

ALTERNATIVE 2

About Rail Vision

Rail Vision identifies cost-effective strategies to transform the Commuter Rail into a system that better supports improved mobility and economic competitiveness in Greater Boston. The Rail Vision team is evaluating the costs and benefits of 7 possible service alternatives.

Alternative 2: Regional Rail to Key Stations (Diesel)



Regional rail is high-frequency service to **key stations**.* With this alternative, diesel locomotives would provide fast, direct service to areas with greater ridership, and electric locomotives would provide service between Boston and Providence. Service to non-key stations would be equal to or better than current levels.

***Key stations** are in gateway cities, dense areas outside central Boston, and/or locations that provide regional access and transit connectivity.

Benefits

- **More frequent service:** Increased service to busy stations outside Greater Boston
- **Reduced vehicle commutes:** People may be more likely to switch from car to rail commutes with closer proximity to fast, frequent service to downtown Boston

Trade-offs

- Service will not improve as much at stations that aren't key stations, and key stations may become more crowded
- Increase in costs and time needed to maintain both electric and diesel trains

Service Features

Frequency

- Every 15 minutes to and from key stations and downtown Boston, all day
- Every 30 minutes to and from non-key stations and downtown Boston during peak service
- Every hour to and from non-key stations during off-peak service

Connections

- On the Greenbush and Kingston lines, some trains would require a transfer at Braintree for service to downtown Boston
- More frequent connections between Fairmount and Franklin lines

Accessibility

All key stations would be fully accessible with **high-level boarding platforms.***

Electrification

This alternative includes electrified service between Providence and Boston. All other routes, including Providence to Wickford Junction, would continue to operate with diesel locomotives.

Expansions

- **South Coast Rail Phase 1:** Extend Middleborough Line to Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford
- Service to Foxboro, scheduled to be piloted in 2019

***High-level platforms** enable level boarding at every door, which improves accessibility and reduces overall boarding time for all customers.

Other Rail Vision Alternatives

Alternative 2 is just 1 of the 7 proposed futures for the Commuter Rail. Download the other alternatives below, or learn more at mbta.com/railvision.

Alternative 1

Alternative 4

Alternative 7

Alternative 2

Alternative 5

Alternative 3

Alternative 6