**Fitchburg Line Improvement Project**

**Suspension of Weekend Train Service – Fact Sheet**

The Fitchburg Line Improvement Project will improve reliability of service and reduce trip times for commuters.

This $200 million investment in the line’s infrastructure is scheduled for completion by the end of 2015.

The Project includes:

* Construction of a second track between Acton and Ayer;
* A new Littleton Station with additional parking *(opening in May 2013);*
* A new South Acton Station;
* Upgraded signal system and track improvements to allow maximum train speed to be increased from 60 mph to 80 mph; and
* Improvements to 7 bridges.

In order to support this level of construction and complete the improvements in a timely manner, it is required that weekend service be suspended on all or a portion of the line for extended periods through 2015.

Interruption of service is inherent in this project given its size and scope. The objective is to limit disruptions to weekends to minimize the impact of construction on weekday service.

Alternate bus service will not be provided during these shutdowns. Given the number of weekends required, busing during these shutdowns would be unpredictable and impractical to provide given the limited busing resources available and the needs of other construction projects on the MBTA system.

Similar weekend service suspensions have been employed on other major projects and will allow for consistent service suspensions rather than unpredictable weekend-by-weekend busing.

MBTA recognizes the inconvenience that these weekend service suspensions will cause, but they are the only practical way to ensure that project is completed on time so our customers will be able to realize the Project benefits by December 2015.

No credits are extended for those purchasing monthly passes during this time; customers may want to consider other alternatives such as using 10-ride passes.

Customers can contact the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Project by email at FitchburgProject@MBTA.com or the project hotline at 617-721-7506.



**Summer and Fall Weekend Shutdown Highlights:**

* **Weekend service terminates at South Acton Station June 1st Through August 25th.**
* **Weekend Schedule service provided North Station to Fitchburg Station Labor Day Weekend.**
* **Weekend service terminates at Brandies/Roberts Station September 7th through November 24th**
* **Full weekend service on Fitchburg Line provided winter months December 2013 through March 2014.**
* **2-3 months of no weekend service on the Fitchburg Line spring 2014, service curtailed remainder of summer/fall 2014. Similar outages planned for 2015.**