Thumbnail History of Boston

Urban Transportation Planning

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History of Boston Transportation and Analysis of Historical Developments

Pre 1620

- Glaciers
- Rivers
- Codfish
1630

- Charles River
- Mosquitoes
- Drinking Water
- People (Religious Minority)
- The Bible
Unusual Commitment to Education

- 1635
- Latin School
- 1636
- Harvard
- 1800s
  Horace Mann
- 1865
  MIT
Maps of Boston in 1630 and 1795 removed due to copyright restrictions. Please refer to this [composite map of Boston](#).
1635-1776

- Trade
- Fishing
- Ship Building
- Bad Soil
- Cattle
- Smuggling
- Tax Evasion
- Relations with “Indians”
- Military Relations with England, French, & Indians
Maps of Boston in 1852 and 1880 removed due to copyright restrictions. Please refer to this composite map of Boston.
1776 --> War of 1812 --> 1830s

- Trade
- Ship Building
- Slave Trade
- Ice
- Clipper Ships
- Filling of Mill Pond
- War with Mexico
1830s - 1870

- Canals
- Rail
- Bicycles
- Mills, Cloth
- Civil War
- Filling South End, Back Bay
- Commuter Rail
- Street Cars
- Immigration (1848 Potato Famine)
1870 - 1900

- Sprague & Siemens
- Streetcar Networking
- Electric Power
- 1894 First Auto in Hemisphere
- 1897 First Subway in Hemisphere
- Streetcar Suburbs & Downtown
Maps of Boston in 1916 and 1934 removed due to copyright restrictions. Please refer to this [composite map of Boston](#).
1900-1945

- 1914 World War I
- 1920’s; Model T, Auto Explosion, Zoning
- 1930’s; Depression
- 1940’s; World War II
- Subways and the Survival of Rail Transit

1900-1945

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- 1940’s; World War II
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1945 - 1965 Postwar

- Oil, Autos, Highways, Suburbs
- 1956 Interstate Highways
- 1959 Southeast Expressway opens; Old Colony Rail closes
- 1964 Expansion of MBTA
  -- Riverside Green Line
  -- Orange Line tunnel under river
  -- Red Line extension to Quincy

- Transit and urban density
- Prudential, British properties, John Hancock
- Back Bay and Downtown
1965-1972

- 1960s Reaction to highways
- Boston Transportation Planning Review
- Enhance the City as the Priority
  -- Stop Destructive Highways
  -- Promote and Improve Transit
  -- Control Parking
  -- Promote Environmentally Benign Highways: The Big Dig
- Economy, Equity, Environment
Maps of Boston in 1950 and 1995 removed due to copyright restrictions. Please refer to this composite map of Boston.
Photos of the Boston skyline in 1958 and 1995 removed due to copyright restrictions.
1972 - present

The Southwest Corridor
1972 - present

- Post-Office Square by the Friends of Post Office Square
- Park rededicated in 1997 as the Norman B. Leventhal Park at Post Office Square

1972 - present

- 1973    Interstate Transfer
          Reorganize MBTA
- 1968-1990 Diversification of highway construction industry
- 1991-present Big Dig; South Boston Transitway
- Revise Mass Pike, MBTA
- Continued commuter rail expansion
Where Next?

• Silver Line
• Blue Line
• North to South Station rail
• Stuart Street
• Urban Ring
• Better bus service, transfers
Where Next?

• Red Sox; Medical Complex; South Boston Waterfront District; Cambridge-Somerville
• Suburban sprawl
How to pay for it all?

- Federal context
- Local taxes
Summary

- Land use
- Accessibility
- Economic Activity
- Equity
- Environment
- Sustainability
- Evaluation of what to do
- Effectiveness
- Financing mechanisms
- Efficiency