

**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Commuter Rail Safety Update

March 10, 2022

Board of Directors: Safety, Health & Environment Subcommittee

Presenter: Timothy P. Lesniak, Director of Commuter Rail & Ferry Safety

Agenda

- Enhanced Grade Crossing Test Procedure
- Middlesex Ave, Wilmington Incident Corrective Actions
- Quiet Zones on MBTA
- Winter Storm Grade Crossing Events



Enhanced Grade Crossing Test Procedure

- The testing procedure for was updated to include additional safety measures to verify that the grade crossing is operating as intended
- The Dispatcher also must request and receive affirmation from the Signal Maintainer that grade crossing protection has been enabled



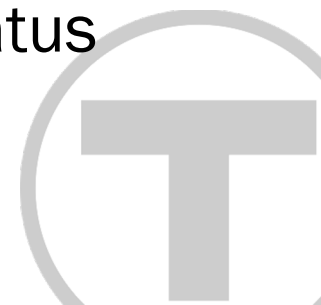
Middlesex Ave, Wilmington Incident Corrective Actions

- Post Accident Crossing Testing and Review
- Crossing Maintenance Refresher
- Enhanced Grade Crossing Test Procedure with Dispatchers
- Enhanced Grade Crossing Test Procedure in Field
- Revisions to Signal Manual
- Reminder Signs at Signal Bungalows



Quiet Zones

- MBTA does not have control over the designation or removal of a Quiet Zone
- FRA approves or denies a Quiet Zone based on Safety Metrics utilizing the Quiet Zone Risk Index
- Pre-Rule Quiet Zones
 - Existed prior to October 9, 1996
 - FRA can require upgrades to the Quiet Zone if certain regulatory safety metrics are not met during routine review
 - This recently occurred in Waltham where additional channelization devices were installed at crossings
- New Quiet Zones
 - Formed after October 9, 1996
 - Additional Safety Requirements by Regulation
- Costs of any upgrades required to establish or maintain Quiet Zone Status are borne by the city or municipality



Quiet Zones

- 151 Crossings in 29 Quiet Zones
 - 25 Pre-Rule comprising of 135 Crossings
 - 4 New comprising of 16 Crossings



Winter Storm Grade Crossing Events – 2/25/2022

- South St, Waltham, MA
 - Operator of a Sidewalk Plow exited the sidewalk at the crossing and proceeded approximately 125' away from the crossing in the gage of the track
- King St, Littleton, MA
 - Operator of a Tractor Trailer stopped on the grade crossing
 - Attempted to get clear of crossing upon train approach, but did not make it completely clear
- Crossing Protection at Both Crossings functioning as intended
- Mitigations
 - Team comprised of MBTA and Keolis employees is being assembled to review the crossings in the system and review for the need of additional safety measures

