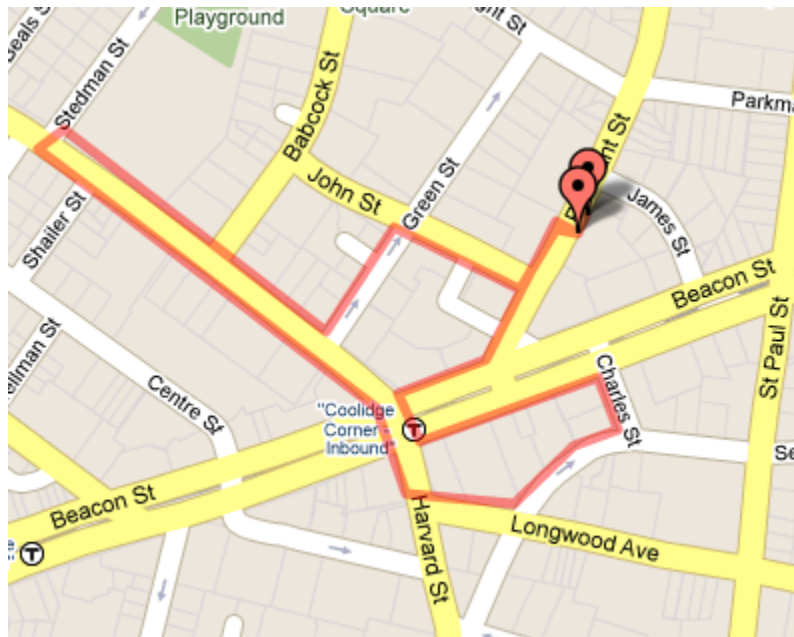


The Great Work Begins (Solution)

by Hubert Hwang

photography and photo editing by Josh Horowitz

The path you travel will look like this, marking about 1.1 miles total:



Along the way, you'll run into the various images you see. In Normal mode, they are conveniently in path order – Hard mode instead has them in alphabetical order by missing phrase. In the order that you encounter them, the words are:

- Euripides
- John
- ice creaM
- bUrritos
- bank of americA
- Neenas
- Staples
- loading docK
- bruegger's bagEls
- uniTy
- S. s. pierce

- paRis
- verizoN
- sunshine Academy
- new England comics
- Shailer
- health stoP
- relax tHe back
- One way

Using the starred letters in that order, you should have EJMUAN SKETS RNAESPHO... which is not terribly helpful. The flavortext mentions that the two lost men are odd and backwards, which hints that you should reverse the string and take the odd letters. That gets you the answer phrase, which is **OPEN SESAME**. (The extra letters spell out JUNKTRASH, which means you should throw it away.)

This puzzle is what we called a “gateway” puzzle; teams would not receive any additional puzzles the hunt until solving it. On solving it, they would have a big moral decision to make.