



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

World Cup Presentation to MBTA Board

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February 26, 2026

Summary and Purpose

- MBTA World Cup February 2026
Operational update to the Board of Directors
- **This presentation is informational only;** the MBTA Board of Directors may request follow-up information on the topics presented or may seek additional topics for future meetings.

Upcoming World Cup Board Meetings:

- February (Today): Operations
- March: Safety and Security + March Friendly Plan
- April: Match Friendly Recap; Ticketing, Communications
- May: Wayfinding and Volunteers



February Board Meeting

Agenda

- World Cup Events in Boston: Calendar of Events
- MBTA's Commitment
- MBTA Service Operations
- Efforts to Date
- Upcoming Board Meetings Topics



Summer 2026

- Unprecedented opportunity to showcase the Commonwealth and the MBTA on a global stage
- Initial estimates upwards of **2M visitors** descending on the Boston area for **WC events**
- Additional visitors expected for **250th Anniversary festivities, Tall Ships, and summertime events** (Red Sox, concerts, etc.)



World Cup Calendar: June 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|-----------|----------|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Match Day  Haiti v Scotland 9pm <i>Sox game 4:10pm</i> <i>Tent. Pride Parade</i> |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Match Day  TBD v Norway 6pm <i>Sox game 6:45pm</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 Match Day  Scotland v. Morocco 6pm <i>Juneteenth</i> | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Match Day  England v. Ghana 4pm | 24 | 25 | 26 Match Day  Norway v. France 3pm <i>Sox v Yankees 7:10pm</i> <i>Concert at Xfinity</i> | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Match Day  (R32 – Match 64) 4:30 pm <i>Sox game 7:10pm</i> | 30 | | | | |

World Cup Calendar: July 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 1  Boston Harborfest | 2  Boston Harborfest | 3  Boston Harborfest | 4  Boston Harborfest |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Rest Day – No Matches | 9 Match Day  QF- Match 96 4pm | 10  Sail 250 Tall Ships | 11  Sail 250 Tall Ships |
| 12  Sail 250 Tall Ships Rest Day | 13  Sail 250 Tall Ships Rest Day | 14  Sail 250 Tall Ships Semifinal (Dallas) | 15  Sail 250 Tall Ships Semifinal (Atlanta) | 16  Sail 250 Tall Ships Rest Day | 17 Rest Day | 18 BRONZE MATCH (MIAMI) |
| 19 CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH NJ/ NY Fan Festival Concludes | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |

Boston World Cup 2026 Fact Sheet

| Activities | Current Actions |
|-----------------------|---|
| Matches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 of the 7 games are weekdays, 5 – group play, 1 round of 32, and 1 Quarter Final Match |
| Match Times/Teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match times are set for between 3pm and 9pm Two teams will be practicing in NE – one (1) in Wellesley and one (1) in RI |
| General Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stadium seats ~65k with ~ 35k general purpose seats; parking ↓ from 20K to ~5K |
| Transit Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBTA has committed to moving 20k passengers per match in and out of Foxboro Station |
| Match Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with regional law enforcement offices, MassDOT, Gillette Stadium, municipalities, RTAs, and Healey-Driscoll Administration |
| Regional Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with our RTA partners, specifically GATRA on a proposed Hotel Shuttle, RTAs providing service to area hotels for stadium pick up |
| Fan Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fan Festival confirmed at City Hall Plaza (Government Center Station), possibly spanning the duration of the World Cup; Dates and times pending |

Approach

External Coordination

- **Objective:** Ensure every moment of the customer experience and movement is accounted.
- **Approach:** Coordinate with cross-functional working groups
 - Local municipalities
 - Regional transit authorities (RTAs)
 - State agencies
 - Federal partners
 - Boston 26
 - Healey- Driscoll Administration

Internal Coordination

- **Objective:** Ensure a seamless customer experience and a workforce ready for the challenges
- **Approach:** Internal MBTA teams creating **tailored operations playbook for each match**



World Cup Fan Festival and Fan Marches

Fan Fest confirmed at City Hall Plaza on 2/10/26

- Dates and Times – TBD

Ongoing Coordination Efforts

- Partner with the City of Boston to align operational logistics for Fan Fest and Fan March logistics
- Impacts on MBTA stations – Government Center, Park Street, South Station
- Public space impacts and roadway closures for queuing operations surrounding South Station



MBTA Service Operations



Service Operations

Objectives

- Direct transit service to Boston Stadium, which has constrained and limited parking and mobility options.
- Transport 20k customers via Special Event trains from South Station to/ from Foxboro Station.

Approach:

- **Daily Operations Plan for each match**
- Direct, round trip, and non-stop service between South Station and Foxboro
 - Up to 14 trains will be used to transport match-goers
 - Extra trains consists ready for Special Event Train resiliency
- Support post-match service operations on other MBTA modes



Practice and Preparation: Service Operations

Friendly Match: Thursday, March 26th at 4:00pm

- Opportunity to test specific objectives, including:
 - Operating of four (4) trains to Foxboro via the Dorchester Branch (7 bi-levels each).
 - Testing of the plan to “recycle” one set via Mansfield to validate run times.



Service Impacts

- Some impacts to the regular Commuter Rail Service schedule to make equipment available for this event:
 - There will be no regular service to Foxboro.
 - Franklin Line service will be modified to allow for operating windows for event trains.
 - Peak period service will be preserved across the system.



Practice and Preparation: Customer Experience

Friendly Match: Thursday, March 26th

March 26th Friendly Match: Testing & Refinement

- Opportunity to practice and fine-tune queuing, station operations, wayfinding, and customer experience.
- **Feb/March Tabletop Exercise:** Test plans and coordination with stakeholders.



Efforts to Date



Regional Bus Strategy



- **Objective:**
 - Holistic busing approach to provide regional access to Boston Stadium.
- **Approach:**
 - Coordination with MassDOT and RTAs on regional and Rhode Island transit to Boston Stadium.
 - Buses will be available at Foxboro for supplemental and emergency egress to South Station.



Stations Operations and Preparation

- **Objective:**
 - Crowd Management and Station Plans for high-traffic/impact stations (Park Street, Government Center South Station, etc.)
- **Approach:**
 - Station Prep:
 - ADA accessible station at Foxboro construction underway and on schedule.
 - Create SOPs for accessibility at high-trafficked stations.
 - Airport Station updates have been completed.



March Meeting: Safety & Security

Fan Movement & Customer Experience

- **Objective:**
 - Safe and secure operations at South Station and Foxboro.
 - Support experience for fans at marches and on trains to matches.
 - Coordinate Fan March dispersal with Bos26, general rail and subway boardings and Special Train queue overlap.
- **Approach:**
 - Collaborating with TPD, BPD, Foxboro, MassDOT, Keolis, Amtrak, and the City of Boston.
 - Safety & Security protocols
 - Queuing Plan
 - Ticketing
 - Fan Marches/crowd management planning
 - Additional Staffing & TNC support



April Meeting: Ticketing and Communications

Ticketing

- **Objective:**
 - Special Event train tickets – SS to/from Foxboro
 - Options for summer CR travels
- **Approach:**
 - Special Event Train ticket sales – anticipated for April 8th
 - Summer Ticket options



Communications

- **Objective:**
 - Keep customers and community well-informed: communicate early and often.
 - Keep staff well informed and knowledgeable of event protocol
- **Approach:**
 - Communication Plans
 - Media Relations – Broadcast, print media, etc.
 - Customer Communications
 - Social Media, Website. Digital and On-Site Communications, Print & Collateral, Coordination with external partners
 - Ambassadors and Volunteers
 - Volunteer Plan + Transit Navigation Crew



May Meeting: Wayfinding and Volunteers

Wayfinding

- **Objective:**
 - Provide clear customer wayfinding at all stations.
- **Approach:**
 - Ongoing Wayfinding at stations
 - Legacy improvements
 - Wayfinding Plan
 - SS and Foxboro specific
 - Key downtown stations

Volunteers

- **Objective:**
 - Deploy volunteers to enhance customer experience and support operations.
- **Approach:**
 - Comprehensive, consistent volunteer training across all programs.
 - TNC – MBTA Volunteers
 - Amtrak Ambassadors
 - MassDOT volunteers



Thank you!

