After Week 4, we are on schedule to welcome riders back Monday morning

We have **completed the fourth week** of the Orange Line Surge, a collaborative effort that focuses on important safety, service, and reliability upgrades across the entire line. These upgrades, as well as their on-time completion, wouldn’t be possible without the exemplary efforts by all teams working diligently to drive progress. This weekend, crews are taking the final steps to complete final checklists.

**Did you know?**

After new track and ballast installation, slow zones need to temporarily remain in place due to the track being area disturbed during construction. In the case of the Orange Line, slow zones will remain for about a week after trains resume. This is because it takes time for the new track and ballast to “settle” as trains repeatedly run over these areas.
At Wellington, final power connections were made to the third rail, new signal masts were installed and wired, and the signal system was tested. Final finishing work was completed including setting up lighting, restoring fences, replacing guard rail, leveling ballast, and paving. Test trains operated over the newly installed track and special trackwork as a final verification prior to return to service. Work that addressed the additional slow zones advanced at Dana Bridge near Assembly and Tufts. Crews also completed rail and tie replacement near Back Bay. Final signals work advanced at Oak Grove and Malden Center.

Crews were completing work at Dana Bridge and through Assembly, Sullivan, and Community College. Crews replaced over 2,000 ties and continued toward the North Station portal.

At Oak Grove and Malden, final signal testing is nearly complete, including operating test trains on the new signal system. These trains also operated through the interface between the new system at Malden and the existing system at Wellington.

Cologne egg hardware installations and removals were completed at Tufts Curve, and crews made rail replacements.

**Lookahead** | Crews will complete final testing of the signal systems upgrades at Oak Grove and Malden along with final work zone inspections. Once these are complete, a series of test trains will be operated in preparation for return to service Monday.
During the Surge, the initial goal was to prep 60 new Orange Line cars for when service is restored Monday morning. This week, mechanics and engineers completed vehicle readiness of additional 12 cars, enough to cover peak morning and afternoon service, with two spare trains (six cars make up a train). Following the Surge, riders will experience better service on an Orange Line fleet that is predominately new cars.

**Amplifying Results**

We’re leveraging work windows that do not impede the priority work to achieve other planned repairs and upgrades. Learn more about how we amplified results in progress updates from [Week 1](#), [Week 2](#) and [Week 3](#). This week, the following efforts were completed:

**Enhancing Safety and State of Good Repair**

- **Tufts Standpipe Replacement**: Removal and replacement of the existing standpipe fire suppression system at Tufts station to a new state-of-the-art system that covers all areas of the station.
- **Orange Line Test Pits and Borings**: Crews excavated exploratory test pits to expose signal/power infrastructure and underground utilities in preparation for soil borings to support a future project. The borings were completed on schedule and will provide critical soil data for the design of a new underground transmission line.
- **Drainage Cleaning**: Crews vacuumed out dozens of catch basins and over 1,000 feet of drainage troughs and pipes. Periodic cleaning of catch basins and drainage troughs is crucial to managing storm water during large storms and ensuring the trains aren’t impacted by flooding conditions.
Improving Rider Experience

Interior/Exterior Station Repairs: Repairs at stations across the Orange Line included replacement of platform tactile strips, concrete repairs to platforms, brick paver replacements, station lighting repairs and replacement, bench repairs, signage replacement, stair tread replacement, painting of various station elements and overall general station cleaning

Wellington Roof Repairs: Replacement of the existing roof at the Wellington Facility, with roof drainage, all flashing, and roof accessories

Improving Accessibility

Oak Grove Accessibility Upgrades: Upgrades including skylight installation, elevator work, and installation of new station floors, to eliminate trip hazards and provide a better walking surface for passengers entering and exiting the station. Stair treads were replaced at once entrance, and floors in the station lobby were ground and polished. New lights were installed on the platform and other cosmetic improvements and cleaning was done throughout the station

Tactile Replacement: Repair and replacement of tactile strips, which help guide the visually impaired platforms, at stations between Ruggles and Forest Hills

Increasing Rider Capacity

Southwest Corridor Signals: Workers have laid 45,000 feet of new signal cable, which will be activated in 2023 as part the Signal Upgrades project when the new system is placed in service along the Southwest Corridor
Over the past four weeks, we’ve listened to our riders, learned from their experiences, and made necessary wayfinding and service adjustments. We will continue to solicit your feedback and will do our best in responding to Orange Line riders’ needs. Alternative service options remain in place for the last two days of the Surge including free, accessible shuttle bus service, enhanced Commuter Rail service, and additional Silver Line service.

As we head into the final weekend of the Surge, these tools are still available to help get riders where they need to go:

- **Check out** mbta.com/bbt2022 **for information on how to navigate service diversions**
- **For more information**, connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, #TAccess, #RideSafer, #BuildingABetterT, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA. You can also submit questions and comments to OLT@mbta.com

**Sign up for T-Alerts and check out our project updates online**

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*Schedule subject to change with weather conditions and in accordance with public health directives.
Project percentages represent the value of the installed work.*