

MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – May 25, 2011

State Street Blue Line Modernization Project Ribbon Cutting

On Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 11:00 am an official ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the new 60 State/Congress Street entrance to State Station. State, city, and local officials, including the AACT chair, will gather at the newly modernized Blue line section of the station to celebrate the completion of many major station renovations.

Proposed Red Line Single Person Train Operation

The MBTA will be holding a series of public meets to solicit input on operating Red Line trains with a single person crew. A presentation will be made at the June 22, 2011 meeting of AACT. In addition, meetings are being held at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue (May 31, 5:30 – 7:00 pm); State Transportation Building, Conference Rms 2 & 3 (June 8, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm); St. Mark's Church, 1725 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester (June 22, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm); and Quincy City Hall, Robert Foy Conference Rm, 2nd floor, 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy (June 29, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm).

MBTA to Host APTA National Rail Conference & Rodeo

The MBTA is hosting the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Rodeo and Rail Conference June 9 -15, 2011. The Rail Rodeo (June 9 – 12) tests the skills of national and international rail operators and maintenance employees. For the first time the Rodeo will feature a test on assisting customers with disabilities. The Rail Conference (June 12 – 15) consists of discussions and workshops on a wide variety of topics including safety and security, planning finance, capital projects, etc. Staff from System-Wide Accessibility will be participating in a workshop on Quality Assurance Techniques to Improve System Accessibility.

MA Rehab Employers Meet

On May 4, 2011, staff from System-Wide Accessibility attended a meeting sponsored by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission designed to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the private and public sector.

Join the GM

On May 19 staff from System-Wide Accessibility participated in the "Join the GM" event at Roxbury Crossing Station on the Orange Line. MBTA General Manager Richard A. Davey and other MBTA staff are available at each "Join the GM" event to meet with customers. All comments, suggestions, complaints, are passed along to the Customer Communications and Marketing Department and entered into the MBTA's official customer communications database.

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: Wednesday, June 8.

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.

Reduced Fare Charlie Card Outreach

Seniors (65+), people with disabilities approved for the Transportation Access Pass (TAP) CharlieCard, and people who are registered for the MA Commission for the Blind ID Card will have an opportunity beginning in June to have their photo taken for a Senior, TAP or Blind Access CharlieCard at an outreach event. The first event is on June 16, 2011, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, at the Kennedy Center, 440 East Squantum St., in Quincy. Additional reduced-fare CharlieCard events are scheduled in Winchester (July), Milton (August), Salem (September) and Watertown (October).

Judge Patrick King to Hold Public Meeting

Judge Patrick King, the Federal Court appointed monitor of the MBTA/BCIL Settlement Agreement will be hosting a public meeting on June 20 to discuss his assessment of the MBTA's progress towards compliance with the MBTA/BCIL settlement agreement. The meeting will be held at the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Conference Rooms 2 & 3, 1:00 pm. – 3:30 pm.