



Commuter Rail Schedule Changes FAQs

1. Why are the Commuter Rail schedules changing?

The MBTA is making these proposed changes to offer our customers better, more reliable service. The proposed schedule changes will improve service reliability by:

- Reducing the incidence of delays that affect subsequent departures and multiple lines,
- Representing more accurately the actual travel time along each line, and
- Allowing sufficient time to perform necessary maintenance between trips.

2. What are the benefits of the changes?

The new schedules will improve express service on several lines, improve connections between express and local trains, reduce crowding on certain trains now running at or near capacity, and create more consistent schedules.

3. Are there any changes to weekend service?

Weekend schedules will provide a level of service comparable to the existing schedules.

4. How will the changes affect individual stations?

The majority of stations will have either no change in the level of service or an increase in service.

5. Will service change during the morning and afternoon peak periods?

The new schedules are designed to provide a greater number of peak period trains for most lines. In addition, express service is being introduced to lines not presently served by express trains.

6. Will there be more express trains during peak periods?

The new schedules include 46 peak express trains, a 100% increase over the current number of peak-time express trains.

7. What lines will add new or additional express service?

The Newburyport and Needham Lines will gain new express service. The Haverhill, Lowell, Fitchburg, Worcester, Franklin and Providence Lines will add additional express service.

8. When will the proposed changes go into effect?

The proposed schedule changes will go into effect on May 23, 2016.

9. Are these schedule changes the reason for the proposed fare increases?

No, the schedule changes are not the reason for the proposed fare increases. Next year, the MBTA's operating budget deficit is projected to be \$242 million. To close the FY17 budget gap, the MBTA is undertaking several initiatives, including cost reductions, increasing non-fare revenue, and a proposed fare increase.

10. Where can I find information on the proposed fare increases and when will they go into effect?

The fare changes will go into effect on July 1, 2016. You can find a complete set of the MBTA fare proposal options here.

11. Where can I find the proposed schedule for my line?

You can view the proposed new schedules by clicking below:

Note: There are no planned schedule changes for the Kingston/Plymouth, Middleborough/Lakeville, and Greenbush Lines.

PROPOSED NEW CR SCHEDULES

Fairmount Line
 Franklin Line
 Fitchburg Line
 Haverhill Line
 Lowell Line
 Needham Line
 Newburyport/Rockport Line

Providence/Stoughton Line
Worcester Line

12. Where can I get more information about the proposed schedule changes?

The MBTA will hold public meetings about the proposed Commuter Rail schedule changes. [Click here](#) for the schedule of meetings.

You can also contact us by email: crschedules@mbta.com or by calling (617) 222-3200, TTY (617) 222-5146.

