

## Mapping the Past, Seeing the Future

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As participants look at the maps, they are given questions to consider. Questions and observations are written on sticky notes and stuck directly to the maps. This portion is done in relative silence.

- What patterns do you notice?
- Does anything surprise you?
- What questions do you have about the choices made in the past?

Participants then discuss what they observed, and come up with a list of research questions.

This activity has two overall goals:

1. To show participants a history of dramatic landscape change and changing and shifting transit use, much of which may be new to them.
2. To encourage participants to see that the present is not the inevitable future of the past, and that choices have been made and continue to be made that literally shape the future.

Maps used from Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library ([maps.bpl.org](http://maps.bpl.org)), unless otherwise noted

Landscape History	Transit History
An Exact Draught of Bostone harbour, with a Survey of most of the Islands about it. Date: 1711 BPL Call Number: From the British Library, Maps K.Top.120.32.	Traveller's map of the middle, northern, eastern states and Canada showing all the railroad, steamboat, canal, and principal stage routes Publisher: Disturnell, John Date: 1850 BPL Call Number: G3711.P1 1850 .D57x
A plan of the town of Boston and its environs, with the lines, batteries, and incampments of the British and American armies Author: Page, Thomas Hyde Date: 1776 BPL Call Number: From the Collections of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress	Rail road map showing the street rail road routes in and leading from Boston, with the terminus of each road in suburban cities or towns Author: Chase, J. G.; Publisher: J.H. Bufford & Co. Date: 1865 BPL Call Number: G3764.B6P33 1865.2 .C4x
Boston and its environs Author/Publisher: Phillips, R. Date: 1806 BPL Call Number: MAPART COLLECTION	Map of Boston and vicinity showing tracks operated by the Boston Elevated Railway Co., surface lines Publisher: Geo. H. Walker & Co. Date: 1898 BPL Call Number: G3764.B6P33 1898 .M3
Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Publisher: United States Coast Survey Date: 1863 BPL Call Number: MAPART COLLECTION	Road map of the Boston district showing the metropolitan park system Publisher: Geo. H. Walker & Co. Date: 1900 BPL Call Number: G3764.B6P2 1900 .W3
Boston Harbor Shipping Channels National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Coast Survey Updated 2017 <a href="http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/13270.shtml">http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/13270.shtml</a>	1965 Interstate Highway Proposal Architecture Boston, The Roads Not Taken, David Luberoff, Winter 2012 <a href="https://www.architects.org/architectureboston/articles/roads-not-taken">https://www.architects.org/architectureboston/articles/roads-not-taken</a>
Boston Inner Harbor, mean high tide + 7.5 feet Boston Harbor Now & UMass Boston <a href="http://www.bostonharbornow.org/harborpolicy">http://www.bostonharbornow.org/harborpolicy</a>	GoogleMaps screenshots used for all current maps