



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Commuter Rail Positive Train Control (PTC)

**Update and Communications Plan for Suspension of
Weekend Service**

March 27, 2017



Overview

- Current schedule for the 2017 suspension of weekend service to meet mandate to implement Commuter Rail Positive Train Control
- Communications plan for the suspension of weekend Commuter Rail service, as well as plan for public outreach



PTC Program Scope

- Design, installation, and implementation of PTC will impact every segment of the Commuter Rail system
- Installation work will be performed on every Commuter Rail line, dispatch center, locomotive, and control car, impacting operations systemwide.





Weekend Service Suspension Required to Meet PTC Mandate

- The MBTA is committed to a PTC implementation program to meet the FRA mandate of hardware installation by December 2018 (to get federal extension); a fully operating system must be in place by December 2020.
- The MBTA has recently completed negotiations with the PTC Systems Integrator to accelerate installation to meet this timeline.
- Achieving the timeline requires weekend installation work, in addition to work during night and off peak-service hours.
- This requires the phased line-by-line suspension of weekend Commuter Rail service.
- Shutdown schedules will be evaluated and may require adjustment throughout the execution of this Program.



Why Weekend Service Suspensions Are Necessary

- Reduce risk and accelerate project schedule, maximizing opportunity to complete project on time
- More time and flexibility for project work (one complete weekend shutdown per line can accomplish what would require about two weeks of weekday off-peak work)
- Minimize impacts on weekday Commuter Rail service
- Maximize ability to coordinate with other projects, such as the Beverly Drawbridge replacement and GLX, minimizing disruption to customers
- Shutting down entire lines for consecutive weekends gives customers schedule clarity so they can make alternative travel plans
- Proven approach: Weekend service suspensions have been successfully utilized on Old Colony and Fitchburg Projects



Schedule Update – Required Weekend Shutdowns in 2017 (to meet FRA requirements to obtain extension to 2020)

		2017																															
		3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep	9-Sep	16-Sep	23-Sep	30-Sep	7-Oct	14-Oct	21-Oct	28-Oct	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec		
Commuter Rail Line		PTC Weekend Shutdowns																															
Newburyport / Rockport	No Impact to Weekend Service						*	*	*	*																							
Lowell (including Wildcat)																																	
Needham																																	
Haverhill																																	
Fairmount																																	

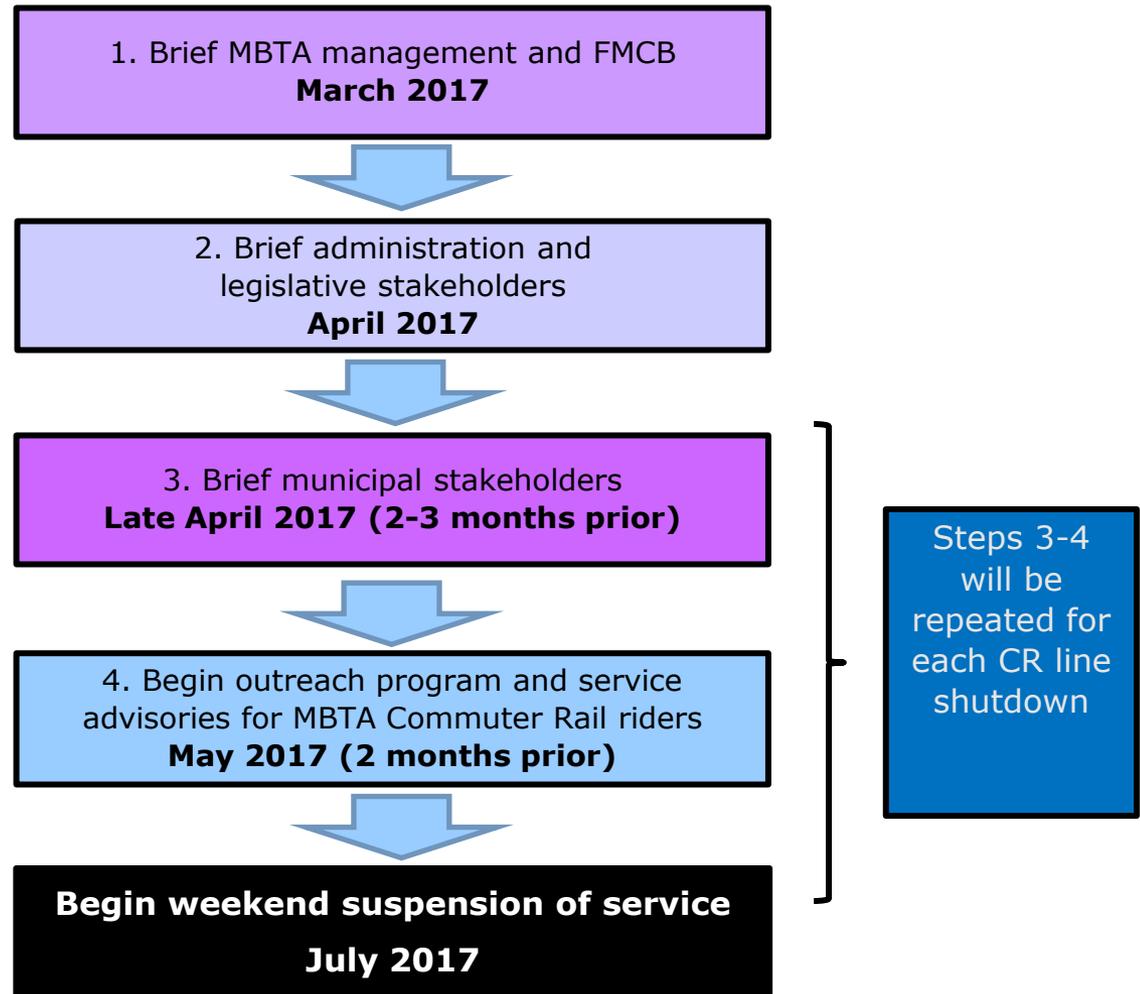
* Coincides with already planned shutdown for Beverly Drawbridge replacement

- Overlap of lines denotes contingency for early start/late finish. It is expected that no more than two lines would be shut down on any given weekend.
- 2018 PTC weekend shutdowns will commence in Spring of 2018 and will impact the Franklin, Fitchburg, and Worcester commuter rail lines.
- No weekend shutdowns are required on the Greenbush, Middleborough, Providence/Stoughton and Kingston/Plymouth lines.



Communications Plan for Suspended Weekend Service

- Current plans are to begin suspensions the weekend of July 8, 2017.
- Months before any suspensions, elected and municipal officials, MBTA riders, and other stakeholders on each MBTA Commuter Rail Line will be notified.





Public Outreach

In addition to impact on customers, abutters can anticipate heightened activity and some disruption during installation due to around the clock PTC work during the weekend shutdowns.

A major outreach program will be undertaken prior to service closures and to address concerns of abutters and municipalities during installation. The project will employ:

- Regular project updates to stakeholders ahead of installation
- Coordinated service updates (including T-Alerts, Rail-mail and social media)
- 24/7 hour project hotline
- Project email to answer questions/concerns
- Regularly update project website (soon to be launched)