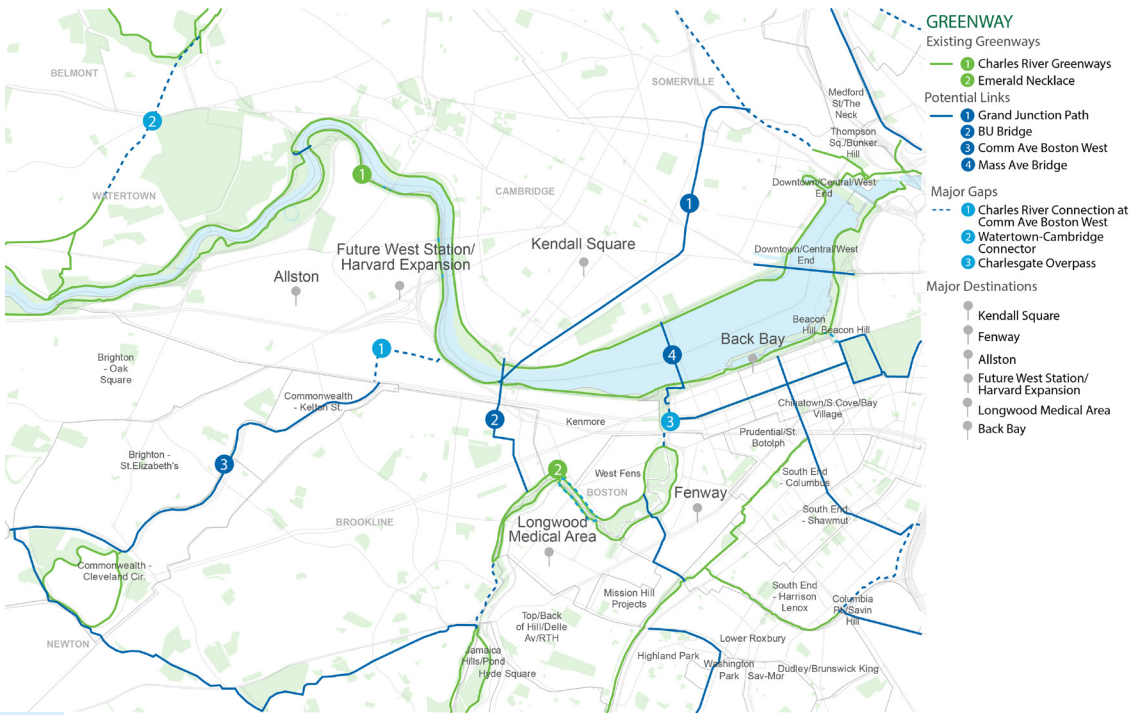# CONNECTING THE EMERALD NETWORK: MAJOR DESTINATIONS AND GAPS

Connecting the major destinations

The Emerald Necklace is a historically significant greenway network and park system in Boston. To better improve quality and accessibility of our modern greenway system, it is essential to look for and evaluate opportunities to connect the gaps around the Emerald Necklace in order to create a more complete public park system. The map on the right shows the potential connections between Cambridge (Kendall Square area) and Allston in view of the upcoming West Station construction and Harvard Campus expansion. The different colored lines and pointers shows proposed connectors, major gaps and major destinations in the area. The major gaps (dotted lines), Charles River Connection at Comm Ave Boston West and Charlesgate Overpass could potentially be priorities as these two gaps are close to the major destinations (Kendall Square and Allston), and could potentially connect to the proposed links (Comm Ave Boston Ave and Mass Ave Bridge).

GREENWAY

Existing Greenways
1 Charles River Greenways
2 Emerald Necklace

Potential Links
1 Grand Junction Path
2 BU Bridge
3 Comm Ave Boston West
4 Mass Ave Bridge

Major Gaps
1 Charles River Connection at Comm Ave Boston West
2 Watertown-Cambridge Connector
3 Charlesgate Overpass

Major Destinations
- Kendall Square
- Fenway
- Allston
- Future West Station/ Harvard Expansion
- Longwood Medical Area
- Back Bay

Connecting other transportation nodes

Apart from completing the Emerald Necklace to create more accessible green spaces, making sure the greenway network connects to different transportation nodes are also important in modern green space planning. This will allow people to have more freedom in choosing their mode of transportation for their commute. Connecting the greenway with MBTA subway stops and major bus hubs could potentially encourage people to use sustainable transportation such as walking and biking to complete their commute after getting off at the MBTA stops. The map on the left indicates how MBTA subway lines overlap with the existing greenway. The 1/2 mile buffer helps us understand the distance between the MBTA stations and the greenway. In the map, we can see that the greenway 'completes' the MBTA red line towards north by extending it towards Belmont and Arlington within 1/2 mile buffer. When planning further extension of the greenway, we should take into consideration how it could connect with existing public transportation system.

GREENWAY
2016 Original Emerald Network
2016 Map Additions
2016 New Segments

MBTA Subway Lines
Red   Silver   Green
Orange   Blue
• MBTA Subway Stations
1/2 mile buffer