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Cc :

Boston Metropolitan Trail Walking Workshop, June 11-12-13

Hello friends and colleagues,

Since my car was totaled last September I walked a lot around the Boston metropolitan area, from Roxbury to Quincy, Medford, Waltham, and Winthrop. The result of these peregrinations is the [Boston Metropolitan Trail](#) (BMT), a projected grid of eight trails connecting sixteen bus, subway, and commuter rail stations (see attached screenshot).

The BMT is very much a work in progress. I invite you to participate in its design by joining a walking workshop this coming week, on June 11, 12, and 13. We will walk with [author and publisher Baptiste Lanaspeze](#) and [urban planner and author Paul-Hervé Lavessière](#). Baptiste and PH created the [Metropolitan Trails](#) collective and designed urban hiking trails around [Marseille](#), [Paris](#), [Tunis](#), and other cities. They also curate the Sentiers Métropolitains exhibition at the [Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée](#) in Marseille.

In this walking workshop we will find the most interesting routes between the grid's nodes and reflect on the area's geography and history. The BMT critiques and displaces the image of Boston, which is still dominated by settler colonial fantasies centered on the Boston peninsula. The BMT is the anti-[Freedom Trail](#). It is a decolonial trail that takes you to the Deer Island [concentration camp](#) and cuts across the Middlesex Fells, this "living monument to Boston's first settlers" (Rawson, *Eden on the Charles*, p. 235).

The BMT is also a transportation infrastructure. The walking city of 1850 (2 miles radius) gave way to the streetcar suburbs of 1900 (10 miles radius) and to today's Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH metropolitan area (50 miles radius, nearly 5 million residents). The streetcar suburbs of 1900 have become the core of today's metropolis. The metropolis of 1900 is the walking city of 2020. (See the attached map and the bibliography below.)

Here is our program next week:

Tuesday 11 — We will meet at 10am at the Dunkin' on 2493 Washington Street in Roxbury (near Dudley Square) and walk from Dudley Square to Cleveland Circle and Alewife. We'll walk in particular through Roxbury and Brookline, two suburbs of Boston with divergent trajectories.

Wednesday 12 — We will meet at 10am, same Dunkin', and walk from Dudley Square to Lechmere, Oak Grove, and Wedgemere. We'll walk through Lower Roxbury, Cambridge, Medford, and across the Middlesex Fells.

Thursday 13 — I keep this day for a raincheck (showers are in the forecast next week) or a seated workshop, to process the walks and reflect on our findings (location TBD).

Bring comfy shoes and some water, we will walk around 15 miles each day. Feel free to jump in for a few miles, for a given area, or to walk with us the whole two days.

I hope to see you next week!

All best,

Pascal

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Lexington Bus

Wedgemere CT

Oak Grove T

Wonderland T

Winter & Wyman Bus

Alewife T

Lechmere T

Logan Airport T

Riverside T

Cleveland Circle

Dudley Square T

JFK T

Needham Center CT

West Roxbury CT

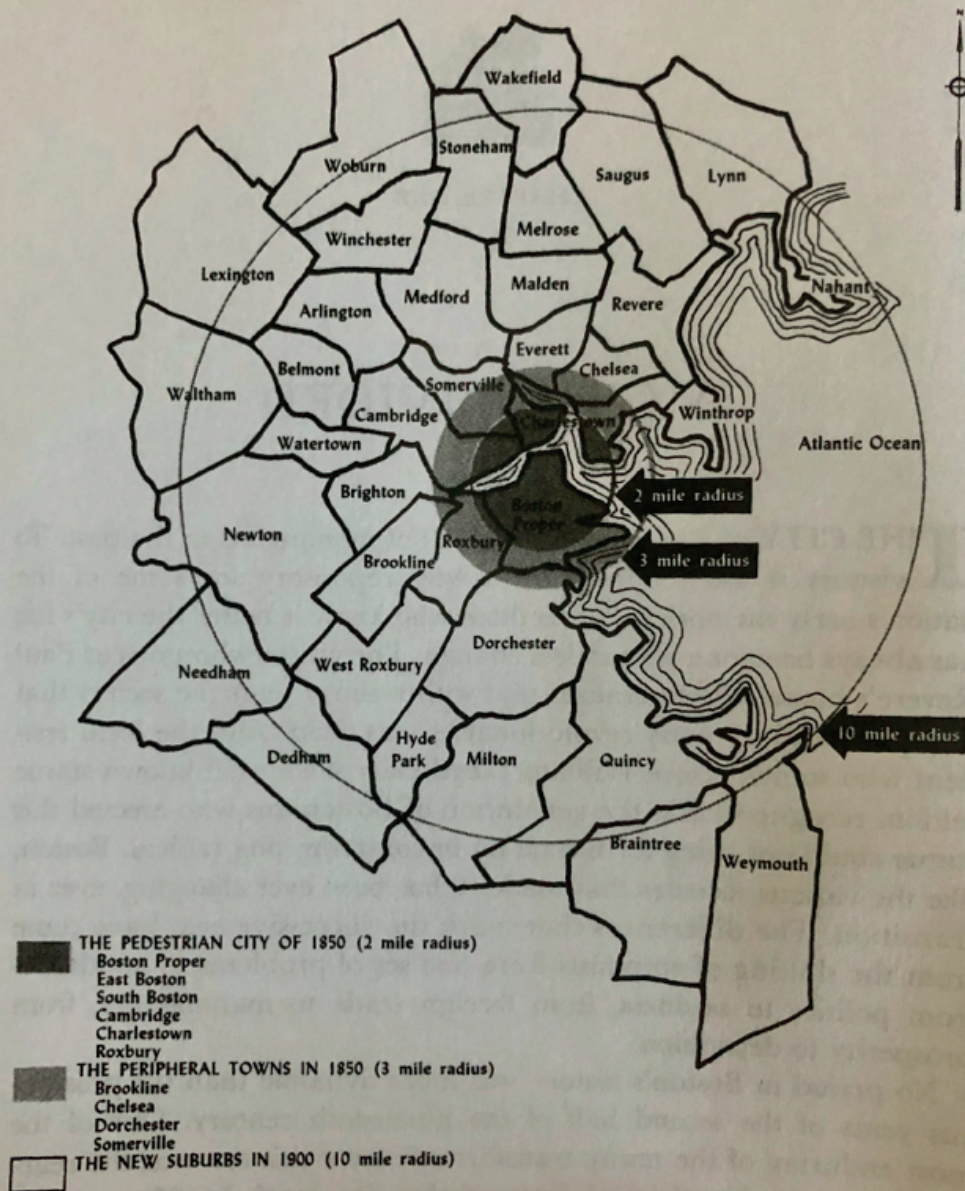
Mattapan T

North Quincy T

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2019 TerraMetrics

Google Earth

42°22'39.39" N 70°56'21.96" W elev 0 ft eye alt 18.96 mi



MAP 1. The pedestrian city of 1850 and the suburban metropolis of 1900. The metropolis of 1900 is that described by Sylvester Baxter, *Greater Boston; A Study for a Federated Metropolis* (Boston, 1891). See Table 1 for population distribution.