



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

GM Report

Steve Poftak, MBTA General Manager

August 31, 2022

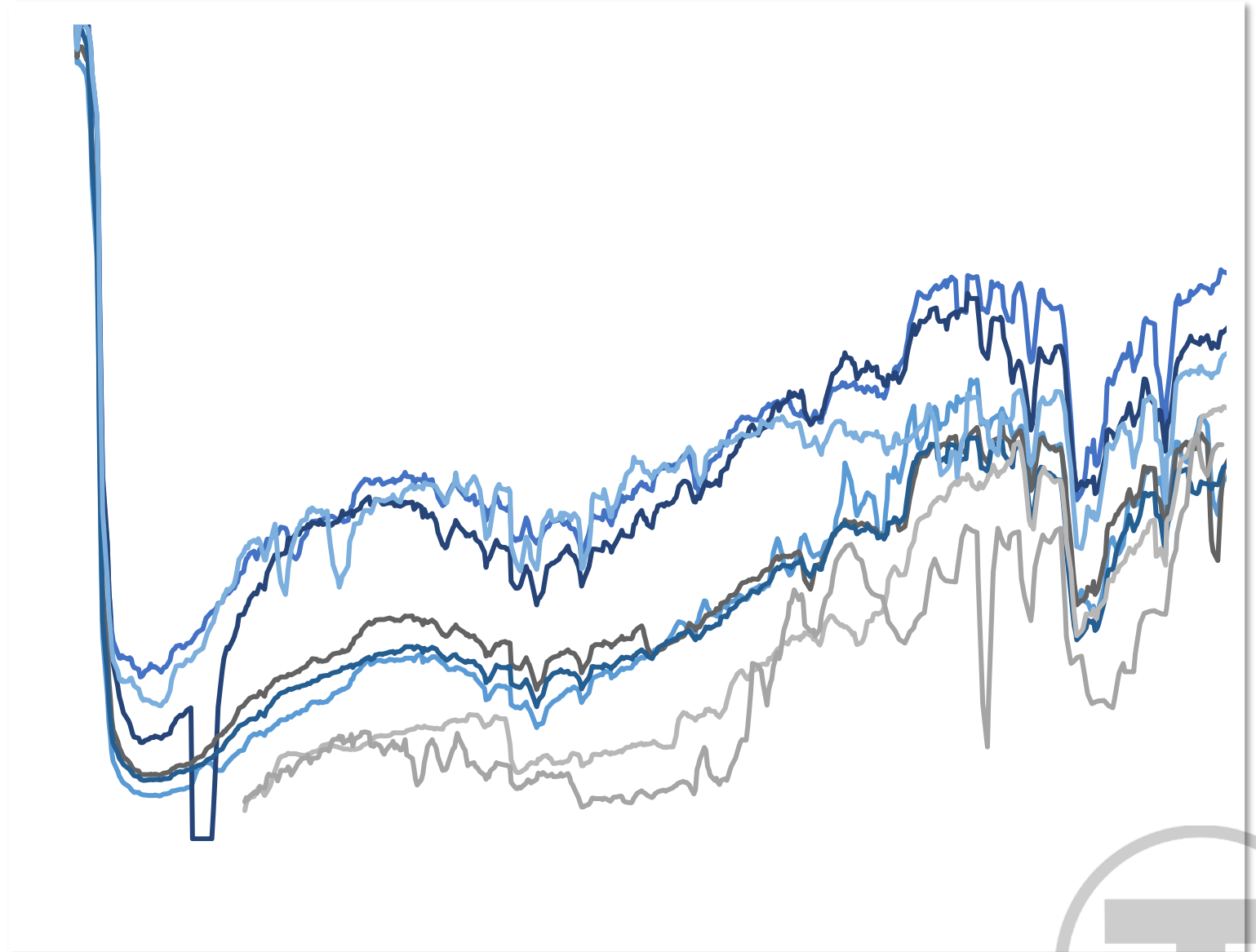


Overview

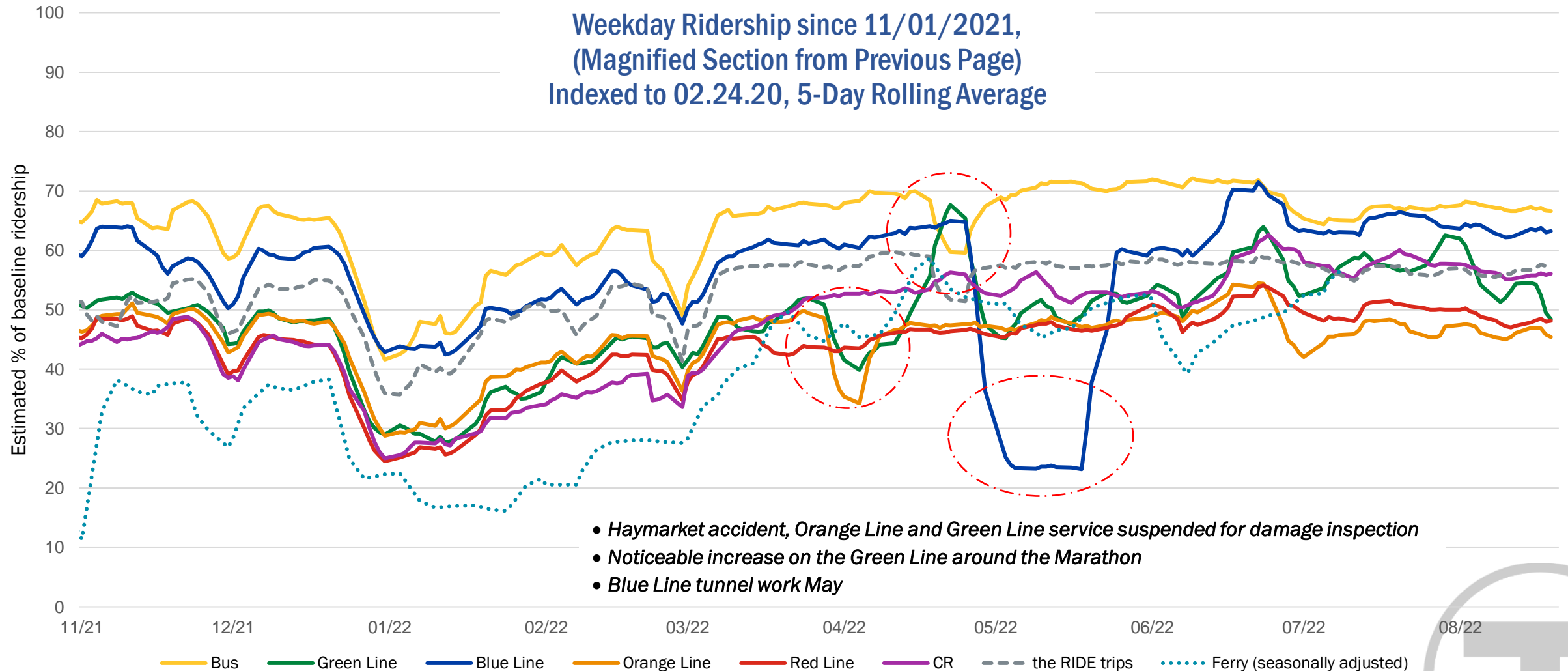
- Safety Management Inspection – Separate Presentation
- Ridership
- Orange Line 30-Day Surge Update
- Green Line Extension Highlights
- Service Changes/OCC Hiring Update
- Grants Update
- MassTRAC Update
- Thank you – Orange Line Surge
- Thank you – Hottest 3-Week Stretch in Boston's History



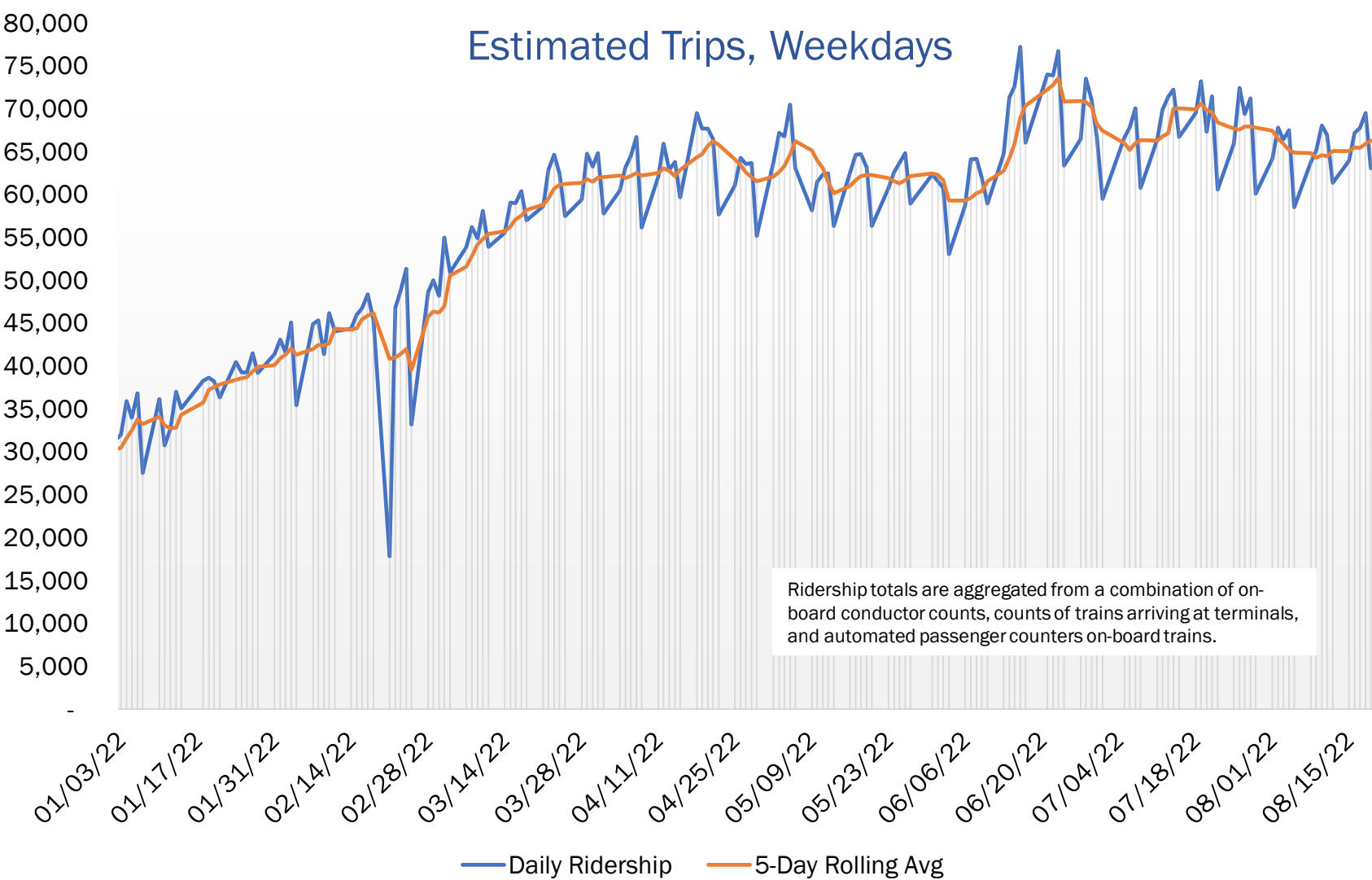
Ridership



Pandemic Impact - Ridership Trend



Commuter Rail Ridership



- Commuter Rail ridership averaged about 66K trips last week.
- Approx. 1% higher than the previous week.
- Comparing Monday through Friday.

COMMUTER RAIL LINE	Estimated Daily Ridership, Weekdays Aug 15 - 19, 2022	Estimated % of 2018 Weekday CTPS Counts
Fairmount	1,799	68%
Fitchburg	4,146	45%
Framingham/Worcester	10,020	54%
Franklin	7,181	62%
Greenbush	2,084	34%
Haverhill	4,645	65%
Kingston/Plymouth	3,363	55%
Lowell	4,796	44%
Middleborough/Lakeville	3,569	52%
Needham	3,491	52%
Newburyport/Rockport	5,209	35%
Providence/Stoughton	15,967	62%

Orange Line 30-Day Surge

Daily Progress Update

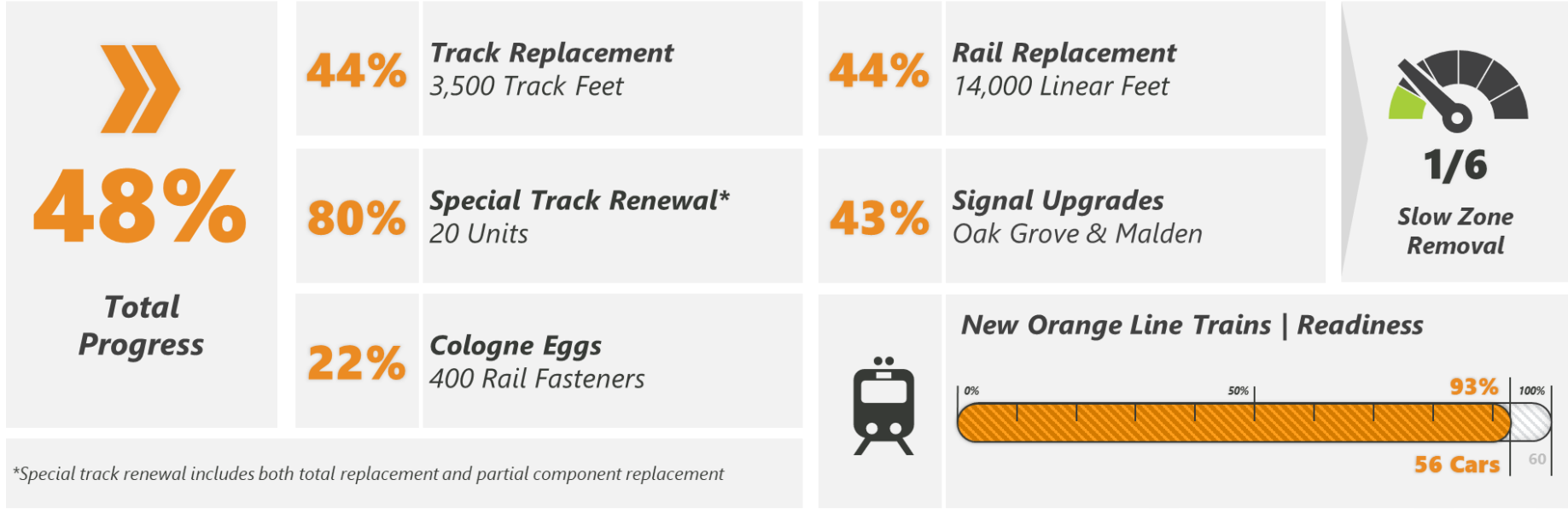
August 19 - September 18, 2022

Prepared by Capital Transformation (CT)



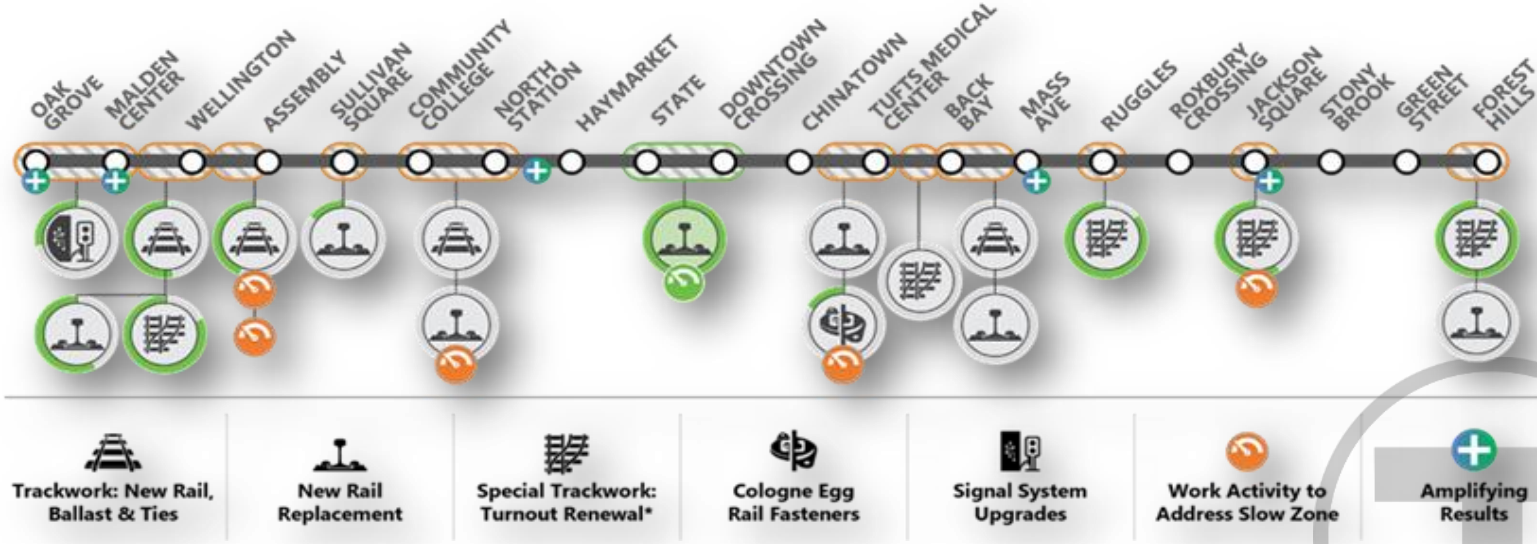
Orange Line Surge Update

As of Wednesday, August 31



As of Wednesday, August 31, OL 30-Day surge is tracking 100% to overall plan for repairs & improvements.

Excellent progress: **Signal testing** is ongoing at Oak Grove and Malden Center. **Special trackwork** installation is wrapping up at Ruggles. **Tie replacement** continues at Jackson Crossover and Dana Bridge to Community College on the northbound track. Near Wellington, **track, special trackwork, and rail** installation continue. Removal and installation of **cologne eggs** is underway at Tufts Curve and preparation for pilot installation continues.



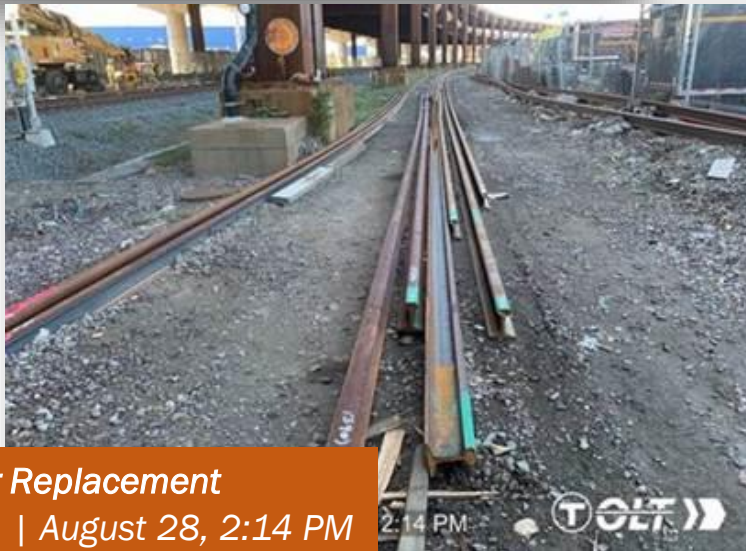
Orange Line 30-Day Surge Update



Adding Ballast to Track
Near Wellington | August 28, 2:58 PM



Signal Testing
Oak Grove | August 29, 7:36 AM



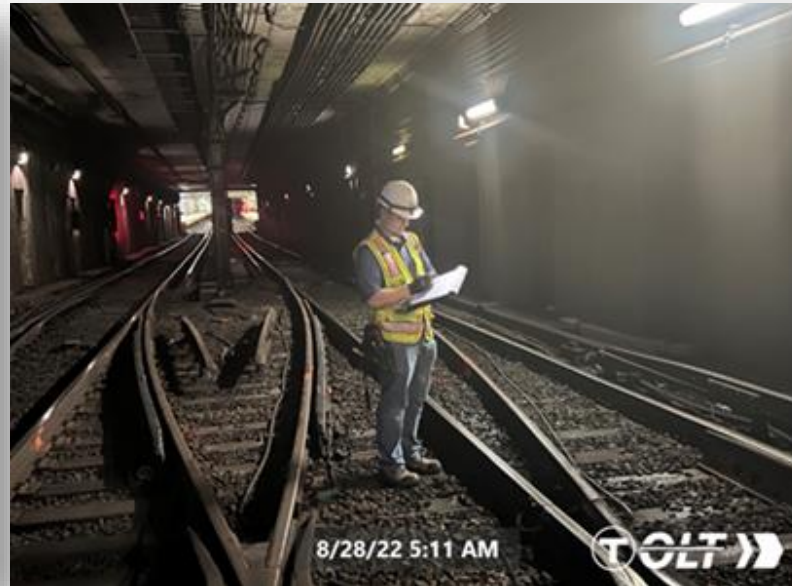
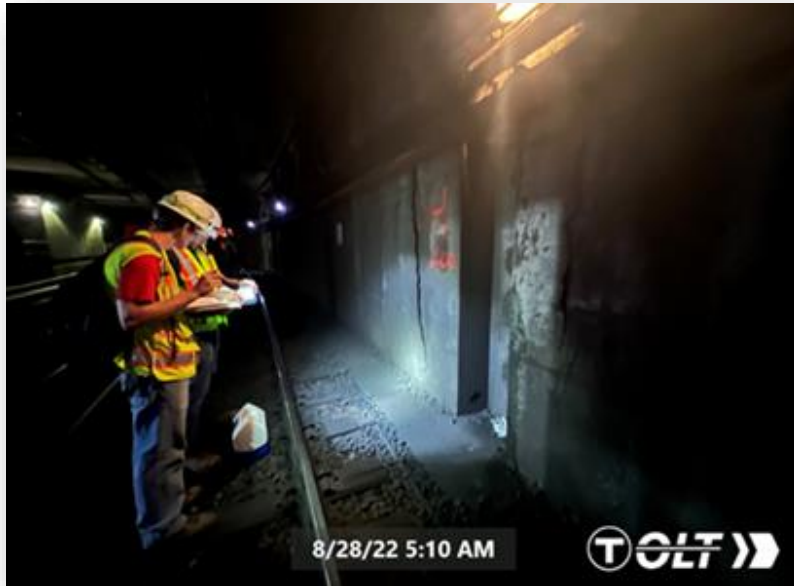
New Rails for Replacement
Near Sullivan | August 28, 2:14 PM



Trackwork Installation
Near Wellington | August 29, 8:20 AM



Orange Line 30-Day Surge: Amplifying Results



Tunnel Inspection Complete

Crews conducted an inspection of the **tunnel structure between Haymarket and North Station on the northbound and southbound tracks.** These inspections are required to help facilitate future infrastructure repairs and identify any areas in need of improvement

Safety Observations | Safety Briefing
Tufts Medical Center | August 29, 6:26 AM



Orange Line 30-Day Surge: Monitoring Customer Experience Oak Grove to Forest Hills

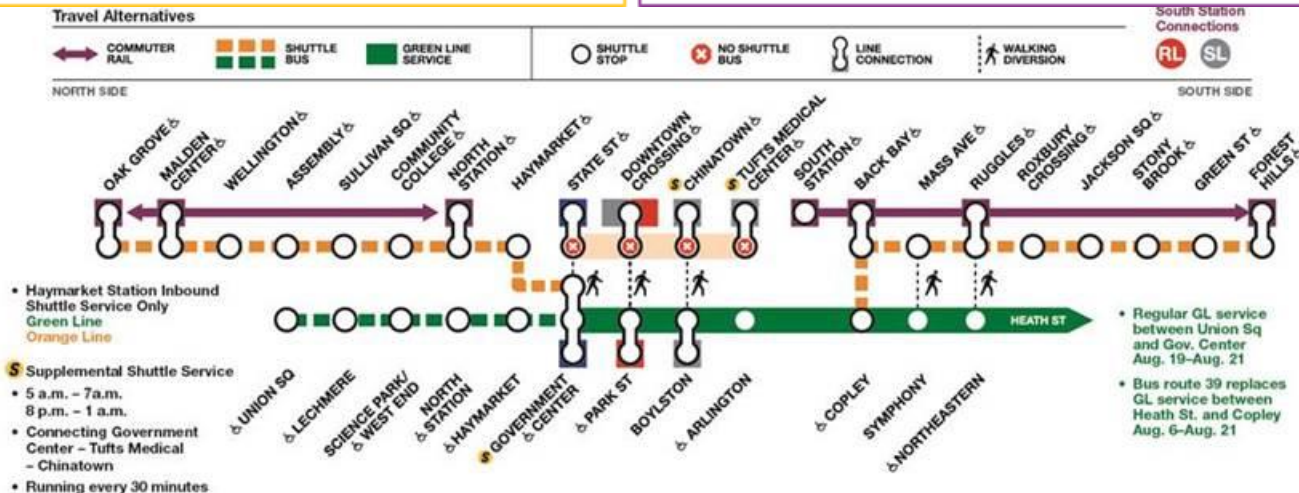
Orange Line Shuttle Service	Commuter Rail Service
North Oak Grove to Gov. Center	North Haverhill Line
Moderate/Heavy Ridership Per-Bus	Light/Moderate Ridership Per-Train
3-7 Minutes Average Peak Headway	45 Minutes Average Peak Headway
South Forest Hills to Copley	South Providence/Stoughton Line
Moderate/Heavy Ridership Per-Bus	Light/Moderate Ridership Per-Train
5-8 Minutes Average Peak Headway	30 Minutes Average Peak Headway



8/28/22, 6:40 PM
MA, Boston, The Neck
Shuttle Assistance
Sullivan Square | Aug 28, 6:40 PM



Aug 28, 2022 at 2
Commuter Rail Alternative Service
Back Bay | Aug 28, 2:46 PM





OL 30-Day Surge: Monitoring Customer Experience Oak Grove to Forest Hills

CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING SERVICES (i.e.; SUNDAY, AUGUST 28)

ALTERNATIVE SHUTTLE SERVICE: Overall bus ridership was moderate throughout the day and increased in the evening with headways averaging at 3-7 minutes on the north side and 5-8 minutes on the south side. Police details have improved traffic flow. OLT teams are on-site monitoring service, ridership usage levels, and work progress.

WAYFINDING: MBTA crews continue to refine and adjust wayfinding (flags, A-frames) for better placement and have added additional flags at shuttle stops. Transit Ambassadors are on-site to help riders get to where they need to go.

COMMUTER RAIL: CR use was heavier than a typical Sunday, with more riders seeking information around Back Bay and North Station. On the south side, [Needham](#) and [Providence](#) Line trains stop at Hyde Park, Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. The schedules for the [Needham Line](#) and the [Providence Line](#) are available online. On the north side, [Haverhill Line](#) Commuter Rail trains stop at Oak Grove, Malden Center, and North Station. [The schedule is available on the MBTA website](#)

TRAFFIC IMPACT: Overall, traffic was light in the morning, but picked up in the early evening. Traffic management measures including signs, cones, and message boards are set up to direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Detour signs are set up to help pedestrians locate and utilize the shuttle buses. Police details are on-site monitoring traffic and assisting with bus operations at almost every major intersection.

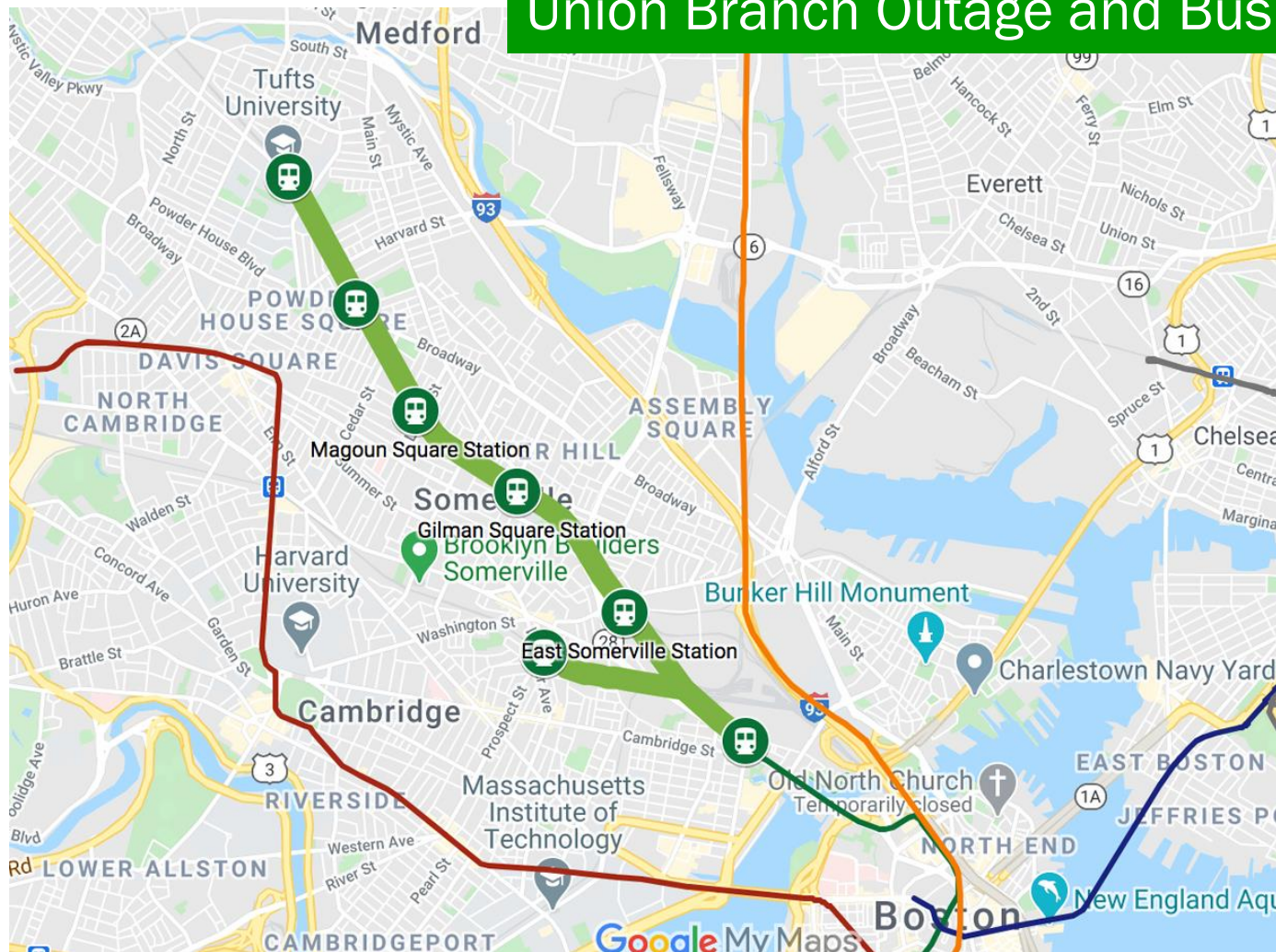
BLUEBIKES: Bluebikes is offering free rides during the Orange Line Surge, which are available via the Bluebikes mobile app or online. The free pass is available now and ends on September 19, 2022. You can get a pass by downloading the [Bluebikes app](#) or navigating to the [Bluebikes webpage](#) and selecting a Monthly Membership.

Green Line Extension Highlights



Green Line Extension Update

Union Branch Outage and Bus Diversion Highlights



- Government Center to Union Station 28 - day Bus Diversion began on Monday, August 22.
- Approximately 35% of scheduled work has been completed.
- The Medford Branch is being integrated into the Union Branch with a significant amount of activity at:
 - The Branch Junction
 - Red Bridge Traction Power Sub-Station.
- Other activities include completion of Noise Wall Construction, Signal/Communication items that tie directly to the MBTA's OCC, and completion of outstanding work items on both branches

Green Line Extension Update

Union and Medford Branches

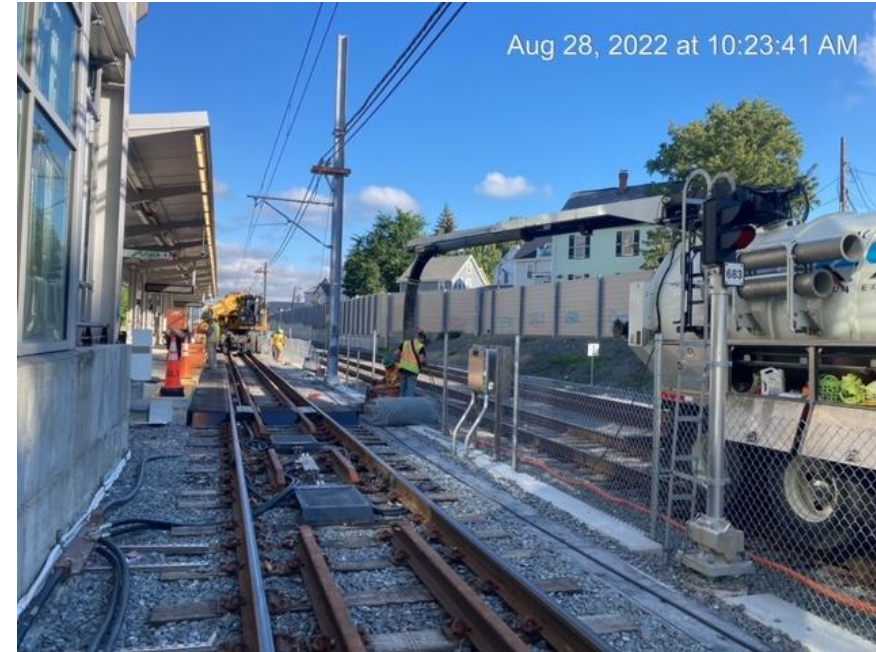


- Current Green Line outage/bus diversion enables high-rail vehicle access along both branches, **around the clock**.
- The unrestricted movement of personnel, equipment, machinery, and materials provides an additional **boost to productivity**.



Green Line Extension Update

Magoun Square Station



- GLX crews installing signpost foundations along station platform between Green Line and Commuter Rail tracks.



Green Line Extension Update

Union Branch at Brickbottom



- Installation of remaining noise wall panels adjacent to Brickbottom Condominiums in Somerville.



Service Changes / OCC Hiring Update



The MBTA fall schedule for the rapid transit system



There are **no changes in the existing levels of weekday service on the Red, Orange, and Blue Lines**. The MBTA continues to address staffing challenges in the Operations Control Center. This level of Red, Orange, and Blue Line service frequency will continue until January 2023.

- Working with a limited number of heavy rail dispatchers, the existing timetables allow the MBTA to schedule dispatchers in compliance with Federal Transit Administration directives and continue delivering service in a safe and reliable manner.
- Currently operating with 17 heavy rail dispatchers, the MBTA has hired 12 new dispatchers, five of whom are in training. The other seven new hires are about to begin the 10-week training program.
- To increase its dispatching ranks, the T has been offering \$10,000 bonuses and working to hire back former dispatchers.



On the **Green Line**, there has been a slight decrease in frequency of service due to some Green Line operator shortages and preparations to open the Medford Branch of the Green Line Extension (GLX), late November.

- The MBTA will begin daily training of Green Line trolley operators on the Medford Branch, after service resumes on the Green Line Extension, [September 19](#). Simulating regularly scheduled passenger service on the new branch to Medford along with the operator shortage means that existing train trips will be extended slightly, resulting in a slight decrease in the overall frequency of trains on the Green Line.



The June 19 **bus service changes** included **decreased service frequency for 11 identified routes**, **increased service for four routes**, **routing changes for 11 routes** and **departure time changes for 37 routes**. Overall, general bus service frequency declined by ~2%.

As of last week, ridership on the rapid transit system remained ~50% below pre-pandemic levels.



Federal Grants Update



MBTA Federal Grant Updates

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS | We recently won 3 discretionary awards = more than \$150 M.

FTA Low or No Emissions Bus Program (Low-No) | \$116 M for battery-electric buses (BEBs)

- We received the largest award in the nation, tied with MTA
- Allows us to replace older diesel buses (having reached useful life), & launch a workforce development program to support training and safety efforts
- Significant step for our ambitious transition to all-electric fleet by 2040; BEBs in active procurement

USDOT RAISE Program | \$20.25 M for the Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project

- MassDOT submitted the Lynnway application with assistance from the MBTA
- Funding will be transferred to MBTA, and we will also implement the project

FRA Fed-State Partnership for State of Good Repair | \$7.6 M S. Elm St Bridge Replacement (P1115)

- MBTA was the lead applicant, with NNEPRA and MassDOT joining as joint applicants

DHS/FEMA TSGP (Transit Security Grant Program) | \$6.9 M for security enhancements

- Incl. camera upgrades; cyber network enhancements; training; anti-terror station & K9 patrols
- Received fourth-highest award in the nation

WORK in PROGRESS

- Developing grant applications for the following grant programs:
- FTA Passenger Ferry Grant Program – due in September
- FTA All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) – due in September
- FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination Program – due in October
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – due in November

Summary of Federal Grants Submitted*		
	SFY22	SFY23
Won	\$175.6M	-
Awards Received	8	-
Applications in Development	-	7
Submitted Applications (pending results)	5	1

* Updated as of 8/18/2022



MassTRAC Update



MassTRAC

On August 10, Governor Baker signed MassTRAC, a \$11.4 billion infrastructure bond bill that authorizes investments in roads, bridges, railway, transit agencies and environmental infrastructure.

Key authorizations for the MBTA include:

- \$1,375M in increased authorization to support the match to additional Federal Formula funds made available in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), additional capacity to support transit system modernization and the implementation of the GL transformation program including the procurement of rolling stock.
- \$400M in authorization for projects to address ongoing safety concerns related to the interim and final findings during the FTA safety management inspection.

The MBTA, in partnership with MassDOT will work to coordinate with the Office of Administration and Finance on the programming of additional funding capacity to support these approved authorizations.



Highlighting MBTA Employee Efforts Orange Line Surge Prep and Ongoing Work!

To all who prepped ahead of the Surge, and to all who are working to complete improvements across the Orange Line

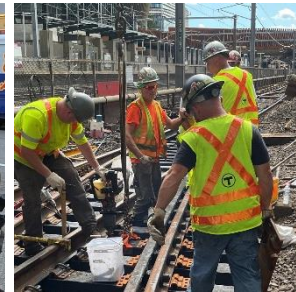
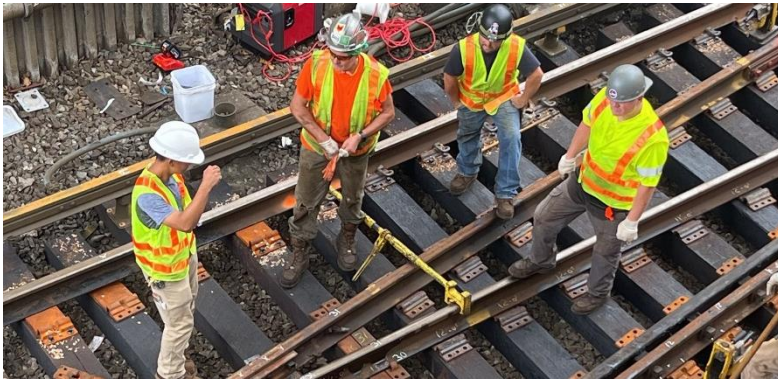
To all departments assisting riders throughout the OL Surge



Orange Line 30-Day Surge | A Collaborative Effort

Thank you to all who are working to complete improvements across the Orange line

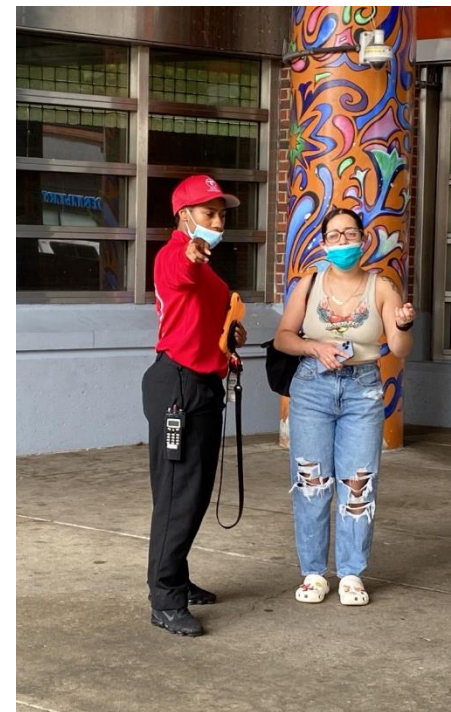
- Safety Department
- Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE)
- Capital Support
- Capital Delivery
- Capital Transformation
- Transit Oriented Development
- Heavy Rail Operations
- Light Rail Operations
- Commuter Rail
- Vehicle Engineering
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Engineering and Maintenance



Orange Line 30-Day Surge | A Collaborative Effort

Thank you to all departments assisting riders throughout the Surge

- Customer Experience
- Transit Police
- Bus Operations
- The RIDE
- Commuter Rail
- System Wide Accessibility
- Security and Emergency Management
- Parking

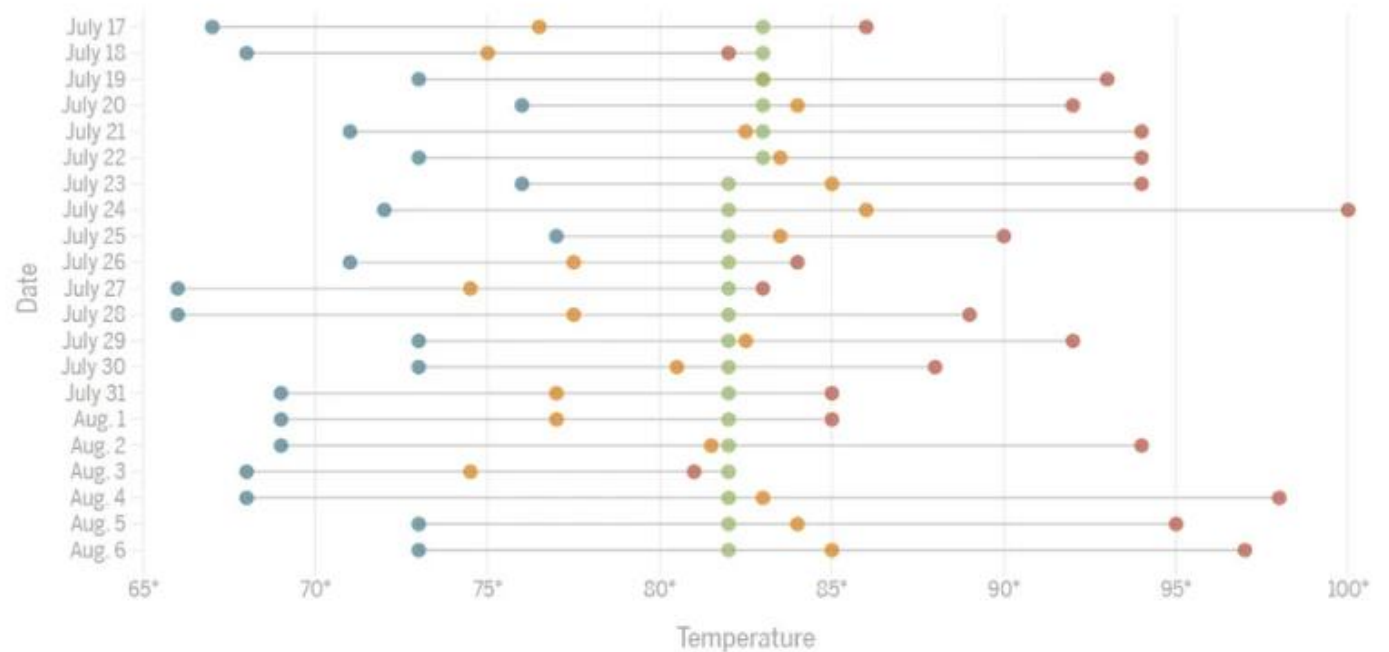


MBTA Operations During Hottest 3-Week Stretch on Boston's History

New level of heat for Boston

The average temperature for the Boston area from July 17 through Aug. 6 was 80.6 degrees, the warmest 21 days ever in 151 years of recorded temperatures.

Measure ● High ● Low ● Mean ● Normal high



Source: National Weather Service • Note: Average temperature over the 21 day period represents the average of all average daily temperatures over that timeframe. Average daily temperatures are the average of the daily high and low temperature.

JOHN HANCOCK/GLOBE STAFF

Thank you!

