Alternative 6

What if you could catch an electrified Commuter Rail train at nearly any station every 15 minutes at any time of day?

Cost: $28.9 billion

* $40.7 billion adjusted for 2030 inflation

Station Type | Typical Frequency
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Inner Core Stations | Every 15 min
Key Stations | Every 15 min
All Other Stations | Every 15 min where possible

Map Key
- Key Station
- Urban Rail
- Electrification

1 In both directions
How do we make this happen?

+ Invest $6.5 billion to replace and expand our fleet. We’ll add 964 self-powered electric vehicles.

+ Link North and South Stations. We’ll be able to run trains from one side to the other within the inner core.

+ Improve stations and tracks. We’ll add 59 miles of track and add platforms to 32 stations so we can offer equal service in both directions all day.

Why is this good for riders?

With Alternative 6, more trains will come more often to nearly every station in our rail network. When we tested this alternative, we used a lower fare in the inner core to better understand demand for this service.

This means riders will have more options, and we’ll be able to accommodate the growth in ridership we expect and take additional drivers off the road. Our projections found:

North Side: A 189% ridership increase—87,000 more daily boardings vs. the “no-build” outlook

South Side: A 133% ridership increase—138,900 more daily boardings vs. the “no-build” outlook

No-Build Outlook

By 2040, even without service or infrastructure changes, we expect population and employment growth will expand ridership by 24,000.

With Rail Vision, we are looking to transform the existing system into one that better supports improved mobility and economic competitiveness in Greater Boston.

Service Features

In addition to higher frequency, Alternative 6 imagines a more accessible, more expansive, fully electric Commuter Rail system.

Electrification

This alternative includes electrified service across our entire network. Electric trains reduce emissions, improve air quality, and run like subway trains—speeding up and slowing down faster.

Accessibility

We’ll add full high-level boarding platforms at 55 stations for fewer barriers to access and quicker boarding time. All stations will have full high-level boarding platforms.

Expansion

We’ll add regular service to Foxboro, and extend the Stoughton Line to connect more communities to Fall River and New Bedford through the South Coast Rail project.

Shuttle service will connect North Station to a future West Station in Allston through the Kendall/MIT neighborhood.