

## **MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – JUNE 22, 2011**

### **Judge Patrick King Holds Public Meeting**

On Monday, June 20, Judge Patrick King, the Federal Court appointed monitor of the MBTA/BCIL Settlement Agreement, hosted a public meeting to present to the plaintiffs and other stakeholders his assessment of the MBTA's progress towards compliance. MBTA General Manager Richard Davey confirmed at the meeting his commitment to meet or surpass all the requirements of the Agreement. A number of AACT members were present at the event and shared their thoughts, concerns and questions.

### **State Station Blue Line Modernization Project Ribbon Cutting**

On Thursday, May 26, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new 60 State/Congress Street entrance to State Station. State, city, and local officials, including AACT chair, Phil Beaulieu, gathered at the newly modernized Blue line section of the station to celebrate the completion of many major station renovations. The station now has two new fully accessible entrances and provides a seamless connection between the Blue and Orange lines.

### **Talbot Ave Station Groundbreaking Held**

On Tuesday, June 7, Governor Deval Patrick joined Congressman Michael Capuano, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and state and local officials to announce the groundbreaking for the \$15.9 million Talbot Commuter Rail Station. The Talbot Ave. Station is the third of four commuter rail stations under construction as part of the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line Rehabilitation Project. Similar to the Four Corners/Geneva station currently under construction, the Talbot Avenue Station will include new high level platforms, canopies, passenger shelters, benches and windscreens, and electronic message signs. Sidewalks adjacent to the station will also be reconstructed with new wheelchair curb ramps at major intersections.

## **MBTA Hosts APTA National Rail Conference & Rodeo**

On June 9 – 15 the MBTA hosted the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Rodeo and Rail Transit Conference. The Rail Rodeo tested the skills of national and international rail operators and maintenance employees. For the first time the Rodeo included a customer service segment involving people with disabilities, i.e. bridge plate deployment and how to properly assist a customer who is blind. Staff from System-Wide Accessibility participated in the Rodeo and presented a workshop during the Conference on “Quality Assurance Techniques to Improve System Accessibility”.

## **Where’s My Train?**

MBTA customers now have access to the first of what is sure to be many applications that provide real-time commuter rail train location, speed and predicted arrival time on hand held devices such as mobile web, Android, iPhone and BlackBerry. More information about the new application is available at <http://www.mbta.com/apps>.

## **MBTA System-Wide Accessibility AGM To Work for Amtrak**

Gary Talbot, who has served as Assistant General Manager (AGM) for the MBTA’s Department of System-Wide Accessibility since May 2007, has announced that he will be leaving the MBTA at the end of August to work on improving accessibility at Amtrak. The AGM position was created as part of the MBTA/BCIL Settlement Agreement to oversee the implementation of the Agreement throughout the T.

## **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 to have their photo taken for a Senior, TAP or Blind Access CharlieCard on July 13, 2011, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Jenks Senior Center, 109 Skillings Rd. in Winchester. Additional reduced-fare CharlieCard events are scheduled in Milton (August), Salem (September) and Watertown (October).

## **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](mailto: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, July 26.**

**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.**