



South Coast Rail Public Meeting with MBTA General Manager Phil Eng

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September 18, 2024



Opening Remarks



Phil Eng MBTA General Manager

Welcome



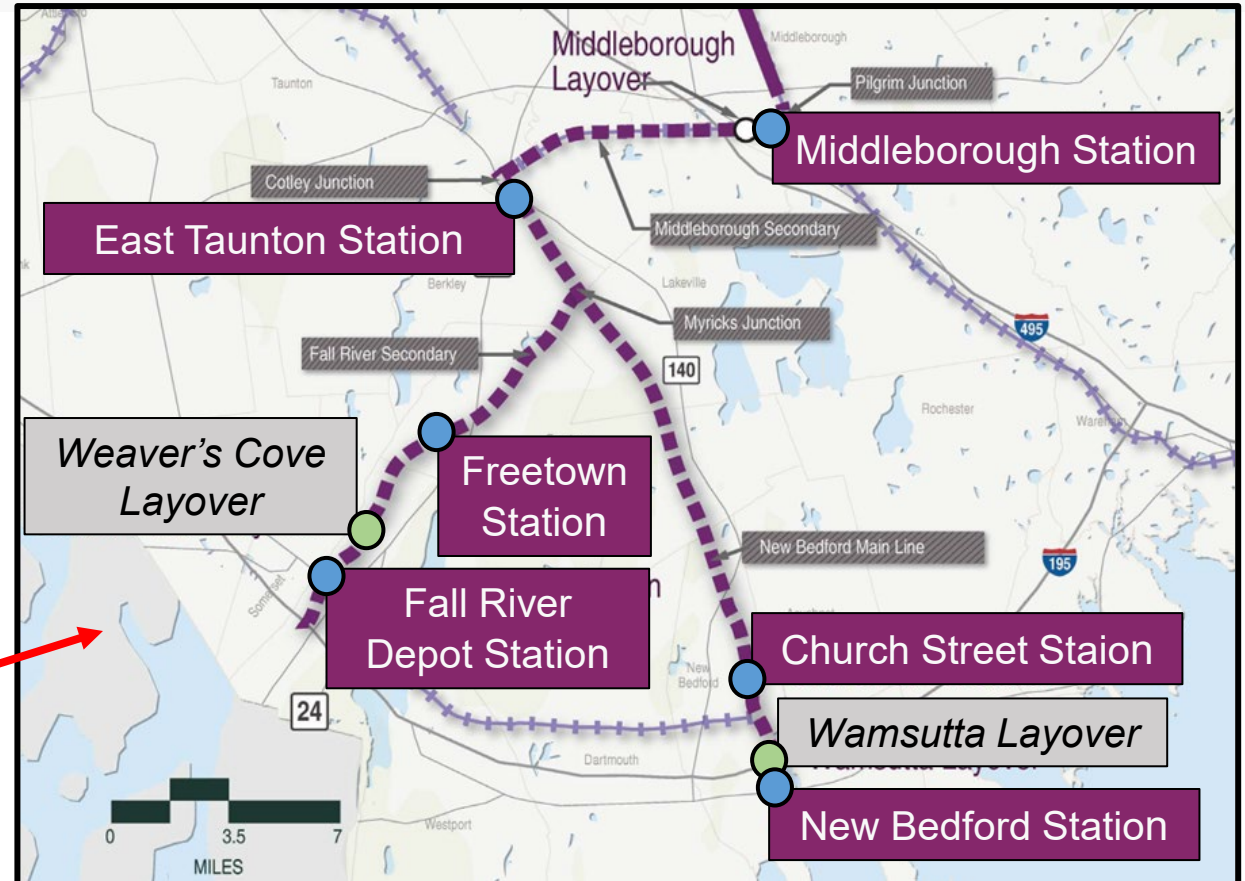
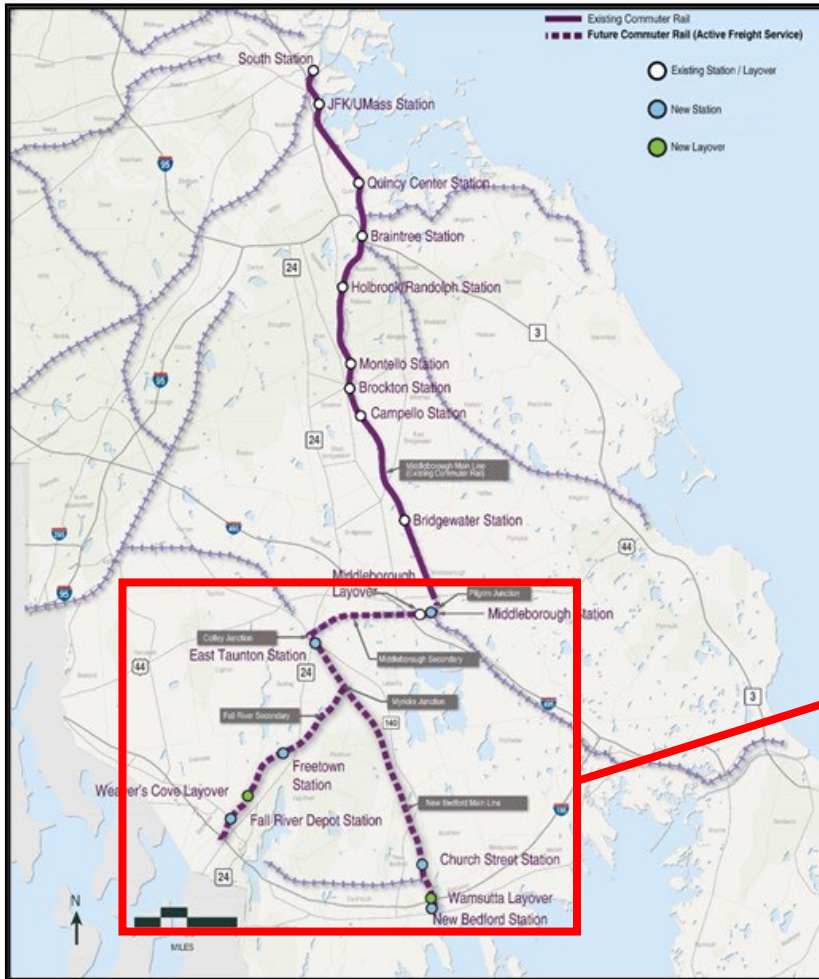
Massachusetts State Legislature

Representative William M. Straus, Chairperson, Joint Committee on Transportation

City of Taunton

Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

South Coast Rail Stations and Layover Facilities



- New construction: six stations and two layover facilities, 37 track miles

Project Update: Milestone Schedule



Activity	2024								2025					
	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Complete Track & Certification		✓												
Start Test Trains		✓												
Signal Testing-ATC, Xings, & PTC														
Start Keolis Dispatching				✓										
Complete Stations/Layovers														
Start Keolis Operations														
New Starts Process														
Start of Service														

- ◆ Milestone
- Ongoing process
- ✓ Completed milestone

Project Update: Stations



- All stations substantially complete
 - Fall River
 - Freetown
 - Middleborough
 - Church St
 - New Bedford
 - East Taunton



Fall River Depot



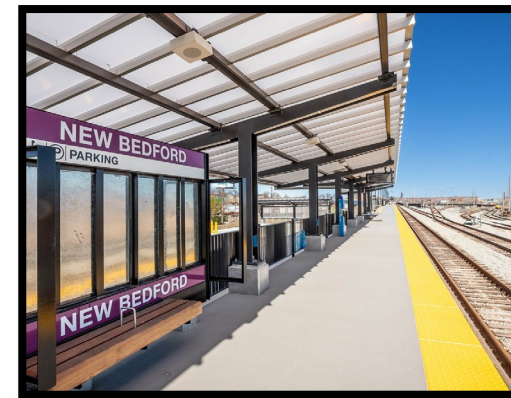
Freetown Station



Middleborough Station



Church Street Station

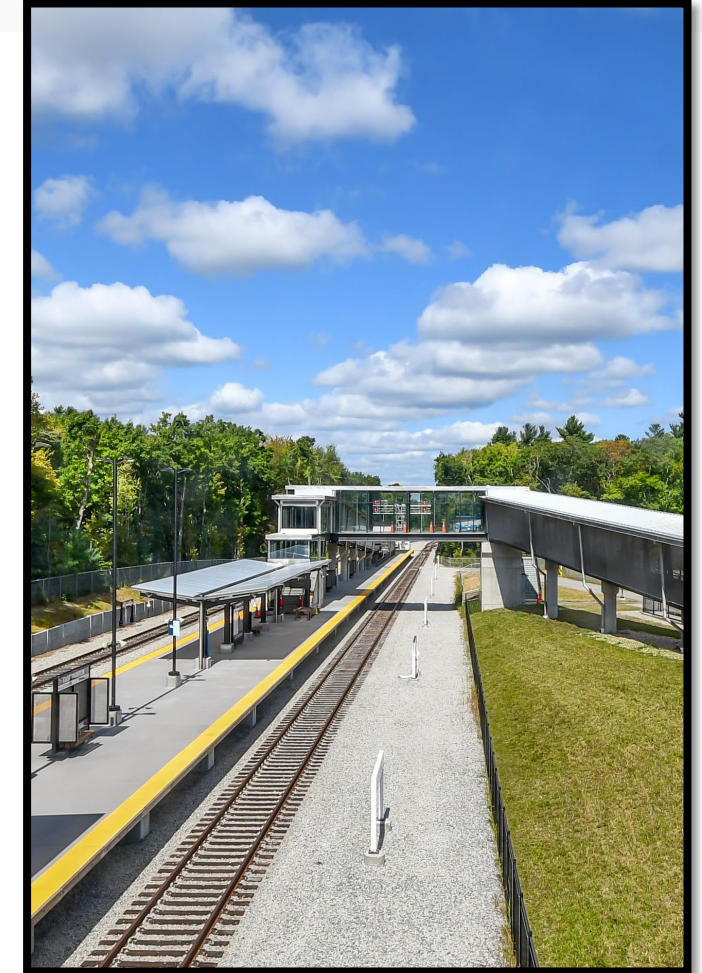


New Bedford Station



East Taunton Station

Project Update: East Taunton Station



East Taunton Station is the most complex station on SCR, and it features:

- Single center-island high-level, 800-foot platform
- Elevators, ramps, and bridges for vertical circulation

Project Update: East Taunton Station (cont.)



Project Update: Layover Facilities Substantially Complete



Tracks at
Wamsutta
Layover in
New Bedford



Crew
building at
Wamsutta
Layover

- Train sets begin and end their days at the layover facilities
- Trains are cleaned and inspected
- No major maintenance is performed at these facilities
- Equipment is available to keep diesel engines warm in cold weather conditions

Project Update: Signal System Testing



- The MBTA's Automatic Train Control (ATC) and Positive Train Control (PTC) signal systems are federally mandated safety requirements
- These systems cannot be put into service until they are tested and certified by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)



Project Update: Signal System Testing (cont.)

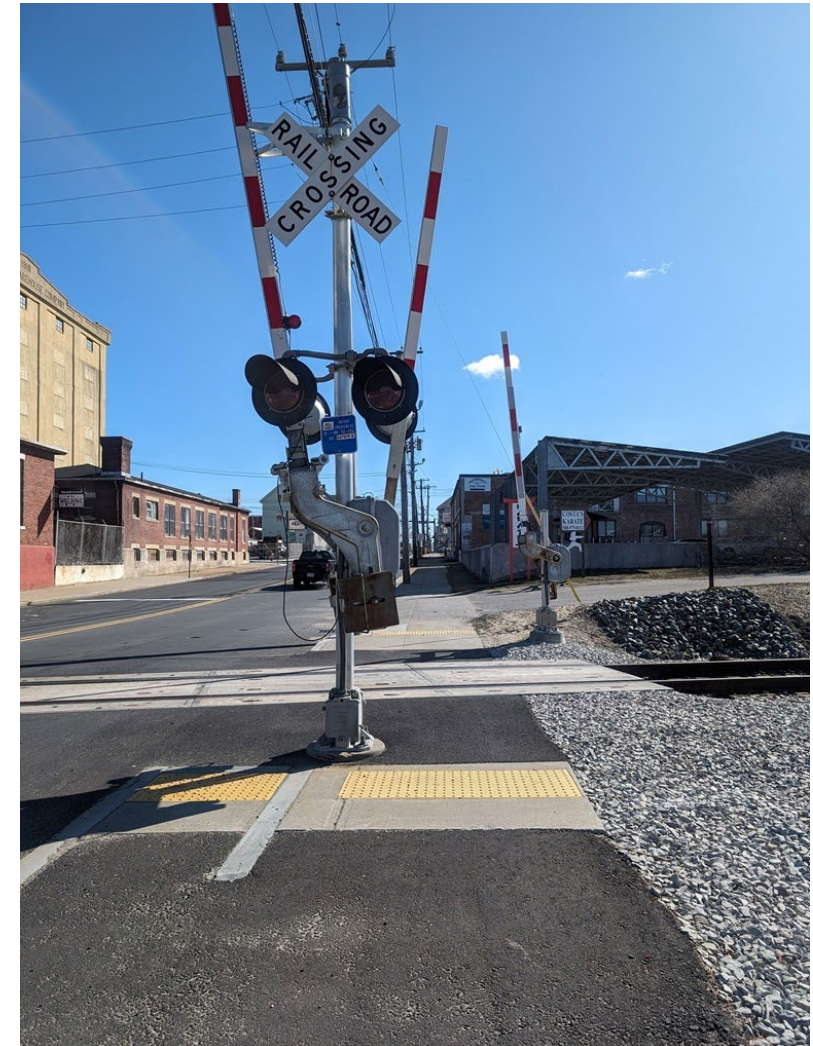


- **ATC Testing:**

- Completed in July 2024, the ATC signal system is in service
- On July 28 dispatching control was formally transferred to Keolis Commuter Services, the MBTA's Commuter Rail Operator

- **PTC Testing:**

- Approximately 800 different functions must be successfully tested using FRA-approved procedures
- PTC testing is approximately 40% complete and on schedule to be complete by the end of January 2025



Project Update: Traffic Mitigation



- Off-site Traffic Mitigation work, including intersection improvements and traffic signal upgrades near stations, completed at:
 - *South Main Street (Route 105) and West Grove Street (Route 28); and Route 105/I-495 interchange in Middleborough*
 - *County Street (Route 140) at Industrial Drive and Taunton Depot Drive in Taunton*
 - *Church Street and Nash Road in New Bedford*
 - *President Avenue at North Main Street in Fall River*



West Grove Street (Route 28) in Middleborough

Project Update: Pedestrian Bridge



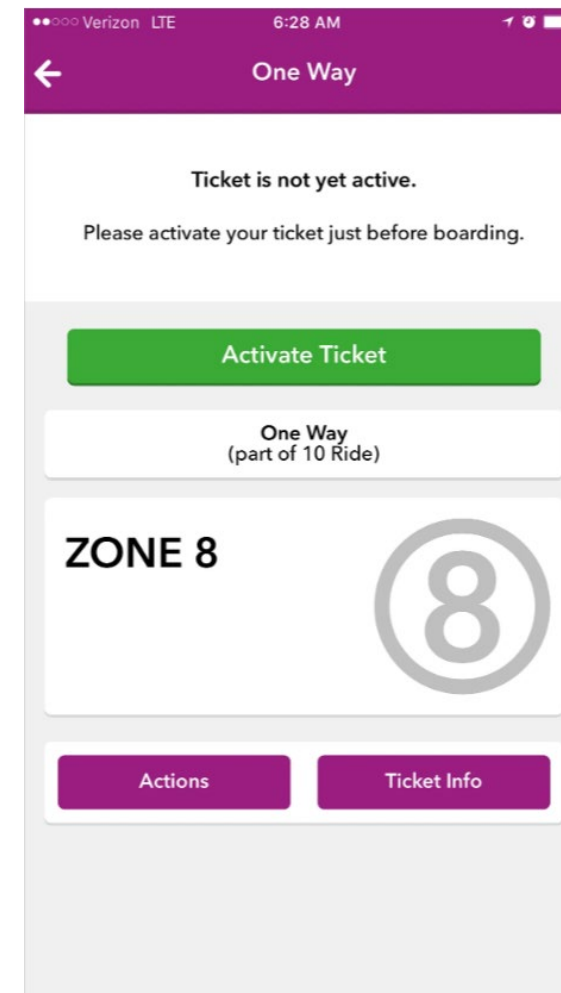
- Construction on the New Bedford Station Pedestrian Bridge is progressing and about 60% complete
- The contractor has erected the steel arch structures over Route 18 and is working on completing the elevator and sidewalks (Purchase Street and Acushnet Avenue)
- The bridge will open in time for the start of passenger service



Fares



- All South Coast Rail stations will follow a Zone 8 fare structure
- This is consistent with the current designation of the Middleborough/Lakeville station
- Full fares are \$12.25 each way, and a reduced fare is \$6.00



Schedules (DRAFT)



	Original Project Commitment	MBTA Delivery
East Taunton-South Station	26	32
Fall River Line	13	15
New Bedford Line	13	17
Weekends	-	26

Direct Trips to/from South Station

- In addition to direct service, there will also be shuttles operating between each terminus point and East Taunton Station; this allows for even more frequent service, which is consistent with the All Day Service model across the rest of the Commuter Rail network
- Weekday Direct service will run approximately every 70 minutes
- Weekend Direct service will run approximately every 120 minutes
- Late Night Service will be offered to South Coast Rail stations with the last train leaving Boston just before mid-night

Parking



All South Coast Rail stations will have parking

This will include accessible and electric vehicle (EV) parking spaces



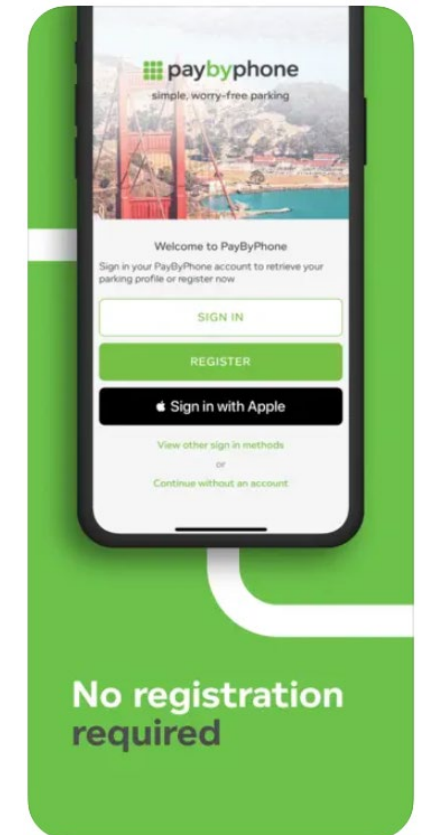
Rates

\$4 weekdays and \$2 weekends/holidays - consistent with similar Commuter Rail stations



Payment methods

PayByPhone (app, website, or phone number)
Pay by Invoice - received through mail (additional \$1 fee)



Safety First



*Expect a train on any track,
in any direction, at any time
24/7/365*

***STOP** for gates and flashing
red lights*

*Remember: You don't have
time to react when trains
are traveling faster*



Enhanced Railroad Grade Crossings



Enhanced crossings provide more visual cues for drivers.

Safety First Program

- Program has been reaching out to targeted stakeholders:
 - Schools, municipalities, sportsmen, ATV users, pedestrians, dog walkers and more
- Program includes presentations, theme brochures, handouts and videos - information available today
- MBTA Commuter Rail Safety website: www.mbta.com/CRSafety

SAFETY FIRST ON SOUTH COAST RAIL



ANNOUNCING TEST TRAINS TO AND FROM
MIDDLEBOROUGH TO FALL RIVER AND NEW BEDFORD


Beginning on June 17, test trains will run along the South Coast Rail Right-of-Way (ROW). The MBTA will test and commission Commuter Rail trains to and from Middleborough, East Taunton, Freetown, Fall River and New Bedford for the first time in decades. The test trains will travel the corridor, reaching speeds of up to 79 mph, much faster than current freight trains at 25 mph.

As we reach this exciting milestone, we'd like to remind everyone in the area—whether you live, work, drive by, or cross the tracks—to get ready for high-speed trains, as they will become a common sight in the region. It's important to remember that only trains should be on the right-of-way. It is illegal and life threatening to walk on or along the tracks.

Please review and remember these safety rules:

- 1 The only safe place to cross train tracks is ONLY at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings – obey warning signs and signals posted there.
- 2 Trains are quieter and faster than you think! And the average train traveling 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop.
- 3 Using the railroad ROW to hunt, fish, operate snowmobiles or ATVs, or for any other recreational purpose is trespassing and extremely dangerous.

As MBTA trains begin to travel through the region, we'll be putting your Safety First. Join us in practicing safety in your community.

 IN THE UNITED STATES, A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS HIT BY A TRAIN EVERY 3 HOURS.



For more information about your safety, to request a presentation, or view a safety video, visit: www.mbta.com/southcoastrail



What to Do and *NOT* to Do around Tracks



- *Never* walk on or next to the tracks. It's very dangerous. Don't walk your dog, run, hunt or drive an ATV or bicycle along the tracks
- *Remember:* Railroad tracks are private property so being on them is dangerous and illegal
- *Never* take a shortcut over the tracks
- *Always* stay alert around railroad tracks!



Questions?



Community Outreach



Project Website & Email

- mbta.com/projects/south-coast-rail
- SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us

Site Visits and Community Meetings

- SCR team meets with residents, businesses, and elected officials to discuss issues and update stakeholders

Weekly Construction Updates

- Construction updates issued weekly to over 6,300 subscribers

