



## Tactical Urbanism in Action

Tactical transit lanes (TTL) are low cost and rapid implementation bus-only lanes. TTLs are typically less than a mile in length and are strategically placed along a transit route. TTLs are typically installed by a municipal public works department in partnership with regional transit agencies.

In 2017 the City of Everett, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) carried out a TTL pilot program by designating a bus-exclusive lane with standard orange construction cones. Over the duration of the pilot, organizers found peak-hour buses ran 28 percent faster than before. Following Everett's investment in several hundred traffic cones and political capital, the cities of Boston and Cambridge began to roll out bus priority treatments.

Successful TTL project leaders indicate that a shared understanding of a project combined with shared ownership is essential. Consistent public communications and messaging from all partners will build trust, inspire confidence, and cultivate a public understanding of the project.



## S-1 Tactical Transit Pilots

Initiative: Collaborate with municipalities and roadway agencies to pursue tactical measures to initiate temporary infrastructure improvements to enhance service and operations.

**IMPLEMENT  
NOW**

implement  
later

further  
investigate

### Supports Goals:

Equity, Productivity, Responsiveness, Safety, Adaptability, Collaboration, and Fiscal Solvency

Transit reliability and travel times are highly dependent on the infrastructure where buses are operating. To address reliability performance gaps as well as travel time competitiveness, *Driving Innovation* calls for “tactical” transit improvements. These are quick, effective and relatively inexpensive strategies that allow most of the same benefits as much more expensive and permanent infrastructure improvements. Examples include:

- Tactical transit lanes | Typically less than a mile in length, an entire lane of traffic can be cordoned off for bus-only use with orange plastic cones or paint.
- Neck-downs | Painted curb extensions, which can be buttressed by orange plastic cones or temporary bollards. These help pedestrians safely cross streets and access transit stops in the opposite direction of travel.
- Temporary bulb-outs | A transportable, rectangular raised platform placed directly on a curbside travel lane and adjacent to a bus stop.

Pace will seek out municipal and county partners that may be interested in implementing pilot projects. Near-Term Priority Pulse corridors and other key fixed route corridors may include the best places to try these strategies.

Successful tactical transit improvements may also help build support and communicate the benefits of permanent bus priority infrastructure to other regional stakeholders and potential funding sponsors.

Once pilots are tested, Pace can update the Transit-Supportive Guidelines to provide municipalities more tools to improve transit service. Consistent public communications and messaging from all partners will build trust, inspire confidence, and cultivate a public understanding of the project.<sup>12</sup>

Opposite Page - MBTA Tactical Bus Lane<sup>15</sup> (top); NYCMTA temporary bulbout<sup>13</sup> (bottom-left); Crosswalk-shortening “neckdown”<sup>14</sup> (bottom-right).

<sup>12</sup> *Best Practices in Implementing Tactical Transit Lanes*. UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies. 2019. [www.its.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/02/Best-Practices-in-Implementing-Tactical-Transit-Lanes-1.pdf](http://www.its.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/02/Best-Practices-in-Implementing-Tactical-Transit-Lanes-1.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> *Why Tactical Transit is the Next Big Thing*. TransitCenter. 2016. [transitcenter.org/2016/12/19/why-tactical-transit-is-the-next-big-thing/](http://transitcenter.org/2016/12/19/why-tactical-transit-is-the-next-big-thing/)

<sup>14</sup> *Guerrilla carfare: ‘Tactical urbanism’ aims for grassroots streetscape reform*. The Villager. 2017. [www.thevillager.com/2017/03/guerrilla-carfare-tactical-urbanism-aims-for-grassroots-streetscape-reform/](http://www.thevillager.com/2017/03/guerrilla-carfare-tactical-urbanism-aims-for-grassroots-streetscape-reform/)

<sup>15</sup> Reynolds, J. (2016) MBTA Tactical Bus Lane [www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/north/2016/12/21/everett-hails-bus-only-lane-broadway-success/9wDjozXVolbCkz2ziPf9JJ/story.html](http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/north/2016/12/21/everett-hails-bus-only-lane-broadway-success/9wDjozXVolbCkz2ziPf9JJ/story.html)