



# Foxborough Commuter Rail Proposed Pilot Service

*Town of Walpole Presentation  
December 6, 2016*



# Historical Context for Proposed Pilot to Foxborough

- MOU signed between Foxboro Realty Group and the MBTA on January 5, 2015 which called for permanent passenger rail service to begin in December 2016.
- Baker Administration took office in January 2015.
- After significant public feedback and engagement with the Walpole legislative delegation, MassDOT agreed to halt immediate implementation of permanent passenger service and instead evaluate the possibility of a pilot service in the future.
- Since that time, MassDOT has performed routine maintenance work on the Framingham Secondary Line and has made this known to both town officials and area legislators.



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# What developments have occurred?

- Through a bipartisan legislative effort, the MBTA was placed under a Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB). As it relates to the proposed pilot, their authority and oversight includes reviewing of any proposals for system expansion or pilot service.
- Continued interest by the Town of Foxborough in a Pilot and possible commuter service.
  - A 9-0 vote by the Foxborough EDC and a conditional 4-1 vote by BoS in support
- Due to continued demand from several communities for service expansion, the FMCB is considering a new policy to guide decision-making for proposed pilots. The draft policy currently before the board suggests following 4 criteria to determine the success of a pilot:
  - Ridership
  - Operational cost effectiveness
  - Operational impacts
  - Capital costs
- If approved by the FMCB, pilot service to Foxborough would be an early example of the new approach. Any agreement for a pilot would include clearly defined metrics with which the MBTA could measure success.



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# Goal of the Proposed Pilot Program

- To address constraints and congestion in the region's highway system through expanded public transit options.
- To spur new economic development along the Route 1 corridor with potential to create new jobs.
- To maximize the use of available public infrastructure assets for increased accessibility.
- To test the goals of the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding that called for permanent service.



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# Overview of Proposed Pilot

- Approximately 11 month Pilot Program expected to commence in 2018.
- Extend existing Fairmount Line service to Foxborough Station using the Framingham Secondary Line.
- Provide 3 peak period trips and some midday commuter rail service on weekdays.
- No weekend service during the pilot.
- Providence Line passenger service will be unchanged.
- Safety measures:
  - Operation Lifesaver
  - Inspection for special circumstances
  - Grade crossing Improvements



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# Operational Advantages

- The proposed pilot would allow the MBTA to maximize infrastructure that is in place and underutilized.
- Game day and special event trains already run to Foxborough Station – a pilot allows the MBTA to make a data driven decision as to whether there is a demand for additional service.
- On-going infrastructure improvements will have long-term benefits for freight services, of which there continues to be a demand.
- 500 privately-owned parking spaces will be available for MBTA passengers with ability for additional capacity if circumstances warrant.



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# Challenges Addressed: Demand for additional parking and commuting capacity

- Proposed pilot would increase regional parking supply for train riders at Foxborough Station.
  - Highly-convenient location with easy access to a state highway (Route 1) and two interstates (I-495; I-95)
  - Adds a minimum of 500 privately-owned parking spaces with potential for more as demand grows
  - Relieves parking congestion at neighboring Sharon and Mansfield Stations
- Foxborough commuter rail service will operate along the MBTA's Fairmount Line which has capacity for additional customers.
  - Comparatively lower ridership than elsewhere on MBTA system means available capacity for expansion
  - Utilization of the Fairmount Line means expanded service to Foxborough will not impact the service of Franklin Line riders



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# Safety Enhancements for Walpole

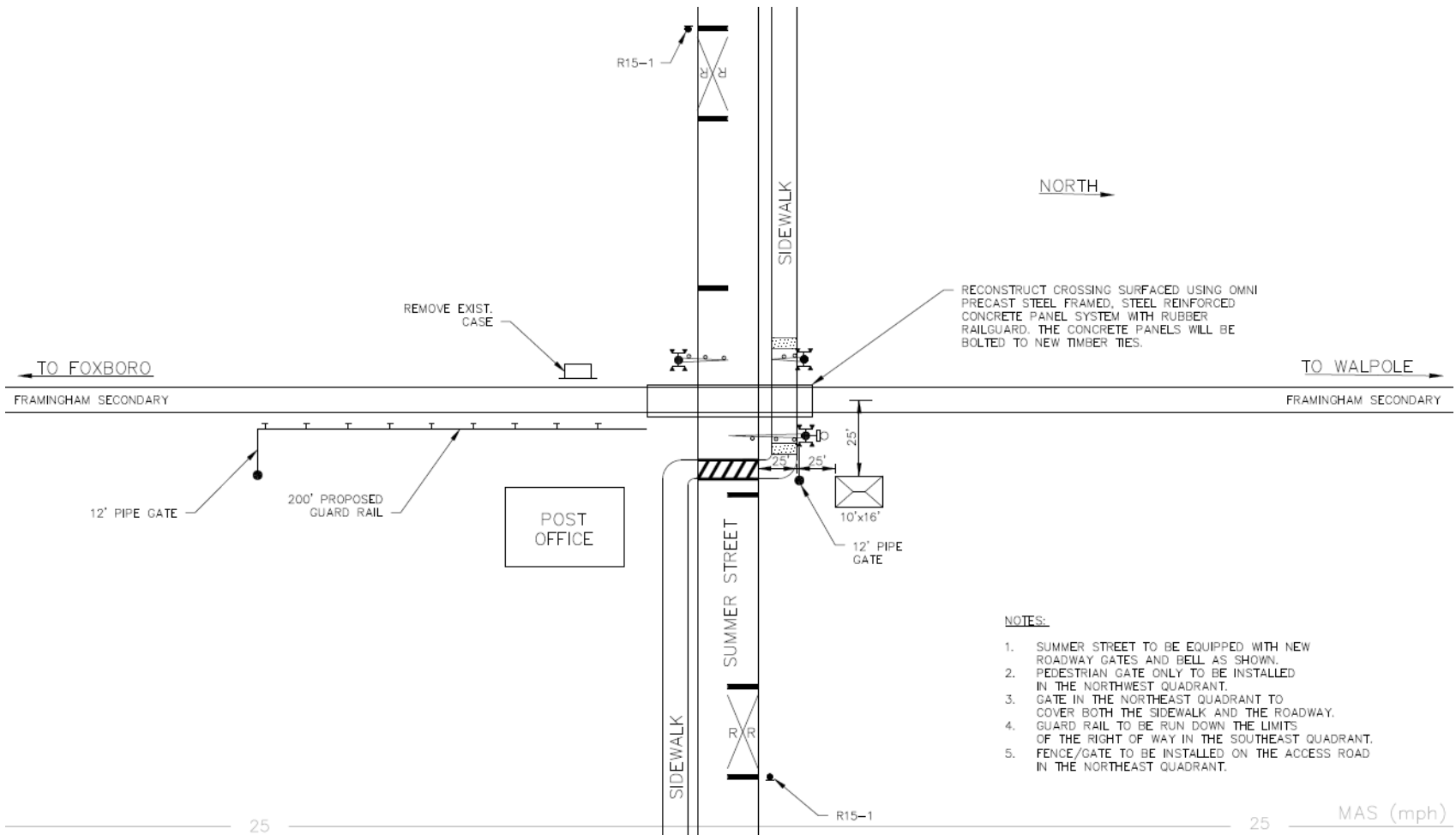
- Ensuring a safe public transit system in host communities is of the utmost concern to MassDOT and the MBTA.
- The railroad crossing Summer Street will receive all necessary security upgrades, including:
  - Fully gated crossing
  - 12" LED warning lights
  - Electronic bells, gates, as well as pedestrian gates and sidewalks
  - Installation of a new crossing surface



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# Schematic Design of Summer St. Crossing



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# Example of a newly upgraded rail crossing



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# Walpole Station Safety Enhancements

- Gated vehicular crossing upgrade as you enter the station.
- Pedestrian crossings upgraded to modern standards (warning lights/bells).
- No loss of parking spaces is anticipated.



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# Safety Enhancements (cont.)

- Based on a preliminary review, the track area along Spring Street has been identified as one such area where 3,000 – 5,000 feet of fencing could be installed on one or both sides of the tracks.
- The MBTA will work with the Town of Walpole to identify areas where fencing may be warranted.



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# Draft Project Schedule for Proposed Pilot

## Winter 2016

- Long lead procurement – Rail/Interlocking
- Design, permitting & bid package prep

## Construction Season 1: March to November 2017

- Ties, ballast, surfacing, ROW
- Grade crossings
- Structure – bridge MP 5.19

## Winter 2017

- Design, permitting & bid package prep

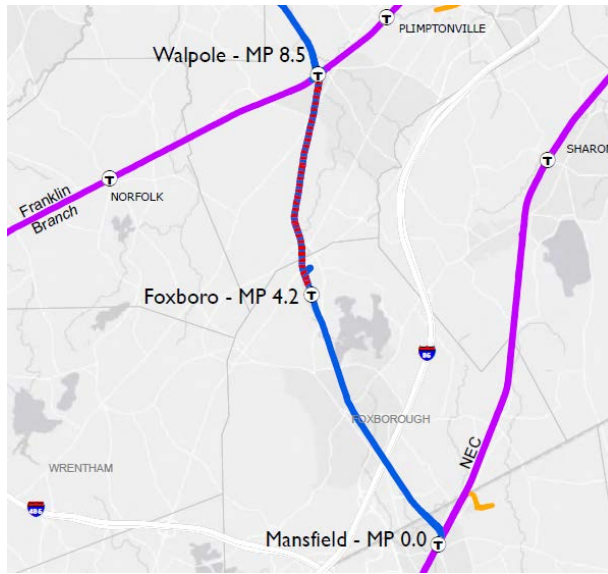
## Construction Season 2: March to November 2018

- Welded rail installation
- Grade crossings; Install signals and interlocking
- Build passing siding



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# Scope of Construction (Pilot) in Walpole



- Foxboro Station to Walpole Station = 4.3 miles
- Track upgraded:
  - Anticipated passenger speeds anticipated to be an average of 40 mph (max is 60 mph)
- Replacement 50–100 year old rail with modern continuous welded rail
- Installation of signals in Walpole and Foxborough
- Modifications/upgrades to Walpole Interlocking (Lewis Wye switch).
- New interlocking just north of Foxborough Station (end of signaled territory).
- New passing siding track at Foxborough Station with dedicated CSX switching lead to Foxborough Terminal.



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# Outreach & Education

- MassDOT and the MBTA inspect, maintain and improve hundreds of railroad crossings across the Commonwealth.
- Using our own in-house team as well as the resources of Operation Lifesaver, the MBTA partners with host communities to ensure that neighbors, students and town officials are informed about what a rail crossing means for them.



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# APPENDIX



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# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Will service expansion to Foxborough require any permitting or trigger any environmental reviews?**

A: This pilot will use established tracks that are within the existing right-of-way. Any environmental issues will be identified during the design process.

**Q: Will the MBTA install noise barriers or fencing along the rail line or near my home?**

A: Fencing may be installed in limited areas along the line in ways consistent with existing policy. Noise barriers are not used along any commuter rail.

**Q: Why isn't the train stopping in Walpole?**

A: The current configuration of the Walpole Station would not allow riders to board the train on the additional line. Increased service to the Town of Walpole would depend heavily on FMCB approval of the pilot, interest on the part of Walpole, station configuration, capital funding for significant upgrades, etc.



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# Proposed Pilot Program: Provide Access to Opportunity

- Daily rail service can transport employees to and from jobs - new economic growth that can create approximately 10,000 full-time jobs
  - Existing employment (4,100 FTEs) in over 3M square feet of mixed-use development in corridor – the largest economic driver in the region.
  - Additional employment (up to 5,700 FTEs) potential from 1.5M square feet of new development prioritized by Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED).
  - Opportunity for reverse commute, as well as higher transit share in significant job center outside of the urban core.



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Source: XXXX

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