

WEST ROXBURY

West Roxbury was originally part of the Town of Roxbury. Briefly independent, it was annexed to Boston in 1874. Its rural character began to change in 1851 when rail service was extended and it became a bedroom community for Boston. The suburban style of development continued in West Roxbury and today it is a neighborhood of largely single family homes on tree lined streets. Scenic parkways, historic cemeteries and the Charles River border much of West Roxbury, enhancing its suburban feel. Centre Street, one of the oldest roads in Boston, runs through the heart of the neighborhood and is a major shopping street in West Roxbury. Three commuter rail stations still connect today's West Roxbury's residents to jobs in Downtown Boston.

The streets and parkways that traverse West Roxbury carry commuter traffic from the suburbs into the City of Boston. With its somewhat limited access, the VFW Parkway acts almost as a highway into the City and is heavily used. The major neighborhood streets also carry significant levels of through traffic.

Roadway Volumes in West Roxbury*	
VFW Parkway	43,000
Washington Street	25,000
Centre Street	13,000
Lagrange Street	10,000
W. Roxbury Parkway	11,000
Weld Street	5,000

Source: CTPS
*Estimated daily traffic at a representative point

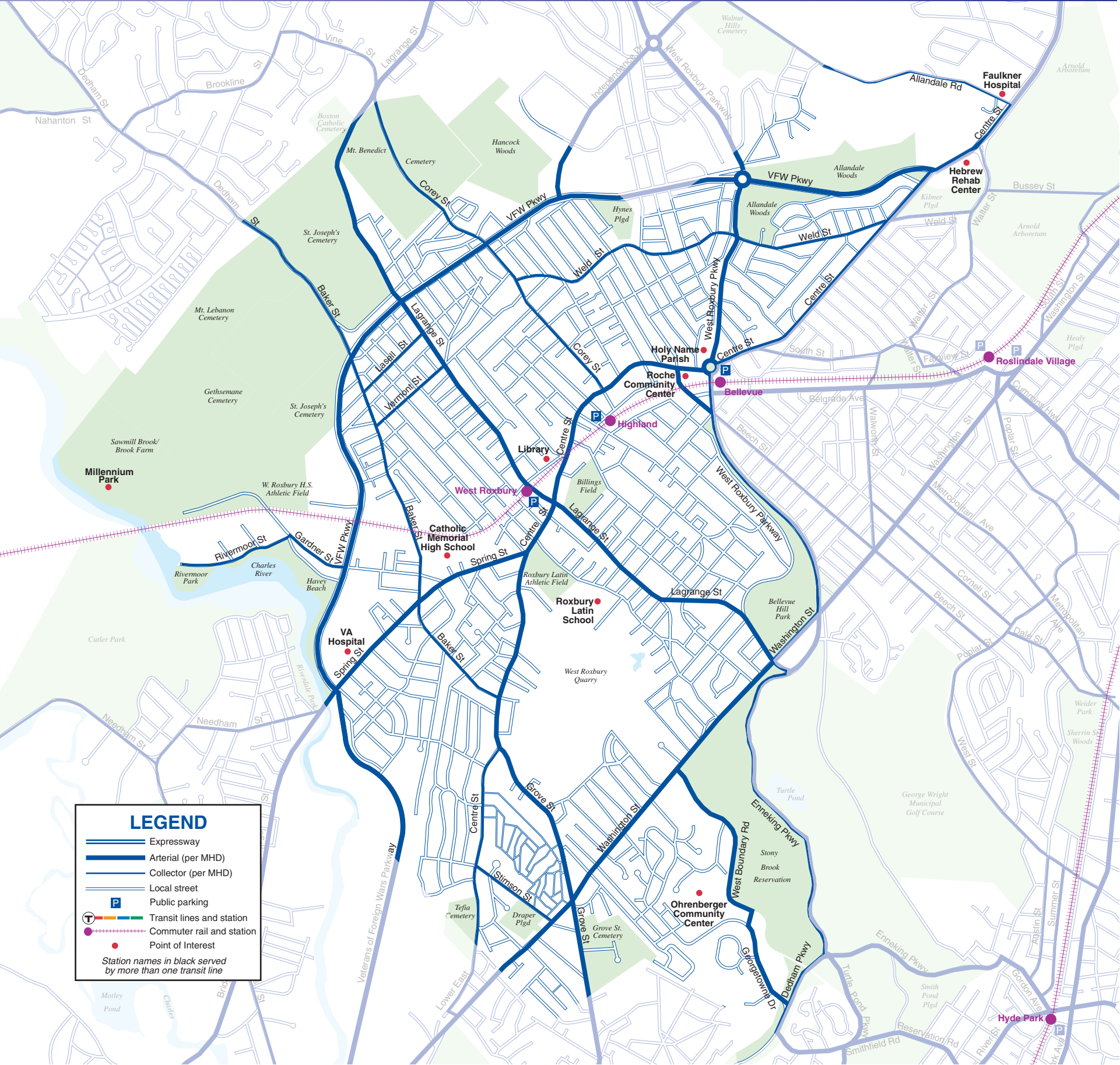
The 2000 Census recorded 28,753 people living in West Roxbury, a 3% decrease from 1990, and a continuation of the neighborhood's declining population trend. Primarily a bedroom community, the employment centers in West Roxbury tend to be located on the neighborhood's periphery. There are larger chain retailers, schools and small office developments located along VFW Parkway, giving it the largest employment concentration in the district. The area including the Faulkner Hospital and Hebrew Rehabilitation Center also has relatively high employment. The rest of West Roxbury is neighborhood oriented, especially the shopping district located along Centre Street.

Employment Areas in West Roxbury	
Centre Street	2,400
VFW Parkway	4,100
Washington Street	650
Faulkner Hospital/Hebrew Rehab	3,400
TOTAL JOBS	10,550

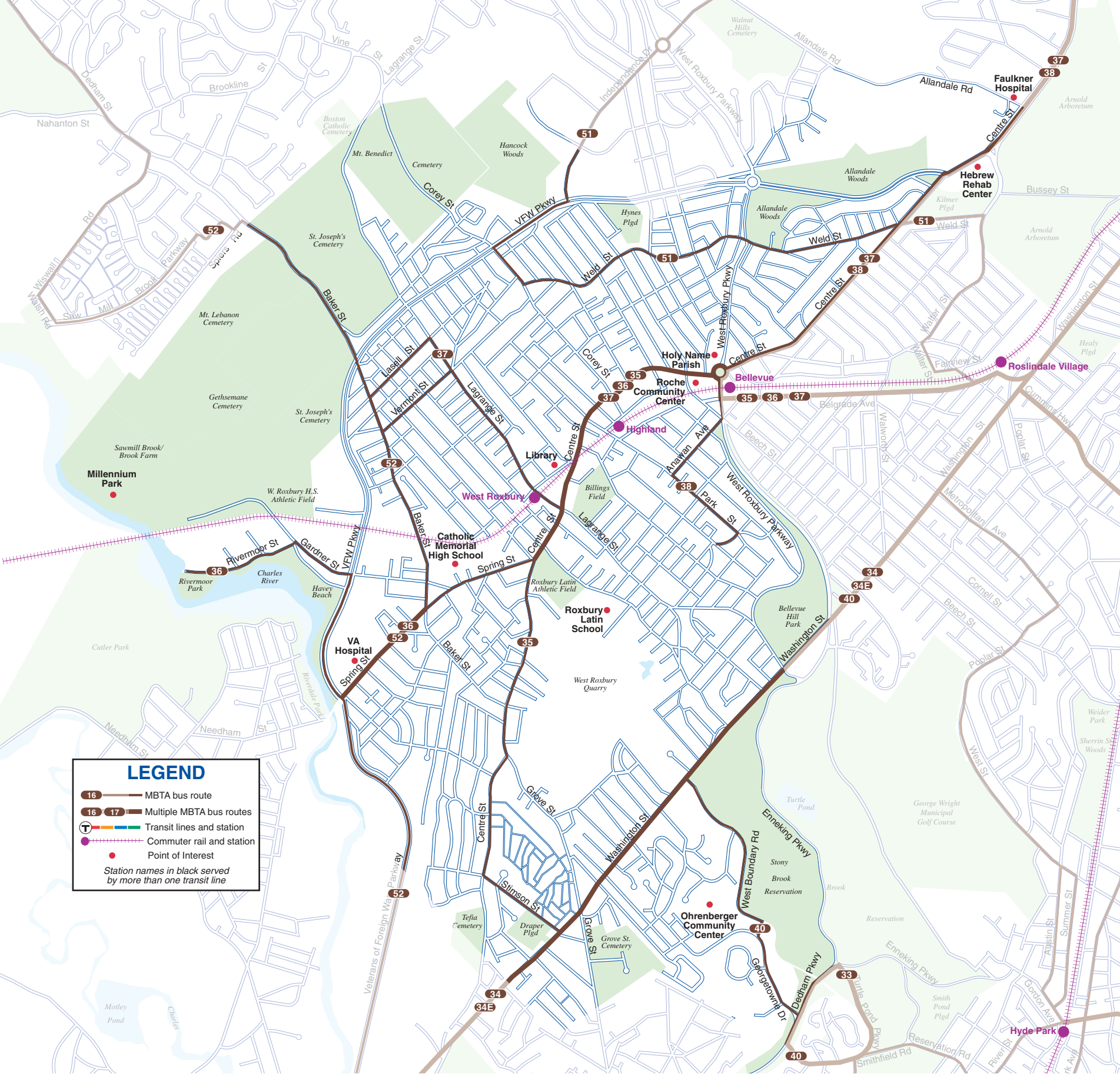
Source: 1996 CTPS site-level employment database

Off street parking in West Roxbury is common. Most houses have driveways and most stores or shopping centers have their own parking facilities. However, in the Centre Street business district, parking becomes scarcer. The MBTA has three parking facilities, one adjacent to each Commuter Rail station. Additionally, there is one municipal

ROADWAY SYSTEM



TRANSIT NETWORK



lot, located off Corey Road, that provides 118 spaces for the Centre Street business district.

West Roxbury’s suburban character makes it one of the least dense neighborhoods of Boston. It also has the highest car ownership of any neighborhood, as in 1990, when only 15% of households did not have a motor vehicle, compared to 38% citywide. Consequently it has the second highest auto mode shares in the City, and amongst the lowest transit and walk mode shares.

Distribution of Trips and Mode Shares in West Roxbury

	Auto	Transit	Walk
All destinations and purposes	82%	7%	11%
City Average	51%	19%	30%

(“walk” mode includes bicycle)

Geographic Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Origin or Destination	Auto	Transit	Walk
31%	Within Neighborhood	66%	2%	32%
4%	Downtown Core	38%	62%	0%
24%	Rest of Boston	84%	11%	4%
19%	Inner Communities	95%	5%	0%
22%	Outer Communities	99%	1%	0%

Activity Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Activity in Neighborhood	Auto	Transit	Walk
55%	Home	83%	8%	8%
11%	Work	85%	9%	6%
34%	Other	80%	4%	16%

Though transit use is generally low in West Roxbury, it is the primary mode of travel to the Downtown core. 62% of all travelers to Downtown use transit, but downtown trips account for only 4% of all trips. Transit access to Downtown is fairly quick, less than 25 minutes to South Station, from the three stations on the Needham commuter rail line. MBTA bus service also connects many of West Roxbury’s residents to adjacent neighborhoods, shopping, educational and recreational opportunities. Forest Hills and the Dedham Mall are two significant destinations accessible by bus from West Roxbury.

Daily MBTA Use by Station or Route*

Commuter Rail

Bellevue	350
Highland	600
West Roxbury	600

Bus Routes

34	Dedham Line – Forest Hills	6,280
35	Dedham Mall/Stimson – Forest Hills	2,100
36	Charles River – Forest Hills	3,250
37	Baker & Vermont – Forest Hills	1,650
38	Wren Street – Forest Hills	775
40	Georgetowne – Forest Hills	1,100
51	Cleveland Circle – Forest Hills	1,700
52	Dedham Mall – Watertown Sq.	850

*Boarding counts only. Source: MBTA and CTPS