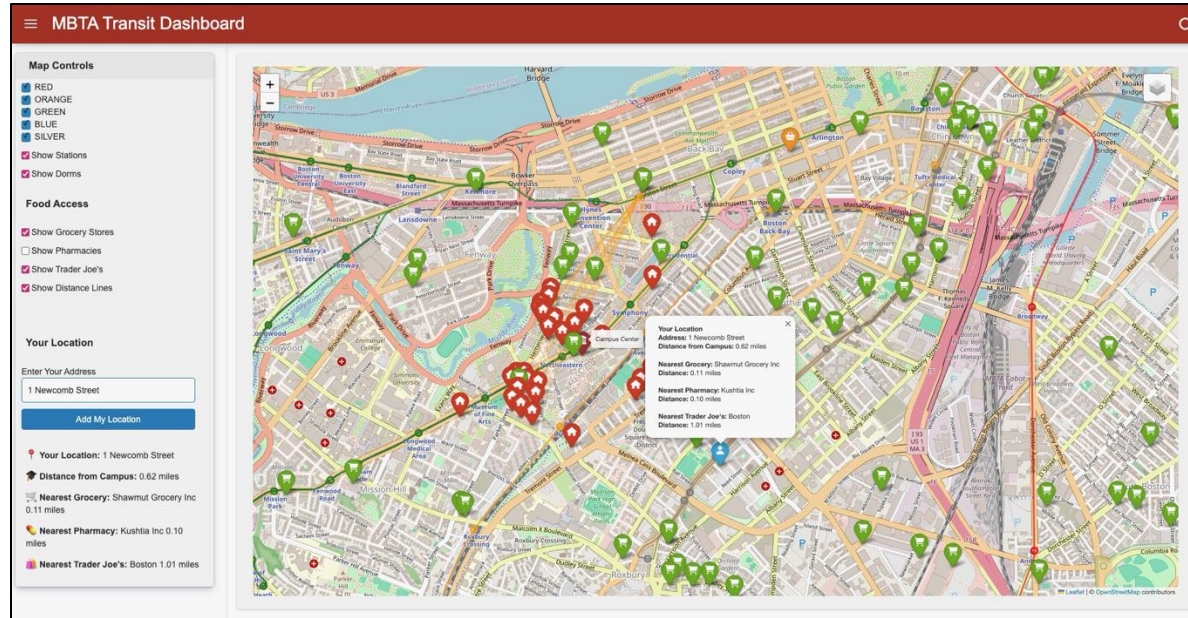# Housing Proximity Analysis: Northeastern University Student Guide

Cassandra Cinzori & Ian Solberg
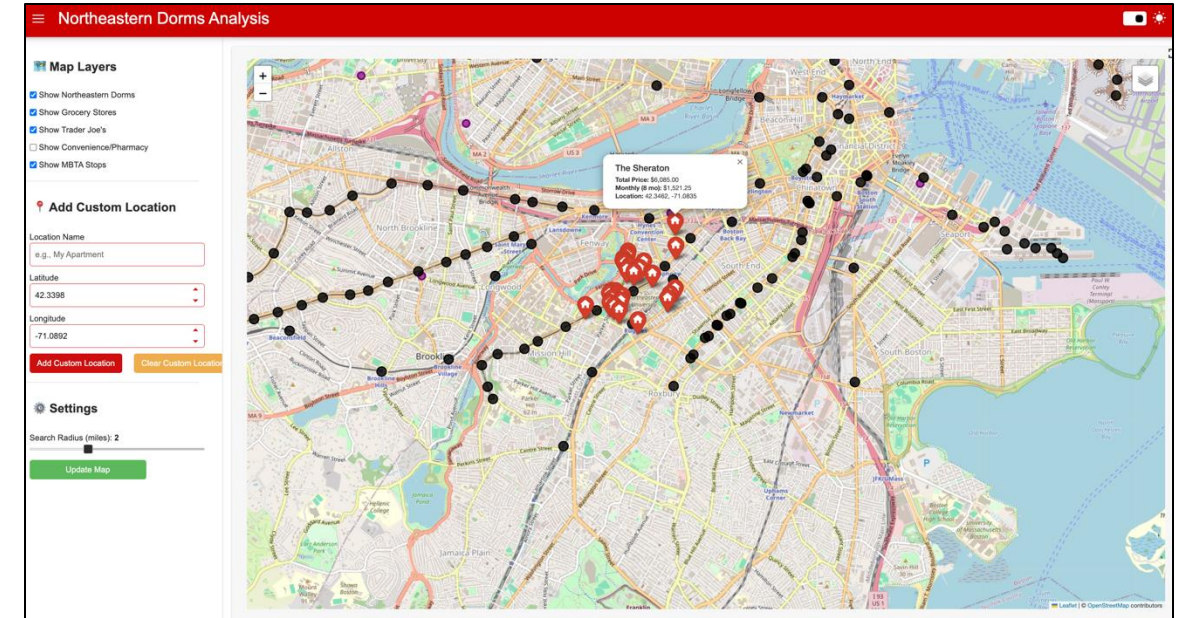
Custom Dashboard

AI Dashboard

Figure 1. A Comparison of Custom-Coded and AI-Generated Interactive Data-Driven Dashboards

These dashboards visualize Boston-area housing options for Northeastern University students, comparing 28 dorms against off-campus alternatives based on monthly costs and proximity to grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, Trader Joe's, and MBTA transit.

Key Insights: The dorms costs ranges from $1,093-$2,519/month. West Village and International Village offer superior transit and grocery access (≤0.3 miles), while newer facilities trade urban convenience for modern amenities, critical factors for car-free students.

Comparative Analysis: The custom dashboard demonstrates superior visual organization through color-coded MBTA lines matching actual transit routes, line-specific stop markers, and intuitive grocery store icons, creating immediate visual clarity. Claude generated the AI version in ~40% of development time, excelling at rapid prototyping. However, custom coding provided better structured output and precise control over visual hierarchy. Both proved equally trustworthy after validation, though custom development better suits projects requiring clear, organized data presentation.

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