

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREENING FORM

Project Name	MBTA Red Blue Connector Project
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	October 2, 2023
Proponent Name	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)
Contact Information	Tess Paganelli (tpaganelli@mbta.com)
Project Address	The Project lies within the boundaries of Cambridge Street from Charles Circle to Sudbury Street in Boston.
Project Type	Transportation – Roadways/Transit
Project Description	The Project would improve the transit connection between the MBTA Red and Blue Lines by closing the inaccessible Blue Line terminus at Bowdoin Station and extending Blue Line trains to a new Blue Line Station that would connect to MBTA’s Charles/ Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Red Line Station beneath Cambridge Street. These upgrades would improve system capacity, increase ridership, and extend accessibility. Enhancing mobility between these two lines would improve access for residents of East Boston, North Shore, Cambridge, and other communities to the north and west of Boston, as well as improving access to nearby medical facilities. Key elements of the Project include construction of a new terminus station for the Blue Line below Cambridge Street just east of and connecting to the Charles/MGH Red Line Station, and a new 2-track underground tunnel to serve the new Blue Line Station.
MEPA Review Thresholds	301 CMR 11.03(6)(a)(5): Construction of a new rail or rapid transit line along a new, unused, or abandoned right-of-way for transportation of passengers or freight.
FEMA floodplain	The Project Site is not within the FEMA-mapped Floodplain.
Estimated Building GHG Emissions	Energy modeling and energy usage consulting is to occur as part of the Project for the underground station and newly constructed spaces associated with the two above-ground headhouses at Charles/MGH Station and the future MGH Clinical Building.
Anticipated Permits	Permits anticipated for Project construction likely include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for stormwater discharges and construction period • U.S. EPA Remediation General Permit • Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Access permits • Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) 8(m) permit • MWRA Sewer Use Discharge Permit • Boston Conservation Commission Order of Conditions • Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) Drainage Discharge Permit and/or Dewatering Discharge Permit (issued jointly with MWRA)

<p>Environmental Justice Populations</p>	<p>The following block groups meet EJ criteria and are within the 1 mile “designated geographic area” (or DGA) of the Project Area over which MEPA EJ protocols, including enhanced outreach and analysis of impacts, will apply.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 block groups (BGs) meeting the Minority EJ criterion • 1 BG meets the English Isolation EJ criterion • 2 BGs meet the Minority and English Isolation EJ criteria • 7 BGs meet the Minority, Income, and English Isolation EJ criteria <p>Refer to the attachments for a list of the EJ block groups by criterion, and a figure of EJ block groups within 1 mile and 5 miles of the Project Area.</p>																		
<p>Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria</p>	<p>The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) EJ Tool indicates that the following EJ census tracts are within 1 mile of the Project Area meet the Vulnerable Health EJ criteria for:</p> <p>Elevated blood lead:</p> <p>CT 201.01</p> <p>Low birth weight:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">CT 304</td> <td style="width: 33%;">CT 3523</td> <td style="width: 33%;">CT 303.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CT 707</td> <td>CT 701.03</td> <td>CT 701.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CT 201.01</td> <td>CT 303.02</td> <td>CT 702.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CT 203.01</td> <td>CT 702.01</td> <td>CT 106</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CT 3531.02</td> <td>CT 203.05</td> <td>CT 701.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CT 3531.01</td> <td>CT 203.04</td> <td>CT 606.04</td> </tr> </table> <p>The DPH EJ Tool indicates that the City of Boston meets the Vulnerable Health EJ criteria for elevated blood lead, low birth weight, and childhood asthma. The City of Cambridge meets the criterion for childhood asthma. The City of Somerville meets the criteria for low birth weight and childhood asthma.</p>	CT 304	CT 3523	CT 303.01	CT 707	CT 701.03	CT 701.02	CT 201.01	CT 303.02	CT 702.02	CT 203.01	CT 702.01	CT 106	CT 3531.02	CT 203.05	CT 701.04	CT 3531.01	CT 203.04	CT 606.04
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<p>Potential Impacts to EJ Populations</p>	<p>Construction activities could temporarily impact traffic, park access, Blue Line frequencies, noise levels, and air quality. These impacts will be borne by both EJ and non-EJ populations, and mitigation of impacts will occur, where required.</p> <p>The Project is not likely to adversely impact EJ populations long-term, as there will be no full build increases in noise or vibration or decreased access to parks.</p> <p>The elimination of the currently inaccessible Bowdoin Station will potentially impact riders’ access to Blue Line services; however, this is a lower-ridership station that is within close walking distance to the existing Government Center station. Riders will walk to either the Government Center Station or the new Blue Line Charles/MGH Station. Eliminating Bowdoin Station and connecting to the existing Charles/MGH would improve transit connections in downtown Boston.</p> <p>As impacts will be borne by both EJ and non-EJ populations, and temporary adverse impacts will be mitigated to the extents feasible, no disproportionate adverse effects are anticipated.</p>																		
<p>Project Benefits</p>	<p>Anticipated Project benefits for both EJ and non-EJ populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mobility and access for residents; • Reduced congestion in existing Downtown transfer stations; and • Increased transit efficiency. 																		

How to Request Additional Information	Community members can request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A meeting to discuss the project;• Oral language interpretation services; and/or• Other accommodations, including meetings after business hours. Please call (617) 549-4357 or email tpaganelli@mbta.com to make a request.
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