

MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – April 27, 2011

NEW State Station Elevators - Open

Two of three new elevators installed as part of a massive, multi-year project at State Station were opened on Tuesday, April 26. The remaining elevator, which provides redundant service, is expected to be completed within a couple of months.

The new elevators will allow inbound Blue Line customers to exit to the street for the first time ever. Also, a new accessible concourse will make it possible for customers to easily transfer between the Orange and Blue lines. In addition to new elevators the project includes lengthened platforms, detectable warning platform edges, new finishes, lighting, communications equipment, and signage. The station has been reconstructed in eight stages so as to minimize disruption to service and to the surrounding area. The project is currently in the 7th & 8th final stages of construction.

Science Park/West End Station – Bus Replacement

Beginning on Saturday April 30, 2011 through December 2011, a bus shuttle will replace Green Line trains between North Station and Lechmere stations as part of the Science Park/West End Station accessibility project. The benefits of a station closure include an earlier project completion date, cost savings, increased safety, and reduced noise. MBTA personnel will be available to provide customer service. For complete bus shuttle details and project information, please visit mbta.com; "Service Alerts"; "Green Line."

More Onboard Cameras for MBTA Buses

Another 90 buses in the MBTA bus fleet will be getting onboard cameras in the coming year as part of an overall security and safety program. In 2006, the MBTA installed the first onboard video cameras; today one-third of the bus fleet is equipped with cameras. The cameras serve as a deterrent and are a valuable tool in the investigation of complaints or incidents.

Park Street Main Entrance Re-Opens

On April 5 the main staircase entrance at Park Street Station, which brings customers to the westbound Green Line platform and Red Line north and southbound platforms, re-opened. The entrance was closed temporarily as part of the adjacent elevator installation project. Work to install the new elevator continues behind wood partitions. The stairway inside the station between the Green Line westbound platform level to the Red Line Center platform will remain closed. On the eastbound side, both the stairs and elevator between the Green Line platform and Red Line center platform remain open.

Improving Bike Access on the Blue Line

On April 24 System-Wide Accessibility staff participated in a meeting with representatives from AACT, T Operations, the East Boston Chelsea Creek Action Group (CCAG) and MassBike regarding a pilot program to expand the hours that bicycles are allowed on the Blue Line. During the pilot restrictions would only apply on inbound trains 7 – 9 am and outbound 4 – 6 pm. AACT will monitor bike use on the Blue Line during the pilot to determine if improved access for cyclists can amicably co-exist with access for customers with disabilities.

FTA Team Assesses Accessibility at MBTA Stations

As part of its ongoing oversight efforts, the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA), Office of Civil Rights, conducts on-site assessments of ADA key, new and renovated rail stations. April 4 – 12 an FTA team, with staff from System-Wide Accessibility, assessed Airport, Community College, Oak Grove, Malden Center (Orange/Commuter Rail), North Station (Green/ Orange/Commuter Rail), Savin Hill, and South Station (Red/Silver/ Commuter Rail).

Over a several month period the assessment team will submit a draft report of its findings to the FTA in Washington; the FTA will review and transmit to the MBTA; the MBTA will comment and send back to the FTA; the FTA will then issue a final report that includes all findings, advisories and corrective actions to be taken by the MBTA in an agreed upon timeline.

Gap Reduction and Platform Repair Efforts

MBTA work crews continue to install "rub rails" to reduce the gap between the train floor and the platform surface, to repair platform concrete and replace damaged detectable warning strips throughout the MBTA subway system. The work was completed earlier this month at North Quincy and Braintree stations on the Red Line.

System-Wide Accessibility Mini-Roundtable Meeting

On April 25 System-Wide Accessibility held a discussion with area stakeholders on wayfinding developments at the T. Representatives from the Cambridge and Boston Commissions for People with Disabilities, the Riders Oversight Committee (ROC) and BCIL participated. The same information was covered at the March 2nd meeting attended by representatives from AACT. The goal of the "mini-roundtables" is to provide an informal forum for sharing ideas regarding various accessibility topics.

MBTA Operations Training Programs – Bus

The Bus Training School has 2 ongoing classes for operators and other bus personnel at the Charlestown Garage training facility. Contact Robin Howard in the MBTA's System-Wide Accessibility Department, at least one week in advance, to attend either program at 617-222-1666 voice; 617-222-5045 TTY; rhoward@mbta.com:

Phase 1 Bus Recertification: 8-hour monthly class with modules and videos on assisting customers with disabilities, service animals, use of ramps and lifts, and other accessibility-related topics.

Classroom and hands-on instruction onboard the bus.

Next class: Tuesday, May 11.

Phase 2 Bus Recertification Training: 2-hour ADA Refresher training module with both classroom and hands-on instruction onboard the bus. Includes state-of-the-art bus simulator. Due to space restrictions maximum class size 6 students; 1 observer (and Personal Care Assistant, if applicable).

Mon – Fri (no holidays), at approx. 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm.