



GETTING
AROUND

TranSComm

www.bumc.bu.edu/transcomm

twitter.com/bumctranscomm

710 Albany Street

617-638-7473

TranSComm (Transportation Solutions for Commuters, Inc.) is a transportation management association (TMA) that coordinates the transportation needs of the institutions at the BUMC.

TranSComm's friendly staff can assist students in finding the best commute to school or offer alternative routes. They also offer maps, schedules and additional commuter resources.

Major Programs of the Office

TranSComm is the centralized service for all transportation needs on the BUMC.

- Students will come to TranSComm to pick up their monthly T pass.*
- TranSComm manages the two bicycle cages on campus. Students interested in cycling can fill out an application on the website for a space in one of the cages if they want a more secure place to store their bikes during the day.
- TranSComm coordinates all of the on-campus shuttles and buses (currently they run five separate shuttles throughout the campus and the neighborhood).

*Student semester passes are available twice a year (Oct-Jan, and Feb-May). Applications are available on the TranSComm website.

Passes may be picked up on the last two business days of the month, at the TranSComm Office between 9:00AM and 5:00PM (Pre-paid semester passes remain at the TranSComm Office until claimed)

The Boston University Shuttle

www.bu.edu/thebus

The Boston University Shuttle (the BUS) is a free service that connects Boston University's two campuses. The BUS runs a continuous loop between the Charles River campus in the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood and the BUMC in the South End. Service is continual throughout the day from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. during the academic year. The BUS operates on a weekday schedule only (M-F). Students who intend to use the BUS as a major transportation option will want to sign up for the mailing list to receive automatic updates about interruptions, holiday schedules, and changes. You can find all of that information, as well as schedules and maps on the website above.

Transportation Options

Bicycles

Cycling is a popular method of both commuting and enjoying the outdoors. When the weather warm enough (spring through mid-fall), cycling is one of the best methods of transportation across Boston. During the winter months, snow and ice make biking less practical, although some experienced cyclists will continue to ride through the cold. Boston drivers and traffic make certain streets difficult to ride. However, due to Boston's small geographic size, a good cyclist can make great time across the city, comparable to public transportation.

The most difficult aspect about commuting with a bike is not navigating Boston traffic, though – it's keeping a bike secure. Bike theft is unfortunately common in Boston, so investing in a good bike lock is important. BU Parking offers a Bike Registry program that can help recover a bike if it is stolen.

TranSComm manages two closed bike cages to keep bikes vehicle secure. The annual fee for access to one of the bike cages is \$20.00.

Useful Cycling links

City of Boston's *Boston Bikes* Program

www.cityofboston.gov/bikes

Check on bike rack installations across the city, download biking maps, and learn about bike competitions around the city.

BU Bike Safety

www.bu.edu/bikesafety/

Run through Parking and Transportation Services at the Charles River campus, the BU bike safety website has tons of resources for maintaining, repairing, and storing bicycles, as well as links to independent bike shops. They also now manage the bike registration program at BU.

Walking

Boston is a great walking town, because it is beautiful and small. Walking across the city is not difficult; the size of the city means that brisk walkers can also make good time getting across town. A good map is essential for walkers! Boston streets are confusing and often have the same name. The BU Information Center has both Medical Campus and Charles-River campus maps.

Useful walking links:

Walk Boston

www.walkboston.org

The City of Boston's official pedestrian support organization. Provides maps, events, and support for pedestrians.

MBTA

www.mbta.com

Customer Service: 617-222-3200

Travel Information: 617-222-5000

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (better known as the “T”) runs the public transportation system in the Greater Boston area. The T is an extensive network of subway, bus, and commuter rail lines that connect eastern Massachusetts, but most students in Boston recognize the T primarily as Boston’s subway system. The T is the oldest public transit system in the country.

For most students at the BUMC, the T is going to serve the majority of the transportation needs they have. The subway system consists of four separate lines, each demarcated with a color (Green, Red, Blue, and Orange). The Silver Line, while physically a bus, is generally referred to in the same context as the subway lines.

Green Line

The main west-bound trains for the city, the Green Line splits into four distinct systems once it leaves its underground tunnels and heads above ground west of Kenmore Square or Symphony Station. The B line runs through BU’s Charles River campus and out to Boston College via Allston/Brighton, the C line runs down Beacon Street through the heart of Brookline, the D line heads deep into Newton and other outlying suburbs, and the E line travels through Northeastern University’s campus along Huntington Avenue. All of the green line trains are fairly small – at most, they are two train cars long, and can get crowded during rush hours in the morning and evening. Also, once they run above ground, the trains have to stop at traffic lights, so expect a long trip on the green line to take a little while.

Because the green line is the primary mechanism for getting to and from Fenway Park during baseball season, watch out for exceptional crowding and delays if you are traveling through Kenmore Square during a Red Sox game!



Blue Line

The blue line is both the connection to areas northeast of Boston, and probably the easiest way to get to Logan Airport. It’s also probably the only reasonable way to get to East Boston without a car, period, so students trying to get to Santarpio’s Pizza in Eastie, will probably be using the blue line to sate their pizza cravings.

Red Line

The red line runs roughly north and south, and connects Cambridge and Somerville to Boston, as well as most of the neighborhood of Dorchester and parts of Quincy. The red line is probably the longest line in terms of actual distance covered. Red line trains are more modern than green line trains and run fairly regularly. When traveling south, the red line splits after JFK/University of Massachusetts into a Dorchester/Mattapan Line (Ashmont), and the Quincy/Braintree line (Braintree).

Orange line

The orange line covers the central and western section of southern Boston. It connects Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and sections of the Back Bay with downtown and Charlestown. The orange line trains run fairly regularly and, like the red line, are modern enough and big enough to reduce the crowding seen on the green line.

Silver Line

Regularly referred to on the MBTA website as if it is a subway, the silver line is actually several different bus routes that travel throughout the city. The main differences between the silver line and the less popular bus routes: the silver line travels in its own lane on the street (making it much faster than a normal city bus), and the buses themselves are double-length. One leg of the silver line connects the bus terminal at Dudley Square in Roxbury with Downtown Crossing or South Station, and passes directly through the BU Medical Campus. The other leg of the silver line branches into two end points – either the seaport district, in South Boston, including the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, or Logan Airport.

Buses

When the subway trolleys aren’t suitable to get students where they’re going, then you’ll probably turn to the extensive bus system. There are almost 200 bus routes throughout the greater Boston area, but a few big lines that do most of the heavy lifting: the #1 bus travels north and south along Massachusetts avenue from Harvard to Dudley Square, the #47 connects South Boston to Central Square in Cambridge by way of an elaborate half-moon route through Roxbury and Fenway, the #39 runs through the heart of Jamaica Plain, and the #66 connects Harvard to Dudley by way of Allston, Brookline, and Roxbury. For most students, buses will serve as vital connections to the subway lines and the more difficult to reach locations around the Boston area.

Commuter Rail

The Commuter Rail connects the urban center of the MBTA network with a wide section of northern, southern, and central

Massachusetts. Primarily a commuting option for professionals who live outside of Boston and take the trains to work in the morning, the Commuter Rail is also one of the best mechanisms to check out the natural attractions of the state: the beaches of Cape Codd and Cape Ann, or a variety of hiking trails across eastern Massachusetts. It's also the cheapest way to get out to cities like Lowell, Worcester, Providence, Rhode Island, and Gloucester.

Getting Around on the T

The T operates between the hours of 5:30 AM and 1:00 AM, although some routes start earlier or later. Many of the large T stations are also transfer points for picking up one of the many buses that cover areas between subway routes. Maps and schedules for all of the lines of the T, and the buses, are available at www.mbtta.com.

The usual subway fare is \$2.00 and the usual bus fare is \$1.50. Students can also buy a Monthly Link Pass, which is a version of the Charlie Card that offers unlimited access to the subway and bus system on a monthly basis for \$55 per month (BU students have an 11% discount). Most transportation options to get to the South

End using the T involve a transfer. Most students who commute to the BUMC using the T will save money by getting a Link Pass instead of paying each time they ride a bus or train. Students using this pass will get a paper Charlie "ticket" that they will insert into the fare boxes at stations on individual trolleys; students who decide to get a plastic Charlie "Card" instead will only have to tap the cards against the electronic fare readers to board the T.

Riding the T is simple: the heart of the system is the matrix of Park Street and Downtown Crossing; if a train is headed towards one of those stops, the train is going "inbound." Trains heading away from downtown are going "outbound," and are recognized by the

destination listed on the front of each car. The Red and Green lines both have points along their routes where they splinter off into additional trains; the Red line differentiates these trains by their end location (Ashmont or Braintree), and the Green line separates the trains with a letter-system (the B, C, D, and E trains all go to different end-points).

Buses do not have the same matrix, because they generally cover areas of the city that are not served by the trains, but a bus's destination is also written on the front and side of the vehicle.



Students who are traveling to and from locations with which they are not personally familiar can use the trip planner tools on the MBTA website to get two itineraries to travel between any two locations in the Boston area, using only public transportation.

Getting To and From the BUMC with the T

The Boston University Medical Campus is located in the South End neighborhood of Boston. The

nearest subway stop is the Massachusetts Avenue stop on the Orange Line, about a 15 minute walk away from campus. Numerous buses such as the Silver Line, 1, CT1, CT3, 8, 10, and 47 provide access to surrounding neighborhoods and connections to other branches of the T. There is also a free BU shuttle service that provides transportation between the Medical Campus and the Charles River Campus of Boston University (check the appendix for a map of the T system).

DRIVING IN BOSTON

Cars offer a lot of advantages over other transportation options: freedom, access to areas poorly served by public transportation, a small reduction in commuting time. On the other hand, owning a car in Boston comes with a number of disadvantages: cost, having to navigate the unwieldy street system, theft, and a serious parking shortage.

State law requires that out-of-state cars driven in Massachusetts for more than 30 days out of the year must be registered in the state (usually about a \$90 fee). For most students, registering a car in Massachusetts will require in-state auto insurance, and Massachusetts has some of the highest rates in the country. Drivers in Massachusetts will also need to acquire a state driver's license (about a \$90 fee). Students driving a car registered in Massachusetts without a Mass driver's license can get a ticket (another \$90-\$100 fine). Make sure you double check the Registry of Motor Vehicles' website before you go to get your registration or Massachusetts license plates. If you don't have the necessary paperwork, they will send you back to get it.

If you are living a significant distance away from campus, a car might be your only reasonable transportation option. However, if there is a possibility that you won't need your car, try not to bring it with you - for most students who are focused on classwork centered on the BUMC itself, a car is not necessary.

Car Insurance

If you are planning on bringing a car with you to the BUMC, you will need to investigate auto insurance options. You need auto insurance to get a Massachusetts registration and license plates, and you need Massachusetts plates before you can apply for a resident parking permit. If you get into an accident in Boston and don't have the appropriate levels of coverage, you can get hit with big fines and potential legal or medical damages, too.

Massachusetts rates are set using a point system: for each year a driver has a clean driving record in the state, one point is removed from their record (most drivers start at around 11 points; the lowest the total can go is 1). Massachusetts auto insurance rates are the second highest in the country, second only to New Jersey.

Once you have a better idea of how the coverage works, you will want to contact your insurance provider (if you already have

one) and find out what your rates would look like in Boston. You may find that your current provider does not offer you the best rates, or does not offer coverage in Massachusetts. It's up to you to decide if you want to go with another company. Just about all of the large national organizations (Geico, Allstate) will have Massachusetts-specific policies.

Useful Driving links

State of Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

www.massdot.state.ma.us/rmv

The RMV is the agency that issues car registrations, licenses, and renewals. Branches are located throughout the state.

Unofficial Guide to the DMV

www.dmv.org/ma-massachusetts/car-insurance.php

The *Unofficial Guide to the DMV* is also a good source of information about the insurance and registration laws in Massachusetts, in easy-to-understand language.

AAA

www.aaa.com

If you are going to be driving in Boston, the OHR highly recommends that you join AAA (the American Automobile Association). Boston winters are cold and can cause problems with older cars; likewise, the stop-and-go traffic in the city can wreak havoc on transmissions. Trying to commute home only to find that your car won't start is never fun, but it's twice as bad if no one's around to help. AAA's website for **Southern New England** has a lot of information about road side assistance and the cost of joining.

Driving When You Don't Own a Car

Not all driving needs to be done with a car you own. If you find that you have need of a car for a specific situation, the BUMC has a couple of options that students, faculty, and staff can use instead of having to get their own vehicle.

Zipcar

www.zipcar.com

"wheels when you want them"

Zipcar is a car sharing company with two vehicles located on the BUMC and dozens throughout Boston. To use Zipcar apply online at the website. Once you are approved, you can get your zipcard downtown, which will let you access cars you've reserved. You can reserve the car when needed (up to two months in advance). After usage the vehicle must then be returned to its designated parking space. Zipcar members pay an hourly rate to use the cars and are free from ownership responsibilities. All BUMC students and staff receive a discount on application and membership fees.

My Green Commute

bumc.mycommuteoptions.com/login

TranSComm offers a number of different ride-share and commuting share options, with My Commute offering the option to carpool with other BUMC students and staff.

To register for the BUMC system, sign-up on the website with a BU email address.



PARKING IN BOSTON

If you intend to use a car to get around Boston, in addition to the cost of the car itself and whatever car loans or insurance payments you have, you'll also need to find a place to put it. Unfortunately, Boston is not a particularly car-friendly city, and parking is really expensive. If you are going to use the car to commute to campus, you'll need to find a place to park your car both in your home neighborhood and in the South End.

On-Campus Parking

www.bumc.bu.edu/parking

Office of Parking and Transportation Services
710 Albany Street
617-638-4915

The BUMC Office of Parking and Transportation Services maintains two garages in the South End and manages parking permits for all BU-owned parking facilities in the area. Students interested in getting a parking permit should contact the office directly. Because the BU garages house not only BUMC students and staff, but also BMC visitors and staff, spaces are limited. Most students will be on a waiting list for a little while before a spot opens up.

Priority parking is made available for students who are more advanced in their training, and who are working on rotations at the BMC. The average cost for a space in the 610 Albany lot is \$160 per month.

Off-Campus Parking

Resident Parking Permits

www.cityofboston.gov/transportation

Boston City Hall (Government Center)
1 City Hall Square: 2nd Floor, Rm. 224
Boston, MA 02215
617-635-4000

If you are interested in parking your car on the street in the neighborhood of Boston where you live, you will need to get a

resident sticker. Resident stickers allow you to park your car for free on any street in your neighborhood that is specifically marked with a "resident parking only" sign. If you park your car in a neighborhood where you don't have a permit, you risk getting a \$40 ticket.

While a resident sticker allows you to park your car on the street, it does not *guarantee* you a space. If you intend to bring a car with you to Boston, and you want to live in the neighborhoods of Fenway/Kenmore, the Back Bay, the South End, or Allston/Brighton, be prepared to circle your block a few times before you find a spot on the street. Also, brush up on your parallel parking skills. To get a resident sticker, you will need to go to City Hall with your automobile registration, an application (available at City Hall or online at the site above), and a copy of your lease or a utility bill that can be used to verify your address.

Things to keep in mind about Permits:

- Resident permits are FREE of charge, but they don't let you park outside of your neighborhood, nor do they guarantee you a space.
- Resident permits are good for one year, but you can renew your permit through the mail.
- In most areas, "meter feeding" is not allowed. If a spot is posted as two hour parking, that's the limit, no matter how many quarters you put in the meter.
- Boston's traffic division is very good at giving out parking tickets. Street signs in your neighborhood will have a lot of information - make sure you pay attention to them if you do not want to get a ticket.
- Persons with resident parking stickers on their vehicles must have their vehicle cleaned off and their parking sticker visible to passersby within twenty-four hours after the end of a snowstorm.
- Finally, remember that these laws and rules only apply in Boston itself - Brookline, Cambridge, and other nearby towns have their own transportation laws. Contact their departments of transportation for more specific information on each town's parking policies.

Private Parking

Some students will look for a parking spot in the South End through an independent lot or garage. Spots in the South End can range from \$150 to \$250 per month, although higher prices are certainly not unheard of. Most students will try to find a spot using an online search tool, much in the same way that they would find an apartment. Here are a few sites the OHR has found useful for locating these spots:

www.parkingspaces.com

www.boston.craigslist.org/prk