



# South Coast Rail Public Meeting with MBTA General Manager Phil Eng

June 13, 2024

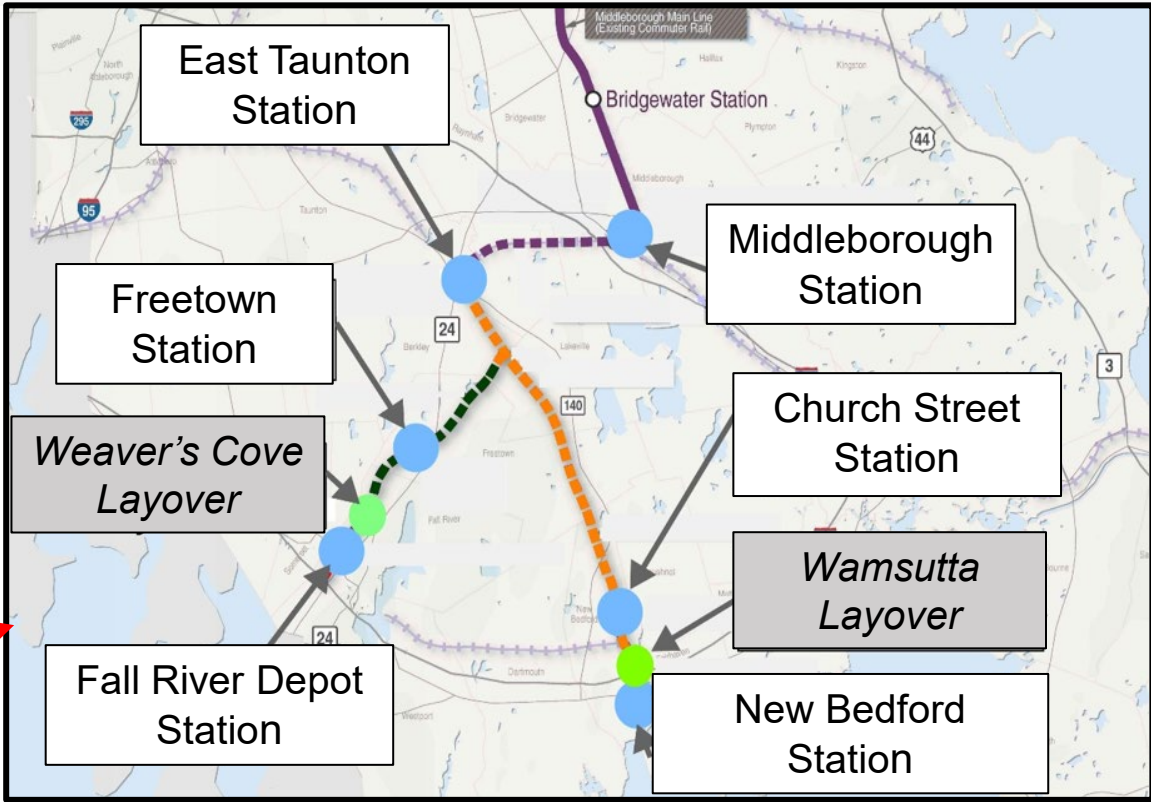
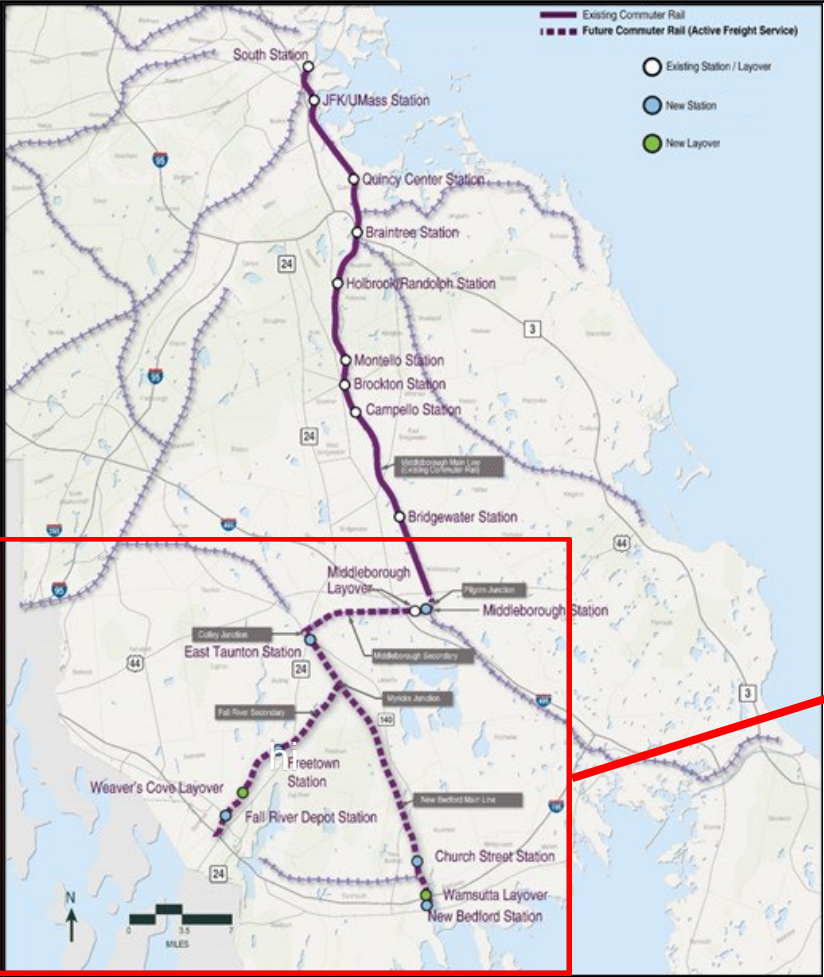


# Opening Remarks



## Phil Eng MBTA General Manager

# South Coast Rail Stations and Layover Facilities



- New construction: six stations and two layover facilities, 37 track miles



# Stations



- 4 stations complete
  - Fall River
  - Freetown
  - Middleborough
  - Church St



- 2 stations remaining
  - New Bedford is 97% complete and final completion is anticipated in July 2024. Contractor is completing punchlist work.
  - East Taunton is 75% complete and final completion is anticipated in August 2024. Remaining work includes elevator and paving.

# Accomplishments - Track



- Track must be safety certified by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in order to increase speeds to support Commuter Rail testing and operations
- Track has been safety certified by the MBTA through our new Safety Certification process, which through rigorous inspections, ensures that there are no defects and track is ready for revenue service
- As a result, FRA has authorized MBTA to proceed with testing at maximum authorized speed, up to 79mph





# Signal System Overview



- The MBTA's Automatic Train Control (ATC) and Positive Train Control (PTC) signal systems are federally mandated safety requirements.
- These systems cannot be put into service until they are tested and certified by the FRA.
- Sequence of testing:
  - ATC
  - Grade Crossings
  - PTC
- ATC sends signals to the train cab and uses physical signal lights alongside the tracks to control the train's speed.
- PTC monitors a train's location, direction, and speed in real time and alerts the engineer when it detects a train that's moving too fast, or the possibility of a train-to-train collision.
- If the crew does not respond to an alert, the system will automatically slow or stop the train.



# ATC Signal System



## Accomplishments:

- All signal system installation and functional testing is complete on all lines
- Testing has been completed at all 26 grade crossings at the current 25mph maximum speed
- Grade crossing tests include testing of gate activation, for all routes, in both directions



## Next Steps:

- Given FRA approval to operate at higher speeds, all crossings will be retested at 25mph, 45mph, and maximum speed, for all routes, in both directions
- This activity is scheduled to begin on **Monday June 17, 2024**, using an MBTA Commuter Rail test train set and is expected to be successfully tested by the end of July 2024
- In August 2024, the ATC signal system will be officially activated
- Dispatching control will then be formally transferred to Keolis Commuter Services, the MBTA's Commuter Rail Operator

# PTC Signal System



## Accomplishments:

- All equipment has been installed along the tracks and functionally tested
- The operations control center systems in Boston have been upgraded and tested to include the South Coast Lines
- Preliminary train testing of the interface between the new South Coast Lines and the existing Middleborough Line has been performed

## Next Steps:

- FRA requires train testing of all PTC functions on all South Coast Rail Lines
- Approximately 800 different functions must be successfully tested using FRA-approved procedures
- PTC testing with a train is scheduled to begin in June 2024 and is expected to be successfully tested by the end of January 2025



# New Starts Process



- In February 2025, following successful completion of ATC and PTC signal testing, the South Coast Rail lines will be transferred to MBTA Railroad Operations for completion of the New Starts Process
- The FRA New Starts Process requires:
  - Implementation of a System Safety Program
  - Strict adherence to industry design and construction standards
  - Completion of a comprehensive safety certification process
  - Train Crews will be qualified for operations on the South Coast Rail lines
- FRA will conduct inspections and witness operation of simulated service
- FRA safety certification is required to initiate revenue service
- The New Starts Process is anticipated to last ~90 days

# SCR Service Preparations



- 4 Locomotives have gone through an extensive overhaul in preparation for service
- 16 Bi-Level Coaches have been procured for SCR service, as part of a larger coach order for the MBTA
- 68% of Long Lead Staff have been hired and are currently in training:
  - Train Dispatchers (100%)
  - Train Staff (100%)
  - Infrastructure Maintenance (57%)
  - Mechanical – Currently Recruiting



# Milestone Schedule



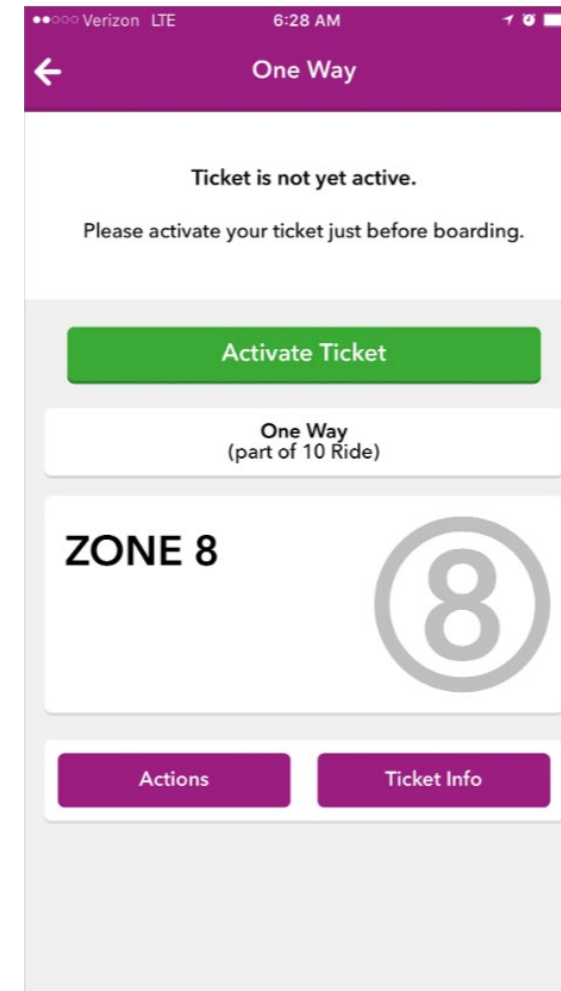
	2024								2025					
Activity	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Complete Track & Certification		◆												
Start Test Trains		◆												
Signal Testing-ATC, Xings, & PTC														
Start Keolis Dispatching			◆											
Complete Stations/Layovers					◆									
Start Keolis Operations									◆					
New Starts Process														
Start of Service													◆	



# Fares



- All South Coast Rail stations will follow a Zone 8 fare structure
- This is consistent with the current designation of the Middleborough/Lakeville station
- Full fares are \$12.25 each way, and a reduced fare is \$6.00



# Safety First

*Expect a train on any track, in any direction, at any time 24/7/365*

***STOP** for gates and flashing red lights*

*Remember: You don't have time to react when trains are traveling faster*

# SAFETY FIRST

## ON SOUTH COAST RAIL



ANNOUNCING TEST TRAINS TO AND FROM MIDDLEBOROUGH TO FALL RIVER AND NEW BEDFORD


Beginning on June 17, test trains will run along the South Coast Rail Right-of-Way (ROW). The MBTA will test and commission Commuter Rail trains to and from Middleborough, East Taunton, Freetown, Fall River and New Bedford for the first time in decades. The test trains will travel the corridor, reaching speeds of up to 79 mph, much faster than current freight trains at 25 mph.

As we reach this exciting milestone, we'd like to remind everyone in the area—whether you live, work, drive by, or cross the tracks—to get ready for high-speed trains, as they will become a common sight in the region. It's important to remember that only trains should be on the right-of-way. It is illegal and life threatening to walk on or along the tracks.

Please review and remember these safety rules:

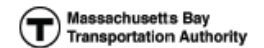
- 1 The only safe place to cross train tracks is **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings – obey warning signs and signals posted there.
- 2 Trains are quieter and faster than you think! And the average train traveling 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop.
- 3 Using the railroad ROW to hunt, fish, operate snowmobiles or ATVs, or for any other recreational purpose is trespassing and extremely dangerous.

As MBTA trains begin to travel through the region, we'll be putting your Safety First. Join us in practicing safety in your community.

 IN THE UNITED STATES, A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS HIT BY A TRAIN EVERY 3 HOURS.



For more information about your safety, to request a presentation, or view a safety video, visit: [www.mbta.com/southcoastrail](http://www.mbta.com/southcoastrail)



# What to Do and *NOT* to Do around Tracks



- *Never* walk on or next to the tracks. It's very dangerous. Don't walk your dog, run, hunt or drive an ATV or bicycle along the tracks
- *Remember:* Railroad tracks are private property so being on them is dangerous and illegal
- *Never* take a shortcut over the tracks
- *Always* stay alert around railroad tracks!





# Questions?

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# Community Outreach



## Project Website & Email

- [mbta.com/projects/south-coast-rail](https://mbta.com/projects/south-coast-rail)
- [SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us)

## Site Visits and Community Meetings

- SCR team meets with residents, businesses, and elected officials to discuss issues and update stakeholders

## Weekly Construction Updates

- Construction updates issued weekly to over 6,200 subscribers

