



NEWBURYPORT/ROCKPORT

Commuter Rail Safety & Resiliency Program Summer 2022 Commuter Rail Service Impacts FAQ

PTC & ATC PROGRAM

Why are there service interruptions on the Newburyport/Rockport Line?

The MBTA is installing new signal system upgrades called Automatic Train Control (ATC) as part of Positive Train Control (PTC), a federally required safety control system that monitors a train's location, direction, and speed in real time and reduces speed when needed to help prevent collisions.

Did the MBTA already install PTC on the Newburyport/Rockport Line?

Yes, Phase I of the PTC Program was completed in 2020. The current work (Phase II) is to implement Automatic Train Control (ATC) upgrades to the existing system. The PTC System requires ATC to achieve the greatest level of safety.

WHAT IS ATC?

ATC sends signal indications to the train cab in addition to using physical signal lights alongside the tracks.

These signals alert the engineer of potentially unsafe conditions. If the crew does not respond to an alert, the system will automatically slow or stop the train.

SERVICE IMPACTS

What service impacts can be expected on the Newburyport/Rockport Line during Summer 2022?

Shuttle bus service will continue every weekend and some weekdays beginning July 9th along the line between Beverly and Boston.

See the latest service updates, impacts, and schedules at: [MBTA.com/cr](https://www.mbta.com/cr)

Why is this work being done now?

The sequencing of ATC installation was determined years in advance to meet regulatory deadlines. Prior to the Newburyport/Rockport Line, the MBTA has installed ATC on all the south side Commuter Rail lines and on the Fitchburg and Lowell lines on the north side.

BUS SHUTTLES

Why does my shuttle bus go to the Orange Line instead of North Station on certain days?

The shuttle bus route is designed to minimize planned travel impacts from Boston and North Station traffic, TD Garden events, roadway construction, and available bussing resources.

Customers are encouraged to check MBTA alerts for the latest information.



Is there express shuttle bus service?

Yes, on specific dates there will be express shuttle buses from Beverly Station (check MBTA alerts for details).

The local shuttle buses to and from the Orange Line or North Station make stops at Beverly, Salem, Swampscott, and Lynn. The shuttle bus will not stop at River Works or Chelsea.

Can more shuttle buses be added to accommodate passengers?

Since the start of shuttle bus service, the MBTA has increased the number of shuttle buses to accommodate passengers. The MBTA will continue to add buses as needed and as they become available.

What other transportation alternatives are available for my commute?

In addition to the scheduled bus shuttles, the MBTA also recommends:

- Silver Line 3 for Chelsea Station customers
- Haverhill Line
- Regular bus service between Salem/Lynn and Boston
- Parking at Wonderland Station on Blue Line and Wellington Station on the Orange Line

Are the shuttle buses accessible?

All shuttle buses are ADA accessible.

Are bikes allowed on the shuttle buses?

Bikes are not allowed on the shuttle buses.

FARES

What is the fare?

Fares are based on interzone travel between stations. Use the MBTA fare calculator in the trip planner here: [MBTA.com/trip-planner](https://www.mbta.com/trip-planner)

Is the transfer between the shuttle bus and Orange Line free?

Shuttle bus and Orange Line service to North Station are provided at no charge to Commuter Rail customers.

Customers will pay one way subway fares to travel outbound on the Orange Line to the shuttle bus.

Should I buy a monthly Commuter Rail pass this summer?

Customers will be charged a mix of Zone and Interzone fares. When trains run into North Station, regular fares will be charged. When shuttle bus service is provided, interzone fares will be charged for Commuter Rail service.

Customers should consider their individual travel patterns before purchasing a pass.

We appreciate your patience during the implementation of these important system upgrades for a safer more reliable Newburyport/Rockport Line.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the program team at PTCProgram@mbta.com

