



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

**Commuter Rail Schedule Changes –
Proposed – November 21, 2016**

Fiscal & Management Control Board

September 26, 2016



Proposed Schedule Changes

Service Delivery Policy Standard	Commuter Rail Schedules Provide
Saturday: 8AM – 6:30PM	Saturday: 6:35AM-11:30PM
All others: 180 minutes each direction	All others: 100 minutes each direction
Off-Peak: passengers/seat: 100%	100% trains met standard



Source: MBTA Service Delivery Policy.
 MBTA Service Reliability Metrics Presentation (2/29/16).



Twice Annual Schedule Changes

Historically commuter rail schedule change effective dates have tied in with the beginning/end of daylight savings time. Typically, the twice annual changes are referred to as tweaks and trains rarely changed more than 5 minutes in either direction. When the time change was altered a few years ago we stopped using that as the benchmark and instead shoot for approximately 6 months apart. This year we began the process of setting schedules that better meet the needs of customers and match today's operating environment. The years of small adjustments created a situation where many of the published schedules could not be met, others were extremely unreliable and not many had recovery time when the trains change direction.

Along with addressing customer needs and OTP, the train schedules are required to match the result of two other large and complicated tasks.

1. **CREW RUNS.** These are the train crew assignments, and because they are governed by Federal regulations on the number of consecutive hours they can work and the length of their work day also sets the amount of time they need to be off between working shifts. These are set up to take effect on a Monday - which is why Monday is the effective date of the schedule.
 2. **EQUIPMENT CYCLES** The next scheduling effort is the for the train sets, while they can work as many hours as needed they do need to be serviced and they need to be sized properly for each trip they make.
- Planning the schedule change for a Monday also allows any necessary equipment changes to happen over the weekend when much of the equipment is not in use. Many train crew member are also on rest so they can report to new assignments after having required rest period.
- Planned effective date - November 7th had been discussed but final adjustments to the schedules now suggest that November 21st is more appropriate.



Weekday Schedule Changes



System-wide there are 104 weekday schedule changes

- 38 changes for construction and new service (Fitchburg and Haverhill Lines)
- 25 changes previously announced and implemented in June are now incorporated into the printed schedule pages
- 3 changes made at ridership request (ongoing feedback via mail, email, Customer Service, Meet the Managers, etc.)
- 7 additional changes as a result of the rider requested changes between 4 and 21 minutes
- 20 changes are "tweaks" of 3 minutes or less
- 8 changes made for operational requirements
 - 6 changes of 4-5 minutes
 - 2 changes of 7-8 minutes
- 3 new trains
- No changes are proposed on the Middleboro/Lakeville, Kingston/Plymouth or Greenbush lines.



Weekday Schedule Changes public outreach



8 changes proposed for operational requirements

The presentation to the Board is the beginning of the outreach. Next step is engagement with riding public and elected officials to discuss. Passengers of these trains will be engaged at arrival or departure at North and South Stations to explain the changes and reasons. Feedback will be integrated before changes are made.

- Rockport train 104 departs 5 minutes later
- Haverhill train 214 departs 7 minutes later
- Lowell train 308 departs 5 minutes later
- Lowell train 327 departs 5 minutes later
- Lowell train 393 departs 5 minutes earlier
- Lowell train 394 departs 8 minutes later
- Lowell train 337 departs 5 minutes later
- Franklin line train 744 departs 5 minutes later

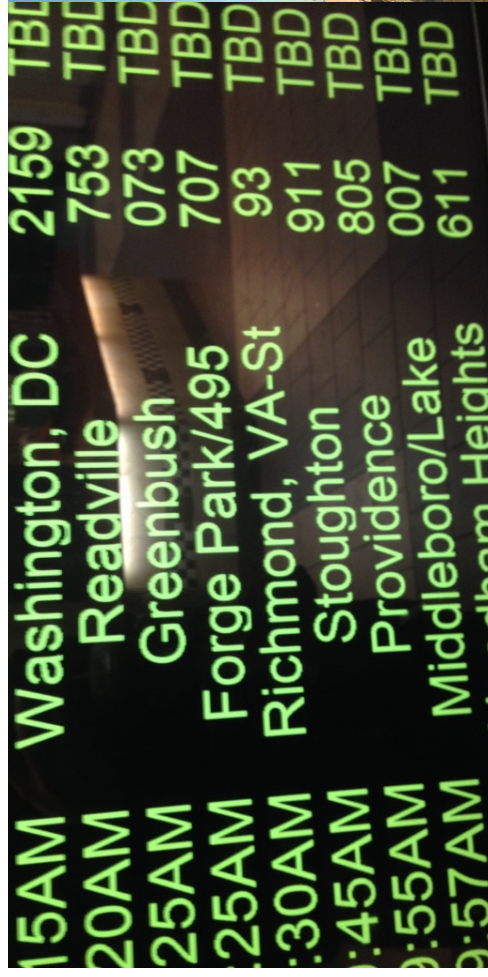




Weekend Schedule Changes

- One weekend change for new service to Wachusett.
- Two weekend changes for construction on the Haverhill Line.
- Two Fairmount Line Weekend changes (Sat & Sun)
 - 1 change removing the 6:50am outbound train to move the equipment from South Boston. May 2016 count was a ridership of one.
 - 1 change removing the 11:30pm inbound train to move the equipment from South Boston. May 2016 count was a ridership of zero.

Moving these two trains helps bring us into compliance with a US EPA consent decree. We cannot plug them in the Front yard in south Boston but we can at Readville.

A photograph of a train departure board at a station. The board is a large digital display with a black background and green text. It lists train times and destinations. The text is partially cut off on the right side.

15AM	Washington, DC	2159	TBD
20AM	Readville	753	TBD
25AM	Greenbush	073	TBD
25AM	Forge Park/495	707	TBD
30AM	Richmond, VA-St	93	TBD
35AM	Stoughton	911	TBD
40AM	Providence	805	TBD
45AM	Middleboro/Lake	007	TBD
50AM	Stoughton Heights	611	TBD





Worcester Line - No Schedule Changes at this time

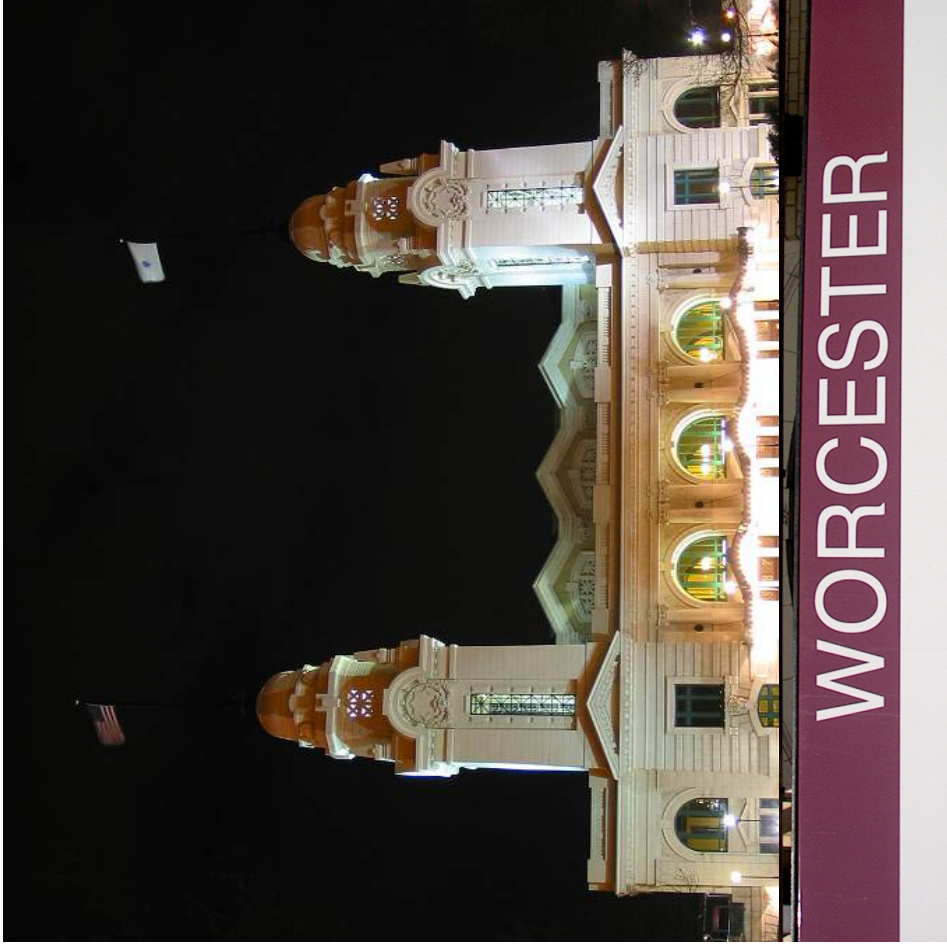
No schedule changes are proposed for the Worcester Line this fall because even more changes are needed in the Spring.

Upcoming infrastructure changes will require further changes to the schedule

- Boston Landing station planned to open in the spring of 2017
- New double-track through Allston that eliminates a scheduling constraint
- Track improvements and tie replacement scheduled to occur in the Fall of 2016

A working group will be established to discuss the Worcester Line schedules. Group will be comprised riders, stakeholders and elected officials to :

- Evaluate performance adjustments
- Incorporate infrastructure changes
- Develop new Worcester Line schedule for the spring of 2017





Schedule Changes – Recommendations to FMCB

- Proceed with 96 proposed schedule changes as outlined for a recommended November 21st implementation.
 - Conduct outreach process for the 8 operationally required changes and integrate feedback before making changes
 - Initiate public Outreach about approved changes as soon as possible
 - Establish working group to create spring 2017 Worcester Line schedule
 - Propose process to receive public comments to plan future bi-annual schedule changes
-



Appendix



Changes proposed for Operational Requirements

Rockport Line train 104 departs Rockport 5 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 6:44am, arriving Boston at 7:55am
 - Passenger count of 725
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 6:30am, arriving Boston at 7:40am
 - Passenger count of 650
- Proposed schedule departure time is 6:35am, arriving Boston at 7:45am
 - Anticipating slight increase in passenger count
- Change necessary to eliminate conflict with outbound train 101 at Salem
- Also to make this train more desirable in order draw passengers back to this train in an effort to reduce crowding on train 156



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Haverhill Line train 214 departs Haverhill 7 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 12:00pm, arriving Boston at 1:09pm
 - Passenger count of 40
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 12:18pm, arriving Boston at 1:23pm
 - Passenger count of 40
- Proposed schedule departure time is 12:25pm, arriving Boston at 1:23pm
 - Anticipating no change to ridership
- Change necessary to eliminate conflicts with outbound train 207 at Reading and outbound Amtrak train 683 at Haverhill.



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Lowell Line train 308 departs Lowell 5 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 7:18am, arriving Boston at 8:05am
 - Passenger count of 720
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 7:15am, arriving Boston at 8:01am
 - Passenger count of 720
- Proposed schedule departure time is 7:20am, arriving Boston at 8:06am
 - Anticipating no change to ridership
- Change necessary to eliminate conflict with Amtrak train 680 between Wilmington and Woburn



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Lowell Line train 327 departs Boston 5 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 4:10pm, arriving Lowell at 4:58pm
 - Passenger count of 475
 - Train made all stops between Boston and Lowell
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 4:10pm, arriving Lowell at 4:51pm
 - Passenger count of 315
 - Zone express train, skips 3 stops
- Proposed schedule departure time is 4:15pm, arriving Lowell at 5:02pm
 - Anticipating ridership of approximately 495
 - Train combined with train 393
 - Train makes all stops between Boston and Lowell
- Change made in conjunction with changes to trains 393 and 394
- Changes necessary due to lack of equipment at 5pm under May 23rd schedule and is beneficial to all lines after 5pm in the evening rush hour.



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Lowell Line train 393 departs Boston 5 minutes earlier

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 4:20pm, arriving Anderson/Woburn at 4:45pm
 - Passenger count of 190
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 4:20pm, arriving Anderson/Woburn at 4:45pm
 - Passenger count of 180
- Proposed schedule departure time is 4:15pm, arriving Anderson/Woburn at 4:40pm
 - Train combined into train 327
- Change made in conjunction with changes to trains 327 and 394
- Changes necessary due to lack of equipment at 5pm under May 23rd schedule



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Lowell Line train 394 departs Anderson/Woburn 8 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 4:55pm, arriving Boston at 5:15pm
 - Passenger count of 20
 - Train operated non-stop from Anderson/Woburn to Boston
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 5:00pm, arriving Boston at 5:20pm
 - Passenger count of 20
 - Train operates non-stop from Anderson/Woburn to Boston
- Proposed schedule departure time is 5:08pm, arriving Boston at 5:32pm
 - Train combined into train 332 which makes all stops
 - Combined passenger count estimated to be 80 passengers
- Change made in conjunction with changes to trains 327 and 393
- Changes necessary due to lack of equipment at 5pm under May 23rd schedule



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Lowell Line train 337 departs Boston 5 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 6:25pm, arriving Lowell at 7:12pm
 - Passenger count of 590
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 6:25pm, arriving Lowell at 7:12pm
 - Passenger count of 590
- Proposed schedule departure time is 6:30pm, arriving Lowell at 7:17pm
 - Anticipating no change to ridership
- Changes necessary due to too many trains scheduled to arrive and depart North Station at 6:25pm under the May 23rd schedule.



Changes made for Operational Requirements

Franklin Line train 744 departs Walpole 5 minutes later

- Pre-May 23rd schedule departure was 5:56pm, arriving Boston at 6:50pm
 - Passenger count of 15
- May 23rd schedule departure time is 6:03pm, arriving Boston at 7:00pm
 - Passenger count of 15
- Proposed schedule departure time is 6:08pm, arriving Boston at 7:00pm
 - Anticipating no change to ridership
- Change necessary as an added change to the Franklin Line Performance adjustments made in June