00%)	Total Cost	
	M-1	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total				
1. Conduct a Literature Review	0.6	0.0	0.0	4.4	5.0	\$6,079	\$6,018	\$12,097	
2. Evaluate the Applicability of Curbside Repurposing Strategies to the Boston Region	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	3.3	\$4,061	\$4,020	\$8,081	
3. Produce a Final Report	1.6	0.2	0.5	2.0	4.3	\$6,141	\$6,079	\$12,220	
4. Present Findings to the Boston Region MPO	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	\$1,308	\$1,295	\$2,602	
Total	3.0	0.2	0.5	9.8	13.5	\$17,588	\$17,412	\$35,000	
Other Direct Costs									\$0
TOTAL COST									\$35,000

Funding
MPO Planning Contract #105757
MPO §5303 Contract #106374