A Few Lessons Learned While Adjusting Bus Stop Locations in South Boston

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Rail~Volution 2017
Denver, CO
The Busiest Routes in “Southie”

Over 15,000 people get on and off all bus stops between Broadway and City Point every weekday.
Recent Developments

- Increased development activity in an old neighborhood
Recent Developments

- Increased community interest in improving MBTA service

change.org

Overhaul the Public Transportation System in South Boston

SaveKStreet

Petition Closed

377 supporters
623 needed to reach 1,000

Demands:

1. Drastically improve the #7, #9 and the #11 bus route service during rush hour. Enough buses must be put into circulation that all bus stops are serviced fairly. Riders should not be passed over due to overcapacity. Today's service is completely unacceptable.

2. Improve off-hours and weekends bus routes for the #7 and #9. Most people in South Boston do not have the luxury of being within walking distance to a subway. For many people the bus is the only public transportation available. It is vital that buses come at a more regular and higher frequency.

3. All bus routes currently on E 4th Street should be moved to East Broadway.

4. Buses must keep to their published schedules, including rush hour.

5. Near real-time performance statistics must be made available to the public.
Background Summary

- Several high-ridership routes (and many stops)
- Challenges include bus stop accessibility, service reliability, and crowding
- Ridership has outpaced service increases. For example, from 2004 to 2014, Route 7 scheduled trips increased 26%, while ridership grew 65%
- MBTA has made several changes, but there is more work to be done
Lesson #1

Your findings may be the truth, but the riding public may have a different take.
What We Found

- Bus stops do NOT meet MBTA or accessibility guidelines
  - 29% of the Route 9 & 11 bus stops in South Boston are equal to or less than 40 feet
  - 56% are along sidewalks less than 8 feet wide, or have no sidewalks at all

An inbound bus at East Broadway and H St (a 45-foot long stop) sticking into traffic

Inaccessible sidewalk conditions at East 1st and O Street
What Might The Riding Public Say?

Bus drivers don't pull all the way up to the stop, even if they have enough room.

More frequent buses & less traffic are desired.
A Sample of Things We Heard

- Bus drivers don’t pull all the way up to the stop, even if they have enough room.
- More frequent buses & less traffic are desired
- Buses are also a source of heat and noise
Lesson #2

Good solutions will balance multiple transportation modes and interests
MBTA System Guidelines

- Any stop altered (unless removed) must be brought up to current accessibility standards
- Stop spacing should be between 750 and 1,300 feet apart for urban bus routes
  - Gain in on-street parking if brought up to standard
- MBTA buses must open their doors at the curb
  - Loss in on-street parking if brought up to standard
Proposed Alignment and Stop Consolidation
Improved Stop Spacing

LEGEND
- Route (Proposed)
- Route (Proposed Eliminated)
- Existing Stop
- Proposed New Stop
- Proposed Improved Stop
- Temporary Stop
- Temporarily Out-of-Service Stop
- Proposed Eliminated Stop

100
Stop ID Number

No more than 3 blocks from nearest stop

1,090 ft
1,110 ft
1,200 ft (Rt 9)
1,100 ft
940 ft (Rt 11)
660 ft (Rt 9)
700 ft (Rt 11)
950 ft
640 ft
1,020 ft
60 ft
100 ft
Net Impacts to On-Street Parking

**Legend**
- **0**: No net change
- **-1**: Parking spaces lost
- **+1**: Parking spaces gained

**Net change in parking:** +2 spaces
Lesson #3

Opportunities emerge when you least expect them.

Strike while the iron is hot.
Winter Emergency: 2015

South Boston
Emergency Transportation Reconfiguration
Beginning 14th February 2015 and ending 1st April 2015
Routes and Stops: 2016
Since Service Moved Permanently to Broadway...

- **26% travel time savings in this segment** for riders on average, with savings over 40% during some AM hours

- **8% improvement in reliability** (less variation in travel time)

- Gained 13 parking spaces on East 4th Street

- Wider sidewalks for stops with many boardings
Thank you