

Passenger/Regional Rail Committee

Minutes (DRAFT)

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

- A. Call to Order:** Co-Chair Brian Glennon (Duxbury) called the committee to order at 2:02 PM via Zoom.
- B. MBTA/Keolis Updates:** Michael Muller, MBTA Executive Director of Commuter Rail, John Killeen, CEO Keolis Commuter Services, & MBTA and Keolis Executive Staff briefed the committee on Commuter Rail performance, ridership return, and FIFA World Cup schedules and planning.
- a Hanna Switekowski (Deputy Director) asked for clarification on the rationale behind service alternatives for Franklin & Stoughton Lines. Mike Rooks (MBTA) answered that the MBTA wanted to maintain as much of regular service as possible on the Providence line. H. Switekowski also asked if the MBTA would share the presentation with communities and M. Rook said they would.
 - b B. Glennon clarified that on match days when World Cup trains are running, there will not be regular service on the lines. M. Rooks answered that on Match Days, the only lines that won't have service during game times are the Franklin and Stoughton Lines when the MBTA will provide replacement bus service. All other lines will maintain existing service with

- a few slight modifications. The MBTA has worked to balance the goal of transporting 20,000 people on game days with the existing service to provide to communities.
- c R. Scherer asked about the removal of express trains on the Framingham/Worcester Line. M. Rooks answered that in order to create the crews and equipment to serve the Match Days, they had to make them available from other areas of the network. Additionally, they expect a lot of people to be coming in for game related events so the trains will serve all stations.
 - d Morgan Griffiths (Natick) asked if there were any service changes anticipated for the northern lines. M. Rooks answered that on Match Days, the changes are limited to the South side of the network. The five-week service change in June and July will have some minor service changes for the north side.
 - e B. Glennon commended the MBTA team on their efforts putting together the World Cup plans.
 - f R. Scherer asked for clarification on the speed restrictions in Framingham. M. Rooks answered that they are related to the design of the signal systems near the grade crossing and a result of the frequency of crossings. There are no current plans to raise speeds in that area.
 - g H. Switekowski asked about recent delays on the Providence Line. M. Rooks answered that Amtrak is the maintainer of the Providence Line

- infrastructure and there has been an uptick of switch failures and signal issues. H. Switekowski asked if this would impact future electrification plans. Mike Mueller (MBTA) answered that the Providence Line has full overhead catenary today which is why they are procuring battery electric equipment to operate on the line. The MBTA hopes that with appropriate funding and navigation of the planning and regulatory processes, the electrified service can be extended to other south-side lines, however it is a currently unfunded and lengthy process.
- h Brian Kane (Executive Director) asked about plans to mitigate warped rails in the upcoming summer months. John Killeen (Keolis) answered that over the last few years, the MBTA has worked to replace rails and move to continuously welded rail. Over the past few years, they have only seen impacts on extremely hot days when the rail reaches 135 degrees (F) and the new infrastructure removes the need for most speed restrictions in the summer. M. Rooks added that there have been advancements in technology to monitor rail temperature and keep the restrictions only when necessary to minimize impacts to service.
- i R. Scherer requested an update on the commuter rail contract procurement. M. Muller answered that the RFP was released in late December and the MBTA is now in a period of discussion with the three bidder teams. In July, the final RFP will be locked and the bidders will have until September to submit bids. A recommendation will be made to the MBTA Board of Directors in January.

- j B. Glennon asked if MBTA staff had any comments to share on the recent decision in the lawsuit against the MBTA that claimed the Commuter Rail was required to use the bell and the horn. M. Muller answered that staff were aware of the lawsuit and its decision. There are many quiet zones across municipalities where horns are not required and the state cannot overrule the FRA's regulations around quiet zone warning requirements.
- k B. Glennon asked Daniel Aguiar (Fall River) for an update on the city's experience with South Coast Rail. D. Aguiar commented that the city has received positive feedback and commuter ridership has increased.
- l B. Glennon thanked MBTA and Keolis staff for joining the committee.

C. Next Meeting Dates: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 2 PM on Zoom.

D. Old/New business: B. Kane reminded committee members to reach out with any questions or feedback about the FY27-FY31 CIP.

E. Adjourn: B. Glennon requested a motion to adjourn which R. Scherer made and Chris Podgurski (Canton) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Attendees:

Committee:

Rob Scherer
Peter Matchak
Chris Podgurski
Brian Glennon
Daniel Aguiar
Bruce Leicher
Cathy Bilotta
Morgan Griffiths

Ashland
Braintree
Canton
Duxbury
Fall River
Harvard
Manchester-By-The-Sea
Natick

MBTA Advisory Board Staff:

Brian Kane
Hanna Switekowski
Isabella MacKinnon

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Budget & Policy Analyst

Guests:

John Killeen
Paula Fallon
Rachael Hamer
Mike Rooks
Mike Muller
Bernard Cohen

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