

# EAST BOSTON

East Boston is located to the northeast of Downtown across Boston Harbor. Although very close to Downtown, it is linked to it only by tunnel and ferryboat. East Boston has long been at the forefront of transportation in Boston, New England, and the world. Once home to well known ship-builders Donald McKay and Samuel Hall, East Boston was the major site for the construction of clipper ships in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. These ships were used for trade and their speedy travel provided greater opportunities for worldwide commerce.

In 1905, a subway tunnel to downtown opened, and was one of the earliest rail tunnels anywhere to be built beneath water. Today, Logan Airport occupies a significant portion of land in East Boston bringing cars, noise and jobs to East Boston. Its proximity to the Downtown core is uncommon for airports nationwide, and this continues to be a boon and a burden for East Boston and the rest of the city.

Route 1A is a limited-access expressway running through the center of the neighborhood, connecting the Callahan and Sumner Tunnels, the Airport, and the North Shore. Meridian and Chelsea Streets are the only links across the Chelsea Creek. Saratoga Street is the only link to Winthrop to the east and Bennington Street is a major link to Revere.

## Roadway Volumes in East Boston\*

Sumner/Callahan Tunnels	82,000
Ted Williams Tunnel	32,000
Route 1A	60,000
Chelsea Street Bridge	18,000
Chelsea Street	4,000
Bennington Street	17,000
Meridian Street	15,000
Saratoga Street	5,000

Source: CTPS

\*Estimated daily traffic at a representative point

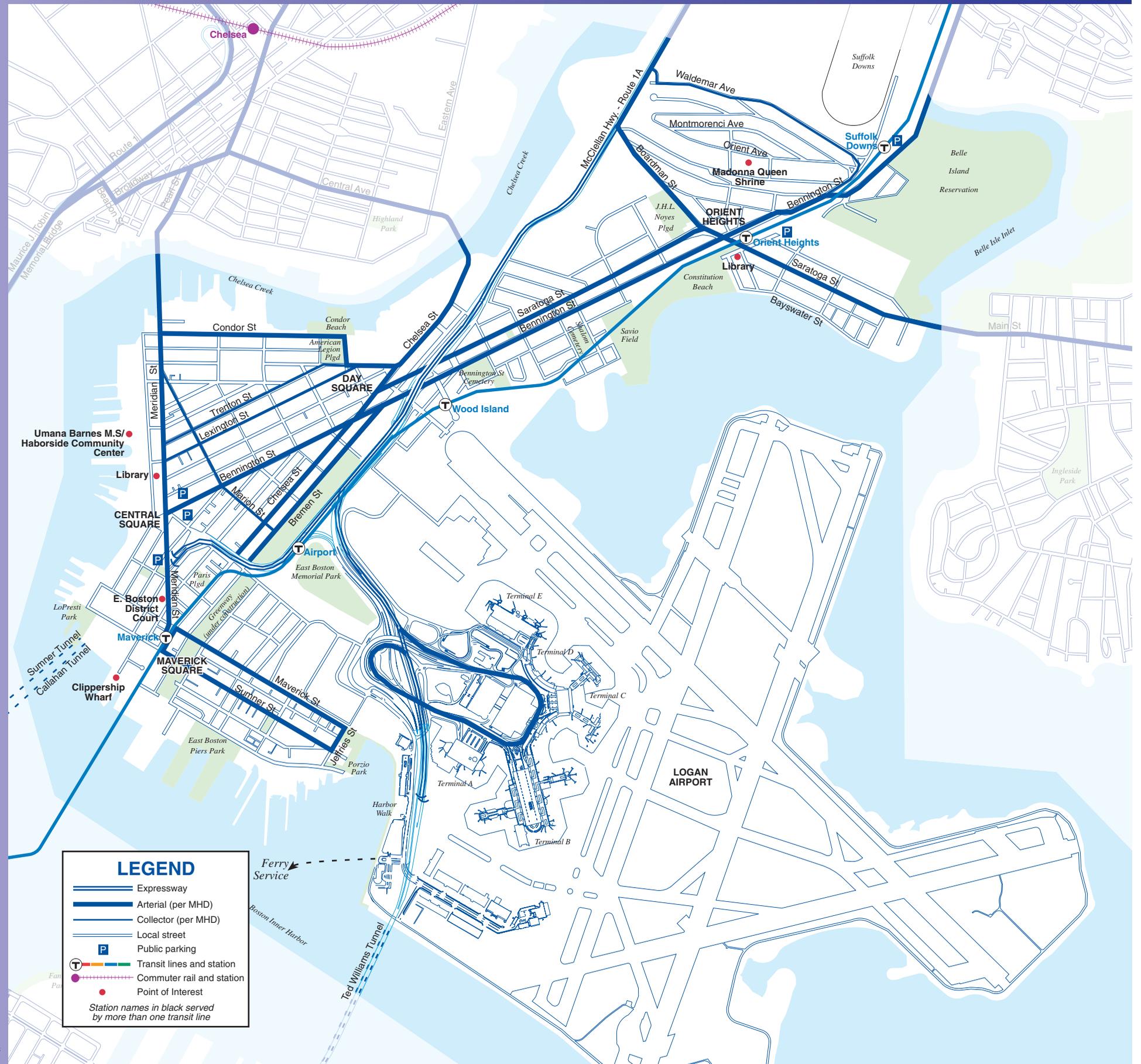
Once a major shipping port of call, East Boston was always an early entry point for immigrants into Boston and beyond. These waves of immigration have left their mark in East Boston and its distinctive neighborhoods and strong heritage remain a stabilizing factor even today. The Census counted 38,413 people in East Boston in 2000, a 17% increase over 1990, making Eastie the fastest growing neighborhood in the city in the 1990s. The major business districts are along Meridian Street and Bennington Street, though Logan Airport is clearly the largest employment generator in East Boston.

## Employment Areas in East Boston

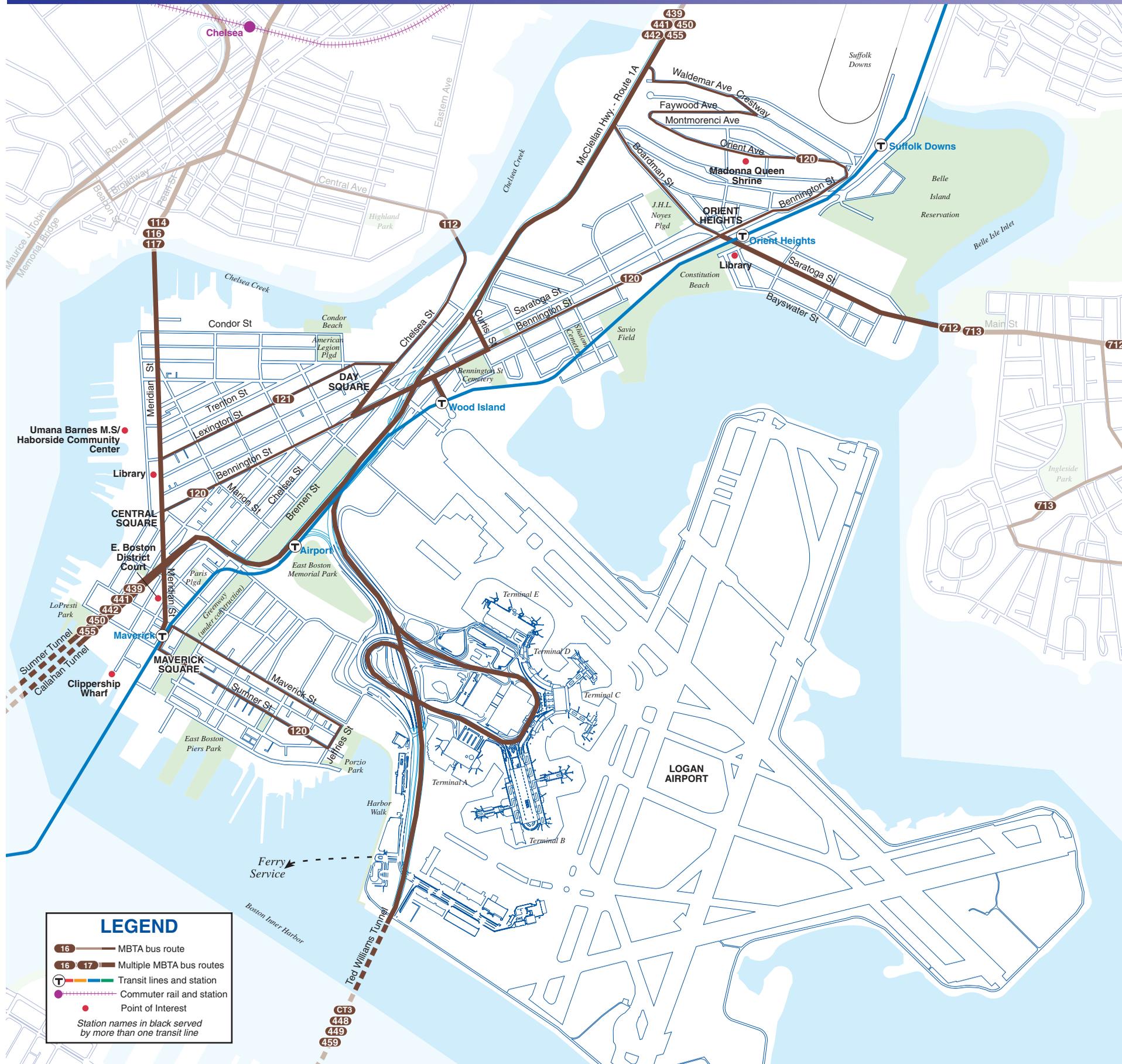
Maverick/Central Squares	2,100
Day Square/Bennington	900
Chelsea Creek	1,800
Harborfront	1,200
Logan Airport	16,400
Orient Heights/Suffolk Downs	1,300
Other	600
<b>TOTAL JOBS</b>	<b>24,300</b>

Source: 1996 CTPS site-level employment database

# ROADWAY SYSTEM



# TRANSIT NETWORK



**LEGEND**

- MBTA bus route
- Multiple MBTA bus routes
- Transit lines and station
- Commuter rail and station
- Point of Interest

*Station names in black served by more than one transit line*

In 1990, 42% of East Boston households did not own a motor vehicle. Walking or bicycling accounts for 70% of trips within the neighborhood, but none of the trips headed elsewhere. More than 70% of trips headed for the downtown core were by transit, the highest percentage of any Boston neighborhood. The delays and cost of using the tunnels help explain this very high transit mode share. Trips completely within East Boston account for more than half the total trips, but 26% of trips are to the Inner Communities, with 88% of these as auto trips.

**Distribution of Trips and Mode Shares in East Boston (not including Logan Airport)**

	Auto	Transit	Walk
All destinations and purposes	52%	13%	35%
City Average	51%	19%	30%

("walk" mode includes bicycle)

**Geographic Distribution of Trips**

% of Trips	Origin or Destination	Auto	Transit	Walk
51%	Within Neighborhood	26%	4%	70%
7%	Core Neighborhoods	29%	71%	0%
10%	Rest of Boston	77%	23%	0%
26%	Inner Communities	88%	12%	0%
5%	Outer Communities	97%	3%	0%

**Activity Distribution of Trips**

% of Trips	Activity in Neighborhood	Auto	Transit	Walk
50%	Home	54%	17%	29%
12%	Work	74%	21%	5%
38%	Other	42%	6%	53%

The MBTA's Blue Line runs through East Boston making five stops. The Blue Line is heavily used, especially during peak commuter times, and provides a quick, frequent connection from East Boston to Downtown and the rest of the MBTA network. Six bus routes run through the neighborhood and feed the Blue Line at Maverick and Wood Island Stations. These routes also connect East Boston to the neighboring towns of Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

**Daily MBTA Use by Station or Route\***

Rapid Transit	
Maverick	8,800
Airport	4,550
Wood Island	2,250
Orient Heights	3,700
Suffolk Downs	1,025

Bus Routes (via)	
112	Wellington-Wood Island (Chelsea) 1,350
114	Bellingham-Maverick (Meridian) 1,200
116	Wonderland-Maverick (Meridian) 4,700
117	Wonderland-Maverick (Meridian) 4,300
120	Orient Heights-Maverick (Bennington) 2,900
121	Wood Island-Maverick (Lexington) 325
712	Winthrop-Orient Heights (Saratoga) 1,250
713	Winthrop-Orient Heights (Saratoga) 1,050

\*Boarding counts only. Source: MBTA and CTPS