



Concept of a restored Dorchester Avenue.

The Neighborhoods

East of South Station, Fort Point Channel separates most of Boston from the Seaport and Innovation District and South Boston. With the demolition and relocation of the postal facilities, MassDOT is exploring re-opening Dorchester Avenue as a public way. The restored street could connect to the Harborwalk and offer a new route to Andrew Square and Dorchester.

To the west of South Station are the historic Leather District and Chinatown, vibrant neighborhoods that are currently separated from the Channel. Better wayfinding, connections to the Seaport and Fort Point Channel, and economic opportunities could result from the station expansion project.



An aerial view of South Station framed by the Federal Reserve Bank building.

Thursday 01-03-2013		SOUTH STATION TRAIN INFORMATION			CURRENT TIME
CARRIER	TIME	DESTINATION	TRAIN	TRACK	STATUS
MBTA	4:00 PM	NEEDHAM HEIGHTS	619	3	NOW BOARDING
MBTA	4:00 PM	MICKFORD JUNCTION	813	9	NOW BOARDING
MBTA	4:02 PM	GREENBUSH	081	13	NOW BOARDING
MBTA	4:05 PM	STOUGHTON	917	4	NOW BOARDING
MBTA	4:05 PM	HORCESTER/UNION STATION	PS19	2	NOW BOARDING
MBTA	4:20 PM	KINGSTON	043	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:20 PM	FORGE PARK/495	717	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:25 PM	FARMINGHAM	PS21	TBD	ON TIME
AMTRAK	4:30 PM	WASHINGTON, DC	2173	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:30 PM	READVILLE	761	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:35 PM	PROVIDENCE	815	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:40 PM	MIDDLEBORO/LAKEVILLE	019	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:40 PM	NEEDHAM HEIGHTS	621	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:45 PM	NORWOOD CENTRL	737	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:50 PM	STOUGHTON	919	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	4:52 PM	GREENBUSH	083	TBD	ON TIME
MBTA	5:00 PM	KINGSTON	045	TBD	ON TIME
AMTRAK ARRIVALS					
AMTRAK	4:36 PM	RICHMOND, VA-STAPLES	86	TBD	ON TIME
AMTRAK	4:40 PM	WASHINGTON, DC	2160	TBD	ON TIME
AMTRAK	6:30 PM	RICHMOND, VA-STAPLES	174	TBD	ON TIME
AMTRAK	6:40 PM	WASHINGTON, DC	2164	TBD	ON TIME



Contact Us

MassDOT welcomes your interest in South Station, your participation, and your ideas. MassDOT would like to hear your suggestions on how to make this project successful. We are also available to present to your group, neighborhood, or company on the South Station Expansion. You can contact Project Manager Katherine Fichter for more information [Katherine.Fichter@state.ma.us, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Room 4150, Boston, MA 02116, or (TTY) 857-368-0655].



www.massdot.state.ma.us/southstationexpansion

Photos by Andy Ryan.



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is leading an effort to improve and expand Boston South Station for the future. South Station is a historic transportation center and the principal passenger rail hub in New England. It is the northern terminus for Amtrak rail service from New York and Washington, D.C., as well as Amtrak rail service from Chicago. South Station also serves the MBTA Commuter Rail system, and it connects to the MBTA Red Line and to Logan International Airport via the MBTA Silver Line. The adjacent South Station bus terminal is a hub for local, regional, and intercity bus services.





Rendering of a future timetable and waiting area.

MassDOT is collaborating with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the MBTA, Amtrak, the City of Boston, and many other stakeholders – including the general public – to develop a plan of action and preliminary designs to expand and improve South Station. This effort is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation, with additional funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Why Expand South Station

South Station currently operates with 13 tracks, which is simply not enough for the number of people who want to travel through the station. The insufficient number of tracks limits service now as well as the potential for expanded service in the future. Passengers waiting to board trains line up near the platforms and are exposed to the weather. There is insufficient space to store trains between morning and evening rush hours. Because demand for service is so high, everything from Commuter Rail to high-speed Amtrak trains can run late because no tracks are available, or trains are delayed moving into and out of the station.

Working with the MBTA, Amtrak, and the federal government, MassDOT will plan for growth in high-speed and other passenger rail service throughout the Northeast. In addition, expanding South Station will make MBTA

Commuter Rail services more efficient and attractive, supporting MassDOT's goals to shift travel from roadways to other modes and reduce the use of private vehicles. Transportation also supports a strong economy and improved quality of life in Boston and the greater region.

How to Expand South Station

MassDOT, its transportation partners, and the City of Boston are looking at all of the elements that will make South Station ready for the future:

- Analyzing its transportation and rail operations
- Reviewing potential impacts to the natural environment and surrounding neighborhoods
- Beginning preliminary engineering and architecture, including the potential for private development – that could include offices, housing, stores, and a new hotel – above and around the expanded station
- Preparing for the purchase and demolition of the adjacent postal service facility to make way for more tracks

MassDOT will also look at opening Dorchester Avenue for public waterfront and station access, thereby creating a new neighborhood; midday storage for trains; and better connections within and around the station and between South Station and its neighbors.

An interior station view.



South Station's History

The Station opened to the public in 1899 and had 28 tracks. At one time, it was twice as busy as New York City's Grand Central Station! An elevated rail line, known as the Atlantic Avenue Elevated, stood in front of South Station from 1901 to 1948, and carried riders to several downtown neighborhoods. In the 1930s, the U.S. Postal Service opened a facility next door to South Station – using land that had previously been dedicated to trains – because so much mail was moved by rail. The Station was nearly demolished in the late 1970s, but was sold to the MBTA, which saved the station and renovated it in the 1980s. The MBTA then built the existing bus station in the 1990s. In 2007, air rights were granted to the Hines Corporation to build an office tower, hotel, and other uses over South Station; construction has not begun on that project.

South Station brings together local and regional rail service; commuter rail; bus service; and the MBTA's Red and Silver Lines. Thousands pass through the historic station – particularly the main rotunda – each year.