



SOUTH STATION

EXPANSION

About the Project

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is leading an effort to improve and expand Boston South Station for the future. South Station is an iconic and historic transportation center and the principal passenger rail hub in New England. It is the northern terminus for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor Acela and Regional rail service, as well as the Lake Shore Limited 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 also a hub for local, regional, and intercity bus services.

MassDOT is collaborating with the Federal Railroad Administration, 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 High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail



Photo: Public Domain

Elevated tracks on Atlantic Avenue at South Station in the early 1900s, part of Boston's mass transit system.

Program, with additional funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This effort will include analyzing traffic, track, signal, and railroad operations at South Station, as well as performing planning, engineering, and environmental permitting work. No construction activities are included in this phase of the project. Planning and design for improvements to the sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and roadways around South Station will be included in the project, as will an analysis of the potential for future joint development at an expanded South Station.

During this multi-year effort, MassDOT welcomes your interest in South Station, your participation, and your ideas. See the box on page 2 for contact information and suggestions on how to participate in the project.

A New Future for South Station

South Station currently operates well beyond its design capacity, which creates serious challenges for efficient train operations and comfortable passenger queuing. Originally constructed with 28 tracks, South Station now has only 13. The reduced number of available tracks has long contributed to delays in train service and now limits the ability of the station to meet the demand for current and future growth in rail service. The existing MBTA rail vehicle storage locations are also not sufficient to address current and future needs.

Goals of the Project

The first step in this project is to collect the data needed to address questions about South Station, its current uses, and its future requirements. MassDOT planners need to know, for example, how many trains or buses will be arriving at and departing from South Station in 2040? Where will those trains and buses be going? How

many riders will be traveling via Amtrak on the Northeast Corridor or taking MBTA commuter rail trains? The project team will collect these kinds of data in order to:

- Perform an analysis of potential expansion alternatives to determine how best to improve South Station and its affiliated infrastructure, including a new rail vehicle layover site.
- Plan for the relocation of the adjacent U.S. Postal Service General Mail Facility on Dorchester Avenue to utilize that site to expand South Station.
- Plan and design an enhanced passenger environment at and around South Station. This will include improved passenger facilities and amenities in the station and on the platforms, as well as streetscape, pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular improvements around the station. In addition, MassDOT and the City of Boston are

planning for a future in which Dorchester Avenue is re-opened for public use.

- Consider opportunities for joint public/private development over and in concert with an expanded South Station.

MassDOT anticipates that these efforts will lay the groundwork to:

- Improve the performance of existing and future passenger rail service to and from Boston.
- Enable growth in high-speed and other intercity passenger rail service in the northeastern United States, at a time when both the roadway and aviation networks are at or over capacity.
- Support sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life throughout the Northeast Corridor, including Boston.
- Provide for a more attractive and enhanced MBTA commuter rail service, with associated benefits such as increased statewide transportation access and environmental sustainability.

When it all began . . .

South Station opened to the public on New Year's Day, 1899. On its inaugural day, 62 trains departed from the station. Boston Mayor Josiah Quincy III marked the dedication of South Station as the largest railroad station in the United States. Today, South Station is the second largest transportation facility in New England (second only to Logan Airport), but is substantially reduced from its original size.

Prior to the construction of South Station, the passenger railroads serving Boston and New England – including the New York and New England Railroad; the Old Colony Railroad; the Boston and Albany Railroad; and the Boston and Providence Railroad – had their own passenger terminals within Boston. Construction of South Station combined the south-side terminals in a single location, known as a “union station,” with substantial efficiencies and conveniences for both the railroads and their passengers. South Station was designed by the architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge and built by the firms of Norcross Brothers and Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Co. It was constructed at a cost of \$3.6 million.

During World War II, South Station handled 125,000 passengers each day, but by the 1950s several railroads serving the region had gone bankrupt and passenger rail service had declined, due in part to the construction of the interstate highway system and the embrace of private automobiles as the preferred means of travel for many Americans. Elements of South Station were sold off over many years, and the U.S. Postal Service bought adjacent

How to Get Involved

MassDOT will provide a variety of opportunities for you to meet with the project team, learn about the South Station Expansion work, and share your ideas and opinions about planning for the future of South Station. There will be many ways to participate:

- In-person events such as open houses and community briefings
- Electronic updates: visit the project website to sign up for project updates and learn about other opportunities to participate at: **www.massdot.state.ma.us/southstationexpansion**.
- Sign up for the project mailing list by clicking the “Get Involved” tab on the website.
- Contact project manager Katherine Fichter via email or mail: katherine.fichter@state.ma.us, or Katherine Fichter, South Station Project Manager, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Room 4150, Boston, MA 02116.

We welcome your participation and invite you to be part of this exciting project!

land for a mail-sorting facility. The remaining station gradually declined and fell into disrepair.

The MBTA bought South Station from the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1978. Working with the Federal Railroad Administration and with Amtrak, the MBTA then undertook a major and much-needed renovation of South Station, which resulted in the station that we have today. In 1995, the MBTA also completed work on an intercity bus terminal, which has direct connections to I-93 and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

The MassDOT South Station Expansion project will ensure that the station continues to support efficient and attractive intercity passenger rail service for the northeastern United States, while also improving regional commuter, public transit, and bus services.

