

## DISCOURAGING INTERACTION

“Two rows in front of me, there was a somewhat older man (40s-ish) who was maybe latino or white who made eye contact with me right when I got on the bus and didn’t look away from me for several more seconds. It put me on edge.” (10/11/2023)

“A white father, mid 30s-ish, and a little boy (3-ish, toddler) walked by me from the direction of Selby. The kid was running a head and I noticed him first, initially kind of alarmed that he seemed to be alone and thinking whether or not I should try to ask him where his parents were, but then I spotted the dad a few yards back—there are some small trees in pots (I think that’s the best way to describe them) closer to Whole Foods and they were blocking him from my view. The dad was on his phone, not paying close attention to the kid[...] A black man (late 20s or early 30s) with a little girl (2-ish, young toddler) in a stroller walked up to the stop at about 5:34 pm, and waited roughly in front of the bus stop shelter[...] No one was interacting with each other at the stop—I couldn’t see if the white man and his son were still there, but regardless no one was talking and neither of them had interacted with me.” (09/28/2023)

## MAINTAINING SPACE

“It really struck me how totally silent the bus was. Nobody talked, everyone kept heads physically tilted down and their gazes off of anyone else. Despite (or maybe because of) how crowded the bus was, it felt like the most acute “don't make eye contact, do not interact” vibe that I had experienced so far.” (11/15/2023)

“While on the 63 westbound bus from Cambridge to Fairview[...] Everyone looked within the wide range of middle class, more lower-middle than upper middle[...] There was one older white woman, 60-ish[...] She was sitting alone, with no bag I could see, her bus pass visible on a lanyard around her neck, and knitting what looked like a sock. 2 people looked to be on phone calls, but no one talked audibly while I was on the bus. All passengers were a minimum of 1 space away from each other (a seat between them, different rows, across the aisle, etc.)” (10/04/2023)

## EXAMPLES OF INTERACTION

“a white police officer in uniform in his 40s or 50s... got off through the front door and said like “thank you, have a good night” to the bus driver, also a white man roughly in his 50s... As I was getting seated and before the bus started moving, I heard the cop who must have been standing outside the still-open back doors of the bus say something to the standing women like ‘you gotta take a seat ma’am, you can’t block the way.’ I didn’t see what she did after that

exactly, but those two women ended up seated next to each other and we started moving a moment later.” (11/15/23)

“There was one guy who had a black hat on and a rainbow fabric facemask that was like pulled down to his chin seated in the first seat of the inward facing set of seats on the right hand side of the bus, who moved to the inward-facing seats on left side, next to at least one other Black man[...] The man in the rainbow facemask got up from the second row on the right in the back section of the bus and moved to the left-hand inward facing row. There was another black man (mid-20s ish, wearing a Carhart hat and middle-class dress, with a like satchel-style bag with him) was sitting in the first row on the right hand side right behind the back door and then shifted back a row to be able to physically reach the rainbow facemask man. The man with the Carhart hat leaned over the seat in front of him and got into like the bag that was seated in the row in front of him and pulled out what looked to me like a small, colorful plastic bag that reminded me of Sour Patch watermelons or some other kind of candy. The Carhart man handed the bag to the rainbow facemask man who said “Thanks, man, I'm just looking for something to eat,” and the Carhart guy replied something that I didn't hear but seemed to convey the meaning of “do you want kind of get your anything else?” and he started pulling other boxes and bags out of his bag, saying at one point “I got cheese and crackers.” (11/15/2023)