

MBTA REGIONAL RAIL

PROPOSED PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS



TRANSITMATTERS

TRANSITMATTERS.ORG



IMPROVEMENTS



INCREASE IN PEAK & OFF-PEAK SERVICE

UNIVERSAL IMPROVEMENT

- 15-minute all-day frequencies on Early Action lines
- 30-minute all-day frequencies everywhere else by 2026
- Increased span of the frequency (frequency is higher all day)
- Frequency will be the same inbound and outbound



ELECTRIFICATION

Adding electric power infrastructure to a line.

→ *Faster service and decrease in CO2 emissions*



UPGRADE TRACK AND SIGNALS

Renewing signalling and infrastructure to a line.

→ *Faster, more frequent, and more reliable service*



REMOVE SPEED RESTRICTIONS/ INCREASE SPEEDS

Eliminate outdated speed restrictions.

→ *Faster, more frequent service*



PASSING TRACK

Adding second tracks to single-track segment.

→ *More frequent, more reliable service*



DOUBLE TRACK SECTIONS

Add segments of double track.

→ *More frequent, more reliable service*



TRIPLE TRACK SECTIONS

Add segments of a third track.

→ *Faster, more frequent, more reliable, more accessible service*



SWITCH UPGRADES

Replacing and upgrading switches.

→ *More frequent service, more reliable service*



NEW HIGH-LEVEL PLATFORM

Building platforms that line up with most or all of a train.

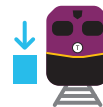
→ *Faster trips (less time at the station)*



2ND PLATFORM

Add platforms on opposite side of single platform stations.

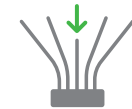
→ *Faster, more frequent, more accessible, more reliable service*



DEDICATED PLATFORMS

Assign specific terminal platforms to all lines or groups of lines. For example, currently Providence/Stoughton, Franklin, Needham, and Amtrak all share platform groups.

→ *Faster and more reliable service*



IMPROVE ACCESS POINTS AND SAFELY INCREASED SPEEDS NEAR TERMINAL STATIONS

Increase speeds from 10 to 30 mph.

→ *Increased system capacity and faster service, more frequent service*



NEW STATIONS

Building new stations along current lines.

→ *Serving Gateway cities, universities and hospitals, access for low income populations*



NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS

Buying electric multiple unit (EMU) trains.

→ *Faster service, more frequent service, more reliable service, decrease in CO2 emissions*

OUTCOMES

★ A more resilient network

By adding more off-peak service that better aligns with healthcare workers and other essential workers, Regional Rail becomes a service that is more resilient in future pandemics or health emergencies. By moving toward zero-emission vehicles with more open layouts, the MBTA better protects these workers by cutting pollution that makes people more vulnerable to disease and giving riders more space for social distancing.

Faster service

Electric trains enable faster service, which means valuable time saved and more trains throughout the day.

More reliable service

Electric trains are up to 25 times more reliable than our current diesel fleet, this means dependable, reliable service and lower maintenance costs.

Decrease CO2 emissions

More frequent service, even on diesel trains draws commuters out of single-occupancy vehicles; new electric trains emit no pollution in the communities they run through.

More accessible service

Moving to high-level platforms enables all with reduced mobility to access the train—whether you use a wheelchair, have a stroller, or just heavy luggage—it makes life easier.

More frequent service

Frequent all-day service means the train works around your schedule, not the other way around; this also means less crowding as riders have more choice on which train to take.

Better connect gateway cities and environmental justice communities

The current system either passes by these communities or provides inadequate service, Regional Rail means more equitable transit that serves all.