

# BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

# ROADWAY SYSTEM

Beacon Hill is a 19th-century downtown Boston residential neighborhood situated directly north of the Boston Common and Public Garden. Deliberately laid out as a residential community, Beacon Hill consists of a dense network of very narrow streets. Due to the careful planning of its founders, the streets of Beacon Hill are relatively free of busy traffic. One of its founders was renowned architect, and State House designer, Charles Bulfinch. The Back Bay neighborhood sits on land reclaimed from water in the mid-nineteenth century. Unlike many other Boston neighborhoods, the Back Bay was laid out in a grid pattern and was based on French urban planning with parks and wide boulevards.

The major shopping streets are Charles Street and Cambridge Street in Beacon Hill and Newbury Street and Boylston Street in Back Bay. The latter is connected to the Prudential Center and Copley Place malls, both of which have large underground parking garages. There are several privately operated garages in Back Bay. The Boston Common Parking Garage is a publicly owned garage with 1,300 spaces. With the highest traffic volumes in the area, Storrow Drive runs along the Charles River on the northern edge of the district. Massachusetts Avenue, which runs from Dorchester to Cambridge and beyond, is a major crosstown route and one of the busiest streets in Boston.

### Roadway Volumes in Back Bay/Beacon Hill\*

Boylston Street	7,000
Newbury Street	3,000
Massachusetts Avenue	29,000
Commonwealth Avenue	8,000
Beacon Street	9,000
Charles Street	6,000
Huntington Avenue	19,000
Storrow Drive	106,000
Berkeley Street	13,000

Source: CTPS

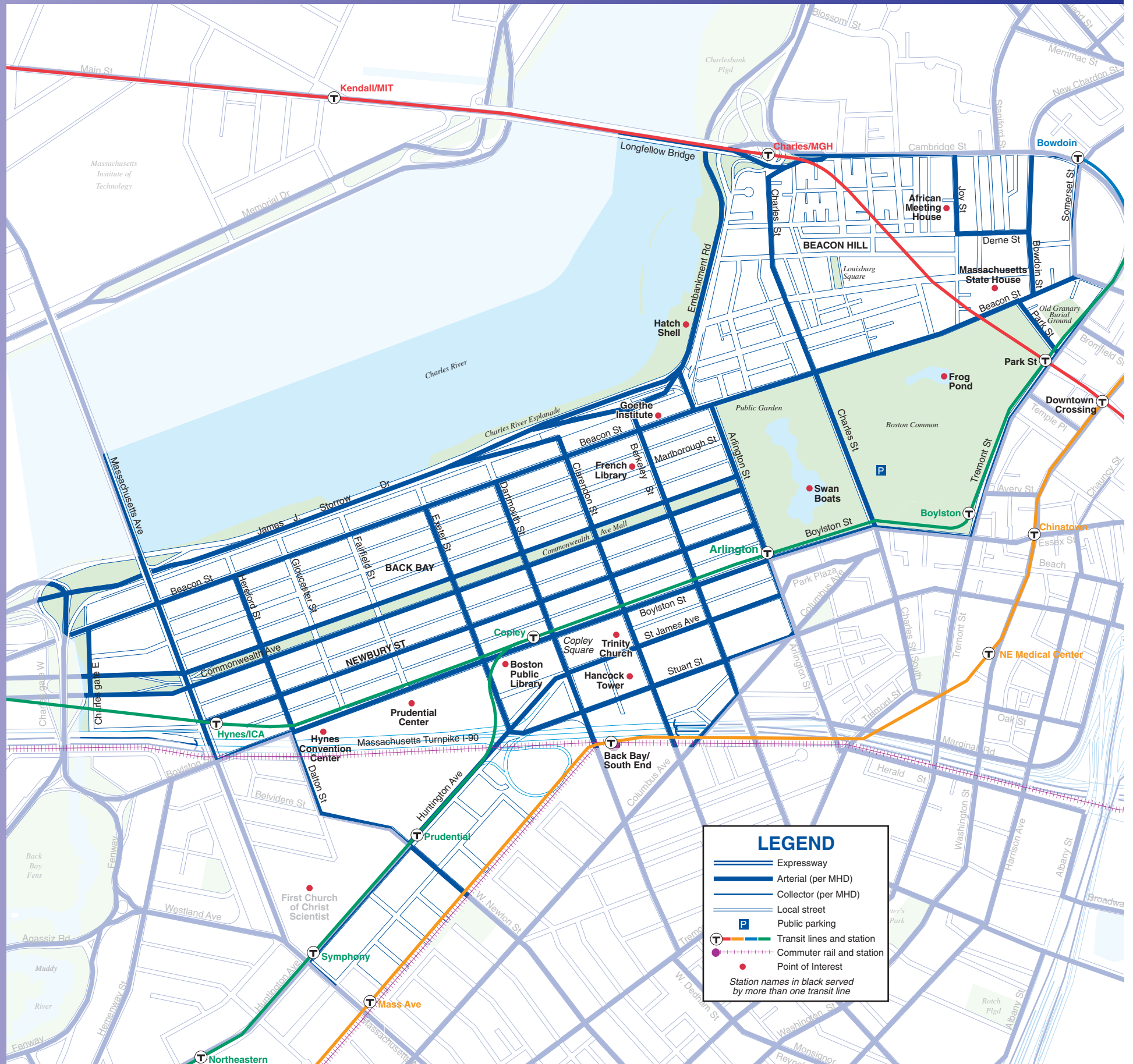
\*Estimated daily traffic at a representative point

The Back Bay and Beacon Hill are each approximately one square mile and within walking distance of many Downtown jobs. The district is the most densely populated part of the City. With an estimated 63,900 jobs and 24,587 residents, Back Bay and Beacon Hill are home to Boston's tallest buildings and most expensive housing. According to the U.S. Census, the population of Back Bay and Beacon Hill has remained relatively stable since 1980.

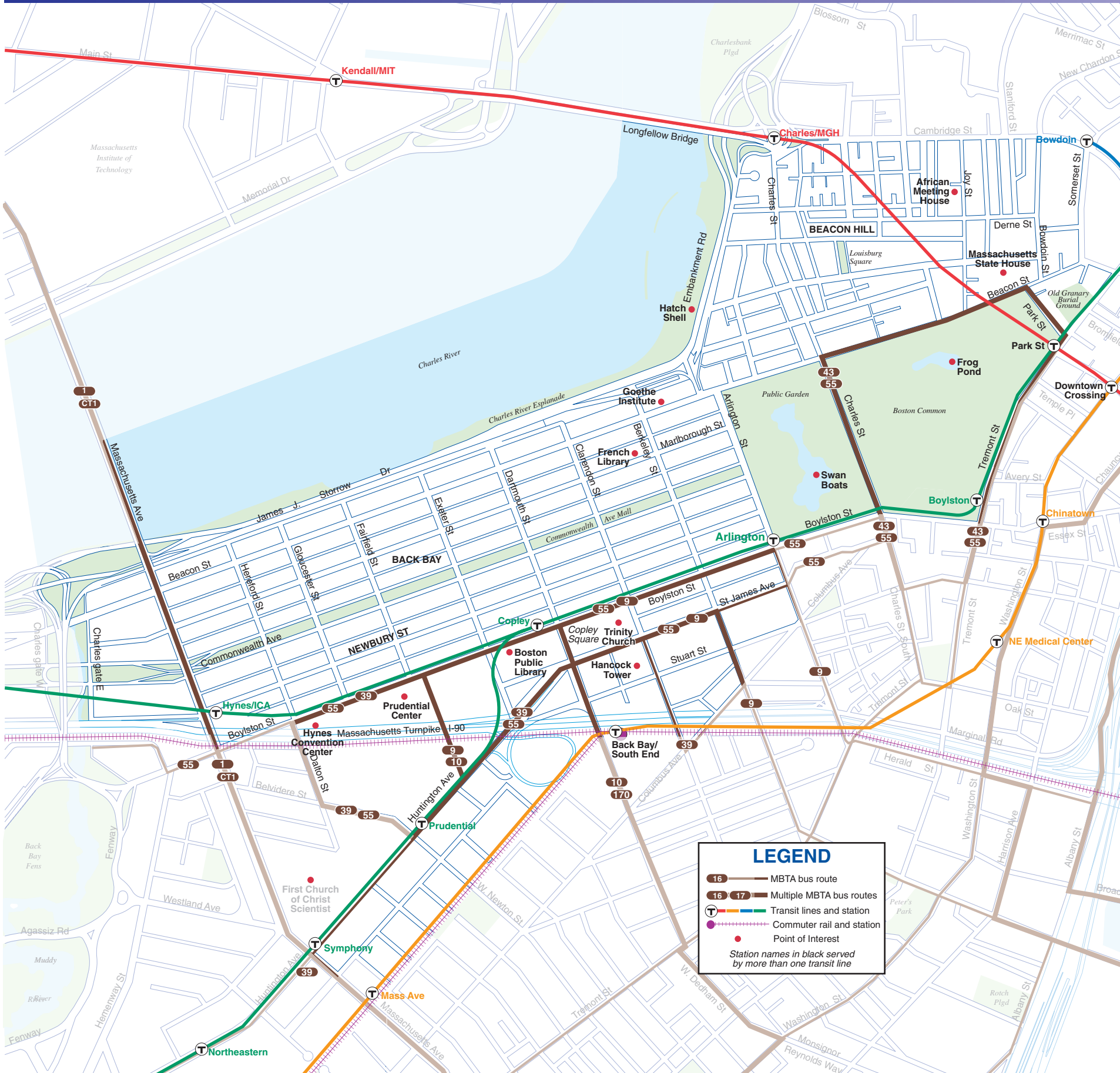
### Employment Areas in Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Beacon Hill	3,200
Boylston/Newbury	19,400
Copley Square	18,100
Prudential	9,100
Statehouse offices	11,900
Unassigned	2,200
<b>TOTAL JOBS</b>	<b>63,900</b>

Source: 1996 CTPS site-level employment database



# TRANSIT NETWORK



Back Bay/Beacon Hill has one of the lowest automobile mode shares of any city neighborhood. Less than one third of trips are by car, and walking is the most common mode of travel, dominating trips within the district with a nearly 90% share. Transit use is higher than the city average, and even has a respectable share of trips to the suburbs, reflecting the area's accessibility from the larger region and the high parking costs in this district. Just under half (48%) of Back Bay and Beacon Hill households did not own a car in 1990, and auto registrations have decreased slightly since then.

## Distribution of Trips and Mode Shares in Back Bay/Beacon Hill

	Auto	Transit	Walk
All destinations and purposes	32%	23%	45%
City Average	51%	19%	30%

("walk" mode includes bicycle)

## Geographic Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Origin or Destination	Auto	Transit	Walk
43%	Within Neighborhood	8%	3%	89%
10%	Rest of Core	17%	33%	51%
17%	Rest of Boston	48%	46%	6%
18%	Inner Communities	55%	41%	4%
12%	Outer Communities	72%	28%	0%

## Activity Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Activity in Neighborhood	Auto	Transit	Walk
19%	Home	23%	18%	59%
41%	Work	41%	33%	25%
41%	Other	26%	14%	59%

Commuter Rail, Amtrak and Orange Line service are available at Back Bay station. Back Bay Station is a major intermodal center, and with Amtrak service connects this neighborhood to points well beyond the City, including, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. Most South Side commuter rail trains stop here as well, discharging passengers for many purposes and supporting the high transit modeshare for trips from the suburbs. The main transit service in the Back Bay is the Green Line central subway, with several stops along Boylston Street. The Red Line stop at Charles/MGH serves Beacon Hill. Route 55 is the primary neighborhood bus route, though its ridership is relatively low compared to other MBTA routes.

## Daily MBTA Use by Station or Route\*

Rapid Transit	
Copley	13,800
Charles/MGH	7,700
Back Bay/South End	17,400
Prudential	1,700

Commuter Rail	
Back Bay Station	9,000

Bus Routes	
55 Fenway-Park Street	925

\*Boarding counts only. Source: MBTA and CTPS