



**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

# Summer 2024 Transportation Schedule Changes

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MBTA Board of Directors

May 23, 2024

Ryan D. Coholan, Chief Operating Officer

# Summer 2024 Transportation Schedule

Covering a period of 10 weeks, the summer rating is the shortest schedule “season” of the year. Summer schedules for 2024 go into effect on **June 16<sup>th</sup>**; exact schedule details, including number of trips and headways, will be finalized after each area completes their pick at the end of May.



At a high level:

- The Summer 2024 schedule largely maintains the frequency improvements and service enhancements introduced in the Spring schedule for Bus, Light Rail, Heavy Rail, Commuter Rail, and the Ferry, within minimal changes on these modes/lines.
- Key updates include positive adjustments for the Red Line above and beyond the Spring schedule improvements, targeted bus route schedule changes to address identified issues, and implementation of mitigations for the Sumner Tunnel closure.

# No Summer 2024 Schedule Changes

The summer schedules for the below modes/lines **will not change vs. the Spring 2024 schedules.**



**Commuter Rail**: Maintains seasonal Cape Flyer service, increased Fairmont Line frequency (reduced from 45 minutes to 30 minutes, 7 days per week), new Heart to Hub express arriving at South Station at 8:45am, and other adjustments made in the Spring schedule.



**Ferry**: All ferry routes will be operational by Memorial Day weekend and schedules will continue to reflect the improved trip options and efficiency-based changes to improve passenger experience announced as part of the Spring schedule.



**Orange Line**: Maintains the 18 additional weekday scheduled trips added in the Spring schedule, made possible by track improvements and the addition a new 15<sup>th</sup> train to the Orange Line in-service fleet.



**Blue Line**: Riders will continue to benefit from the additional service implemented in the Spring schedule during the weekday late-night hours (which added 22 scheduled trips per day) to alleviate crowding in the East Boston direction.



**Green Line**: Maintains the improvements introduced in the Spring schedule across all branches, including increased weekend frequency on the B, C, D, and E lines and added capacity by operating more two-car trains. *One minor B Line weekday morning change noted on next slide.*



# Summer 2024 Schedule Changes

The Summer 2024 schedule for the Red Line will introduce a variety of improvements; the Green Line schedule will incorporate one minor headway adjustment on the B Line.



**Red Line:** New, faster schedule enabled by track improvement work - will improve headways by 10-30 seconds throughout the day

		Winter 2024	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
Scheduled Trips	Ashmont	134	146	↑ 164
	Braintree	132	144	↑ 162
Headways	Peak – Trunk		15 min.	↓ 14 min.
	Peak – Branches		7.5 min. each	↓ 7 min. each
	Midday – Branches		15 min.	↓ 13-14 min.

*Note: no changes to the Mattapan Line schedule.*



**Green Line:** Incorporates a slight increase in B Line run times of <30 seconds during the weekday morning peak, which will result in frequency decreasing from every 7 minutes to every 7.2 minutes during this period– offset at the daily trip total level by frequency improvements in the late morning and evenings (overall daily trip total increasing by +2 vs. Spring schedule)



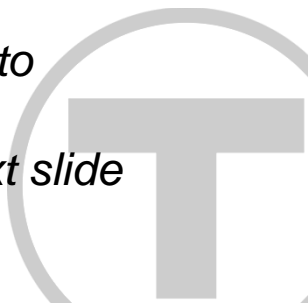
# Summer 2024 Schedule Changes

Changes in the summer bus schedule are minimal and targeted to address various identified issues.



## **Bus:**

- **Maintains changes introduced in the Spring schedule including increased weekday frequency on Routes 7, 9, 21, 32, 47, 57, 111, 501, SL1 and SL3 and increased Sunday frequency on Route 1**
- Continues to hold expectation that **increased Operator headcount will improve service delivery** by reducing dropped trips / increasing adherence to published schedules
- Incorporates the following changes in the Summer 2024 schedule:
  - Eliminates school supplemental trips; the freed-up headcount supports coverage of increased Operator vacation usage throughout the summer
  - Adds buses and trips to Route 111 during the morning rush hours, enabling 4-minute headways (down from 5-minute) to **improve passenger comfort and loading**
  - Updates Route 424 run times to reflect actual travel time, which will **increase predictability for passengers** and reduce early departures.
  - **Anticipated to begin July 16<sup>th</sup> with the anticipated start of new private carrier contract, adds earlier morning service and later evening service** for Routes 714 & 716
    - ★ *This contract will come with some new requirements and changes that we look forward to sharing more about when it is finalized*
  - Adjusts Routes SL1 and 450 to **mitigate impacts of the Sumner Tunnel closure** – see next slide



# Managing the Sumner Tunnel Closure

The MBTA's approach for the 7/5 - 8/5 closure of the Sumner Tunnel includes select bus schedule updates and reduced fares to address congestion and provide riders with more transportation options



- Like last year, **Blue Line rides will be free** during the closure
- **Weekday service levels will be the same or better than during last year's closure** – the additional train that was added in Summer 2023 has remained in the schedule



- A bus will be added to the **Silver Line 1 route to preserve the route's frequency** amidst longer travel times from Ted Williams Tunnel congestion
- **Route 450 will terminate at Wood Island** in East Boston instead of Haymarket during the closure
- **Fare-free service for customers boarding key Chelsea bus routes**, including the Silver Line 3



- **Free and reduced cost MBTA water ferry options** to and from East Boston, Lynn, and Winthrop



- **Reduced MBTA Commuter Rail fares** on the Newburyport-Rockport line



## *Other Services Available 7/5-8/5*

- **Discounted parking** at select MBTA and Commuter Rail lots and garages
- On the RIDE, **trips that begin and end within 3/4 of a mile of the MBTA modes that are free will also be free**
- Discounted tolls for Resident Discount Program participants