

# 5 Smart Curbsides

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# Mobility Hubs

Mobility Hubs are centers of activity in Boston's neighborhoods that bring together alternative transportation choices, virtual trip-planning, and placemaking at select curbside locations. They are located at prominent destinations where:

- 1 **Alternative transportation** choices such as bus and rail transit stops, electric vehicle charging, and bicycle and car share parking are co-located to enable seamless transfers.
- 2 **Trip-planning** is facilitated by providing real-time global positioning system (GPS) information to users to improve access and connectivity to alternative travel modes.
- 3 **Placemaking** is enhanced by creating comfortable and desirable streetscapes and supplementing them with interactive digital displays and tags about local community facilities, history, and events.

Mobility Hubs provide both the physical and information infrastructure required to assist users in making informed travel choices. For example, using real-time information available on a digital display or mobile app, users would ascertain not only how to select a route to get to their destination, but also the best way to travel. Is it better to grab a bicycle from a Hubway station, hop on a soon-approaching bus or subway train, drive using the electric car-share vehicle located around the corner, or simply walk with the assistance of a smart wayfinding app? Which alternative provides the best balance between convenience, cost, and carbon footprint?

In contrast to Boston's more traditional multimodal centers which bring together regional transportation services at South, North, Back Bay, and other key stations, Mobility Hubs can be distributed at several locations within a neighborhood, typically adjacent to a subway stop, at a key intersection or next to a community center. They complement transit systems by catering to "first and last mile" needs. Mobility Hubs create a finer-grained, more personalized, and environmentally friendly network of transportation options for residents, commuters, and visitors to use on a daily basis.

Finally, Mobility Hubs can enhance the sense of place of a location by linking residents and visitors to new experiences, such as community events, farmers' markets, details about public art and sculptures, or the arrival of a new shop or restaurant in the surrounding neighborhood.



