



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Extended Service Hours

FMCB Discussion

September 26, 2016



Recent History of Extended Service Hours

2001 - 2005: Night-Owl bus-only service

- Fridays & Saturdays until 2AM
- Cancelled for budgetary reasons

March 2014- Late Night pilot

- 12:30 AM – 2:30AM on Fridays and Saturdays on all rapid transit lines and Key Bus Routes
- Predicated on monetary support from 3rd parties
- Amended June 2015 to reduce cost

March 26, 2016- Pilot discontinued

- Pilot canceled due to low ridership and high cost
- Title VI Civil Rights complaint filed with FTA

March 30, 2016- Advocate proposal for overnight service (ONS)

- Bus-only, nightly, 60-min. headways
- \$1m cost estimate





Recent History of Extended Service Hours continued

April 11, 2016: Voluntary mitigation actions presented to FMCB (\$500K budgeted)

- FMCB direction to examine advocate proposal instead

May 2, 2016- Advocate proposal presented to FMCB

- Staff estimates cost is 3-4 times original estimate
- FMCB direction to work jointly to identify cost reductions

May 11, 2016- FTA dismisses Title VI complaint

- Need for mitigation moot

Summer 2016: City of Boston discussion

- City interest in 3rd shift worker transportation
- Survey prepared to gauge employer/employee/neighborhood interest





Overnight Service Proposal at present

- Request for expanded service and not voluntary mitigation
- MBTA staff estimate that 75-minute headway service using 8 buses would cost \$3.5m annually
- Estimated ridership of 3,850/week (200,200/year, 550/night)
- \$17.48/trip compared to systemwide average \$2.07/trip
- MBTA vehicles, staff, dispatch, paratransit, and transit police.



MBTA currently lacks a mechanism to accept, and review service expansion requests



Options for Overnight Service Proposal

- Meet with advocates on ONS proposal
 - Collaborate on ways to reach consensus on lowering cost/increasing ridership
 - If pursued, establish targets for ridership and subsidy/trip

- Re-engage with City of Boston to gauge demand for 3rd shift workers
 - Are MBTA operated 40' buses the best solution?
 - Who would pay for any new service?

- Once parameters of an overnight service pilot have been established, issue RFP for 3rd party provision of overnight service in consultation with advocates and city.

