

MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – JULY 27, 2011

Blanford St. Stop on Green Line to be Made Accessible

On July 8 staff from System-Wide Accessibility participated in a kick off meeting for the Commonwealth Avenue Reservation Improvements Project; phase one of a Public Safety Improvements project along the MBTA Reservation Area. This first phase extends from Kenmore Square to Carlton Street. As part of the project the Blanford St. stop on the Green Line B-branch will be made accessible, and the platforms will be widened at BU East and BU Central stops, stations that are already accessible.

The project will include platform improvements such as new shelters, painted rubber at track crossings, fencing, a concrete wall, light poles, trash receptacles. Also, a number of pedestrian safety improvements are planned at intersections such as planters or bollards and clearer signage.

Accessible Path of Travel at Mass. Ave Station Bridge

On July 5, MBTA staff from Environmental Affairs, Design & Construction, and System-Wide Accessibility testified before the South End Landmarks Commission at Boston City Hall to ensure the installation of an accessible path of travel on the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge at the Mass. Ave Orange Line Station. The bridge work is part of a City of Boston sidewalk replacement project that involves the installation of over a mile of brick pavers along Mass. Ave. As the bridge is MBTA property, the City of Boston contractors will install a concrete walkway along the bridge portion of the project.

Design of New Commuter Rail Locomotives Begins

MBTA customers are helping to select the design of a new fleet of 20 diesel-electric passenger locomotives being purchased from Motive-Power Incorporated of Boise, Idaho, by selecting one of three designs on display for two weeks at North and South Stations and on the web beginning July 11. In less than two years, these new locomotives will be pulling MBTA Commuter Rail trains.

The \$114 million investment represents the MBTA's first major locomotive procurement in more than 20 years. The locomotives employ the industry's newest technological advances, which allow for more efficient operation with reduced fuel use and emissions and improved performance and reliability.

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 August 10, 2011, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, Council on Aging, 10 Walnut St., Milton. Additional reduced-fare CharlieCard events are scheduled in Salem (September) and Watertown (October).

MBTA Operations Training Programs – Bus

The Bus Training School has two 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:

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, August 23, 2011.

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.