



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Report from the General Manager

Fiscal and Management Control Board

September 23, 2019

Commuter Rail Coach Procurement: Current State

- 260 single-level coaches are scheduled for retirement.
 - Coaches range in age from **24 to 32 years old** and are beyond their useful lifespans.
- Recent studies have shown a **continuing increase in Commuter Rail ridership**, which will be further impacted by the addition of South Coast Rail and multiple MassDOT highway projects being scheduled in the near future.
 - The MBTA receives regular requests for more Commuter Rail service.
 - Additional coaches will be needed for **South Coast Rail** service.



Commuter Rail Coach Procurement: Immediate Solution

Procure 80 Bi-Level coaches

- Expedited delivery vs. standard procurement
 - Replace the oldest control coaches
 - Obtain 16 coaches for South Coast Rail by December 2022
 - Increase fleet standardization
- Benefits
 - Increased reliability
 - Added capacity of 14,080 seats
 - Reduced risks due to familiarization with proven manufacturing and engineering design
 - Minimal operating and maintenance training required
 - Minimal design impact
 - Guaranteed compatibility with existing fleet



Commuter Rail Coach Procurement: Medium-Term Plan

Plan to procure additional bi-level coaches

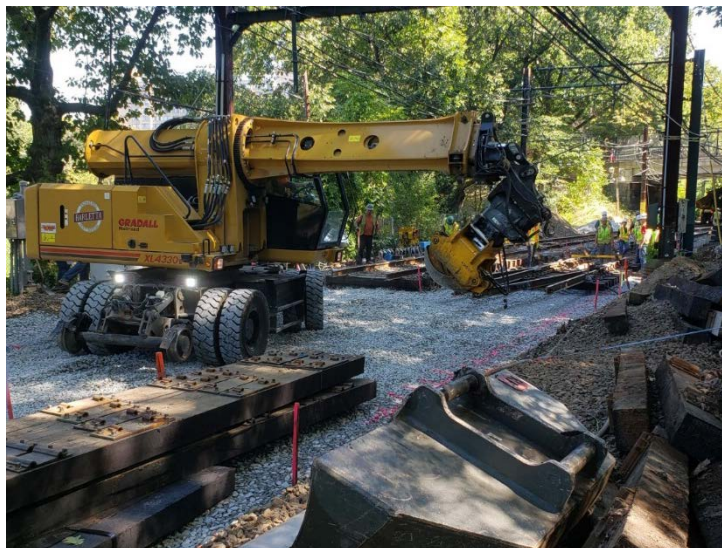
- RFP to the industry by fall 2019
- Procure 100 in base to continue fleet modernization
 - Options to replace entire single-level fleet and add additional capacity
- RFI to the industry during winter 2020 for DMUs/EMUs

MBTA will not be locked in to a specific mobility solution and can redirect resources if a decision is made for alternative services



Building a Better T: Weekend Work Update

- Shuttle buses replaced service between Kenmore and Newton Highlands on the D Branch of the Green Line and between Forest Hills and Ruggles on the Orange Line.
- These service diversions allowed the MBTA to complete track, signal, and other maintenance work:
 - Replaced the H25/H26 “Tennis Court” Crossover between Beaconsfield and Reservoir, which provides access into/from Lower Reservoir Yard
 - Installed 58,100 ft. of signal cable, 6,000 ft. of signal power cable, and 85% of Overhead Catenary System pole tags between Chestnut Hill and Reservoir



Rail Safety Awareness Week



If you see tracks, think train.

- Third annual Rail Safety Awareness Week is September 22 – September 28
- MBTA, Keolis, Transit Police, and others are participating in a series of educational initiatives in support of this safety campaign
- The goal of Operation Lifesaver is to raise awareness among the general public and ensure a clear understanding of the dangers to be aware of near tracks, trains, and rail property.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 22:

- No Photos on Tracks: Letter campaign to photography schools on dangers of taking photos on or near train tracks.

Monday, September 23:

- Distracted Driving: Communities have been encouraged to increase distracted-driving enforcement, especially near tracks and grade crossings.

Tuesday, September 24:

- Law Enforcement Partnerships and the third annual observance of Operation Clear Track: Local, state, federal, and railroad police stationed at railroad grade crossings and trespassing incident locations will hand out safety materials to motorists and pedestrians, and enforce crossing and trespass laws.

Wednesday, September 25:

- Crossing Safety: Activities will include outreach to professional drivers and drivers of garbage, cement, and dump trucks with the message that truck-train incidents can have devastating effects on families and communities. The importance of the emergency notification system (ENS) sign at crossings will be highlighted. Massachusetts Association of Public Works representatives will also receive training on ENS.

Thursday, September 26:

- Transit and Commuter Safety: Staff will be at stations throughout the MBTA system with materials on how to stay safe as a rail commuter and transit rider

Friday, September 27:

- Trespass Prevention: Staff will be within area communities with information related to preventing trespassing on rail right-of-way areas.

Saturday, September 28:

- Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety: Awareness activities will take place in order to educate pedestrians and bicyclists about the dangers posed by trespassing on tracks, and how they can stay safe.

Rail Rodeo Recap

- The 28th annual MBTA Rail Rodeo took place on Saturday, September 21 at Riverside Car House.
- Maintenance Winners
 - **1st place:** Paul Brouberg, Brian Corona, and Craig Costelo of Cabot Red Line
 - **2nd place:** Joel Ramirez and Adam Rooney of Riverside Green Line
 - **3rd place:** Steve Branfield, Jose Eraso-Sosa, and Iouri Isaac of Riverside Green Line
- Transportation Winners
 - **1st place:** Joseph Lynch #2314
 - **2nd place:** Rohan Surujbally #72362
 - **3rd place:** Brian McDonough #73228
- Both first place winners will represent the MBTA at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in San Francisco on June 11-14, 2020.



Orient Heights Visit

- On September 19, DGM Gonneville and I visited Orient Heights, the Blue Line car house.
- We met with the Blue Line Chief, the car house foremen, and other Orient Heights staff to talk about their work and the importance of safety.

