MEMO

To: Chair Thomas McGee and MBTA Board Directors

CC: Phil Eng, General Manager

From: Ryan Coholan, Chief Operating Officer

Date: June 2, 2025

Subject: Fairmount Line Zero Emissions/BEMU Board Update

SUMMARY

The Fairmount line zero emissions Project will deliver decarbonized service on the Fairmount Line and provide 20-minute service frequency all-day in both directions by introducing Battery Electric Multiple Units (BEMU).

Keolis Commuter Services, LLC ("Keolis") was selected by MBTA as the Project Delivery Partner ("PDP") in July 2024 to manage the program which includes procurement of rolling stock, finance, Light Maintenance Facility (LMF), electrified layover and supporting infrastructure.

The decarbonized service on Fairmount line is projected to start in 2028 as scheduled.

Keolis issued a Rolling stock Request for Proposals ("RFP") in February 2025, and Keolis has been engaged with manufacturers through an extensive bidder dialogue process. The RFP for rolling stock finance has just been released. The Maintenance Facility design, permitting and site investigation have started and discussions with Amtrak and FRA are on-going about approvals, safety analysis and traction power.

Anticipated timeline:

Milestone	Date
BEMU Proposals due	June 2025
Finance Proposals due	August 2025
BEMU selection	3rd Quarter 2025
Financier selection	3rd Quarter 2025
BEMU Manufacture	4Q 2025 - 2028
BEMU Testing	2027 - 2028
Revenue Service	2028

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BACKGROUND

ROLLINGSTOCK PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY

Following FTA procurement rules, Keolis issued a Request for Information open to all FTA approved vehicle manufacturers in the fall of 2024. The Rollingstock RFP released in Feb 2025 to all of those manufacturers and proposals are due in mid-June. The RFP requests for delivery of 7 BEMUs with options to purchase additional train sets in the same or a different configuration for use on other lines.

Keolis has been engaged with manufacturers through an extensive bidder dialogue process. Pilot train delivery is required to be in 2027. Accommodation is being made for BEMU testing on the North-East corridor to allow long distance running in 2027.

ROLLINGSTOCK FINANCE /LESSOR PROCUREMENT

Finance RFP has just been released. The successful financier/Lessor will purchase the required BEMUs and lease to the Operator (the "Lease"). The Lease will be structured to transfer to any successor Commuter Rail Operator. MBTA will enter into a direct agreement with the Lessor to maintain continued use for the term of the lease. As that agreement will potentially include liabilities it will require board approval.

LIGHT MAINTENANCE FACILITY (LMF) DESIGN, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

Design, permitting and site investigation is underway of the selected site which is on existing MBTA property. LMF RFP is anticipated to be released in October 2025.

LAYOVER AND ADDITIONAL CATENARY

Additional electrified layover tracks are being designed to be built at Readville yard and a first phase has been added to the Widett Circle layover project to deliver 6 additional electrified layover tracks without need for demolition of the existing buildings on the site.

After engagement with the rolling stock manufacturers no additional catenary is planned to deliver the 20-minute frequency on the Fairmount Line as their battery solutions will have sufficient capacity (allowing for all of the required failure/recovery scenarios outlined in the RFP).

CONCLUDING POINTS

Keolis has primary responsibility for timely and effective procurement and delivery of the rolling stock, LMF and other supporting infrastructure. Its recommendations of successful bidders for rolling stock, rolling stock Finance and LMF DB RFP are all subject to MBTA's approval.

Fairmount Line BEMU Project Delivery Partnership is fully funded. The Total PDP contract value is $54 million which covers design and program management costs. A total of $11 million has been paid to date upon completion of two payment milestones.

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