Massachusetts Department of Transportation Transfer of South Coast Rail Lines to Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

February 26, 2025

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Table of Contents

3 South Coast Rail Overview

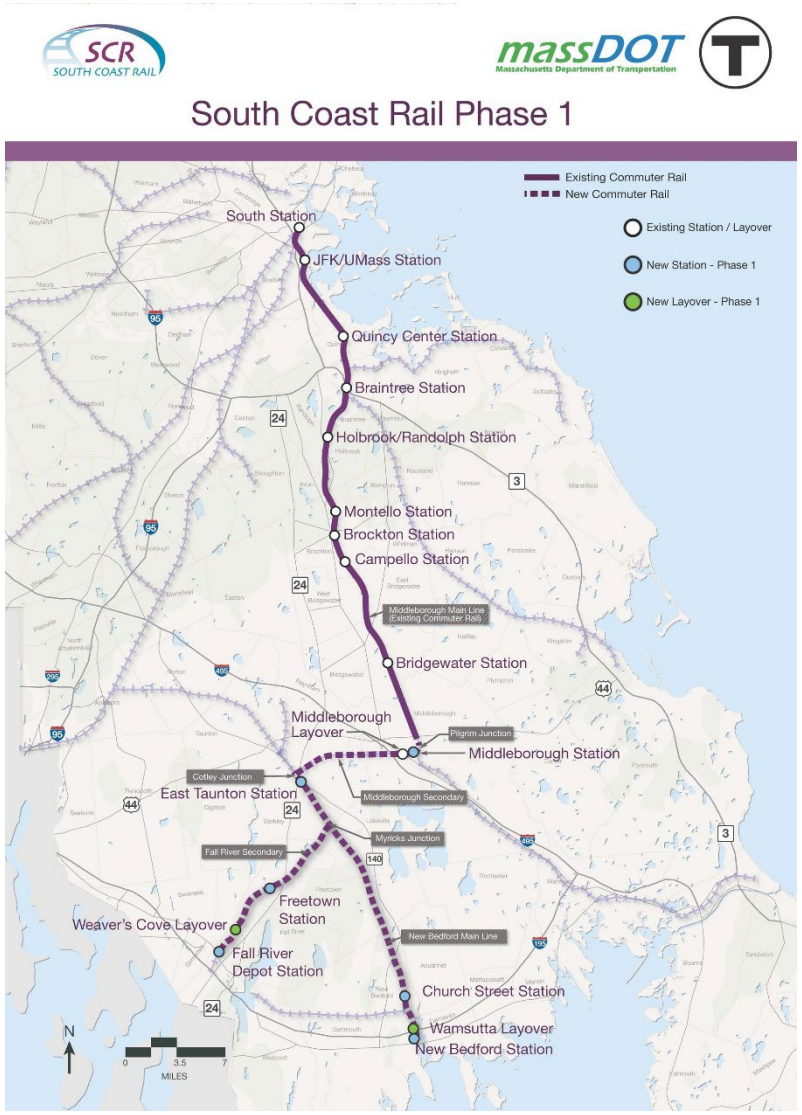
4 South Coast Rail Lines to Transfer

5 Transfer Overview

6 Questions from the Capital Programs Committee

7 Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

South Coast Rail Overview

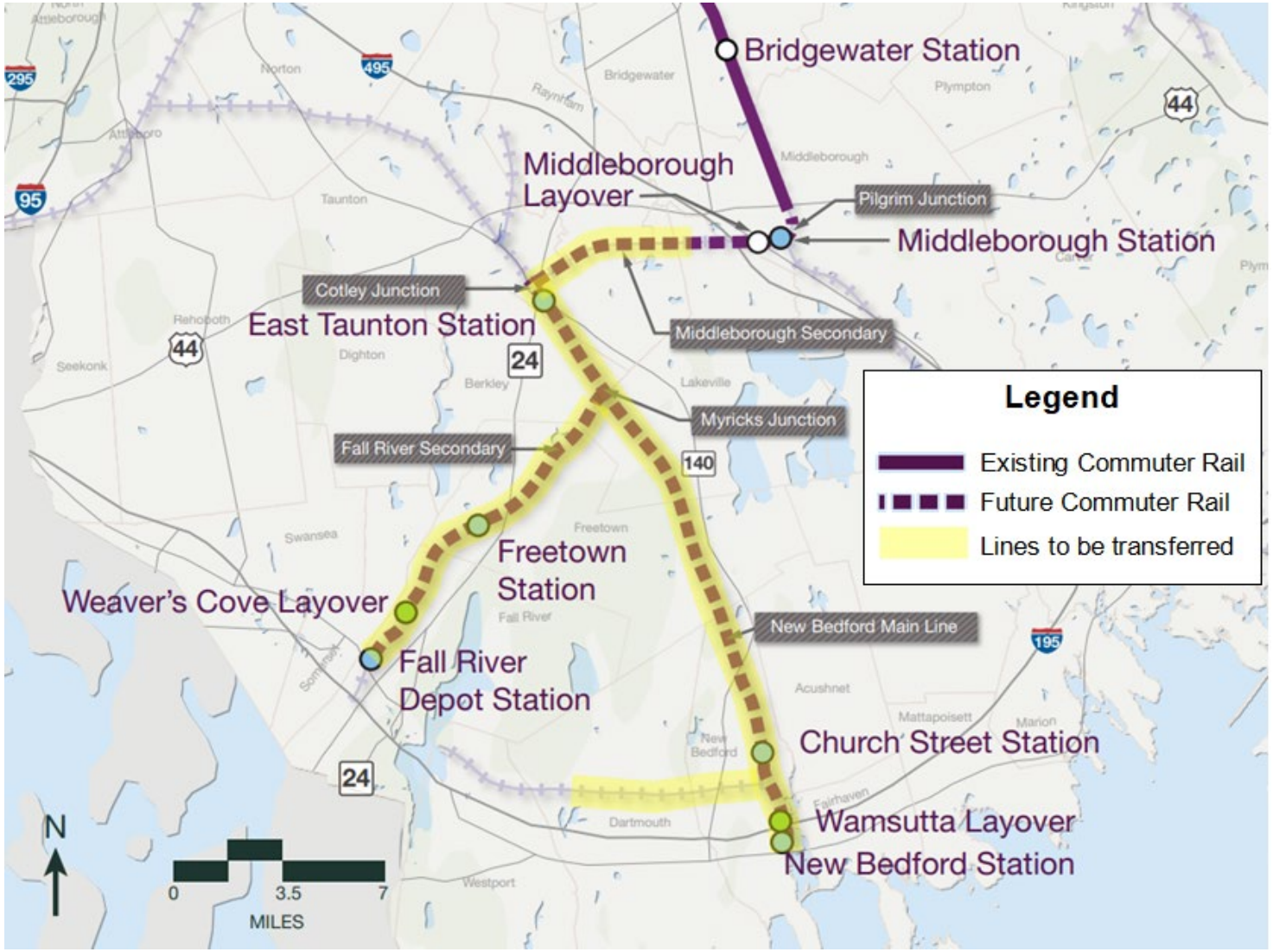


- MBTA intends to begin South Coast Rail (SCR) operations on March 24, 2025.
- SCR represents new commuter rail service to Fall River and New Bedford.
- New stations are located at Middleborough, East Taunton, Freetown, Fall River, Church Street (New Bedford), and New Bedford.
- SCR will operate on the existing Middleborough/Lakeville Line and include new extensions to Fall River and New Bedford. .
- This new service represents Phase 1, and a future Phase 2 anticipates a new alignment through Stoughton.

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South Coast Rail Lines to Transfer

MassDOT-owned lines with future MBTA service to be transferred to MBTA



This abbreviated South Coast Rail Phase I map shows the future commuter rail lines and depicts MassDOT-owned lines to be transferred to MBTA ownership.

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Transfer Overview

- MassDOT owns nearly 300 miles of rail lines across the Commonwealth.
- MBTA intends to operate new South Coast Rail (SCR) service in March 2025.
- SCR service will utilize multiple rail lines owned by MassDOT, and MassDOT intends to transfer their ownership to the MBTA to align ownership with operations.
- This is a no-cost transfer.
- Current transfer includes ~43 miles of track from the New Bedford Subdivision (17.92 miles), the Fall River Subdivision (14.31 miles), the Middleboro Branch (4.9 miles) and the North Dartmouth Industrial Track, also known as Watuppa Branch, (5.92 miles).
- This is part of a broader MassDOT effort to transfer rail lines to align ownership with operations.



Commuter rail platform in New Bedford

Questions from the Capital Programs Committee

Directors asked questions during the meeting on February 19 (South Coast Rail Transfer), as follows:

- **Are the lines being transferred dedicated to commuter rail, or are they also being used for freight service?**

  Each of the lines proposed for transfer currently host freight operations and these operations would continue after the transfer.

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Staff request that the MassDOT Board of Directors to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to execute in the name of and on behalf of MassDOT:

a Release Deed conveying to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority all of MassDOT's right, title and interest in:

- the South Coast Lines, so-called, excepting a portion of the Watuppa Branch over which the MBTA will not be operating service; and
- any portion of the Middleboro Branch, so-called, over which the MBTA will be providing revenue service; and
- such other documents as are associated with the transfers or are otherwise related to the MBTA's commencement of revenue service on, or the management of the use of, such lines.

Thank You

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