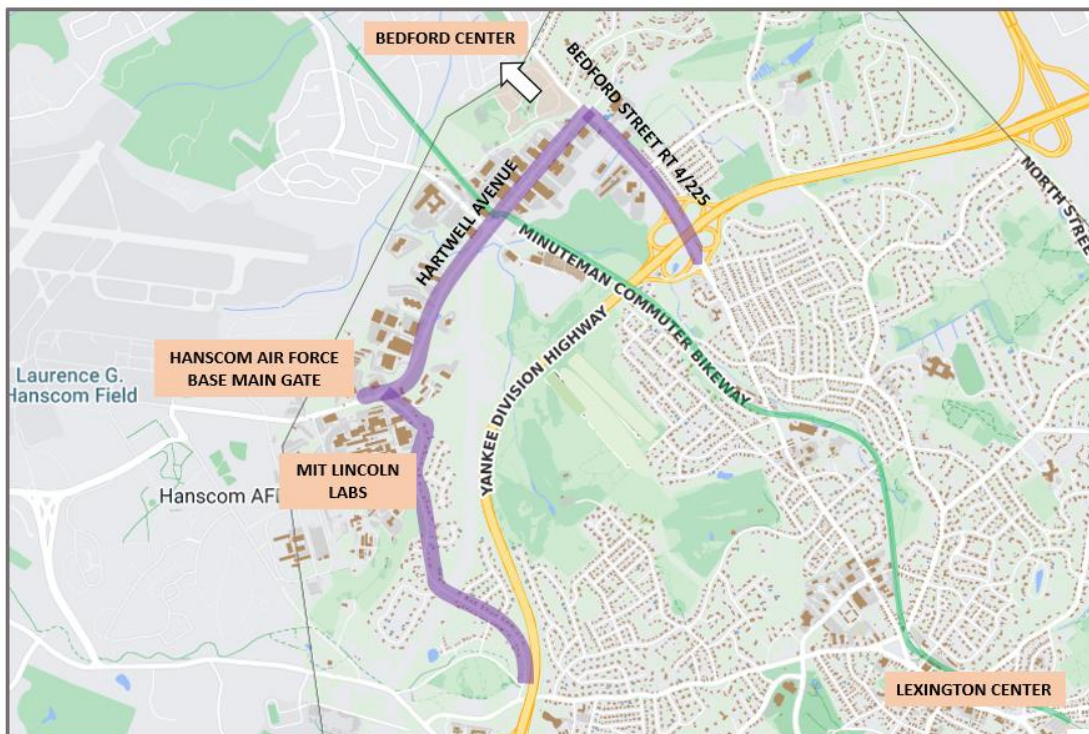




Routes 4 and 225 - Bedford Street and Hartwell Avenue Major Infrastructure/Complete Street Project Lexington, Massachusetts



The Project

- This regionally significant complete street/major infrastructure project improves safety and capacity management. The project vastly improves pedestrian and bicycle needs in the corridor and will provide a direct connection to the Minuteman Bikeway.
- The project reconstructs portions of Bedford Street (Rt4/225), Hartwell Avenue and Wood Street to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles and transit, and facilitate traffic flow between I-95/Rt. 128 and employment centers along the corridor such as Lincoln Labs and Hanscom Airforce Base.
- The project will also reconstruct the I-95 ramps. The Project Scope has been updated with MassDOT approval to include the full interchange at Route 4/225 and I-95

Lexington has invested \$9M with another \$5M in the next two years

- \$1.5M to develop the 25% Design - Design is underway by VHB
- \$7M - Maguire/Hartwell Intersection and Bridge Replacement. construction funding approved by Town Meeting.
- \$1M - Hartwell Avenue water main replacement project completed in anticipation of the reconstruction project.
- Additional investments include landscaping, bus stop, and improved pedestrian crossing as well as a HAWK crossing to achieve necessary pedestrian safety goals ahead of this project.
- \$1.75M to bring the design to 75% expected appropriation ATM 24
- \$1.75M to bring the design to 100% expected appropriation ATM 25

Just yesterday Town Meeting voted to add multi-family residential zoning to create a truly vibrant work, live, play district

The Town of Lexington looks forward to working with the MPO and MassDOT to move the Route 4/225-Bedford Street and Hartwell Avenue - Major Infrastructure Project forward.



David Mohler, Chair
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116-3968

RE: *Destination 2050* – Long Range Transportation Plan - Route 4/225 Bedford Street and Hartwell Avenue - Major Infrastructure Project

Dear Chair Mohler and Members of the Boston MPO,

I am writing to express support for the Route 4/225 (Bedford Street) and Hartwell Avenue Project's continued inclusion in the MPO's Long Range transportation Plan: *Destination 5*.

The Bedford Street (Route 4/225), Hartwell Avenue, and Wood Street Corridor is a gateway to Hanscom Air Field, Lincoln Labs, Town of Bedford and the Hartwell Avenue businesses. With its easy access to Interstate 95, with new zoning changes the area's has economic growth potential is being realized. However, the existing transportation infrastructure is severely limited with congestion and hampered by safety issues. Upgrades are needed to support the region's future development as Rt 4/225 is a key route to I-95 for many communities. The proposed improvements will enhance safety for all roadway users and facilitate traffic flow between residence and employment centers and rt. 128/I-95.

Lexington is working towards the 25% Design and Bedford has been following the progress as this is a key corridor for Bedford's economic development.

As a key commuter route and access point to Interstate 95, improvements to this corridor benefits those well beyond Lexington's borders. This is a regionally significant corridor that many businesses, employees. Building a transportation structure that accommodates all users safely and efficiently is paramount to the region's success.

I ask the MPO to keep the Route 4/225 Bedford Street Hartwell Avenue Project in the Long-Range Transportation Plan for inclusion in the TIP FY 2028-2030.

If you have any questions about the Lexington Chamber of Commerce's position on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at director@lexingtonchamber.org or 617-306-8261

Sincerely,

Heather Hartshorn

Heather Hartshorn
Executive Director, Lexington Chamber of Commerce

cc: James Malloy, Town Manager Town of Lexington

Jill Hai, Chair, Lexington Board of Selectmen

Sheila Page, Assistant Planning Director, Town of Lexington



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

April 13, 2023

To the Members of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization:

On behalf of the City of Boston, I write in strong support of the proposed change to create a new MPO “Bikeshare Support program” beginning in FFY 2029. This new investment program as part of Destination 2050, will enable Boston and our partner municipalities who make up the Bluebikes system to continue to strengthen and grow bikeshare in the region. It will support the continued expansion of the bikeshare network, advance our shared climate equity goal by reducing transportation emissions, and expand access to bikeshare to more environmental justice communities.

Bluebikes is an affordable, reliable public transit option for everyone who lives or works in Boston and surrounding communities. The number of annual trips by bike share has tripled since 2017, when the municipal owners of Bluebikes launched a major expansion of new stations. During the month-long Orange Line shutdown in 2022, Bluebikes riders averaged more than 21,500 trips per day (excluding three rainy days), and hit an all-time daily record of 26,944 on September 17. Importantly, bike share can be a primary commute mode for those who cannot drive, cannot afford to drive, or choose not to drive. The Bluebikes system is by its very essence a cooperative program, since it requires the close coordination of multiple municipalities to keep it running smoothly and successfully. Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, and Somerville have been working together since its inception, with strong support from MAPC. The system now has thirteen municipalities (including Everett, Chelsea, Revere, Salem, Newton, Watertown, Medford, Malden, and Arlington), and we hope the system will continue to sustainably expand.

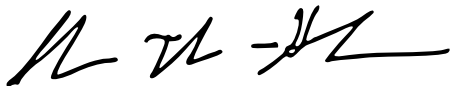
Our bike share system serves people of all backgrounds, including those who are low-income; people of color; and/or those with low English proficiency. In Boston, bike share stations are located within a 10-minute walk for 89% of households. Of the 393 Environmental Justice Block Groups in Boston, 383 are within ¼ mile of a Bluebikes station. Our bike share system, per trip, remains the most affordable form of transportation in the region. Further, Bluebikes offers a generous means-tested fare product of \$5 a month for unlimited trips; this value is unmatched by any other transportation mode.

The new proposed MPO Bikeshare Support program would be extremely beneficial to Boston and our partner municipalities as we continue to expand the system and to allow us to replace or upgrade existing stations and bikes as they reach the end of their useful life. This funding would support Boston’s efforts to plan for the long term success of the system, to continue to

grow ridership, and to ensure bikeshare remains an essential transportation tool for residents for years to come.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the MPO to expand and strengthen bikeshare and multimodal transportation improvements overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jascha Franklin-Hodge". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jascha Franklin-Hodge
Chief of Streets, City of Boston