

MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – September 22, 2010

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISOR VISITS BOSTON

Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation in the Obama Administration, visited Boston in August, his first stop on a national tour to gain firsthand knowledge of best practices and challenges ahead in improving transportation for people with disabilities across the United States. On Day 1 of his 2-day visit Mr. Devylder gave the keynote address at a Transportation Forum sponsored by the Disability Law Center and the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD). MBTA Assistant General Manager for System-Wide Accessibility (SWA), Gary Talbot, and IHCD staff contributed opening remarks at the afternoon event attended by representatives from numerous organizations, including AACT.

On Day 2 staff from SWA and IHCD accompanied Mr. Devylder on a tour of MBTA fixed route transit modes, including bus and light, heavy and commuter rail; and accessibility features such as vehicle ramps, bridgeplates, portable lifts, mini-high level platforms, dual mode communications, and elevators. The tour also included observations of inaccessible stations and a discussion on the challenges facing the MBTA and other transit agencies across the country to make public transit fully accessible.

“REAL-TIME” INFORMATION FOR ALL MBTA BUS ROUTES

Bus riders can now find out when the next bus will arrive on any of the MBTA's 187 bus routes serving 47 greater Boston communities. On September 9 Governor Deval Patrick launched mbta.com/apps, a resource for customers seeking applications and services that provide real-time bus arrival information. The Governor made the announcement at Ruggles Station, where he used the new service before boarding a MBTA bus.

REVERE/WONDERLAND STATION PARKING FACILITY

The construction of a new \$47 million, 7-story parking facility at Wonderland Station on the Blue Line is a step closer to reality with the groundbreaking held earlier this month by federal, state, and local officials. The Wonderland Garage Project is part of the City of Revere's Waterfront Square Development, a transit-oriented development. Funded with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and MBTA bond revenue financing, the new garage project will result in a multimodal transit facility that integrates parking, bus service (with the relocation of the existing busway) and subway service.

COPLEY STATION CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION

The modernization of one of the oldest subway stations in the nation is nearing completion with a grand opening anticipated at the end of October. Among the features included in this major accessibility project are elevators, escalators, raised platforms, lighting, signage, dual mode communications and tactile platform warning edges.

SWA-BACK BAY CHARLIECARD OUTREACH PROGRAM

Staff from the Department of System-Wide Accessibility at Back Bay are visiting area Senior Centers and other facilities an average of twice per month to issue Senior, Transportation Access Pass (TAP) and Blind Access CharlieCards to eligible MBTA customers. Outreach events are scheduled for Malden/ September 24; Watertown/September 27; Everett/September 29. More information about the events is available at www.mbta.com, or by calling the MBTA Customer Support Services Center at 617-222-3200 voice; 617-222-5146 TTY.