

Commuter Rail Fall Schedule and Foxboro Pilot

Fiscal and Management Control Board

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Fall Schedule Changes Overview

- The MBTA adjusts schedules in the **spring and fall**.
 - Seasonal impacts, performance data, equipment needs, etc. inform schedule changes.
 - Extensive public outreach is conducted to notify passengers of changes.
- Fall 2019 schedule adjustments include Old Colony Late Night Service and the Foxboro Pilot.
- Other changes include 8 trains with departure times adjusted by 5 minutes or more, including 2 peak period trains:
 - 6:20AM Stoughton to Boston now leaves at 6:15AM (5 minutes earlier)
 - 8:50AM Boston to Worcester (reverse peak) now leaves at 8:35AM (15 minutes earlier)
- These changes will take effect on **October 21, 2019**.

Old Colony Late Night Service

- Creates later train service to and from Boston at the Old Colony communities' request
 - PM service is more spread out and runs later
 - No change in the total number of trips
- Changes to current schedule required to ensure crew availability with minimal additional cost
- The MBTA will monitor the schedule change for ridership, performance, etc.





Foxboro Pilot Service Overview

- Creates a convenient commute to Boston and connects Fairmount and Franklin riders to a major growing job and retail center at Patriot Place
- New schedule makes changes to stopping patterns of local trains to accommodate Foxboro stops
- Foxboro will be a Zone 4 station (same as Walpole Station)
- Provides a total of 20 trips
 - **10 inbound trips** (3 peak, 3 reverse commute, 4 midday/off-peak)
 - 10 outbound trips (3 peak, 2 reverse commute, 5 midday/off-peak)
- Includes peak period arrival and departure times
 - AM peak arrivals at South Station: 6:52AM, 8:24AM, and 9:16AM
 - PM peak departures from South Station: 4:15PM, 5:03PM, and 6:30PM
- Train 700 (6:09 AM arrival to Boston) and 790 (6:30 AM arrival to Boston) consolidated to improve equipment availability—all passengers accommodated on new train arriving to Boston at 6:23 AM
- Parking at Foxboro Station
 - 500 parking spots available
 - Parking rate of **\$4 per day** (same as Walpole Station)

Foxboro Pilot Service Benefits

- Maintains more commuting service via the Northeast Corridor to serve Ruggles and Back Bay
- Provides reverse commuting slots to Foxboro in both peak periods
- Provides additional midday and late evening trips
- Does not significantly change existing service on the Franklin and Fairmount Lines
- Does not prevent future increases of service on the Fairmount Line
 - MBTA staff is working to support the development of the City of Boston's spring 2020 pilot
- Provides ability to revert back to the current schedule if the pilot is discontinued



Service to Walpole

- Trains serving Foxboro can't stop at Walpole due to track configuration.
- The new schedule eliminates 3 inbound and 2 outbound Walpole stops daily.
- For peak trains, the new schedule at most changes the time of the nearest Walpole train by 24 minutes.
- There is capacity on remaining trains stopping at Walpole to accommodate current passengers.
- Walpole riders can park at and depart from/arrive at Foxboro Station for the same price.
 - The stations are 4.3 miles apart.





Foxboro Line Outreach: Marketing Update

Public outreach has been ongoing since June 2019.

Phase 1: June/July

Webpage, station banners, surrounding station posters, Patriot Place and Gillette Stadium signage

Phase 2: August

- Shared key details such as weekday schedule, fare zone, and parking cost
- TV commercial during Patriots Games began

Phase 3: Underway

- Sharing information on new reverse fare
- Outreach to Fairmount Line reverse commuters, drivers. and existing customers who park at Walpole, Franklin, Norfolk, Mansfield, and Sharon Stations
- Using highway billboards, TV commercials, radio and newspaper ads, direct mail, social media, MBTA systemwide advertising, and opening day events





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Foxboro Line Outreach: Safety Awareness and Education

- Extensive Operation Lifesaver (OL) safety education since 2018
- Areas of focus: Foxborough, Walpole, Norwood, Dedham, Mansfield, and Sharon
- All schools offered safety education and were provided with educational materials. Several schools had safety events or had resource officers trained by OL trainers so they could educate the student body directly.
- All police and firefighters offered OL and rail emergency response training.
 Several participated in 3-day training exercise earlier this month.
- All libraries, town halls, and all known apartment complexes, senior centers, and community organizations were provided safety education and/or information.
- Three statewide rail safety campaigns took place. Foxborough area was a particular area of focus.
- Safety education will continue through the opening of service and is available on an ongoing basis.



Fairmount to Foxboro Reverse Commute Fare Pilot

- Foxboro Station is in Zone 4; one-way fare to/from Zone 1A is \$8.75
- A pilot Reverse Commute fare will be offered on AM outbound and PM inbound trains from Fairmount/Franklin Line Zone 1A stations to/from Foxboro Station
- Price based on interzone fares to make it scalable
- Tickets will be available on mTicket, onboard, and at ticket windows
- Marketing will occur on the Fairmount Line and with Foxboro employers
- The pilot fare will last for 1 year

Reverse Commute Trains

- Leave South Station: 6:03AM, 7:05AM, 8:50AM*,
- Leave Foxboro: 4:32PM, 5:25PM*, 6:34PM, 7:39PM*

*Franklin line train

Reverse commute fare		
One-Way	\$4.25	
Reduced Fare One-Way	\$2.00	
Monthly Pass (includes local bus transfers)	\$139.00	
Monthly Pass (mTicket) (no transfers)	\$129.00	

Foxboro Pilot Metrics and Data Collection Plan

- Performance measures
 - Monitoring metrics: ongoing evaluation to ensure existing service isn't impacted
 - Success metric: used to determine if pilot will become permanent with targets
 - Support metric: measures benefits of pilot to support decision, but no target
- Data collection plan for all of the metrics with roles and responsibilities
 - Will require existing data systems, manual counts, passenger surveys, revenue data
 - Frequency of monitoring and reporting data depends on the metric

Metric	Objective	Type of Metric
Operations	 Pilot impact on OTP on existing Commuter Rail service Comfort/crowding impact on existing customers 	 Monitoring metric Measured throughout the pilot with action plan to address issues
Ridership	 Foxboro Station Boardings: 210 daily New Riders: 210 daily 	 Success metric Measured at regular intervals to see trends
Parking	 Increase parking capacity with 500 parking spaces at Foxboro Additional parking revenue 	 Support metric Measured at regular intervals to see trends
Subsidies	 Subsidy per passenger comparable to similar commuter rail service 	 Success metric Part of pilot evaluation
Opportunities	 Reverse commuters Economic opportunities	 Support metric Part of pilot evaluation