

## FMCB Update to MassDOT Board - J. Aiello

Thank you Madame Secretary. This presentation fulfils the requirements of section 206 of chapter 45 of the acts of 2015.

Since the last update on January 20, the control board has held three meetings, including one we just concluded. In addition to these meeting, MBTA staff have hosted 16 public meetings on the future of late night service, proposed commuter rail schedule changes, and options to increase MBTA fares.

At our meeting on January 25, we received an update on the State of the Red Line from Chief Operating Officer Jeff Gonneville. His presentation focused on the Red Line's infrastructure, ridership, capacity, and other aspects related to its operation and maintenance. Investment in the Red Line is required to meet the current and future demands on the MBTA's busiest rapid transit line. This was the first in a series of in-depth reviews of all modes and lines the FMCB has ordered to help us understand the need of the system and our customers.

Also on January 25, we received our first regular update on Overtime, Absenteeism, and Dropped Trips from the Chief Administrator. Staff are closely monitoring absenteeism to rein in costs, and reduce dropped trips that adversely affect our customers . We have implemented a new attendance policy that aligns with state and federal law and this policy, along with better management of it, seems to be working. The Chief Administrator will offer an update at our next meeting, but we expect to see overtime, absenteeism, and dropped trips all lower than those recorded for the same month last year.

The MBTA's debt strategy was among agenda topics at our February 1 meeting . We have retained the PFM group to review the Authority's existing outstanding debt, including its swap portfolio, policy and capacity. PFM specializes in municipal debts, and has 37 offices nationwide, including a fully staffed office in Boston. Their clients include the Commonwealth, MassPORT, the MWRA, MassDevelopment and other state entities. PFM has just started its review, and will report back to us on February 22.

Also on February 1, we received the first of several presentations on the ongoing revision to the Service Delivery Policy. The SDP serves multiple purposes including establishing objectives that define the key performance characteristics of quality transit services, identifying quantifiable service standards to measure objectives and sets targets, and outlining a service planning process that applies the service standards and involves the public in a consistent manner. This will be the second major revision to the SDP in 40 years . The next check-in on this effort is scheduled for February 29, with a vote expected sometime in March or April by the control board.

Finally, the FMCB met just prior to this meeting to consider several items. We approved a contract to replace the swing span on the Beverly drawbridge that carries the Rockport/Newburyport line over the Danvers River between Beverly and Salem. This bridge was built in 1885, with the swing span replaced a century later in 1985. After 31 years of continuous service, we will now replace the swing span to help ensure a more reliable experience for our north shore commuter rail customers. The project is expected to begin in May of this year. A public meeting will be scheduled in Beverly this coming April to keep the community informed.

Today we also received an update on the request for information the Authority issued on ways to improve Automatic Fare Collection services to more efficiently maintain fare gates and boxes, as well as collect, transport, count, and handle cash. 13 companies responded to the RFI, including several major players in the public transportation industry in the United States and internationally. The FMCB and management will decide soon to advance to an RFP for these activities or not.

In conclusion, I'd like to briefly offer an update on the ongoing public processes. Since January 19, the MBTA has hosted 16 public meetings on the future of late night service, proposed changes to commuter rail schedules, and options to raise fares. Meetings have been held across the service area. The FMCB looks forward to reviewing all comments received in advance of any actions on these items.