



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Spring 2024 Transportation Schedule Changes

MBTA Board of Directors

April 25, 2024

Ryan Coholan, Chief Operating Officer

Spring 2024 Schedule Changes

By late May, spring schedules across ALL modes will have gone into effect

- **Bus and Subway** Spring Schedules went into effect on April 7 (effective until June 15th)
- **Commuter Rail** schedule changes go into effect on May 20th (effective until mid-October)
- **East Boston Ferry** service started on April 1st. Lynn and Winthrop-Quincy services will resume on April 29th. All remaining ferries will start on May 25th.
- **No changes to the RIDE**

The spring schedules show progress made toward rebuilding service and reliability across all modes:

- **Frequency improvements**, including runtime and headway updates to reflect track improvements, increased vehicle count, and operator hiring
- **Service restored and added** to better meet demand
- Enhancements to **operational efficiency**
- Improvements to **customer experience**



Spring schedule highlights by mode



Subway Lines

- **Increases service on all lines, with better weekday peak headways on Orange, Red and Green lines.**
- **Improves frequency and travel times for Orange Line on weekdays and Red Line on all days** due to track improvements and increased train count.
- **Increases evening frequency on the Blue Line** in response to increased demand.
- **Frequency increases on all Green Line branches on weekdays** and **weekend capacity increases** in the morning and evening on all lines due to addition of two-car train operations.



Bus Routes

- **Increases weekday frequency on Routes: 7, 9, 21, 32, 47, 57, 111, 501, SL1 and SL3.**
- **Increases Sunday frequency on Route 1**
- Operator headcount increases expected to **improve service delivery (reduce dropped trips)**



Commuter Rail

- **Reopens South Attleboro** for limited peak directional service on the Providence Line.
- **Increases frequency on the Fairmont Line** from 45 minutes to 30 minutes on both weekdays and weekends.
- **Adds a new Heart to Hub express arriving at South Station at 8:45am.**
- **Resumes seasonal Cape Flyer Service.**
- **Reopens the Readville Lower Platform to provide more service options** for riders to make transfers.



Ferry Routes

- **All seasonal ferry services will resume by Memorial Day weekend**
- Revised Lynn-Boston weekday schedule **mitigates dock and waterway congestion, improving reliability.**
- Revised **weekend Hingham-Hull-Boston schedule eliminates a long gap** in afternoon service for Hull.
- New schedule for Winthrop-Quincy-Logan-Boston service **increases services between Quincy, Winthrop, and the Seaport**, adds **three additional trips between Winthrop and Boston** vs. last year, and provides a **Quincy-Boston direct service** (reducing some trips from 65 minutes to 20 minutes)

Red & Orange Lines

Red Line

Weekday peak headways to improve by approximately 30 seconds in the trunk, and **1 minute on the branches**, driven by faster run-times resulting from recent track work. Results in **24 additional daily scheduled trips**.

Weekday changes:

- Runtimes and headways updated to improve service: Average peak headway is **7.7 minutes in the trunk** and **15.3 minutes on the branches**. During the winter rating, average peak headway was 8.1 minutes in the trunk and 16.2 minutes on the branches.
- Train count remains the same from winter to spring.

Weekend changes:

- Runtimes and headways were updated to improve service: the average weekend headway is **9.5 minutes in the trunk** and **18/19 minutes on the branches**. During the winter, it was 10 minutes in the trunk and 20 minutes on the branches.

Orange Line

Weekday peak headways to improve by approximately **30 seconds** due to additional new trains available for service. Results in **18 additional daily scheduled trips**.

Weekday changes:

- Weekday peak headways improved from 8 minutes to **7.5 minutes** vs. the winter rating. This is predominantly driven by increasing from 14 to 15 trains during peak (i.e. from 84 to 90 Orange Line cars)



Blue & Green Lines

Green Line

Weekday peak headways improve by approximately **30 seconds to 1 minute on all lines, resulting in 82 additional scheduled trips per day.** This represents improvement to every line in Spring 2023, driven by successful Green Line operator hiring and training school expansion.

Weekday changes:

- Frequency increases on the B and D lines during morning and evening peak periods.
- Frequency increases on the C and E lines all day.

Weekend changes:

- Sunday frequency increases on the B, C, and D lines throughout the day.
- Weekend capacity increases in the morning and evening on all lines due to addition of two-car train operation.

Blue Line

Additional service added during the weekday late-night hours. Results in **22 additional scheduled trips per day.**

Weekday changes:

- Frequency will increase between 8 PM and 11:30 PM in response to increased demand – headways will decrease from 12-13 minutes to **8/9 minutes from 8-11pm** and **10 minutes from 11-11:30pm** to alleviate crowding in East Boston direction.





Bus

Spring schedules **increase frequency** on several routes and make trips shifts that, in combination with increased Operator headcount, should improve service reliability

14 routes are operating with increased service frequency versus the winter schedule:

- Routes 1, 7, 9, 21, 32, 47, 57, 65, 111, 117, 455, 501, SL1, and SL3 have more service during certain timeframes on weekdays and/or weekends this spring in response to increased demand.

3 routes have adjusted spring schedules that show decreased frequency, but do not actually result in changes to service for customers versus what was being delivered in the winter (routine changes made each rating to improve the reliability of schedules)

- The schedules for Route 34 and 121 show decreased frequency to reflect that longer travel times (due to traffic increases) have reduced the number of trips that can actually be delivered per day. Service will not change vs. the winter, but there will be fewer instances of scheduled trips not taking place.
- Route 116 Sunday AM trip cancelled and replaced with restructured Route 117 for better consistency and schedule legibility. This will create a more consistent service pattern so that the very early morning trips before the Blue Line is running will be similar on weekdays and weekends.

59 routes have departure time changes in the spring schedule:

- Weekday and/or weekend trip shifts implemented for many routes during certain timeframes or throughout the day to allow for more consistent headways and to improve schedule reliability.

Routing changes have been implemented for 3 routes versus the winter schedule:

- Routes 83 and 91 adjusted to avoid bus layover conflicts while construction occurs at Central Square.
- Route 120 adjusted to better align with last Blue Line trains of the day.

For more information, please see <https://www.mbta.com/service-changes/spring-2024-service-changes>



Commuter Rail

North Side

Newburyport / Rockport:

- Adjusts peak morning outbound train schedules to improve performance and provide an additional train that serves Chelsea, Riverworks, Lynn and Swampscott.

Lowell:

- Shifts weekend trains by 8 minutes and mid-day weekday trains by 10 minutes to accommodate changes to the Amtrak Downeaster schedules.

Fitchburg and Haverhill:

- Minor reductions in trip duration to remove time added for seasonal slippery rail-related delays.
- Moves Fitchburg Line weekend trains 5 minutes earlier due to Lowell Line changes.

South Side

Worcester:

- Combines trains 502 and 580 in morning peak
- Adds a new Heart to Hub express arriving at South Station at 8:45am.

Fairmount:

- Implements 30-minute service 7-days per week.
- Opens Readville lower platform to offer more transfer options for Franklin, Foxboro, Providence, Stoughton and Fairmount riders.

Old Colony (Greenbush, Kingston, Middleborough):

- Adds Cape Flyer Service.

Franklin:

- Adjusts to align with Fairmount service enhancements.

Providence:

- Removes three trips between Providence and Wickford Junction at RIDOT's request for overnight construction work.
- Reopens South Attleboro station for limited service.





Ferry

Schedule changes versus 2023 **improve operational efficiency** and **customer experience** while reducing congestion and potential vessel conflicts in the Long Wharf area and increasing trip options for passengers.

Changes to Hingham-Hull-Boston Weekend Service

- **Eliminates 4-hr afternoon gap in Boston>Hull service**
- Modifies rarely or no longer used late-night services
- Cost neutral; no change to the number of trips provided

Changes to Lynn-Boston Weekday Service

- Minor schedule adjustments to allow **for better utilization of dock space at Long Wharf**
- Cost neutral; no change to the number of trips provided

New schedule for Lynn-Boston Weekend Service

- **New service added this year**
- 11 trips with first trip departing Lynn at 8 AM and last trip departing Boston at 7:45 PM
- Cost has been factored into FY25 budget request

New Schedule for Winthrop-Quincy-Logan-Boston Service

- Allows for operational improvements, increased service to both Marina Bay Quincy and Winthrop, and a better customer experience while maintaining (and expanding) service to the Seaport and Aquarium stops
- Compared to 2023, **provides 3 additional trips between Winthrop and Boston, 2 additional trips from Quincy to Boston, and 3 additional trips from Boston to Quincy**
- Includes a **new direct trip from Marina Bay Quincy to Boston** with an 8:20 AM departure and 8:45 AM arrival at the Aquarium (previously a multiple-stop trip taking 65 minutes)
- Net addition of trips per day increases cost by approximately \$190k; to be funded via Fair Share allocation

